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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Future dorm construction closes Forbes partial surface parking

MBB beats VCU, wins second in a row

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

Behind a career-high and game-high 26 points from Jimmy Clark III, the Duquesne men's basketball team earned a 79-70 victory over VCU on Wednesday at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The game was Clark's first against his former team. Clark played two seasons with the Rams before spending last season at Northwest Florida, a junior college. For him, Wednesday's game wasn't just any other game.

"If I'm being honest, I had this marked on my calendar since the day I committed," Clark said. "This was a big game for me. I got here way earlier than I normally do, got a couple shots, got warm and trusted in my teammates for the rest of the game ..."

His performance on Wednesday, which saw him score in double figures for the ninth-straight game, was highlighted by an emphatic dunk with 5:01 left, in which he alley-ooped the ball off the backboard to himself and slammed it home to put the Dukes up 75-59.

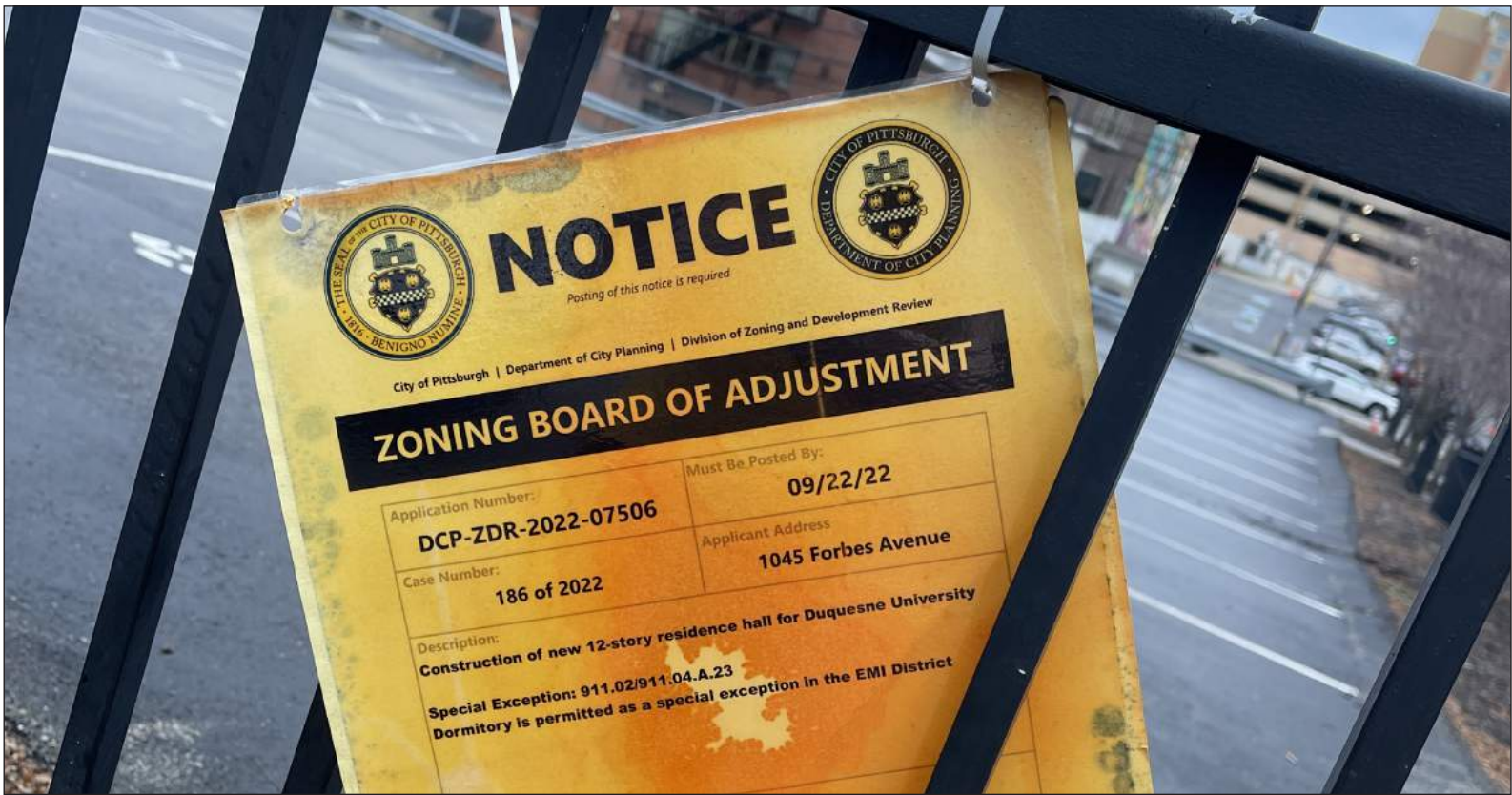
The dunk brought the crowd to its feet, something that also happened with nine seconds left in the game, when Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot pulled Clark so that he could receive a standing ovation.

"People might not believe it, that's something I practice a lot," Clark said. "The crowd was great, so I loved it. I just fed off the energy"

Dambrot was complimentary of Clark's performance at both ends of the floor. Clark also had a career-high five steals in the win.

