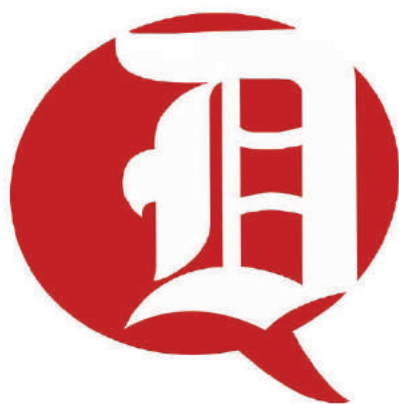


sports	a & e	opinions	features
WBB downs Loyola of Chicago	Blue in the face	Are we calling this a budget?	Travel the world ...for free?
Dukes win third in a row	Blue Man Group comes to Pittsburgh	Defense budget could hit \$1 trillion	DU alum makes study abroad her job
PAGE 3	PAGE 4	PAGE 5	PAGE 6



# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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## Model United Nations shapes a world for future leaders

### New book sheds light on integration in sports

RUSSELL MACIAS  
staff writer

It was Dec. 3, 1949, and the Duquesne men's basketball team was scheduled to play Tennessee. At that time, it was well-known that if a team played Tennessee, they had to bench their Black players, or else Tennessee would refuse to play. Duquesne intended to play Chuck Cooper — a Black player on its team — no matter what, and they refused to bend the knee to Tennessee.

When Duquesne didn't acquiesce, Tennessee left and the game was forfeited.

Media professor Robert Healy III shared that story from the new book, "Integrating Pittsburgh Sports," on the panel of Association of Gentleman Pittsburgh Journalists, held last Thursday in Gumberg Library.

Members of the panel participating in the event included Duquesne alumni, Healy, KDKA sports host Josh Taylor, Tom Rooney of the Rooney family and author David Finoli. Panelists also included Chris Fletcher, Douglas Cavanaugh, Bill Ranier and Samuel Black.

The panel was hosted by another Duquesne graduate, Shelby Cassesse of both KDKA and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The panel's discussion highlighted the contents of their new book, which speaks on various aspects of how the integration of sports had a lot of firsts here in Pittsburgh. The purpose of the book is to share players' stories that were lost to time. Each chapter of their new book centers on one athlete in particular and tells their story.

see BOOK — page 2



AARON DUKE | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne students Riley Boyle, chair, and Katelyn Waranavage, co-chair of the committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), count votes as nations represented by Pittsburgh-area high school students raise their hands to be added to the speaker list during a Model United Nations committee session in the Africa Room on Friday.

EMMA POLEN  
news editor

"The great value of the United Nations is it provides collective forum for those without a great deal of individual power, [who] have collectively something much more when they are together than that when they are apart. You model that now, you remind us of the need to respect small states for the sake of openness."

These were the opening remarks of Rev. John Sawicki, director for the Center of International Relations at Duquesne, on Friday as he addressed nearly 200 high school participants of Duquesne's annual fundraising Model United Nations conference.

High schoolers traveled from 16 schools across the Pittsburgh area to represent a nation in one of the eight Model U.N. committees. At the end of each two-hour committee session, participants were expected to have completed a "joint resolution" that served all nations' best interests.

Committees met in the morning and afternoon for discussions based around international issues.

Among the topics up for debate were the protection of the press and proliferation of surveillance technology in the Committee on Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), illegal drug trade and people smuggling in the International Criminal Police Organization Union (INTERPOL) committee and the rights of indigenous people and poaching in the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Issues Committee (SOCHUM).

The Crisis Committee gave students the opportunity to roleplay historic leaders from their countries, offering an additional layer of personalized debate to the committee's 2023 topic, the 1956 Suez Canal crisis.

For example, Ben Todd, a freshman from Shady Side Academy, represented Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev in the Suez crisis. While current, 21st century relations between the U.S. and Russia are strained, they were on the "same page" during the Suez crisis, Todd said. The nations were in fact working together to convince the last two imperial powers at the time, France and Britain, to compromise with them.

"I'm very excited to verbally duke it out with the British," Todd said before the conference.

In addition to the "fun" of the role-play, high schoolers also shared how they see Model U.N. affecting their future goals.

"[It's] a fun opportunity to put on my college resume," said Brook Emery, a junior from Deer Lakes representing Kenya for the INTERPOL committee.

Emery said her position during the committee discussion would be strict on drug trade, something specific to current events in her representative country of Kenya.

For some students, like Chloe Snyder, a senior from South Fayette High School, Model U.N. provides an outlet for interests in political science, which Snyder would like to major in with International Studies in college. For others, the event is more of a specific interest that bonds them with friends and keeps them up to date on current events.

