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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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NiteSpot opens back up for students after months of renovations



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The newly renovated NiteSpot got rid of its movie showing room and replaced the space with pool tables and more seating for students to eat, study and relax throughout the year.

Professor gives lecture on new book

ALICIA DYE
news editor

Why do international ideological enemies sometimes overcome their differences and ally against shared threats? Why do such alliances fail? Duquesne University political science and international relations professor Mark Haas answers these questions in his newest book published by Cornell University Press, “Frenemies: When Ideological Enemies Ally.”

Throughout the book, Haas looks at different historical events, such as World War I, and explains why countries with different ideologies may become allies in big events.

“A lot of my research is on how ideologies shape international relations,” Haas said. “I looked at the main goals leaders were trying to establish in their states, the ideological distance between them and other countries and if the threat could have a major impact.”

On Wednesday, Haas gave a lecture open to students and faculty as a book launch. After giving a bit of background on his book, Haas opened the lecture for questions from fellow professors and then students to elaborate on his new work.

Clifford Bob, chair of the political science department started the lecture.

“It’s Dr. Haas’ night,” Bob said. “I love the title of the book. I helped him come up with one of his previous book titles over 20 years ago.”

Haas has had multiple books published before including “The Clash of Ideologies: Middle Eastern Politics and American Security” which was published in 2012 by Oxford University Press and “The Ideological Origins of

see BOOK — page 3

ALICIA DYE
news editor

The NiteSpot reopened in the first floor of the Duquesne Union after its months-long renovation.

The NiteSpot is a popular area for students that offers a variety of programs on a weekly basis, as well as a place to relax with friends. The atmosphere was full of enthusiasm and anticipation as so many had awaited the return of the fan-favorite spot.

Graduate commuter student Tasha Francis was excited to see the NiteSpot return.

“I spent a lot of time here during my undergraduate years,” Francis said. “So when it closed, I was bummed I couldn’t hang out there in between classes. I’m really glad it’s back now.”

The room is filled with new attractions like billiards, table tennis and open space to hang out with friends.

The Professional Fraternity Council (PFC) hosted a float night with root beer floats, making it the first of many events to happen in the NiteSpot this semester Thursday at 9 p.m.

PFC Secretary Amanda Kearns was excited to be back in

the NiteSpot.

“The NiteSpot is a beloved spot among students including myself,” Kearns said. “We wanted to make sure that new students got to see what the NiteSpot is like, so they can enjoy it throughout their time at Duquesne.”

The NiteSpot is the most recent renovation to happen on campus, with the campus bookstore receiving many renovations over the summer, including new flooring, colorful murals along the walls, new lighting and more. The NiteSpot itself has received a fresh coat of paint, but the biggest change was the removal of a movie room to make more space for students.

“The space is much more open,” Francis said. “I think it’ll allow clubs to have bigger activities than painting in the space. They can also have more people in here for large events, which I think will be helpful.”

Lei’asha Battle, the president of Art Club, is excited to have a different space to hold events.

“We are a new club and this is a great spot for us,” Battle said. “It’s in the center of campus and is in a popular spot. We’re hoping this will help more people

come to our events.”

The NiteSpot has hosted many events in the past including orientation events, trivia nights, epic bingo and more.

2023 Orientation director Amandalynne Davis is excited to have more events in the spot next year.

“We really like having small events there during Orientation,” Davis said. “I think the NiteSpot is a perfect place for freshmen to meet each other and make new friends throughout the year.”

“Playing pool is something I love to do during finals to relax,” said Student Fletcher Zavadi. “The NiteSpot always has been a space where I love to relax especially when I’m super stressed, so I’m glad they opened it back up and made some changes.”

However, not all of the renovations are finished. Some of the ceiling tiles are missing, and there are still electrical wiring showing, but that doesn’t stop Duquesne students from enjoying this space.

“My friends and I love hanging out here and studying here throughout the year,” Kearns said. “It’s really a nice space where everyone can hang out

and do whatever they want. When it was closed during midterms, I missed it and struggled finding a good spot to study in.”

Now that the NiteSpot is open, there will be events almost every night of the week. On Mondays, there is a DIY event, where students can make different things such as canvas paintings and more.

On Tuesdays, there are Taco Tuesdays, where some variation on tacos is served and students can get one for free.

On Wednesdays, the events vary from Bingo to open mic night to trivia tournaments.

On Thursdays, there are free non-alcoholic beverages available, ranging from root beer floats to mocktails.

On Fridays, Duquesne Program Council usually has an events, including EPIC Bingo, tie-dye and special events. There is also free food at the DPC events.

On Sundays, there is a service event that helps different communities, ranging from blanket making to making care packages for underserved communities.

There are multiple events coming up in the NiteSpot including a table tennis tournament

see NITESPOT — page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Wednesday, Oct. 26-

A false Ohio driver's license was turned into DUPS. The student associated with the false ID will be referred to The Office of Student Conduct.

Saturday, Oct. 29-

Two Duquesne University students asked for a ride back to campus from a South Side Slopes address. One student was intoxicated. The students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Saturday, Oct. 29-

A wallet was found containing a false ID. The student is being referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Saturday, Oct. 29-

A Duquesne University resident student reported that his bicycle was stolen from the bike rack in front of St. Ann Hall.

Saturday, Oct. 29-

Desk Aide in St. Ann's Hall reported that they had a student's driver's license and when they went to check on the individual's information they found that the date of birth was wrong. The student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Sunday, Oct. 30-

Students reported to DUPS that their friend needed medical attention for intoxication. The student was transported to UPMC Mercy for treatment. The student was referred to Office of Student Conduct for underage drinking.

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.

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SOVI HERRING
staff writer

As the 2023 Rangos Prize deadline of Dec. 9 gets closer, students are encouraged to begin learning about the requirements to have the best chance at developing a useful proposal.

The Rangos Prize began with John G. Rangos Sr., founder of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, veteran of the Korean Conflict and an instrumental member of Duquesne University's success, according to Duquesne's website. His efforts to impact the environmental industry, health and various other efforts led him to philanthropy on a wide scale. His doubled-down efforts after a long career to better the world led to things such as funding the DU Rangos School of Health Sciences and Anna Rizakus Endowed Chair in Health Science—named in honor of his late mother. Through his drive to improve matters, he donated to campus to promote others' ideas to make campus surroundings better.

The Rangos Prize strives to continue his drive to promote ideas that can improve campus for students.

"It's a competition for faculty and students to propose innovations to enhance learning for current and future generations of students," said Steven Hansen,

Duquesne's director of the Center for Teaching Excellence.

According to Hansen, the competition begins with "creative solutions that can make a difference" through submitting "proposals that can include new courses, course materials, pedagogical approaches and academic initiatives that address challenges and issues facing today's students."

There are two rounds before students can be named awardees for the Rangos Prize.

"Applicants selected from the first round are invited to participate in a second round of competition that involves making a public pitch of their idea in the spring semester," Hansen said. "The Center for Teaching Excellence offers consultations, drop-in clinics and pitch preparation workshops to assist applicants through both rounds of competition. Past recipients have received a John G. Rangos Sr. medallion and prize money for implementing their innovative ideas."

Rangos Prize 2021 and 2022 Winner Jessica Schmitz, a senior political science and economics major, wanted to create a course that would focus on the impact of social media and how it affects politics.

"I started developing a new course in the Political Science

and Communication & Rhetorical Studies departments that would explore the nexus between social media, politics and communication," Schmitz said. "For political science majors, there isn't a course that highlights how essential social media is to politics, and I thought we needed one."

Schmitz found out about the prize competition through the DU email blast—something she highly recommends checking thoroughly. In her endeavor, she found that an obstacle for this dream was funding for a faculty member to utilize the course.

"The Rangos Prize would've aided my ability to pay for that faculty member," Schmitz said. "The Rangos prize is more than just money, but I think it can really help the students."

Schmitz took her winning proposal from 2021 and applied in the next category as a returning applicant in 2022 where she had to continue working on her course.