"He plays with such freedom, both offensively and defensively, that I think if you try to

see MBB — page 2



EMMA POLEN | NEWS EDITOR

While construction begins on the new student dorms on Forbes Avenue — next to the Power Center and Moonlit Burgers — the surface lot where construction will take place is closed permanently. The prospective finish date for the project is the fall of 2024.

EMMA POLEN
news editor

Beginning this month construction commences for Duquesne's newest student apartments project, closing the surface parking lot next to the Power Center.

The new apartments will replace the surface parking in the area on the 1000 block of Forbes Avenue between the Power Center and the current construction project for the School of Osteopathic Medicine. The new 12-story student dormitories and the School of Osteopathic Medicine are both planned for a Fall 2024 opening.

Officially, the Forbes Avenue surface parking lot closed indefinitely on Dec. 20, according to an email from Duquesne sent to all members of the university.

Liam Grinnen, senior business major, believes the parking lot closure will cause problems for students with vehicles on campus.

"I for sure will [be affected] because I usually use the surface parking," he said.

Junior commuter student Tim Walmsley called the lot closure "incredibly inconvenient."

"I'm angry I paid \$800 for a surface and garage parking pass when they were going to take the largest surface parking lot away."

The most obvious signs of the lot's disuse are the wooden road barriers and "lane closed" sign that prohibit entry for non-authorized vehicles.

The university does not anticipate any parking issues in Spring 2023 as a result of the parking lot closure, according to university spokesman Gabriel Welsch.

"The university did a number of traffic studies," said Tim Gigliotti of PA real estate development Radner Property Group, "and have determined that even with losing access to these spaces, there's adequate parking on campus to accommodate the demands."

In addition, Welsch stated in an email that first-year students will no longer have the option to purchase a campus parking pass.

"Starting in fall 2023, we will revert to our pre-Covid policy of first-year students not being able to park on campus," he said.

In a way, this will decrease the demand for parking spaces beginning next school year.

At the site of the closed surface lot, construction for the 11-story student apartment building will commence in early January, Welsch said.

Gigliotti will oversee the apartment building plan. He explained what will initially take place at the construction site.

First, the lot will be excavated for foundation, and then the building's foundation will be put in place.

"By April or May, you should start to see the actual [steel frame] underway," Gigliotti said.

During active excavation and construction, "We do not forecast much of a change [to Forbes Avenue traffic]," he said.

While Forbes traffic might not see much change, pedestrian crossings on the avenue will be temporarily affected.

"We will be closing the sidewalk on that side of the street," Gigliotti said.

Forbes Avenue entrances to Moonlit Burgers and the Power Center will still be accessible, but the sidewalk in front of the surface parking lot will be blocked off.

Construction will continue five to six days a week until the project is finished in 2024, according

to Gigliotti.

The new dormitory plan also includes 226 apartment-style units and housing for approximately 550 upperclassmen and graduate students.

According to a news release from the university, the construction has plans for amenity spaces, bike parking, a fitness area and outdoor courtyards.

Reporting from *The Duke* previously found that the courtyard in the apartment plan will allow the passage of vehicles through the space, but will not serve as a permanent parking place.

"A few parking spots will be created around the new living learning center once main construction is complete," Welsch said in an email.

"This project shouldn't change much to any of the average commuters or for any of the students coming in and out of campus on a daily basis," Gigliotti said.

In their email announcing the parking lot closure in December, Duquesne reminded all university permit holders that they may access either the Forbes or Locust Garage on campus with their gate card/proximity badge.

POLICE BRIEFS

Friday, Dec. 30-

A Brottier Hall desk aid activated the desk's panic alarm following an uncomfortable advance from a man identified as David Whetzel. After leaving the building, Whetzel was arrested and jailed for an outstanding warrant from Somerset County.

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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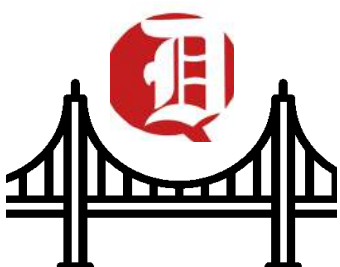
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EMMA POLEN
news editor

The Fern Hollow bridge reopened just in time for those hoping to meet their new year's exercise resolutions.

On Dec. 22, the Fern Hollow bridge officially reopened to Pittsburgh vehicle and on foot traffic.

The Fern Hollow bridge is an essential overpass connecting the traffic-heavy Forbes Avenue over Frick Park.

The bridge collapsed Jan. 28, 2022, uprooting the daily commute route for many city workers and for all who utilized the trails on and below the bridge.

Don Maue, director of the Center for Innovative Technology at Duquesne, uses the Fern Hollow bridge to commute to work and to stay active.

Maue is a devoted runner in Frick Park, where he has been taking the trails for 12 years.

"Frick trails are the most desirable in the city," he said.

Before the bridge collapse, Maue said he was running through Frick Park over the bridge everyday.

The Fern Hollow bridge also takes runners to the entrance of two major trails, the South and North Clayton trail.

The North Clayton trail even leads to the Frick Environmental Center.

Now that the bridge is reopened,

the South Clayton trail is part of Maue's recommended running route through Frick Park.