"I thought this would be a good way to learn about issues that are happening globally, and come together to help come up with more creative solutions that we can hopefully implement in the future,"

said Natalie Shaffer, a sophomore at Deer Lakes.

Providing these extracurricular opportunities is important for students, said Mary Quirk, an enrichment coordinator from South Fayette High School.

"They get to network with other students...conference to conference," Quirk said. "I think one of the biggest values is that they have to look at these [current international] issues from the perspective of another country."

"[Model U.N.] teaches students how to make executive decisions... and it teaches them current events," said Alex Wolfe, the Duquesne Model U.N. faculty advisor.

During committee sessions, high schoolers have the opportunity to speak on-topic on behalf of their represented country. Committees were overseen by a college student chair and co-chair who assured the represented nations worked in useful debate.

During the DISEC committee on protection of the press, chaired by Lauren Zelnis and co-chaired by

see MODEL U.N.— page 2



## POLICE BRIEFS

## Tuesday, Feb. 14-

St. Ann's resident was found to have marijuana in his room.

## Wednesday, Feb. 15-

Duquesne Police were dispatched to St. Ann's Hall for a marijuana-related incident in the lobby. Two vaping devices were presented to police by an RD, believed to be used for vaping THC oil.

## Monday, Feb. 20-

A Duquesne Facilities Management employee reported a bag of electrician hand tools stolen from the walkway of Chatham Square at Watson Street while he was working in the Power Center building.

## 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](mailto:hennel@duq.edu).

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## from BOOK—page 1

Some of the athletes and sports figures mentioned included Chuck Cooper, Roberto Clemente, Bill Nunn, Charles West and Cumberland Posey.

Specifically, the panel discussed Cooper, the first Black basketball player to be drafted into the NBA at length.

Cooper played collegiately at Duquesne. He was a consensus second-team All-American in 1950, and Duquesne retired his No. 15. The UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse is also named in his honor.

His story begins right here in Pittsburgh, in the Westinghouse neighborhood, where he went to high school and played basketball.

From there, he went to West Virginia State, before he was drafted into the United States Navy at the end of World War II. Then, he returned home and began attending Duquesne.

Behind his strong play, Duquesne went a blistering 78-19, and the team was twice invited to the then-most prestigious post-

season tournament, the National Invitational Tournament.

Famously, during his senior season when he was captain, he became the first Black individual to play in a college basketball game south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Cooper was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019.

At the panel, one student asked why more people are not aware of stories like these, and why Chuck Cooper's name and story are not synonymous with Duquesne.

"This is why we do this, that's why this book is here," Healy said. "It has to start somewhere, and there's no better place to do so."

As the night moved along, another common theme was the power that sports can have in social situations. Panelists agreed that Pittsburgh's racial diversity aided in the city's sports integration.

Prior to that, the roles that the Pittsburgh Crawfords and Homestead Grays — the city's two Negro League baseball teams — played were hugely important.

"Sports can open doors in ar-

eas of life unlike anything else," Black said.

Rooney said that Pittsburgh is a city that's racial forwardness is often forgotten. The effect that the Negro League teams had on the city was profound, and all races attended those games to see players like Josh Gibson, a bonafide baseball superstar.

Another big piece of the Pittsburgh story with integration of sports was the role of the *Pittsburgh Courier*. The *Courier* was specifically made by and for the Black people of the time.

Its influence was vast, and it held the power to make people overnight celebrities by printing their stories.

Panelists said that at its peak, the *Courier* had 400,000 subscribers, with an estimated additional million readers.

"Integrating Pittsburgh Sports" also tells the story of famed reporter Wendell Smith, who not only recommended Jackie Robinson to Branch Rickey, but traveled all around the country with Robinson to tell his story first-

hand, directly facing the discrimination head on.

Thursday's panelists discussed their favorite chapters at the end of the event. Another powerful moment came when Finoli said that, during his interview with Stew Johnson — a professional basketball player throughout the 1960s and 1970s — "the pain in his voice [was still] very evident, over 50 years later."

Finoli said that too often, we like to pretend that racial and social integration are extremely distant, that the wounds of the past have been fully healed and that we, as a society, have moved past it. But that pain referenced in Johnson's voice is still echoed by players across sports today.

"This history is all around us, and it seems nobody even knows even a little bit of it," Taylor said.

In the same way, Healy expressed hope that their new book could further racial dialogue and Pittsburgh's role in sports integration, particularly in honor of sports legends like Chuck Cooper.



COURTESY OF CARISSA HASLAM SWALES

David Finoli, historian and author, signs copies of the group's newest book.