"I had to submit all course documents (syllabus, rubrics, etc.), research, and a written and video proposal to continue the program's funding to further impact another generation of students, which is ultimately what I want the course to do," Schmitz said.

New applicants for 2023 and previous year's winners from student and faculty bodies are en-

couraged to learn more through the Provost and the Center for Teaching Excellence and apply. These projects can impact the campus for multiple years and thousands of students that pass through in that time.

Schmitz believes that a team mentality, faculty support and a mindset for success helped move along in the process.

"Work with others," Schmitz said. "If you have an idea but need help preparing and implementing it, the Center for Teaching Excellence assistants has workshops on how to draft proposals and what the Rangos project is."

Throughout November, the initial learning and drafting period, many development opportunities are available to help any prospective applications. The initial proposals to help make the campus better are due Dec. 9.

Requirements for applications, proposals and reporting can be found on the Rangos Prize webpage on the campus website.

The finalists will be announced in the spring, according to Hansen. From there, the finalists will prepare for the pitch competition followed by a year to begin implementing their Rangos Prize into campus. Students receive a medallion for their effort and, possibly, prize money to help fund their project if needed.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

The Rangos prize is a yearly competition for students and faculty. Applications are open until Dec. 9, and winners will be announced in the spring.

New games available to students in NiteSpot

see NITESPOT — page 1

-ment on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m., DPC's Season of Giving event on Friday and Grateful Painting on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Students can watch for more events happening in the NiteSpot in the weekly Bluff Blast emails and on CampusLink.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students sit and play pool in the NiteSpot, which is open every day.



Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke



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see **BOOK** — page 1

Great Power Politics, 1789-1989" which was published in 2005 by Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

"These things aren't done in a vacuum," Haas said. "I'm so grateful for all the support I've had from the department and from Dr. Bob."

Haas said how he got the idea, which came from looking at how countries allied during certain times of conflict.

"I asked why we have this variation with leaders," Haas said. "When you look at World War I and World War II, you see that during World War I, many countries allied against the rising power in Germany quickly. However, with World War II, you see that happen slowly."

Haas then explained that shared material threats push these states together while ideological differences pull them apart. Haas gave the example of France and the Soviet Union, both of which saw Germany during World War II as the shared material threat, putting their ideological differences aside to fight the larger threat.

"Ideologies shouldn't matter, just like they didn't matter with Czar Russia. We should hold our nose and form an alliance because our physical security is at risk," Haas said. "However, the alliance never happened because many in France voted against it."

Haas emphasized asking questions and made sure students could understand everything he

was trying to explain in the short time period.

"That's one of the things about writing a book, language was everything," Haas said. "I couldn't tell you how many times I rewrote this trying to make it easier to understand."

Haas also explained five different ways an alliance can go. Three of them increase barriers to alliances and two of them increase why ideological enemies may align, according to Haas.

Haas focused on the need the state has for alliances, titled Ideological Betrayals, which Haas's wife named. Haas gives the example of Italy during the 1930s.

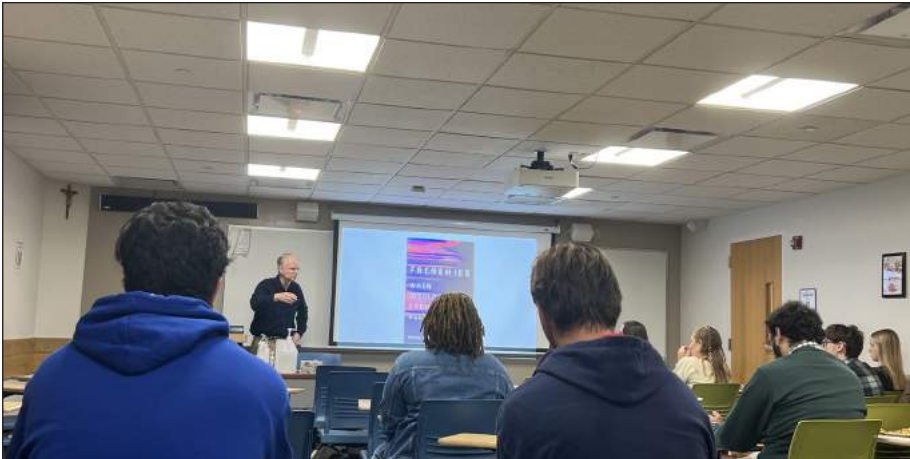
"Italy has an incentive to form an alliance with France because Germany is a title threat," Haas said. "The problem is that Germany was also a fascist state. Italy

and Germany shared a common enemy of communism. So they became allies instead of France and Italy."

Haas's book is intended to help others make political decisions when it comes to alliances. For example, George W. Bush assumed that Iraq and Al Qaeda were allies, when in actuality they would not be due to their ideological differences.

"If I had been in the room with Bush, I would have told him that Iraq and Al Qaeda would not form an alliance for many reasons, but mainly because Hussein did not like the Islamists."

"Frenemies: When Ideological Enemies Ally" can be purchased from Cornell University Press, Amazon, Barnes and Noble.



Mark Haas talks about his book in a lecture in College Hall Wednesday evening.

ALICIA DYE | NEWS EDITOR



Mark Haas has been a professor at Duquesne University since 2003, teaching multiple courses.

COURTESY OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

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Here's where to vote
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1 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Don't know where you're registered?
Scan the QR code above and type in
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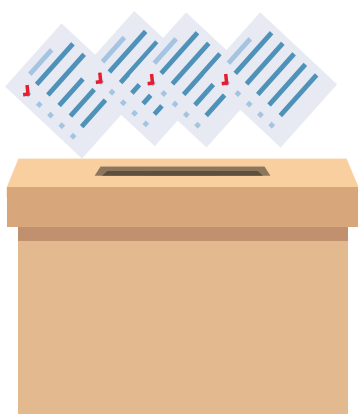
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Pittsburgh, PA 15203

South Side Presbyterian

1926 Sarah Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203



Football falls to Long Island in double overtime

ROBBIE GRILL
staff writer

The Duquesne football team dropped a two-overtime contest to Long Island on Saturday at Rooney Field, with the Sharks winning 50-48.

With that loss, the Dukes moved to 2-6, while Long Island is now 1-7.

The story of the Dukes' day was Joe Mischler taking over for the injured Darius Perrantes.

"I think [Coach Schmitt] told me the same thing he probably told [Perrantes] last year," Mischler said. "He said, 'Go out there, don't try to do too much and just do your job, and that's what I tried to do.'"

Mischler went on to throw for 414 yards and five touchdowns.

"I'm one of 11 on the field," Mischler said. "I love the team. I love the guys. I love playing with them, so I was just honored to be out there with them."

On the flip side, Long Island was led by true freshman quarterback Luca Stanzani. He threw for 346 yards with four touchdowns and an 81% completion rate. Stanzani had never previously made a college start.

"It's pretty hard to game plan for a true freshman," Head Coach Jerry Schmitt said after the game. "He's a pretty good player, and we had to adapt on the run."

Momentum also played a large factor in the game. Duquesne came hot out of the gates, going up 14-0, then Long Island got the momentum and took the score to 35-21, until the Dukes came back to send it to overtime tied 35.

"We came from behind and came back when it looked like we weren't in the game," Schmitt said. "I give our kids a lot of credit. We continue to fight back and make plays and take the game to a place where we had a chance to win."

The Dukes got out to a strong start, with returner Dwayne Menders running the opening kick to the Long Is-

land 42-yard line.

Perrantes then led the Dukes down the field in just shy of three minutes to jump out to the early lead on a 21-yard throw to Abdul Jannah.

During the drive, Perrantes got shaken up on a quarterback run, and appeared to hurt his lower right leg. He was unable to put any weight on it as he was helped off the field, and appeared toward the end of the game on the sideline in street clothes and on crutches.

Mischler took over seamlessly, and led the Dukes down the field on his first full drive, which ended with a 34-yard touchdown connection with Menders, his first of two scores on the day.



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Joe Mischler threw for 414 yards and five touchdowns in Saturday afternoon's 50-48, double-overtime loss to Long Island at Rooney Field.