Maue's running group, Trail Runners of Frick Park, assembled the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 22, for a celebratory run across the newly opened Fern Hollow bridge.

He called it a "bitter run" in the pre-Christmas cold weather, but he said he was proud to make it to the bridge on the first day of the bridge's reopening.

For those who travel the bridge often, some changes are in store for both vehicle and on-foot traffic.

According to a news release from the office of Gov. Tom Wolf, the opening of the bridge required first finishing "bridge barrier installation, pedestrian railing and line painting."

Vehicle access to the bridge is limited to "a single lane of bi-directional traffic while work continues into early 2023," the release said.

The one-lane traffic in each direction is for "ensuring lighting and rails" construction is completed, said Maria Montano from the office of the City of Pittsburgh.

The bridge will be "fully reopened sometime in the spring," she said.

Maue noticed that at the bridge's reopening late December, his running route had changed across the Fern Hollow Bridge.

Before the collapse, the bridge had a sidewalk on either side of the

bridge. Now, a walking and bike trail are marked only on the left side facing South Braddock Ave.

While the sidewalk space might be equivalent to what was originally available to foot traffic before the bridge's collapse, Maue is concerned that the one-sided trail might affect the city's ability to keep the trail free from snow and ice during the winter months.

"The last bridge used to ice up so bad on the walkway," he said. To combat this while running, he

would run on the opposite side of the street or directly on the street.

Now, that alternative sidewalk is gone. However, so far, "someone had been cleaning off the ice and snow off the walkway," he said.

For those hoping to try out the Fern Hollow bridge running path for themselves, Maue recommends running during the day, taking the Tranquil Trail to pass directly underneath the new bridge and being aware of Frick Park's "notorious" icy trails.



EMMA POLEN | NEWS EDITOR

This sign was up a week after the Fern Hollow bridge collapse. Now, Frick Park trails surrounding the Fern Hollow bridge are fully open, as is foot traffic on the bridge. Vehicle traffic is limited until construction is finished.

MBB moves to 12-4 on season with victory

see MBB—page 1

limit some of the things he did, I think you would hurt him," Dambrot said. "He couldn't play for every coach, but he's good for me because he's such a freak athletically that you have to let him loose.

"He makes some plays defensively that I've never seen, really. He's so instinctive."

With the score at 7-6 at the 17:20 mark of the first half, Duquesne went on a 13-0 run to balloon the lead, and while VCU got the deficit back to within 7 points, the Rams couldn't come any closer.

The Dukes led by as many as 22 points (30-8) in what was just their second win in 10 tries since VCU joined the Atlantic 10 Conference prior to the 2012-13 season.

Dambrot stressed that while this was not a complete game, he was happy with how his team weathered the Rams' pushback efforts.

"The thing I'm most proud of is the resiliency we showed again when they came at us, because we knew they were going to come at us," Dambrot said. "VCU has [had] so many years of winning that, at some point, we knew they were going to come at

our throat a little bit.

"We kind of popped them in the mouth again after they got it close, and then we kind of let them back in it again. We're still a developing team. We're not all the way there yet, but you could see some growth."

One area of growth he'd like to see in his team is learning how to play with a large lead.

"We're so new that sometimes it looks like it's a three-ring circus out there, both ends," Dambrot said. "Other times, we look like we're the Harlem Globetrotters. We're going to have our inconsistencies until we really

totally figure it out.

"It's a strange team because sometimes we look so bad, and sometimes we look so great, but somehow they know how to win."

The Dukes held the lead for 38:52 of the game's 40 minutes, and it was Duquesne's first-ever win over VCU in Pittsburgh.

Now sitting at 12-4 overall and 2-1 in A-10 play, Duquesne has now doubled its win outputs both in conference (one) and overall (six) from a season ago.

The Dukes will be in action on Saturday, when they begin a three-game road trip with a contest against Richmond.



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Kareem Rozier, Tevin Brewer and Jimmy Clark III gather during Wednesday's 79-70 win over VCU at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Clark posted a career-high 26 points in the victory, while Brewer had a game-high four assists.



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Jimmy Clark III dunks a ball during Duquesne's nine-point win over VCU on Wednesday. Clark, who spent two seasons at VCU, scored 26 points and had five steals in his first meeting against his former team. He's scored in double figures in nine-straight contests.

College basketball in Pittsburgh is fun again

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

Just one season ago, the college basketball landscape in Pittsburgh was abysmal. The city's three Division I programs — Pittsburgh, Duquesne, Robert Morris — combined for a 25-69 record.

Pitt (11-21) lost five straight games to end the season, falling by an average margin of 20.2 points in those defeats.

Duquesne (6-24) lost 17 games in a row to close out the campaign, keeping it within single digits just five times in that stretch.

Robert Morris (8-24) went 2-7 in its final nine contests. That included a 10-point home loss to an IUPUI team that went 3-26, with its only win against a Division I team being over Robert Morris.

underachieving teams could go elsewhere.

However, while the transfer portal can take away, it can also give. The transfer portal has worked wonders for this city's head coaches, and now they're reaping the benefits. As a result, college basketball in Pittsburgh looks a whole lot better than it did last year.

Pitt, a program that has not made a post-season appearance since 2015-16, looked to be headed toward another underwhelming season under fifth-year Head Coach Jeff Capel.