COURTESY OF CARISSA HASLAM SWALES

Josh Taylor, a sports anchor at KDKA, signs a copy of the group's latest work.

## "Power to the people" — Duquesne Model U.N.

## from MODEL U.N. — page 1

Emily Theroux, the student representing Germany stated safety of journalists is important following the observation of harsh treatment in the country. Brazil cited the recent January capital riot as an example of the need for freedom of the press.

SOCHUM chair, University of Pittsburgh senior political science and French major Katalina Alemany, commended her committee for passing three separate "brilliant resolutions" on the topic of indigenous communities, how they're marginalized and how to bring awareness to issues of education and health care.

"The fact that these kids, like literally children, came up with solutions to world issues is so impressive."

Solutions that emerged from the 8 committees were proposed by nations' representatives and resolved a number of world issues.

The committee for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) created a resolution in

their "Potable Water Rights and Security" session that brings access to clean water across the entire world.

Other committees came up with joint resolutions that would prevent plague, assure the safety of journalists and bolster Asian trade relations.

Commending their actions, chairs and co-chairs of each committee presented high school students with "best delegate" and "outstanding delegate" awards within their committees as well as conference-wide.

The recognition of these awards came from what junior Duquesne education major Ethan Delp, serving Secretary General at Model U.N., described in his opening remarks.

"Your responsibility is much more difficult than just steam-rolling debates. It's committing to long term discourse that finds the middle ground and requires concessions and hardest of all, compromise," Delp said.

Communication, compromise and

persuasion, Delp said, will all follow students into their professional life

— whether they go after a career in political science or nursing.



AARON DUKE | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne studnets, with the help of faculty and volunteers from Pitt, led the Model United Nation's largest fundraising event of the year — a Model U.N. conference for high school students.



# WBB beats Loyola of Chicago at home

**BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK**  
staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team extended its win streak to three games, as the Dukes defeated Loyola of Chicago 71-61 on Wednesday night at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

With wins over St. Bonaventure by 32 points on Feb. 15 and over Richmond by 14 points on Saturday, the Dukes have now won all three games on the streak by double digits.

Duquesne's Precious Johnson scored a career-high 21 points and finished with a game-high 11 rebounds, while forwards Ayanna Townsend and Amaya Hamilton combined for 28 points. Duquesne scored 42 points in the paint as a team and out-rebounded Loyola of Chicago 40-30.

"Precious really was the biggest spark, more than anything, because we fed her the ball, and she scored consistently," said Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt. "Precious Johnson has played very good defense, just as well as her offensive game. Her defensive game has been really impressive. She has done an excellent job of being disciplined and keeping her arms high. I thought she was outstanding defending today."

Burt added that he thinks Johnson is "an all-conference defensive player."

Duquesne began the game shooting 1-of-6 from the field and fell behind 10-2 early. Johnson then scored 6 points, coupled with a 3-pointer from Tess Myers, which cut Loyola's lead to 15-11. By the end of the first quarter, Duquesne was down just 19-15.

Townsend started the second

quarter by scoring the Dukes' first four points, which tied the game at 19 a piece. The Ramblers pulled back ahead, but the Dukes were always trailing closely behind. The remainder of the quarter was back-and-forth, with Duquesne down 33-30 at the half.

Loyola Chicago's Sam Galanopoulos had 14 of her 20 total points in the first half. The Ramblers took a 3-point-heavy approach, putting up 16 3-point attempts in the first half, but only six went in. Duquesne took more of a drive-the-lane approach, scoring 20 points in the paint in the

quarter by scoring the Dukes' first four points, which tied the game at 19 a piece. The Ramblers pulled back ahead, but the Dukes were always trailing closely behind. The remainder of the quarter was back-and-forth, with Duquesne down 33-30 at the half.

Hamilton added that it's "easy to get down on yourself when you see the ball go in the net so many times from them on 3s."

"So just having the confidence, knowing that this is not over," Hamilton said. "No matter how many 3s they hit, we just got to keep fighting back."

Duquesne began the third quarter



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Megan McConnell (left) had 8 points, nine rebounds, seven assists and four steals in Duquesne's 71-61 win over Loyola of Chicago on Wednesday night.

opening 20 minutes.

"[Galanopoulos] was 3-for-5 from the 3-point line," Burt said. "We had a hard time guarding her. I think we really tried to pressure them early, and we were over-helping in a sense. They

playing lockdown defense, and after a 3-pointer from Hamilton and a layup from Johnson, Duquesne earned its first lead of the night, 37-35. Loyola of Chicago quickly tied it back up and, eventually, regained

the lead 40-39.