The following Duquesne drive ended in an interception by Long Island safety Victor Nelson. The Sharks went on to score 28 unanswered points..

The ensuing Sharks drive ended in a fumble, which was recovered by Duquesne safety CJ Barnes. Overall, the Sharks won the turnover battle 3-2, with Duquesne securing an interception and fumble.

"It was a crazy game to be a part of,"

Mischler said. "I wish we did a couple of things differently so it went our way."

Long Island was able to close out the first half with its first score of the game. Stanzani ran it in from eight yards out following a big pass to Davon Wells.

The Sharks opened the second half with a drive that ended with a 64-yard connection from Stanzani to Wells, who was able to beat his defender over the middle of the field to tie the game at 14.

Immediately following that drive, Long Island's Caleb Nartey picked off Mischler for a pick-six. With Long Island now up 21-14, the following Duquesne drive ended in another Nel-

son interception for the Sharks. down the field after a big gain on a Mischler pass to Jalin Cooper. Mischler finished off the drive with a 9-yard rushing touchdown, cutting the deficit back to seven points.

The Sharks responded with another big gain for a touchdown, this time on the ground. Pat Bowen took it in from 44 yards out, and Long Island pushed its lead to 14.

Down 35-21 heading into the final quarter, the Dukes didn't surrender.

Mischler found Menders for another touchdown, and the Dukes defense followed that up with an interception courtesy of Ezekiel Daure, putting them deep in Long Island territory. This was another big momentum shift in the game.

Mischler capitalized on this by finding Joey Isabella wide open in the end zone to tie the game at 35 with 9:19 remaining in the game.

With 1:25 left, Sharks kicker Michael Comey lined up for the go-ahead field goal, but it was blocked by Duquesne's Ayden Barnes, keeping the Dukes alive.

The following Duquesne drive stalled, and Long Island once again had the chance to win. Comey lined up from 52 yards out, but missed wide right.

Both teams scored touchdowns in the first overtime period. Stanzani connected with Tosin Oyeknami, while Mischler found Isabella for the tandem's second-straight score.

The second overtime period started with a touchdown from Mischler to Jannah. However, the ensuing two-point attempt was unsuccessful, leaving the door wide open for a Sharks' win.

Stanzani found tight end Owen Glascoe for the touchdown, and the Sharks converted the two-point conversion, giving them their first victory of the season.

"We battled real hard, down two scores in the third quarter," Mischler said. "Some teams could wrap it up and call it a game, but we battled."

WSOC's season ends with loss to Davidson

The fifth-seeded Duquesne women's soccer team fell 2-0 to fourth-seeded Davidson on Friday night in the first round of the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament, ending the Dukes' 2022 campaign.

Duquesne, which was competing in its first A-10 tournament match since Nov. 2, 2019, was shut out for the seventh time in 16 games on the season.

In a first half that saw the Wildcats outshoot the Dukes 10-2, tallies from Remi White in the 18th minute and Maddie Moody in the 42nd minute gave Davidson all the cushion it would need. The Wildcats finished the game outshooting the Dukes by a 15-8 mark.

The loss marks Duquesne's fifth-consecutive non-winning result against Davidson. The Dukes last beat the Wildcats on Oct. 8, 2017.

Duquesne has not won an A-10 conference tournament match since Oct. 28, 2017, when it defeated George Washington in a double-overtime contest at Rooney Field.

-Luke Henne, Editor-in-Chief

Tennessee earns top spot in first CFP rankings

After starting the season unranked in the AP Poll, Tennessee has earned the No. 1 ranking in the first College Football Playoff rankings, which were revealed on Tuesday night.

The Volunteers are one of five Southeastern Conference teams (No. 3 Georgia, No. 6 Alabama, No. 10 LSU and No. 11 Ole Miss) to be ranked. Tennessee will play at Georgia in a pivotal game on Saturday afternoon.

In addition to the SEC stalwarts that sit at No. 1 and No. 3, Ohio State currently sits at No. 2, while Clemson sits at No. 4. On the outside looking in are No. 5 Michigan and No. 6 Alabama. Ohio State will host Michigan on Nov. 26 in a game that could very well wind up being a play-in game for the CFP.

The only Group of Five Teams that are ranked are No. 19 Tulane and No. 25 UCF, who will meet on Nov. 12 in a game that could decide which G5 team earns a New Year's Six bowl bid.

-Luke Henne, Editor-in-Chief

MBB enters season with overhauled roster

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

After a 2021-22 season in which the Duquesne men's basketball team lost 17-consecutive games to end the season, there's a lot of questions to be answered in 2022-23.

Led by Head Coach Keith Dambrot, who went 1-16 in Atlantic 10 Conference play in his fifth campaign guiding the Dukes, this season's Duquesne team was picked to finish 15th out of 15 teams in the conference's preseason poll.

Roster turnover is unavoidable for any team, but Duquesne lost seven of its players to the transfer portal this offseason (Primo Spears to Georgetown, Leon Ayers III to Bowling Green, Jackie Johnson III to UNLV, Tyson Acuff to Eastern Michigan, Toby Okani to Illinois-Chicago, Mounir Hima to Syracuse and Mike Bekelja to Kent State).

All of the signs point toward another season of struggle.

However, one silver lining is the Dukes' non-conference schedule.

Of the 13 non-conference contests the Dukes will play in, just two of them

will be played away from UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Duquesne will travel to play at Kentucky (Nov. 11), in addition to battling Colgate (Nov. 18) in a neutral-site contest in Akron, Ohio.

Ironically enough, Kentucky and Colgate are two of just three teams (also New Mexico State on Dec. 11) in the non-conference portion of Duquesne's schedule that appeared in postseason competition last season, as all three squads made it to the NCAA Tournament.

Duquesne's 10 other contests will come against: Montana (Nov. 8), South Carolina State (Nov. 14), North Florida (Nov. 21), Alabama State (Nov. 23), UC Santa Barbara (Nov. 29), Ball State (Dec. 3), Marshall (Dec. 8), DePaul (Dec. 14), Indiana State (Dec. 17) and Winthrop (Dec. 21).

Of those 10 teams, only three (Montana, UC Santa Barbara, Winthrop) finished with a record above .500 in 2021-22. The schedule is certainly manageable, and it helps the Dukes' cause that they'll hardly be leaving home between Tuesday and the end of the calendar year.

While the roster is littered with turn-

over, Dambrot has used the transfer portal to his own advantage as well. Tre Williams (10.8 points/game in 2021-22) and Kevin Easley Jr. (10.7 points/game), who came to Pittsburgh from Indiana State and TCU, respectively, prior to last season, will be counted on to do some of the heavy lifting.

In addition to Williams and Easley, as well as Rodney Gunn Jr. (transferred from Lenoir-Rhyne prior to last season, did not play due to injury), Dambrot added five players (Tevin Brewer, Tre Clark III, Dae Dae Grant, Joe Reece and Quincy McGriff) to his squad via the portal.

Grant topped Miami (Ohio) with 17.5 points/game. Brewer led FIU in scoring with 15.2 points/game. McGriff was second at Salt Lake Community College with 13.5 points/game. Clark paced Northwest Florida State College with 12.3 points/game after two seasons with A-10 foe VCU. Reece scored 11.2 points/game at Bowling Green.

All of that scoring depth will be depended upon, particularly considering that just four players (Spears, Williams, Easley and Johnson) scored 10.0 points/game or more last season.

International talent helping MSOC thrive

SPENCER THOMAS
sports editor

The Duquesne men's soccer team wrapped up a regular season on Saturday that has been the most successful during the 10-year tenure of Head Coach Chase Brooks. The campaign has included a program record 10 wins, multiple appearances in the national rankings, a

more lived in Styria, Austria, before making his way to the Bluff. He spent three seasons playing for SC Elin Weitz in the Austrian third league, before deciding he wanted to leave but continue his soccer career, as well as his academics. That led him to the United States.

"That's why America is so special," Hopfer said, "Because you have the school system of universities and college sport."



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Maxi Hopfer — pictured in an Oct. 12 game at Rooney Field against St. Bonaventure — is one of 13 different Dukes from eight different countries outside of the United States.

second-consecutive undefeated record at home and the second seed in the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament.