After a season-opening win, Pitt lost back-to-back contests to power programs in West Virginia (by 25 points) and Michigan (by 31 points). The Panthers followed up the loss to Michigan by blowing a 4-point lead with 2:22 left in a loss to VCU

season, but it's in position to push for an NCAA Tournament bid for the first time in seven years.

Duquesne, which fell from 21 wins in 2019-20 to just six wins in 2021-22, seemed to have more questions than answers entering this season under sixth-year Head Coach Keith Dambrot.

After the tumultuous end to last season, the Dukes returned just three key contributors — Tre Williams, Austin Rotroff and Kevin Easley Jr. — to this year's squad, with Easley since having entered the portal after receiving limited playing time this season.

While it is still relatively early, Duquesne already finds itself at 12-4 this season, with two of those losses coming on the road against programs that are perennially successful in No. 4 Kentucky and Dayton. After a win over VCU on Wednesday, the Dukes have already doubled their win total (two) in Atlantic 10 Conference action from a season ago.

The Dukes' body of work includes wins over Colgate (which has appeared in each of the last three NCAA Tournaments), UC Santa Barbara (currently 11-2), Ball State (currently 10-4), DePaul (a member of the Big East Conference) and Indiana State (currently 12-4).

How has Duquesne completely flipped the script from a season ago?

The transfer portal.

Four of the Dukes' six top scorers were added via the portal prior to this season. Dae Dae Grant (16.8 points/game), Jimmy Clark III (12.6 points/game), Joe Reece (9.2 points/game) and Tevin Brewer (7.2 points/game) have been key forces in Duquesne's transformation from cellar dweller to A-10 contender. Tre Williams (7.3 points/game, 5.0 rebounds/game) transferred to Duquesne prior to 2021-22 and has been a consistent force in the paint.

While the Dukes are 12-4 and 2-1 in A-10 play, the conference is a lot weaker this season and likely won't receive any more than two bids (one automatic qualifier, one at-large) to the NCAA Tournament. However, a weaker conference provides Duquesne with an opportunity to continue stacking wins and making a push for a postseason berth of some sort.

Robert Morris qualified for the 2020 NCAA Tournament just two days before the event was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Colonials immediately left the Northeast Conference for the Horizon League following that 2019-20 season, and followed up a 4-15 showing in 2020-21 with the aforementioned 8-24 mark last season.

The Colonials looked to be on the same path this season, as they went 2-5 in their first seven games, with both wins coming over opponents that are not Division I.

However, when the calendar flipped from November to December, the team turned it on.

A three-game road trip to start the month saw the Colonials dismantle defending conference champion Wright State, go toe-to-toe with Horizon League stalwart Northern Kentucky and snag a Division I non-conference win from Central Michigan.

After taking Marshall (currently 12-3) to the wire, Robert Morris took down former NEC foes in Mount St. Mary's and St. Francis (Pa.).

Although the Colonials lost their most-recent game to Cleveland State, they took down Purdue-Fort Wayne — the Horizon League's preseason favorite — just prior. Robert Morris used a five-win December to get from 2-5 to 7-8, and the team now sits just one win away from matching last season's total.

How has Head Coach Andrew Toole dug his program out of the hole?

The transfer portal.

While homegrown Enoch Cheeks (17.5 points/game) has led the charge, Kahliel Spear (13.9 points/game), Josh Corbin (12.1 points/game) and Michael Green III (6.9 points/game) have all transferred into Robert Morris over the past two seasons, and have been prime players in Robert Morris' resurgence.

Although the Colonials are still under .500 entering the meat of conference play, they've proven that they're capable of hanging with the best of the best in the Horizon League.

If the play that guided Robert Morris through December carries into January and February, another NCAA Tournament bid could be on the horizon come March.

There is still plenty of conference action that could dictate the course of any or all of these three teams' seasons, for better or worse.

Regardless, with where things stand right now, it's safe to say that college basketball is fun in Pittsburgh again.

These teams' coaches are proven winners, and they've used the transfer portal to turn last season's woes into this season's successes.

Three teams that combined for 25 wins all of last season have already collected 30 wins in 2022-23. If that level of play keeps up through the next two months, postseason appearances won't be out of the question for any of the three programs.



LUKE HENNE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pitt defeated No. 11 Virginia on Tuesday, marking its second-straight win over a ranked team.

Simply put, things not only looked bad, but they looked like they were about to get a lot worse. In a transfer portal era where players come and go at the drop of a hat, the talent that had been on last season's

the next day.

Since that three-game skid at the start of the season, the Panthers have gone 10-1. The only loss in that span was a 1-point loss on the road against Vanderbilt, a loss that came at the tail end of a three-game road trip in which they beat Northwestern by 29 points and North Carolina State to open Atlantic Coast Conference play.

Since losing to Vanderbilt nearly a month ago, the Panthers have not lost a game, and they're currently 4-0 in ACC action. Their last two wins have come at home over ranked teams, as they took down No. 25 North Carolina on Friday before beating No. 11 Virginia on Tuesday.

Where has the team's success come from? The transfer portal.