The Dukes used the tail end of the third quarter to go on an 8-0 run to take back the lead 47-43. By the end of the third, the Dukes led 49-47.

"We thought that they were going to change how they were guarding us, but they really didn't change their coverages," Burt said. "In the first two quarters, I told the players that they have one post player who is our size. Their other posts are smaller. You don't need to have multiple moves, you just need to go up strong. And I thought they did more of a better job of that in the third and the fourth."

The fourth quarter was also back and forth, but Duquesne started out hot. Johnson and Hamilton combined to score the Dukes' first 12 points in the quarter. Then, a Duquesne 10-0 run that began at the 5:23 mark helped the Dukes pull away and put the game out of reach.

With the victory over Loyola of Chicago, Duquesne set a new program record for most home victories (14) in a single season. During a commercial timeout at the 4:46 mark of the fourth quarter, Burt rallied his team.

"I just simply said, I want everybody to take a deep breath," Burt said. "I want you to understand we need to take care of business for the next four minutes, and you're going to have your name in the record book."

"With all the really good basketball teams that we have had here, over the last 15 or 16 years, your names are going to go in the record book for the most home wins. I don't know if it did anything, but we won the game."

## DU alum Owens makes XFL debut

Garrett Owens, a former standout running back on the Duquesne football team, made his XFL debut on Saturday as a member of the Houston Roughnecks.

The Roughnecks defeated the Orlando Guardians 33-12 at TDECU Stadium in Houston in what was the season opener for both squads. Owens didn't have any rushes, but did have one target in the victory.

Owens, who spent the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 seasons at Duquesne as a graduate student after transferring from Mercyhurst, rushed for 1,041 yards and 10 touchdowns in 15 games with the Dukes.

He showed off his versatility, also catching 33 passes for 323 yards and three touchdowns in his two years at Duquesne.

Owens, a native of North East, Pa., was selected in the second round (ninth overall) of the XFL Draft in November.

The Roughnecks, guided by former NFL head coach Wade Phillips, return to action on Sunday at 7 p.m., when they host the Arlington Renegades. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN2.

## Pitt, RMU secure conference wins

Things are looking promising for Pittsburgh's other Division I men's basketball teams as March approaches.

Pittsburgh (20-8, 13-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) defeated Georgia Tech (11-17, 3-14) 76-68 at home on Tuesday, securing its first 20-win season since 2015-16.

With three regular-season games to go, the Panthers are currently projected as a No. 9 seed in ESPN insider Joe Lunardi's "Bracketology."

Robert Morris (15-15, 10-9 Horizon League) captured its fourth-straight win with an 83-64 dismantling of conference leader Youngstown State at home on Tuesday.

With the victory, the Colonials clinched at least a home game in the first round of the conference tournament, which begins Tuesday. A road win against IUPUI (4-25, 1-17) on Thursday, plus some help, could allow Robert Morris to earn a first-round bye in the league's tournament.

-Luke Henne, Editor-in-Chief

# Expect MBB to make a postseason push

**LUKE HENNE**  
editor-in-chief

After a 2021-22 season in which the Duquesne men's basketball team won just six games, a postseason berth just one year later didn't seem like a reality.

Heck, the Dukes were picked to finish dead last in the Atlantic 10 Conference's preseason poll.

Yet, with three regular-season games remaining, Duquesne (19-9, 9-6) is in prime position to make a run for a postseason berth — whether to the NCAA Tournament or National Invitation Tournament — once the calendar flips to March.

What's been the key to Duquesne's transformation in this script-flipping season?

Consistently responding to tough losses and adversity.

Just a season ago, Head Coach Keith Dambrot's team suffered separate losing streaks of four games and three games before A-10 play ever rolled around. Come conference time, the Dukes won their opening game before dropping 17 in a row to end a tu-

multuous season.

This year, in just its second game, Duquesne was dismantled by 25 points at No. 4 Kentucky.

Rather than falter, the Dukes rattled off six-straight wins, including victories over three teams — Colgate, UC Santa Barbara and Ball State — that have already eclipsed the 20-win plateau.

That dominant stretch was followed by back-to-back losses to Marshall and New Mexico State.

Again, Duquesne responded, winning three-consecutive contests — including another win over a 20-win team in Indiana State — to close out non-conference competition. The Dukes trailed 20-4 early against the Sycamores, but responded and won 92-86.

Duquesne started A-10 play 4-5, which included a 1-4 record in road games. Winning consistently was looking like it'd be impossible.

However, as they have all season, the Dukes responded. Duquesne opened the month of February with four wins in a row, three of which were by 14 or more points.