The success is fueled by a roster more diverse than nearly every team or organization at Duquesne. Of 34 players, there are 13 players from nine international countries. From El Salvador to Australia, the diverse makeup of Duquesne's roster contributes to the players' success, on the field and off.

"Within our philosophy, we want to make sure we have the best local talent," Brooks said. "But within that, at this level, if you're going to want to win and compete for championships, you're going to have to have a good balance and a good blend of the internationals, as well as the domestic players."

Among the internationals is forward Maxi Hopfer. The 23-year-old sopho-

The coordination it takes for a school like Duquesne to land the talents of somebody like Hopfer is an adventure in itself. It begins with fostering relationships with clubs and talent agencies around the globe.

"There're companies that their job is to help potential student-athletes come over," Brooks said. "It's about reaching out to our contacts, watching a lot of video and then just trusting our instincts and trusting our connections we've made with people around the world."

Once the agencies have paired player with program, the two sides make contact. The attribute Brooks and his team look for character in their prospects.

If they don't pass that test, they aren't given a second thought. But for Hopfer, and those whom Brooks approves, an opportunity comes to light.

"My [agency] thought Duquesne was a good fit, so they talked to the coaches," Hopfer said. "They brought me here, and they gave me the trust in me. I'm happy that I can give something back because it's a big step from them to take 'Maxi from Austria.'"

Processes similar to Hopfer brought other starring players over, as well. Goalkeeper Domenic Nascimben hails from Sydney, Australia, striker Ask Ekeland comes from Norway and starting defenseman Torge Witteborg is from Germany.

While sometimes challenging, the opportunity to play with players from such a wide array of backgrounds is a joy for both player and coach.

"It's super fun," Hopfer said with a grin. "We have so many different cultures, so many different languages, so many different jokes, stories, religions. We're all open-minded, we all have a common goal."

Meanwhile, Brooks uses the diverse locker room to his advantage.

"Can you bring the best of your culture, and the best of who you are to the table?" he asks of his athletes. "And then learn from the guys around you, learn from other cultures."

Such a high prevalence of international players makes it even easier for players to feel welcomed. Everyone needing to be stitched together means that nobody can be left on the outside.

"It's a lot of fun, which you wouldn't experience from one culture alone," Hopfer said. "Sometimes it's a blessing, sometimes it's not so much [a] blessing when you don't understand each other, but we figure a way out around it."

Brooks is given the task of leading the team as they mesh both on the field and in the locker room. It's a difficult job, one that he jokingly blames for his graying beard hair.

"All the different cultures coming together, it's a tight locker room," he said.

Even the size of his locker room catalyzes team bonding.

"It's a small locker room for 34 18- to 22-year-old males," Brooks said. "But that's part of it. It's that comradery that comes from being in a shared space, sharing experiences."

Brooks also mentioned the light-hearted banter that arises from the cozy confines of the locker rooms.

"It's a great experience to have so many different people," Hopfer said.

It's no small feat to manage this recruiting tactic from an administrative standpoint. Brooks stressed the importance of cultivating relationships with organizations around the world. Fostering successful playing experiences for imported players has the potential to draw eyes from other internationals in search of a home.

For instance, Jesper Moksnes transferred to Duquesne from the University of Virginia prior to this season. Coming from Stavanger, Norway, the defender enjoyed a successful transition to Duquesne in the spring.

In 2022, the Dukes welcomed Ask Ekeland, a Stavanger native who played for the same club in Norway as Moksnes. Ekeland leads the team in scoring with eight goals and has started every game for the Dukes, despite being a true freshman.

"The fact that we can keep getting players from certain areas is a testament to the type of program we run," Brooks said.

Sophomore and starting defenseman Christoffer Vie Angell is also from Norway.

Brooks also mentioned that the secular mindset required to adapt to his locker room is something that can be applied in the real world.

"It's just about getting to know people," Brooks said, "which you should be doing anyway. That should just be humanity. How can I get to know who you are and meet you where you're at?"

That outlook feeds into Brooks' philosophy, as a person and as a leader.

"If you've got guys you trust, guys who are here for a higher purpose, guys that are here because they want to help win championships, then it doesn't really matter where they are from," Brooks said.

This fall, the players have gotten to meet each other on the field under Brooks' leadership, no matter the background, no matter the language.

"We also share a common language in the sport that we love," Brooks said.

The Dukes will begin postseason play on Saturday, when they host La Salle in the quarterfinals of the A-10 tournament. Duquesne's only conference loss of 2022 came at the hands of the Explorers.

"Our focus is looking forward to the next game," Hopfer said. "On our home field where we're obviously really good. We also hope for the support of the whole university and everybody who knows us."

Atlantic 10 Conference Men's Soccer Final Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	CPts.	Next
1.	Saint Louis	6-1-1	10-4-1	19	11/4 vs. (1) UMass
2.	Duquesne	4-1-3	10-3-4	15	11/5 vs. (7) La Salle
3.	VCU	3-1-4	3-7-6	13	11/4 vs. (6) Dayton
4.	Loyola of Chicago	3-2-3	7-2-6	12	11/5 vs. (5) G. Washington
5.	G. Washington	4-4-0	8-8-2	12	11/5 at (4) Loyola of Chicago
6.	Dayton	3-2-3	9-2-4	12	11/4 at (3) VCU
7.	La Salle	3-3-2	5-8-4	11	11/5 at (2) Duquesne
8.	UMass	2-1-5	7-3-7	11	11/4 at (8) Saint Louis

"SpongeBob: The Musical" soaks up the stage

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

SpongeBob SquarePants has relocated from his pineapple under the sea to the bright stage at the Duquesne Genesis Theater.

Adapted from the hit Nickelodeon show, "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical" debuted at the Oriental Theater in Chicago in 2016. The critically acclaimed musical was nominated for 12 Tony Awards and will now be performed by the Red Masquers starting on Thursday and running through Nov. 19.

The children's show, known for its zany yet well-intentioned messaging, brings a heart-filled tale to the stage. The show, through humor and song, iterates the themes of believing in oneself, friendship and the importance of accepting everyone.

"We've been trying to get the rights to perform SpongeBob for a few years now and this year was it," Red Masquers President Victoria Kapfer said. "We just thought this show would provide some joy to our audience and al-



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

(From left to right): SpongeBob SquarePants, Sandy Cheeks and Patrick Star puzzle over the nautical nonsense of Bikini Bottom.

musical score that features the work of artists such as the late David Bowie, the Plain White T's, T.I., Cyndi Lauper, Panic! At the Disco and other mainstream artists, the catchy pop tunes will leave audience members singing along with their favorite childhood cartoon characters.

for the Red Masquers, according to stage manager and Duquesne alumnus Elysee Dalzell.

"This was the most technically heavy show I've ever done. We have projections, lights, music, people and props coming from every direction. The biggest challenge was keeping it all together," Dalzell said.

The ability to bring a cartoon setting onto the stage requires creativity and imagination. Audience members will be transported to Bikini Bottom with the help of the imaginative and creative set design that includes an animated backdrop.

"Everyone knows Bikini Bottom," Dalzell said. "We had to bring the color and the fun of that town to the stage because it's so familiar. SpongeBob is also on a mission to save his home. If we don't show you Bikini Bottom, then what town is there to save?"

Along with the set design, the use of costumes ignites a natural blend of imagination while staying true to the characters.

"We asked our actors to be cartoons. Be silly and big and fun. Adding costumes and props is another layer of the cartoon, but you have to act like one first," Dalzell said.

Lead actress and props co-chair Ellie Troiani is playing the

role of SpongeBob SquarePants. The veteran Red Masquer is ready for the lead role as the spongy protagonist.

"I've had a lot of different roles here," Troiani said. "I feel like this one is most physically challenging. I'm doing a lot of backbends and crawling through things and climbing up things."

Finding the way to blend the character's iconic high-tone voice into her musical range provided an achievable challenge for Troiani, who prepared for the role by listening to the Broadway version.