All of Pitt's top four scorers are transfers, three of whom were added to the roster prior to this season. Blake Hinson (17.0 points/game), Nelly Cummings (10.7 points/game) and Greg Elliott (10.4 points/game) have all made an immediate impact in their short time in Pittsburgh, while Jamarius Burton (15.7 points/game) has been crucial in his second season with the Panthers.

Even Nike Sibande (6.5 points/game), who transferred to Pitt prior to the 2020-21 season, was a spark off the bench with 16 points in the Panthers' win over Virginia.

At 11-4 and tied for first in the conference, Pitt has not only tied its win total from last



LUKE HENNE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Robert Morris is seeking to clinch an NCAA Tournament bid for the first time since 2019-20.



PETER BOETTGER | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Jimmy Clark III (right) celebrates with Duquesne teammates after hitting a buzzer-beater against Ball State on Dec. 3.

Fun in the ‘Burgh: What to do this winter

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

Being back in The Bluff and immediately jumping into the spring semester after a long and much-anticipated break can make for a difficult readjustment to campus life. For those wishing to hold onto the whimsy of winter break, here are some local off-campus events to help revive the life in school-life balance.

Cirque du Soleil - Corteo (PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh)

Cirque du Soleil returns to Pittsburgh’s PPG Paints Arena to deliver an exciting tale about the celebration of life and the legacy that each of us leaves behind when our time comes. “Corteo,” an alluring and engaging storytelling experience, showcases Baroque-inspired tumbling and acrobatics designed to honor the passing of fictional clown Mauro.

The show runs from January 5 to January 8 with tickets starting at \$59. Not in your budget for this week? Listen to Cirque du Soleil’s “Corteo” playlist on Spotify to enjoy this masterpiece wherever you are.

Pittsburgh’s Gingerbread Display and Competition (City-County Building, Pittsburgh)

Already missing the holiday season? Fear not, for Pittsburgh’s 20th Annual Gingerbread Display and Competition continues to be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until January 6. This year’s entries feature talents from a broad range of Pitts-



COURTESY OF UNATION PITTSBURGH

Local restaurant Hartwood Wine Cave substitutes the traditional patio space with faux igloos for the winter months.

burgh’s finest, from preschool-aged groups to the culinarily gifted.

If houses are the only gingerbread designs that come to mind, then you are in for a treat. This season’s display includes rocketships, a “Shrek” inspired scene and Roman architecture. Admission is free for this event.

Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition (Ross Park Mall, Pittsburgh)

If you’ve ever experienced the intrusive craving to get too-close to the artwork in a museum, this experience is perfect for you. Similar

to the walkthrough style of The Van Gogh Experience, Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition is an up-close, life-sized replication of the Renaissance icon’s work.

Regular adult admission starts at \$22.50, but student discounts are available for those who choose to bring their school IDs. The exhibit is accessible through the second-level entrance of the former JCPenny at The Ross Park Mall and is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until January 20.

Disco Sunday Disco (Trace Brewing, Pittsburgh)

Connect with your inner dancing queen at Trace Brewing for the return of “Disco Sunday Disco.” Guests of all ages are invited to bring a friend and make a friend as they dance and jive to live DJs Pretty Tony, Dini Daddy and Jarrett Tebbets.

Although this event takes place in the beer garden, there are no age restrictions. Disco doesn’t stop for the winter, so Trace Brewing will be serving hot drinks fireside to combat the cold. This outdoor, open-air event takes place between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on January 8 and is free to attend.

Outdoor Dining Igloos (Local Restaurants, Various Locations)

Want to spend time outside but can’t face the cold? Good news: the restaurant scene in Pittsburgh has developed an indoor-outdoor hybrid space to solve the winter crisis for diners. Venues such as Hartwood Wine Cave, Bridges and Bourbon, Bella Terra Vineyards and The Foundry Table and Tap have introduced outdoor igloos in lieu of the traditional patio.

We’ll wait while you try to think of something better than eating carbs in your very own dinner bubble surrounded by a small group of friends. Be forewarned that some restaurants require advance reservations to book an igloo. Additional fees may apply.

Cathartic Crafting (Prototype PGH, Pittsburgh)

Maybe you’re looking for something more relaxed, or maybe you have a New Year’s resolution that you haven’t started yet. If you find yourself itching to craft or work on a creative project, consider visiting Prototype PGH on the second Sunday of the month between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to sit with a calming community.

Whether you need an accountability partner or you are looking to learn something new, Cathartic Crafting is offering a space for you. This event is free to attend, but donation-based for those who would like to offer their support.



COURTESY OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Cirque du Soleil amazes with new production “Corteo,” drawing inspiration from Baroque styles.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

Canvas Painting
Jan. 8 @ 9 p.m.

Get in touch with your creative side at the NiteSpot with the Center of Student Involvement. Supplies limited.

Edible Cookie Dough
Jan. 9 @ 9 p.m.

Don’t want to order Insomnia Cookies this week? Try Edible Cookie Dough instead! The Center of Student Involvement is giving away free late-night sweets until they run out.

Donuts with the President
Jan. 10 @ 8:30 a.m.
and 9:45 a.m.

President Gormley is kicking off the spring semester with sweet treats for breakfast. Swing by Hogan at 8:30 a.m. or the Union Atrium across from Starbucks at 9:45 a.m. for a free donut!