The lone single-digit victory, a

56-54 defeat over St. Bonaventure, snapped the Dukes' six-game losing streak against the Bonnies.

After a tough road loss on Saturday at Saint Louis, a loss in which Duquesne led by as many as 15 points, the Dukes responded with a 91-74 road win against La Salle on Wednesday.

Duquesne will play two of its final three regular-season contests at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. The Dukes currently sit in 5th place in the conference. The top-four seeds will secure a double-bye in the A-10 tournament, which begins on March 7.

Duquesne defeated conference-leading VCU. The Dukes never trailed the Rams, with their lead growing as big as 22 points.

Of the teams positioned in the Nos. 2-4 spots — Dayton, Saint Louis and Fordham — the Dukes are 0-3, losing by an average margin of 8 points. Duquesne will get another crack at Fordham to close out the regular season on March 4.

At the very least, this team has proven that it's able to respond to adversity and tough stretches.



# Blue Man Group creates ‘blesh’ at the Benedum

**HANNAH PETERS**  
staff writer

Ever heard of a spinulum? A cymbulum? A drumbone?

It’s unlikely, but to a particular well-known blue and bald-headed trio known as the Blue Man Group, these are the official names of the instruments that they use regularly at their signature shows worldwide.

As the final stop of their “Speechless” tour, the group made its way to Pittsburgh and set up stage at the Benedum Center from Friday, Feb. 17 through Sunday, Feb. 19.

Besides the central component of music and funky instruments, the theatrical acts in the show demonstrate a variety of themes, each act different from the last. Some acts were funny, some thought-provoking, and others were simply awe-inspiring.

There are few words that can accurately capture the magic of the Blue Man show. Even their website characterizes them as “Hard to describe. Easy to love.”

The blue men do not speak during the entirety of the show, lending to their mystique.

Their only methods of communication throughout the performance are movement, light and sound. Nonetheless, it is enough to engage their audiences and make them smile, laugh and cheer too.

There are elements of reality throughout the show, but the performance is something otherworldly.

“The show was so great. Entertaining, energetic, everything we hoped for,” said spectator Heather Ford. “And it made me feel things I didn’t think I was going to feel.”

Accompanying her was Carla Heartly. “The best part was that you could feel the music in your whole body,” she added.

According to Clista Jarret, Technical Swing and Production Props Master for the Blue Man group, the magic of their performances is carefully curated, especially the instruments.

“All of the Blue Man instruments are made by Blue Man people in a creative workshop

where brainstorming and trial and error is very key,” Jarret says. “Since the beginning, it has been a collaborative effort and everybody’s voice is heard and everybody’s voice is valid.”

First conceived in the ‘80s by Chris Wink, Matt Goldman, and Phil Stanton, the group started out by performing on the streets of New York City by using things found at the dollar store or ACE Hardware.

“The original paddles they used on their PVC instrument when they first started were flip-flops. And that’s how this show was created — they found stuff and they made noise.”

Now, the Blue Man Group is able to hold several permanent locations in Las Vegas, Boston and New York, in addition to global and domestic tours.

“It has definitely developed into a high-end production over the years, but we still go back to [the] basics a lot,” Jarret says. “Even now when you try to describe our instruments, they sound elementary when you really break it down.”

As part of the production, the group takes complete control over the setup of their show.

“What people don’t realize is [that] our show travels 100% self-contained. So, when we arrive at a space, the stage is completely blank. We do everything ourselves,” Jarret says.

In other words, they use nothing provided to them by the venue except the stage. Opting out of using any house lighting or sound at a venue, all technical systems and equipment are transported and constructed through the Blue Man crew.

In total, they travel in five semi-trucks and two buses to hold all their props, equipment, instruments, cast and crew.

The tour set makes this feat even more impressive — stretching from ceiling to floor. A collection of screens mask the entire stage. If not a screen, it was a flashing light panel or control board.

On these screens flashed a plethora of random images and videos like clips of ‘50s-style TV commercials, syrup being poured



COURTESY OF DIANA ROTH | PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

The Blue Man Group uses a variety of instruments and visual elements to create unique performances that excite and amaze.

over pancakes and a close up of a thumb. At one point during the show, almost every monitor collectively displayed a video of a meowing kitten.

Overall, the set had a retro-futuristic style, complete with lasers, lights and haze, which never failed to keep the audience intrigued.

Despite the fine-tuning and perfect orchestration, Jarret claims that a key feature of their show is ensuring that no one performance will be the same as the next.

“This isn’t ‘The Nutcracker.’ Every show is different. Blue men are performers, not actors. The audience participation parts are all organic moments, not scripted. They have to be able to interact with people and create the ‘blesh.’”