"Ethan Slater, who played the original SpongeBob SquarePants, his voice is very high-pitched and nasally, but not exactly like SpongeBob. It has the essence of SpongeBob but still in a way that he can sing healthily and do the show healthily...That's what I'm focused on, trying to make sure my voice holds up for the duration of the run," Troiani said.

The show, while most notably charming, also has a dynamic layer of chemistry between the actors. SpongeBob and Patrick are able to recreate their friendship on stage, while Plankton and Karen really drive home the villainous nature of their characters.

The excitement from the cast spills over to the audience, creating a fun-filled and relaxed atmosphere. The crowd involvement and the breaking of the fourth-wall bring the audience into the performance.

"Everyone from the get-go has been so excited to do this show. It's such an iconic cartoon that we've all grown up with, so everyone just immediately going into it was just like 'Yes! I know how to do this show.' I know how to be like a cartoon, which is really exciting to see them adapt their own personal personality as actors," choreographer Kathryn Hess said.

Tickets for "SpongeBob the Musical" can be found on the Red Masquers website: \$20 general admission and \$10 for Duquesne affiliates. The show premieres on Thursday; the midnight showing is Nov. 12 and the show wraps on Nov. 19.



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

Duquesne Red Masquers opens "Spongebob: the Musical" with a vibrance and energy you don't want to miss. Get your tickets online or in-person.

low them to spend a few hours immersed in a cartoon brought to life."

While it may be based on the Nickelodeon show, there is something for the whole family in this nostalgic adaptation of the Broadway musical. With a

"All of the songs are impossible not to move along to and overall add to the fantastical atmosphere we want audiences to experience," Kapfer said.

Bringing cartoon characters to life can be a unique challenge

CAMPUS EVENTS

Grateful Paintings
Nov. 3 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Art Club in the Union Nitespot for a relaxing evening to paint and hang with friends.

Beginner Mambo Lesson
Nov. 3 @ 9 p.m.

Go to the Power Center Fitness Studio for a Ballroom dance lesson!

Food Truck Fridays
Nov. 4 @ 11 a.m.

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

DPC DUNite: Season of Giving
Nov. 4 @ 9 p.m.

Help organizations in your area with ornament-making and a clothing drive!

Yard Games
Nov. 6 @ 11 a.m.

Go to McCloskey Field for spikeball, kan jam, soccer, volleyball and more!

CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Bit by bit

Coming off of a holiday weekend and racing to another one, it's hard to muster the motivation to get to the end of November, let alone preparing for finals.

Do what you have time to do, and do what is best for you, always.

Take care of yourself in bullet-pointed lists, make the most of each win you have, big or small and know that there is always someone rooting for you.

It's okay if you don't always meet your goals for the day. If you think about it, you can just add it onto tomorrow, or the day after that. There's no rush to your success as long as you feel you are pacing yourself in a healthy manner.

Don't look at everything in one clump — take it one at a time. For each item you check off the list, whether making a meal or finishing an essay, is a big deal, and deserves recognition.

I acknowledge your hard work, and I know it is overwhelming. Just take it bit by bit.
— Capri Scarcelli

Aquarius

dead silent on Facetime for 40 minutes

Pisces

These people are all looney! Except for me (this time)

Aries

Absolutely blaming the solar eclipse on this one.

Taurus

jioewjfiowejfioejfijfoiejfiojfkngowj
ehrfueqhna;wieufhnw;ei

Gemini

I think I am going to just lay here for a really long time.

Cancer

Irony is a dish best served cold. Oh wait that's revenge. Now I'm hungry.

Leo

Doing the sponge sponge! Doing the sponge!

Virgo

It's exhausting being so awesome all of the time.

Libra

Best believe I'm still BEJEWELLED.

Scorpio

*Still reviewing my Instagram post from 3 days ago to make sure I don't get the ick from my own

Sagittarius

Taylor Swift has me thinking about what era I should be in, logically speaking.

Capricorn

Do you ever lie about something really little and then think wait why did I lie

Día de los Muertos: Honoring heritage, loved ones

EMILY FRITZ
staff writer

love to clean, restore and decorate them with marigold flowers and gifts.

La Catrina

A commonly used figure of the holiday is La Catrina. Jose Guadalupe Posada, an artist from the early 20th century, created a satirical painting of a female skeleton wearing an extravagant feather hat and dressed in wealthy European style clothing.

Her attire was intended as a back-handed commentary about locals who wished for riches and Eurocentric luxuries. Posada used La Catrina's boney appearance to convey the idea that after death, we are all the same. After death, we are all reduced to the sameness of our skeletons, despite our material possessions during life.

Ofrenda

The ofrenda, or 'altar,' is treated as a beacon for the dead to return to. Families fill their ofrendas with food, drink, alcohol and marigolds to encourage their loved ones to come home and enjoy what they once did in life.

It is unclear whether the ofrenda came from the Mesoamerican roots of the culture and the food offerings that were made to the dead, or if the traditions of the ofrenda came from the Catholic undertones of the holiday.

The most common set-up of the ofrenda consists of two or more levels, with pictures and possessions of the deceased on the upper most platforms of the altar. The ofrenda is decorated with brightly colored tablecloths, papel picados (colorful tissue paper cut into elaborate designs) and marigolds.



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Whereas All Saint's Day honors patron saints of the Christian church, Dia de los Muertos honors passed loved ones.

On the lowest level of the ofrenda are the offerings. Food offerings on the ofrenda can include traditional Mexican foods, such as tamales and mole or oranges and sugarcane, in addition to holiday specific foods such as sugar skulls and pan de muerto.

Food

In addition to popular Mexican dishes like tortilla soup, tamales, chalupas, calabaza and caramel flan, holiday-specific dishes include pan de muertos and calaveras de azúcar.

Pan de Muertos, or Day of the Dead bread, is a sweet soft pastry dusted

with sugar and topped with bone-inspired decorations. Calaveras de Azúcar, or sugar skulls, are hard edible ornaments made from sugar and water that are decorated with colorful icing and the names of family and friends.

Sugar skulls hold special significance with the merging of Pre-Hispanic and Spanish customs, but also reestablishes the celebratory nature of Día de los Muertos. Instead of reinforcing the narrative of sadness and loss, the holiday fondly remembers and reinvents loved ones back into the realm of the living. Likewise, the sugar skulls wear a sly smile, almost

to mock the idea of death.

Día de los Muertos is not a holiday exclusive to Latinx culture. Many other cultures and communities celebrate the day following Halloween by honoring the lives and legacies of loved ones passed. What sets Día de los Muertos apart from other All Saint's Day celebrations are the historical and cultural influences as well as the optimistic perspective towards those experiencing life after death and our continued relationship with them.

All information about the customs, traditions and celebration of Día de los Muertos was derived from www.dayofthedeath.holiday.

DIY Sugar Skull Tutorial

(courtesy of tablespoon.com)

Ingredients

- Betty Crocker™ gel food color
- 1/4 cup meringue powder
- 6 cups granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- 7 1/2 teaspoon meringue powder
- 6 teaspoons water
- 1 pound powdered sugar
- Royal Icing
- Sugar Skulls (makes 4 medium 3-D skulls)

Step 1: Mix the sugar, meringue powder and water together until all the granules of sugar are wet. Pick up a handful of the mixture and squeeze in your hand. If it holds together, it's ready. If it falls apart, it will need a tiny bit more water.

Step 2: Fill your skull mold with the wet sugar, pressing down on the sugar, compacting it as you go. Fill both the front and back skull cavities with the sugar. Scrape off the excess sugar.

Step 3: Cut a piece of parchment paper and a piece of cardboard just a bit bigger than your mold. Set the parchment paper down on top of the mold. Set the cardboard

on top of the paper. Grab onto the mold and cardboard, and carefully flip the whole thing upside down. Set it on the counter, then carefully lift the mold up off the sugar skulls.

The mold should pop right off. If the sugar sticks, it's too wet. Scrape it out of the mold, clean the mold, and add some more dry sugar to the mixture and try molding it again. If your sugar skulls do not hold together, the mixtures needs more water.