Table Top Game Night
Jan. 11 @ 9 p.m.

Wind down on Wednesday evening with board games in the NiteSpot, hosted by the Center of Student Involvement.

EMILY'S
EPIPHANIES

New Year, New Self-Compassion

At the turn of the New Year we often find ourselves inundated with messaging encouraging us to change for the better: go to the gym, eat healthy, ditch bad habits, etc.

Many people abandon these goals and aspirations come February when we realize that they’ve become unrealistic, unsustainable, or flat out unattainable.

But how does this failure, though little, affect the tone for the remainder of our year? Do we “get back on the horse” and try again? Does our hope for a better self fizzle so easily? How do we cope?

If you’ve experienced the overwhelming urge to fix yourself or maybe have already faced struggles attempting to do so, know that you are not alone. More importantly, you are doing just fine for yourself. Of course, if you are committing some heinous habit that causes you direct harm, please seek help.

However, your little quirks and flaws are what make you most human. I have compassion for your struggle, and I wish you only the best, but don’t let a little loss cause you to lose a year of self-love.
-- Emily Fritz

Aquarius

Thank you for your gorgeous Swiftie soul.

Pisces

I’m not allergic to pine nuts...WHAT DO YOU MEAN SINCE WHEN??

Aries

I’m less bothered by the body bag and more so the EXPOSED SKELETON

Taurus

Which Bible should go on my 2023 vision board?

Gemini

Gaslight, gatekeep, girl Pokémon

Cancer

I’ve eaten nothing but bread today.

Leo

It’s only 81 day, not that I counted.

Virgo

Punch the shark gently on the nose.

Libra

I’m not convinced that moose know how to swim.

Scorpio

If the skinny pig was going to wear pants, which way would he wear them?

Sagittarius

What part of my skeleton would you like mailed to you when I die?

Capricorn

It was Lava Girl pink. It wasn’t supposed to be.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

113 College Hall
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Luke Henne
news editor	Emma Polen
opinions editor	Zach Petroff
features editor	Isabella Abbott
a&e editor	Emily Fritz
sports editor	Luke Henne
layout/multimedia	Peter Boettger
social media & ads	Nicholas Zotos

administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduqduke@gmail.com

“What would
life be if
we had no
courage
to attempt
anything?”

VINCENT VAN GOGH

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

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.

Contact

email: theduqduke@gmail.com



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Zach Petroff argues that class attendance should not be counted toward a student's overall class grade.

The school attendance policy is arbitrary and archaic

I really enjoy the first day of a semester.

When coming back to the Bluff, it is impossible not to feel that electricity in the air as students and faculty embark on this four-month educational journey.

Some of the more charming back-to-Duquesne traditions include a full parking garage as if Taylor Swift is performing at the PPG Arena, students dressed in their newest threads and the elevators filled with the overwhelming intoxication of the latest perfumes and body sprays of the youth.

There is so much hope and nervousness as we find our ways into our classrooms. The possibilities are endless. I even find myself getting swept up in the moment as I find myself uncharacteristically coming to campus early out of sheer “giddiness.”

It really is a magical time of year.

And while each new “first day” is different, a lot is the same.

Perhaps the most familiar tradition of the “first day” is going over the ever-so-redundant flexible blueprint of the course known as the syllabus. The often three-page document covers a variety of topics, but only a few sections catch the eyes of the intended audience: The grading scale, when major exams/assignments are due and most importantly – the attendance policy.

Every semester, in every class, students spend a significant amount of brain power in order to figure out how a particular professor is going to assess attendance for the semester.

I propose that in the year 2023 the best way to prepare young people for the “real-world” is to get rid of the archaic policy of taking attendance.

The physical presence of a student is not a valid measurement of a student's ability to comprehend and evaluate the information taught in any course. Associating any letter grade to a student for their attendance seems lazy, arbitrary and useless while doubly punishing those students who are

unable to make a class.

I'm sure the proponents of this primitive policy will claim this is some sort of safeguard to “protect students from themselves.”

“If we don't make attendance mandatory — then students just won't show up,” said the fictitious authority figure in my head.

My argument against this out-



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

dated and elementary rule spans past the cliché argument that we, the students, are paying customers and it's hard to see how this “agreement” benefits any of the patrons.

The art to evaluate the success of a student should rely solely on the information presented. A professor has a plethora of ways to evaluate if the key objectives have been learned efficiently. Penalize a student for not knowing the information, not whether or not they were present when that information was delivered.

The price for a student missing a class should not be quantifiable, as all courses and classes are not created equally. It is absurd to think that each course requires the same amount of teaching time. “Intro to Film” and “Biofluid Mechanics” are both three-credit hour cours-

es. However, it's pretty reasonable to conclude that the structure of these courses is greatly different.

The emphasis should always be on the material that is being taught. Otherwise, it feels as if professors are just trying to pad their thin agenda. The punishment for missing class should not be measured; the penalty should be the missing out of the information that was presented.

Higher learning spans beyond education, especially at a smaller private university. The preparation for the workforce while shaping a well-rounded individual is the foundation of advanced education. We are doing a disservice to our students by this hand-holding policy.