Like the fun words they use to title their instruments, ‘blesh’ is also a part of the Blue Man vernacular. Perhaps their most special term, it’s a combination of the words ‘blend’ and ‘mesh.’

“It’s a concept from way back when they first started. They want to blend and mesh the Blue Men and the audience together in every performance so that in the end, we’ve created a blesh,” Jarret explains. “The goal of the show is to have the Blue Men

communicate with the humans in the audience without ever using words. That is ultimately their art form.”

And it’s clear from their performance that they really strive to and do make a connection with their audience.

At several periods in the show, the Blue Men left their stage and dispersed among the audience. Sometimes they were looking for a volunteer for one of their acts, but other times they simply came off-stage to dance or climb on top of chairs, using the heads of guests as arm support.

They didn’t stay together either. Audience members were looking all over to locate where exactly the three Blue Men had ended up.

By the end, everyone watching felt like they had just become friends with three nameless, blue-painted men in all-black clothing who could not communicate verbally.

When the curtain finally closed and the Blue Men finished thanking the crowd and crew by holding up both hands in a praiseworthy type motion, a grandma turned to her grandson and asked, “So what’d you think? Was that weird enough for you?” “Most definitely yes,” he replied.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Table Tennis Tournament  
Feb. 22 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Table Tennis Association in the NiteSpot tonight for a king of the hill style tournament.

Pageant Interest Meeting  
Feb. 26 @ 9 p.m.

Ebony Women for Social Change is hosting an online meeting for their annual pageant.  
Meeting ID: 994 7334 8933

Spring Break  
Monday, Feb. 27 —  
Saturday, Mar. 4

Have a safe, happy and healthy break.  
Make some memories!

Ronald McDonald House  
Wellness Bags  
Service Project  
Mar. 7 @ 9 p.m.

Help to assemble some wellness bags with Doctors Without Borders in the NiteSpot. Leave an optional note of encouragement for someone who needs it!

## EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Live the Life You Love

“Be in love with your life.  
Every minute of it.”  
~Jack Kerouac

Spring Break is the perfect time to fill your days with the things that you love and surround yourself with the people who love you.

Revive your favorite hobby.  
Spend time with your best friend.  
Go see a new part of the world.  
Make some memories.

The best life stories come from the best or most unexpected times.  
Relish in them and find the moments that make you the happiest.

For those that are only weeks from graduation, and the next chapter of life, or those that have been quietly counting the days until Spring Break: make the most of your time.

This season of life may seem to pass too slowly right now, but it become another finished chapter before you know it. Take a few moments every day to indulge in happiness.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

she’s listening to ‘Wake Me Up Inside’ unironically.

Pisces ♓

what’s ur blood type?

Aries ♈

I’m feeling like a Squishmallow in a corset.

Taurus ♉

Daveed Diggs and Horse Roosevelt.

Gemini ♊

Paging Mr. Herman.  
Mr. Herman, you have a telephone call at the front desk.

Cancer ♋

he thinks this is a romcom

Leo ♌

We don’t stan Jeff Bezos.

Virgo ♍

i’m a mozzarella princess

Libra ♎

i am drinking baja blast from a pickle jar

Scorpio ♏

Pete Davidson is like that sleep paralysis demon you can’t get rid of.

Sagittarius ♐

can we all do the snow day dance and flush ice cubes or whatever?

Capricorn ♑

Did the Duolingo owl threaten you too?



## THE DUKESNE DUKE

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"A nation that continues  
year after year to spend  
more money on defense  
than on programs of so-  
cial uplift is approaching  
spiritual doom."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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

@TheDukesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

*The Dukesne 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 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

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The United States defense budget is expected to be near a trillion dollars for fiscal year 2024.

## U.S. defense spending is getting too hard to justify

Since its birth in 1776, the United States has only been at peace collectively for around 17 years.

That is almost a quarter of a millennium of bloodshed.

War has always been present in the span of human history. Fighting has been used to start new conflicts and try to resolve issues between countries. Given the state of the world, it does not look like violent conflict is going away anytime soon. Unfortunately, death and destruction can get expensive.

Thankfully, the U.S. is a bottomless pit of money.

According to The Peter G. Peterson Foundation, the U.S. spends more on national defense than China, India, Russia, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, Japan and South Korea — combined.

Defense spending accounts for more than 10 percent of all federal spending and nearly half of discretionary spending. Total discretionary spending — for both defense and nondefense purposes — is typically only about one-third of the annual federal budget.