Step 4: Your sugar skulls now need to dry. Midway through the drying cycle you need to carefully flip them over so the back sides can dry out at well. They should be ready to decorate in 12-24 hours.

Step 5: Make royal icing.

Beat together powdered sugar, meringue powder, and water until its shiny and will hold stiff peaks.

Step 6: Once your skulls are dried, spread a thin layer of royal icing on the flat part of the back side of each skull.

Press the front and back sides together. Use your finger to wipe off the icing that oozes out from in between the two pieces. Allow the skulls to dry for at least an hour.

Step 7:

After your skulls are dry, they are ready to decorate. Color small bowls full of royal icing using food coloring. If you won't be using the icing right away, be sure to cover each

bowl with plastic wrap.

Step 8: Pipe royal icing onto the skulls. Any simple or elaborate designs. Get as creative as you'd like and use lots of bright colors on each skull for a dramatic appearance.

Step 9: Allow your sugar skulls to dry for several hours before using them as decorations for your Day of the Dead event.



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“Change is
inevitable.
Growth is
optional.”

JOHN MAXWELL

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.

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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 theduquduke@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 WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and her husband, Paul, were the targets of an attack in San Francisco on Friday.

Attack on Paul Pelosi feels a lot like treasonous terrorism

There is a subtle, yet intense, rumbling spreading across the nation. What started as lowly chatter has amped up to a louder growl among like-minded individuals is becoming noticeably louder as the divide between Americans keeps widening. Americans on both sides of the political spectrum wonder if there is anything that can reconcile the partisan gap.

Unfortunately, words have moved to action.

According to filing by local prosecutors, on Friday morning, David DePape broke into the Pelosi residence in San Francisco. With Speaker Pelosi in Washington, DePape attacked Mr. Pelosi with a hammer, striking him at least once. The authorities have confirmed that DePape yelled “Where is Nancy?” and had zip ties.

Mr. Pelosi underwent surgery to repair a skull fracture and serious injuries to his right arm and hands, the speaker's office said Friday.

According to a statement made by Speaker Pelosi and her office last week, Mr. Pelosi's doctors expect a full recovery for him.

In a court filing, San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins wrote that DePape's intent with the attack “could not have been clearer.”

“He forced his way into the Pelosi home, intending to take the person third in-line to the presidency of the United States hostage and to seriously harm her,” Jenkins said. “Thwarted by Speaker Pelosi's absence, [the] defendant continued on his quest and would not be stopped, culminating on the near-fatal attack on Mr. Pelosi.”

We are getting way too comfortable with treason and attacks on our democracy.

In 2016, the Russians tried to interfere in our election. They used disinformation campaigns and infiltrated information systems of the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Clinton Campaign.

According to Robert Mueller's official report, the investigation “did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired

or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.”

However, the report did state that Russian interference was illegal and occurred “in sweeping and systematic fashion. That allegation deserves the attention of every American.”

In October 2020, 13 men were arrested on the suspicion of orchestrating a domestic terror plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. *The Detroit*



ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

News reported that the FBI said the group's plan was to “violently overthrow the government, as well as kidnap and harm the Michigan governor.”

Two of the defendants were acquitted on all charges, while two other defendants had a deadlocked jury which resulted in a mistrial. They are awaiting retrial.

On Jan. 6, 2021, a mob of President Donald Trump's supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to overturn the electoral process that elected Joe Biden as the next president.

According to *Time Magazine*, more than 840 people have been arrested for storming the Capitol. Of those, only 185 have received criminal sentences. The median prison sentence for the Jan. 6 ri-

oters is 45 days. An additional 57 rioters have been sentenced to periods of home detentions, while most sentences have included fines, community service and prohibition for low-level offenses like illegally parading or demonstrating in the building, which is a misdemeanor.

For a country that, according to a World Prison Brief released in October 2021, leads the world in total number of people incarcerated, we sure are taking it easy on traitors and terrorists.

Committing treason or trying to violently disrupt American democracy is being treated with a slap on the wrist. The uncharacteristically soft sentencing from our court system is providing little deterrence from others who may look to commit horrific crimes in their plot to change the path of this country.

The attempt to mend the wound that divides us needs to begin with properly punishing those that are causing violent harm on their way to committing treason to the full extent of the law. Americans need to know that, when they are trying to bring down the republic, their actions will be met with a swift, severe and just response.

The midterm elections are setting up to be the calm before the storm of the 2024 presidential election. There is not a strong indication that the polarizing hatred between political parties is going to cool down any time soon. An attack against the person third-in-line to be the president is yet another blaring warning sign that this country is headed straight for a violent rift.

The power of persuasion for the indoctrinated electorate is starting to boil over into hostile and treacherous action.

I am not advocating for capital punishment or the unjust jailing of political dissidents. This is a plea to an already over-zealous American penal system to do what it is fundamentally designed for: Hold perpetrators to accountability by fair sentencing that also deters future crimes of the same nature.

Ignoring the gravity of these incidents only empowers future traitors.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Is the social media bubble finally popping?

Last week, the eccentric billionaire Elon Musk concluded an all-cash, full acquisition of Twitter. The polarizing figure is now in charge of a social media platform that, according to Statista.com, has 238 million monetizable daily active users.

Meta, formally known as Facebook, saw its share price down 73% this year. Brendan Carr, one of the five commissioners at the Federal Communications Commission, suggested that the Council on Foreign Investment in the U.S. should ban TikTok.

And let's not forget when whistleblower Frances Haugen leaked internal documents to *The Wall Street Journal* that included executives of Facebook ignoring scientific data that indicated how detrimental Instagram was to the mental health of young people, especially women.

Social media has become a cesspool of propaganda, bad jokes and pettiness. There have been many family gatherings ruined by the aftermath caused by what people are posting. Calling these platforms toxic would be doing a disservice to Chernobyl.

Being able to communicate instantly across the globe is such a powerful tool, and that sort of power belongs to the people. While there is much talk about algorithms and disinformation campaigns used to entice and ultimately manipulate people, the good from this technology vastly outweigh the bad.

These tech giants could be failing because they are forgetting a key element into what makes a viable platform: The people.

According to a Pew Research Center survey, a little under half — 48% of U.S. adults — say they get news from social media “often” or “sometimes.” The same survey has Facebook leading as the main source of news on social media platforms.

The time to disengage with the playground of tech billionaires could not come at a more convenient time. They are not worried about the health of the nation or the user experience. Their sole purpose is to monetarily capitalize as much as possible.

As election season is over and the holidays approach, maybe instead of finding ways to disparage and separate from each other, we can move on from these antiquated tech platforms. Perhaps this holiday season we can move past our uncle's crazy conspiracy theories and move back into a time when we listened to one another.

Social media is not going anywhere, as it should not. However, the avenues that we travel on the internet information superhighway are up to our own choosing.

Let's get off this next exit.

Steelers trading Claypool is long overdue

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

Just two seasons ago, it looked as if the Pittsburgh Steelers had found their next great wide receiver, when they selected Chase Claypool in the second round (49th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

Claypool, who had 66 catches for over 1,000 yards and 13 touchdowns in his senior season at Notre Dame, was tasked with being a dependable pass-catcher in a wide receiver room with talent like JuJu Smith-Schuster and Diontae Johnson. His production in his rookie season was more than just about anyone could have anticipated.

In 2020, Claypool finished second on the team in both catches (62) and receiving yards (873), trailing only Johnson. His 11 total touchdowns (nine receiving, two rushing) were best among all Steelers running backs and wide receivers.

In the season-and-a-half since that breakout rookie campaign, Claypool has seen his production decrease and off-field stories increase. His Pittsburgh tenure ended Tuesday, when he was traded to the Chicago Bears in exchange for a second-round pick in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Moving on from Claypool was the right move for all parties involved.

Claypool will get a fresh start in Chicago with second-year quarterback Justin Fields, while the Steelers move on from Claypool's baggage.

Last season, the day after a 31-point loss to the rival Cincinnati Bengals, Claypool was asked about what the

Steelers could change during the week in practices to prevent such performances in the future. His response?