We need to prepare our youth for the real world. While it is true, there are jobs that will fire you for not showing up - the job market, especially for the educated, is changing.

The work force is about time management. It is about being able to make sound decisions in how one's time is spent. We are a result-based market, employers care about bottom lines. We should allow our young people the confidence and the experience to be able to decide how they prioritize their time, just as they will have to in the “real world.”

The only real preparation that a mandatory attendance policy has is getting students familiar with lying to their “boss.” As someone who has spent almost two decades lying to his bosses, I always get a little bit of pleasure as I hear these young people muddle through their half-contrived stories as the professors pretend to believe them.

It truly is an art form.

When shaping the future, the goal should be to focus on education. We need to prepare the learning class by solely focusing on the lessons that the extremely talented professors provide.

When you start mandating attendance, you're tarnishing the product.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Are players truly the priority?

It often feels like professional athletes will quite literally put their lives on the line for the greater good of the team. On Monday night, a life was put on the line in one of the scariest ways the sporting world has ever seen.

During the first quarter of an NFL contest between the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals at Paycor Stadium in Cincinnati, Bills safety Damar Hamlin made what appeared to be a harmless tackle on Bengals wide receiver Tee Higgins. Moments later, the 24-year-old Hamlin collapsed to the ground and suffered a cardiac arrest.

The Bills said Tuesday that Hamlin's heartbeat “was restored on the field and he was transferred to the [University of Cincinnati] Medical Center for further testing and treatment.”

On Wednesday, ESPN's Coley Harvey reported that Hamlin was still sedated and in critical condition in the intensive care unit, but that “doctors overnight got promising readings that they had been hoping to see by this morning.”

It's a scary situation for those who witnessed it and have heard about it — particularly for his family, teammates and everyone present at Paycor Stadium on Monday.

Roughly an hour after the incident took place, the league decided to postpone the game. That was the right call, but it was one that should've never been up for debate.

It became a question of whether the two teams would continue playing when a short video of Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow warming up following the incident surfaced on social media. In the aftermath, there were also shots of Bills wide receiver Stefon Diggs rallying his teammates to get ready to play.

In the period after Hamlin's collapse and before the postponement, ESPN broadcaster Joe Buck repeatedly stated that the teams were given a five-minute window to warm up before play would resume.

Troy Vincent, the league's vice president of football operations, denied this on a conference call late Monday. According to NFL Network's Mike Garafolo, Vincent said, “There was no time period for the players to get warmed up. ... It never crossed our mind to talk about warming up to resume play. That's ridiculous. That's insensitive. That's not a place we should ever be in.”

It would be extremely disheartening to believe that the league would try to send those players back onto the field just moments after what they'd witnessed.

Without question, the first priority is the health and wellbeing of Hamlin. Nothing should go on until more is known about his status.

If the league had any intentions of making players return to the field the same field where Damar Hamlin could've spent some of his final moments alive, they'll deserve an immense amount of scrutiny.

December graduate equipped for bright future

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

As Duquesne's December graduates embark on their post-graduation journeys, one student in particular shares how her extracurriculars and internships helped her gain experience and knowledge in her field of study.

Braylyn Bruno, who majored in both strategic public relations/advertising, and English, knows how to keep herself busy with academics, internships and extracurriculars. By being involved in many on-campus organizations during her time at school, Bruno learned more about herself and her passions for her future career.

One of the organizations that helped her the most was Duquesne's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), where she ascended to the role of president in the fall semester, completing a journey that began when she joined the club in her freshman year of 2020.

"I was definitely the most involved with PRSSA," Bruno said. "I got to know a lot of professionals who have offered to help me post-graduation, which is great, so that one is definitely the most beneficial for me just because it's directly related to my major and I've met so many people from that."

Not only was she able to learn different networking skills by being a part of PRSSA, but during her time as president, she was able to implement crowdfunding. This allowed more students to attend different PRSSA events, something she had trouble doing as a freshman.

"As president, I used some of our funds so that we could provide transportation for any students in our organization that wanted to go," Bruno said. "Before that, it would be more of a go-on-your-own type of thing. To my knowledge, I'm the first president that actually brought us,

as a group, to these events."

In addition to providing transportation to members of her organization, Bruno also completed three internships during her time as a student. During one of these internships, she was able to build the Instagram account for a client from the ground up.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAYLYN BRUNO

Braylyn Bruno, who double majored in strategic public relations/advertising and english, graduated in December. She also completed three internships during her time at Duquesne.

"One of the clients I was working for was a beauty company that had unleashed a new product and I brought their Instagram up from 20 followers to 500 in the span of my internship, which was a huge jump for them because they were a new company," Bruno said. "Even the posts, I completely brought up engagement with likes and comments, and just overall interaction with the account."

Bruno was able to learn many new

skills within her internships as well, some of which she still applies today.

"I would do marketing reports and other reports for the client, which were a great experience because I got to do summaries, but also statistics," Bruno said. "I also just experienced so many different types of industries, which really let

had a lot of freedom as well so I did 'Trivia Tuesdays' and 'Books of the Week.'"

Someone who can speak on Bruno's ability to work hard while maintaining a schedule filled with internships and 18 credits of college courses is Morgan Emery, PRSSA's vice president.