Mike McCord, the Chief Financial Officer under the Secretary of Defense publicly stated the spending request for 2024 is expected to be larger than the \$858 billion enacted in the 2023 fiscal year, making it the largest in history in nominal terms.

While the official number will likely not be released until March 9, the expected proposed budget is likely going to be very close to a trillion dollars.

Let it sink in, our government spends almost \$1 trillion on weapons for defense and attack.

Obviously, our country needs to be prepared in case of an attack. However, is 1 trillion too much?

That is a lot of money considering the U.S. is 0-2 since the turn of the century.

All that money is not being used for defensive purposes, but it's being used to have bigger and better weapons to attack and de-

stroy others.

A large portion of the budget could be used in more beneficial ways, such as helping those who are starving.

The United States Department of Agriculture has calculated that 34 million people in this country are food insecure. They have no idea where their

able to live a healthy and safe life.

The United States has the highest military budget in the whole world. Military spending is at \$738 billion, while China, who is number two, only has \$193.3 billion. Obviously, China has their own internal and external issues, but the point here is why is the United States spending almost four times as much.

The United Kingdom is only at \$61.5 billion. According to the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 6% of the UK is struggling with food insecurity as of January 2023. This is compared to the United States 10.2% who are hungry every day.

Each country has their own causes and ways to battle hunger, but why can't taking money from the military budget, where it is skyrocketing, not be the first thought. This money is being used to find new, more destructive ways to "solve conflict."

The United States has a history of having high military budgets and using it to destroy innocent lives.

Defense One Journal says that a chunk of the spending goes to help veterans with housing and security. Take away the \$220 billion and it still is way ahead of other countries.

And we all know how much veterans enjoy the care they receive at Veteran Affairs, it only took half a century for them to compensate veterans suffering from the effects of agent orange.

Not to mention the Department of Veteran Affairs shows that one-third of the homeless population are veterans. There is a slow decrease, 10% since 2020, but more money should be given to help the homeless population overall.

Obviously, at this state in time a military and defense budget is needed. Sadly, war still exists all over the world and it isn't coming to an end soon.

However, it does not need to be almost a trillion dollars. Nothing good can come from it being that high, only destruction.



**RORY BROUILLARD**

staff writer

next meal will come from or when it will be.

The leaders of this country turn the other way and spend more money on war, which often only makes food insecurity worse. Famine can be seen as a direct result of war. The more money this country gives the military, the more people will go hungry.

*The New York Times* and World Beyond War project have estimated that about 3% of the United States military budget could end world starvation.

Whether it's efforts to give jobs to those in need or grow more food, 3% is only a sliver. Why can't we give that up? What is so important that we need this 3%? Nothing should be more important than making sure that everyone is

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### U.S. and Russia are once again up in arms

Russia and the U.S. are parting ways in their nuclear agreement, New START. And in a way, this split is a "new start" to something we've seen coming for ages.

President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia would be dipping out of their nuclear deal, meaning the nuclear weapons they've had in storage are now accessible for use in disputes, including with the U.S.

Russia has had reason to restrict U.S. weapon accessibility as well, but by taking away agreements, both nations now have more freedom to access their arsenals.

The New START treaty expires in February of 2026, but Russia made it clear they have no interest in having American inspectors stop by to verify their current compliance. According to an article from the *New York Times*, Russia's Foreign Ministry said there was no intention to deploy more nuclear arms beyond the 1,550 stated in New START.

Are these numbers believable, considering Russia's threats against nations entering the Ukraine war in support of their opponent? Will the U.S. and Russia make it to the end of 2025 without any more disagreements?

This seems unlikely, even considering the most recent visits in the warring nations. Biden made an impromptu visit to Ukraine, and the U.S. is offering more direct weaponized assistance to Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia was visited by a leading diplomat from the People's Republic of China. Sides have never been more clear, and yet this is something that has been in the works for years.

Since the 1970s, the U.S. and Russia have been trading nuclear agreements. At first, it was Reagan and Gorbachev, eliminating land-based or sea-based missiles in an effort to prevent the opposition from gaining the upper hand in nuclear weaponry.

At the beginning of Biden's presidency, the U.S. president resigned the New START deal. Now, this agreement could be one more step toward greater miscommunication and heightened strain on the nations' relationship.

Today, North Korea and China are scrambling to build their nuclear arsenal, which makes China's Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow, Russia, even more important considering the current political climate.

With the current climate of the Ukraine war and now this statement from Putin on Tuesday, communication might just be the actual "new start" the U.S. and Russia need to put their relationship back on better terms.



# DU alum makes studying abroad her career

**EMMA POLEN**  
news editor

Few students in the Duquesne student population study abroad each semester. Even fewer go and do it again...and get paid for it.