"I think maybe some music would help," Claypool said. "We have music in warmups. That's always fun. People are dancing and having fun. Maybe music would make practice a little more fun and up-tempo. That's my one suggestion, but [Head Coach Mike Tomlin] has been doing this a lot longer than I have."

That's not the response to articulate. If you feel that way, fine. But practice isn't supposed to be fun after falling to last place in the division after a blowout loss. Maybe it was just one innocent mistake from a young, second-year player, right? Wrong.

Less than two weeks later, with the Steelers trailing the Minnesota Vikings by eight points and having a chance to tie the game with a touchdown and two-point conversion, Claypool caught a pivotal 9-yard pass from Ben Roethlisberger on 4th-and-1 with 42 seconds left in the game.

The Steelers had no timeouts and had to spike the ball to stop the clock, but that didn't stop Claypool from pointing and celebrating to indicate his first down. This moment let precious seconds tick off the clock, and Pittsburgh scrambled and couldn't find the end zone, coming up short in their comeback attempt.

One mistake is forgivable, but when something so boastful happens less than two weeks later, it's hard to think that this was anything other than a pattern of questionable behavior.

Claypool still finished his sopho-

more season with a respectable 59 catches and 860 receiving yards, but saw his touchdown total fall from 11 in 2020 to just two in 2021.

That didn't stop Claypool from making a brash claim this summer.

In an appearance on the "I AM ATHLETE" podcast, Claypool said that "I know I'm a top-three receiver," while also predicting that he'd have at least 1,300 receiving yards and more than 10 touchdowns.

A top-three wide receiver? Seriously?

At that point, it became clear that the comments and the behavior weren't going to stop, and the Steelers needed a receiver like Claypool to hopefully bounce back and compliment Diontae Johnson. It also felt like he might take on a bigger role, as Smith-Schuster left and signed with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Through eight games this year, he caught 32 passes for 311 yards and one touchdown. That prediction isn't looking too strong right now.

After Claypool's best game of the season, in which he posted season highs in both catches (seven) and receiving yards (96) in a 20-18 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Oct. 16, it looked like he might be turning a corner and coming back to 2020 form.

But, in common fashion, the focus came during postgame media availability. Claypool took a dip (chewing tobacco) from teammate Gunner Olszewski and put it in his lip while reporters surrounded him. Why can't anything ever be done without some side show?

Claypool can't take all the blame, as

it's clear that the organization will let the behavior ride, as long as the talent is there. Former wideout Antonio Brown's incidents are well-documented, and Johnson took to social media and told fans, "If ya'll are so good, come out here and help us, if ya'll got so much to say," after a 38-3 loss to the Buffalo Bills on Oct. 9.

After two years filled with ups and downs, Claypool is on his way to Chicago.

Maybe the Steelers' second-round pick in 2022, wide receiver George Pickens, will start filling the void left by his predecessor. But replacing someone who's going to hit 1,300 yards and 10 touchdowns is never easy.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

After two-plus seasons in Pittsburgh, Chase Claypool was dealt to the Chicago Bears on Tuesday.

Media literacy needed now more than ever

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Next Tuesday, Americans will be given the opportunity to elect their next public representatives. All 435 house seats and an additional 35 Senate seats will be up for election in what President Biden called "the most important election of our lifetime" in a speech at a Democratic National Committee event last week.

According to AdImpact, Pennsylvania has seen \$301 million in the 2022 general election through the beginning of October. The state's Senate seat is currently the sixth-most expensive Senate election ever, and it trails only Georgia's Senate race between Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker in this cycle.

This isn't news to anyone that has turned on their TV or been on the internet these past few months.

The strategies deployed by the people who are looking to become elected leaders are looking to elicit the fear of the masses. According to *The Washington Post*, "Democrats [have] made protecting abortion rights the central theme to their pitch to voters in the

midterms."

On the other hand, Republicans "have instead zeroed in on three issues where they believe Democrats have real liabilities; the economy, rising crime rates and an unpopular first-term president."

With the infusion of social media ads now a steady strategy for political campaigns, it can be hard to differentiate between the facts and the fake.

It can be impossible for those that do not understand the need for media literacy.

In a 2021 study by the Media Literacy Now organization, the United States ranked 15th out of 44 countries in areas that indicate effective media literacy education. According to the same reports, in terms of press freedoms, "The U.S. is not a leader," ranking 18th from Freedom House and 27th from Reporters Without Borders.

Much of the conversation about making Americans more media literate starts in the classroom.

There are calls for classes that teach young people the importance of being able to discern the quality of information they find online or to responsibly share and create content.

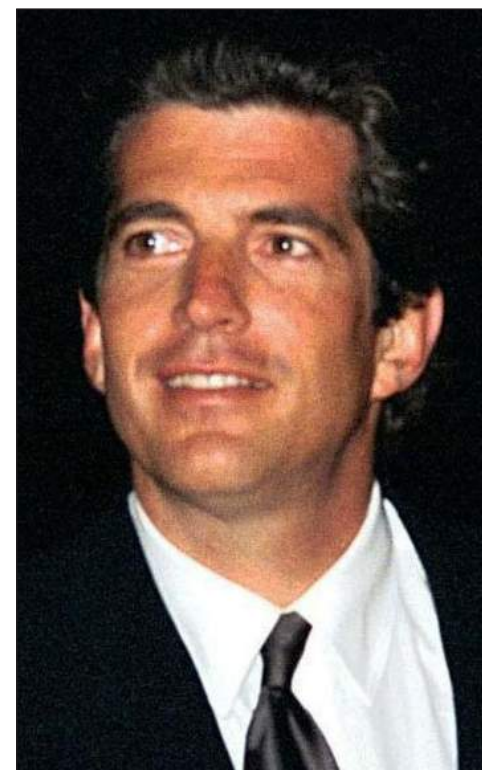
We should be doing everything in our power to secure the future of this nation by empowering the upcoming generations with the intellectual wherewithal to withstand the onslaught of misinformation and disinformation.

What about my racist family member who still thinks that Donald Trump is the president, Biden is dead and John F. Kennedy Jr. is now a Conservative leading a crusade of internet conspiracy theorists that will save the world from a kabul that consists of Tom Hanks and other random Hollywood stars?

Misleading voters to sway their impressionable minds is not a new concept. There are now just more avenues where consumers can get their information.

We should be aware of our informational intake, just like we are aware of the type of food we put in our bodies.

Some of us may choose to have a steady diet of Cheez-Its and Mr. Pibb, but we are aware of the damage those snacks are doing to our digestive system. We should take the same precautions while digesting information.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

John F. Kennedy Jr. is the central figure of the Qanon conspiracy theory that has continually promoted misinformation.

Assumption celebrates culture in candy

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Students decked out in costume were able to relive their trick-or-treating childhoods at Assumption Hall on Monday night, as resident assistants held Trick-or-Treat Around the World.

Devils, angels and witches alike began their haunted evening by getting brown paper lunch bags from the lobby around 8:30 p.m. and going from floor to floor, grabbing all different types of chocolates and gummies. Although the event started with bags upon bags of assorted candy, residents took action, filling their bags to the top, leaving only a few spare pieces behind.

Since many college-aged students don't go around to houses dressed up and grabbing bowls of candy anymore, this event was the perfect way to bring them back to their old Halloween celebrations and habits. Danielle Polizzi, one of the resident assistants who helped make the event possible, said the decision was made because her residents wanted to be able to trick-or-treat again.

"My residents came up to me and were like, 'Danielle, do you do trick-or-treating here?,' and I was like, 'No, but that could happen,' so we merged and did it," Polizzi said, smiling. "They have to come 'cause it's their idea."

Aniston Glemba, another resident assistant in charge of the event, said the night was organized not to give free candy away, but to "let residents know of other cultures and their candies."

Since people tend to only focus on how good the candy tastes and which ones

they gravitate toward more—never on where it may have originated from—this around-the-world candy event was a great way to show them just that.

Five gray cloth cubes represented the Halloween candy buckets for the night, all filled with candies from Argentina, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States. Each of these also had a paper taped on the side with a short description of how the country labeled celebrates the holiday, as well as what the candy is called in its native country.