"Braylyn is one of the hardest working people I know," Emery said. "Working alongside her as the vice president of PRSSA, she really wanted to increase awareness and retention about our small club, and this past semester we were able to nearly double our roster, which would not have been possible without her guidance and leadership."

Some of Bruno's other clubs and activities include Duquesne's Advertisement Club, Circle K, Habitat for Humanity, Pi Sigma Epsilon and Sigma Tau Delta.

She said that any student looking to join extracurriculars at school should join the ones they're interested in.

"I would say, for extracurricular activities on campus, to join at least one organization associated with your major or an area of study that you're interested in," Bruno said. "Then, do one fun organization that connects with you in some different way."

"So I'd definitely say do one fun one and at least one professional one. That way, you'll meet people in your major, but you'll also have a different kind of outlet that isn't school-related."

For those looking to get internships, Bruno said if a student has already had one and is looking to get another, they should try and find one in a different area of study.

"Sometimes people think they love their first one, but then they try something different, and they love it so much more," Bruno said. "Internships are the time you have to kind of play around and figure out what you like and try to work in different industries, because you might find something you weren't expecting to love."

MORE PICTURES FROM BRAYLYN BRUNO'S PRSSA EXPERIENCE



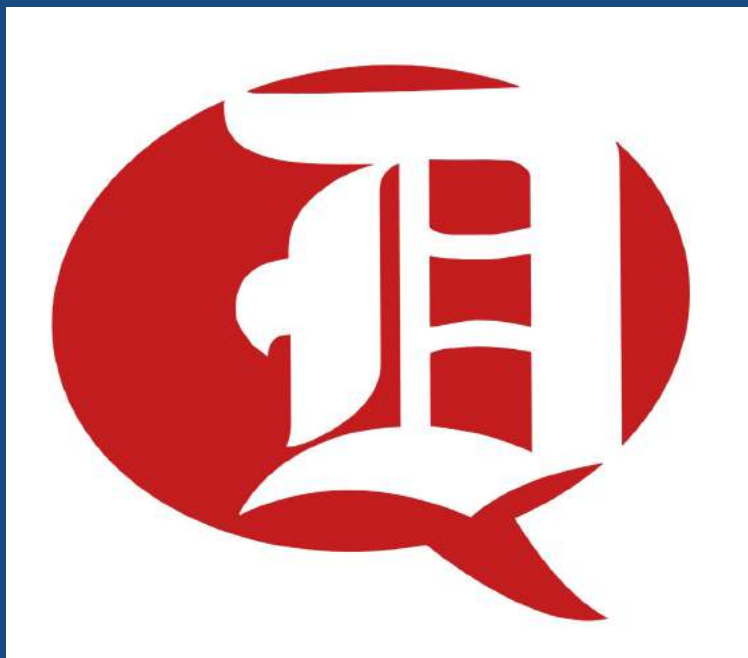
Bruno and members of Duquesne's PRSSA chapter pictured during a recent event at Brunner.



Bruno with Morgan Emery during November's PRSSA/PRSA International Conference in Texas.

The Duquesne Duke

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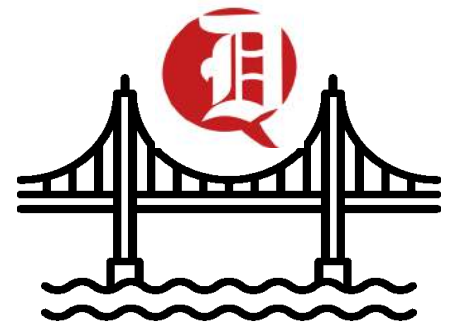
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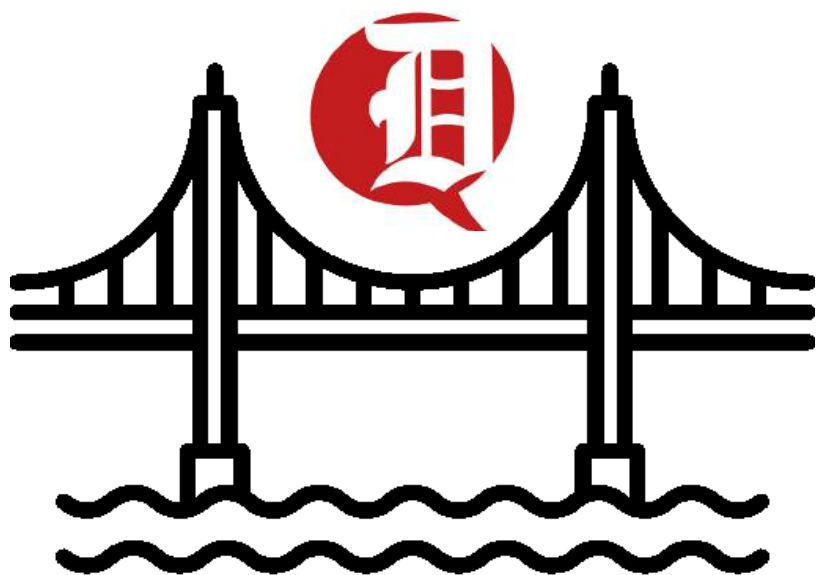
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