Residents had to make sure they made their rounds to each floor to get a taste of each country's candies.

While students grabbed their favorites from the four floors of Assumption Hall, they could read about how Argentina's version of Halloween includes a 5k run in Buenos Aires (the country's capital city), or that Spain has a three-day Halloween event that corresponds to All Saint's Day—a major, Catholic holiday. When they made their way back to the lobby area, students could read all about the history of Halloween from the first bucket, which contained America's classic candies like Kit-Kats, Whoppers and Snickers.

Argentina's bucket had Arcor candies (hard candies with a fruity center), while Spain had Chupa Chups lollipops (bubble gum-filled lollipops).

Italy's main candy was ZotZ, a hard candy that contains sherbet and has a sour center. Polizzi's favorite candy was the ZotZ, as she described the red flavor as being "where it's at."

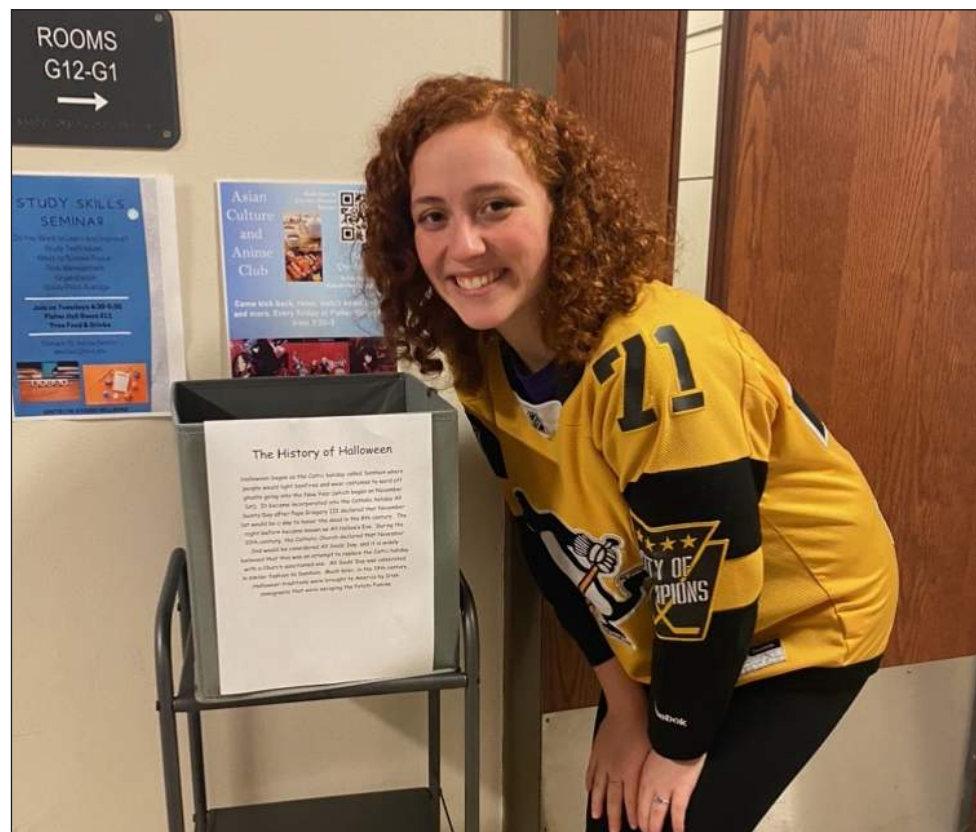
From the Japan bucket, students saw candies like Hi-Chews, a soft, chewy

candy with varying flavors like mango, green apple and pineapple. Dori Shearer, another resident assistant running the event, said that the mango Hi-Chews were her favorite.

To prove Hi-Chew's popularity, once the Japan cube was placed in a floor's study room just as the event started, girls dressed as witches were all over the

bucket. Their hats got in the way of one another, digging around to try and find their favorite flavors.

Throughout the event, students were encouraged to grab as much candy as they wanted, a huge difference from their younger years where they'd have to abide by signs that might've said, "Take one piece only."



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

Danielle Polizzi, a resident assistant at Assumption Hall, helped organize Trick-or-Treat Around the World on Monday night. The event featured candies from a variety of countries.

Dancing on display at Ballroom Social

CAPRI SCARCELLI
a&e editor

On a spooky night with a sophisticated twist, Duquesne's Ballroom Association held the Halloween Ballroom Social on Friday in the Union Ballroom.

Inspired by ballroom dances held in the Pittsburgh community, Ballroom Association President Hannah Clark said she wanted students to enjoy the music, candy, games, costume contests and more.

"We put this together by making a [Halloween] playlist, reserving [the Union Ballroom], advertising and making sure we had lots of candy and games," Clark said. "We had all of this, along with the normal dancing."

Student costumes varied from mummies to Cruella de Vil, and prizes were given to those best-dressed, said Ballroom Association Vice President Peri Dimitriou.

"The Halloween event was a really nice way to practice all of the skills we learn weekly for every dance in a fun, relaxing environment, just to have a good time and enjoy one another's company," Dimitriou said. "There were various games and

giveaways for everyone to participate in, and everyone seemed like they enjoyed themselves.

"Personally, I love hopping onto the dance floor any chance I can get, so the dancing in general was my favorite part of the night."

Ballroom Association Treasurer Megan Carnahan has been a member for three years. Having attended lessons on a weekly basis, Carnahan said that the social was a nice change of pace for dancing with new friends and old.

"The social this year was neat because we got to interact with Ballroom Association members from other colleges in the Pittsburgh area," Carnahan said. "It was also a great way to catch up with my friends. I got to learn new moves and just have a good time."

Clark said that she thought the event went "really well."

"We were hoping for a few more people, but everyone who did come had such an amazing time, which is the most important thing to us," Clark said. "We would love to be able to have more holiday events in the future, but currently we are sticking to around one per semester."

Normally, weekly dance lessons are offered on Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Power Center Fitness Studio. Beginner lessons are taught by Ballroom Association members, while intermediate lessons are led by professional ballroom instructors from the Pittsburgh area. Incorporating various ballroom styles from smooth, Latin, swing, salsa and more, Clark said that "no experience is needed to come to the beginner classes."

"We welcome everyone, even if you have no dance background or aren't a member of the Ballroom Association," Clark said. "As long as you are willing to try and have fun, you will fit right in."

Carnahan, who didn't have dancing experience before joining the Ballroom Association, said, "Even if you have two left feet, it is a lot of fun to learn, and the community is not judgmental."

For students who have a background in dance and are also up for a challenge, Dimitriou said that the intermediate lessons give experienced performers a chance to enjoy the dance scene again in a relaxed setting.

"Ballroom dancing is truly such an amazing experience, and it has given me

the chance to perform on stage again after graduating from high school," Dimitriou said. "I am so thankful I joined, and encourage anyone thinking about it to do so as well."

Follow @duqballroom and sign up on Campus Link to learn more about future dance festivities.



COURTESY OF HANNAH CLARK

Duquesne Ballroom Association members wrap a guest in toilet paper at Friday's social event.

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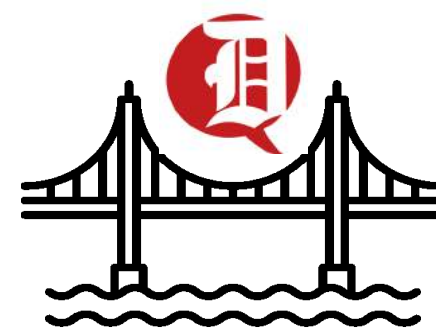
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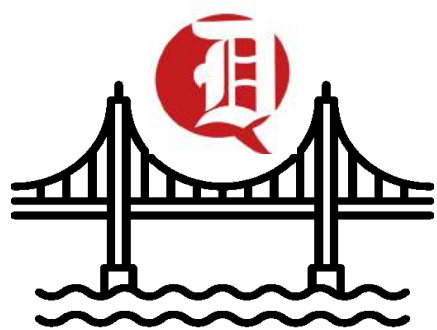


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