Madison Pastrick, who graduated from Duquesne in 2019, has continued to travel since her first study-abroad experience as an undergraduate at Duquesne.

This year, she started as the program coordinator for the Texas Christian University global office. While Pastrick is currently based in Texas, her job involves traveling the world to oversee and assist trips at the school's various international locations.

She credits Duquesne with giving her some of the skills she needed to succeed abroad, as well as the "travel bug" that started her whole-world traveling career.

As a Duquesne student, Pastrick studied in Rome for a semester. She not only learned how to travel on her own, but said she thinks "the Rome professors definitely shaped [her] experiences."

"They challenged me in ways that professors hadn't yet," Pastrick said.

Pastrick had Elizabeth Lev for an art history course in Rome. Lev is an art historian who currently provides tours of Rome, and she recently visited Duquesne's Pittsburgh campus for a lunch lecture about sacred and profane love in Italian renaissance artwork.

Lev said that art "allows us to get a sense of cultures" and their differing views, as well as humans' greatest achievements.

"Art explores ideas visually in a way more conducive to a conversation that's not confrontational," Lev said. "It enriches our ability to communicate."

Along with providing a unique avenue for communication, the passion for art Lev shares through her work inspired students like Pastrick for future travels.

"That love of art history that I have today is because of her," Pastrick said. "And even now, when I visit new cities, going to the local art museum is always on my to-do list."

Outside of the classroom, Pastrick remembered how her experiences in Rome diminished the fear of trying new things.

"Once you get abroad and actually get the experience of what it's like to live in a foreign country, you begin to realize your potential, trying new things and living outside of your comfort zone," Pastrick said. "That aspect of experiential learning that I gained from living and studying in Rome was so important to me."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADISON PASTRICK

Madison Pastrick worked as an Resident Assistant at the Duquesne in Rome campus after studying there as an undergraduate. Here, she explored the Spanish Steps in the heart of Rome for her job.

Studying abroad remains a unique experience for Duquesne students.

"I think studying abroad has definitely taught me how to be more self-assured and confident in uncomfortable situations that I may not be used to," said Jasmine Urzua-Alba, a sophomore physicians' assistant major and a current Duquesne in Rome student. "I have also started learning how to better connect with others from different backgrounds, even with the language barrier being a problem."

After her study-abroad experience, Pastrick could not stay away from traveling. She took up a summer internship in Memphis, Tenn., and an additional spring breakaway trip through Austria and Poland, which allowed her to continue to cross dif-

ferent places off her travel bucket list.

"That was another experience that really changed my life, being able to talk in-depth about the Holocaust and then see firsthand the impact that it had at the concentration camps, but also in the Jewish Quarter in Poland," Pastrick said.

Pastrick also discovered ways in which

her experiences abroad could benefit others. She participated in a 10-day mission trip to the Dominican Republic one summer as an undergraduate through Duquesne's Spiritan Campus Ministries.

Unlike her other trips, this one was service-based.

"You go to these places expecting to provide service to these communities, and you end up leaving feeling like the service was provided to you," Pastrick said. "I love feeling like I've gained so much more than I had given."

It's one thing to study abroad as an undergraduate with friends and organized class trips, but it's another to be traveling back as a graduate.

Pastrick shared that, leading up to

graduation, she felt some panic about her post-graduate plans. She was graduating in December, and "leaving before a lot of [her] friends."

So, when Pastrick saw that Duquesne was hiring an assistant resident director, "it was like the stars had aligned."

Combining her interests in world travel and serving others, Pastrick moved back to Rome after graduation, this time as a paid ARD.

In Spring 2020, Pastrick arrived in Rome for her first semester working abroad. A month in, she was sent home because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the experience was difficult, Pastrick said that "it really just proved to me how much I wasn't done with Rome."

Once Duquesne in Rome reopened for students again, Pastrick was looking forward to moving back into the city, helping students succeed abroad and finding her community in a foreign city, despite once again separating from her friends in the United States.

"I had a passion for working with college students," Pastrick said as she reflected on her work as an ARD in Rome, "and that started me on this career path."

Her career path led Pastrick to TCU, a large school with eight campuses in Europe and many more affiliated semester programs, one of which might bring her back to Rome.

"It really doesn't matter where in the world you move, but if you move to a new city where you don't really know anyone or you don't have any friends that are there waiting for you, then it really forces you to break out of your comfort zone even more, to find those communities that you belong to," Pastrick said.

This gain in independence helped Pastrick with a similar move to a new city recently, when she moved to Fort Worth, Texas, to begin her career at TCU.

"Living in Rome kind of gave me the perspective of, 'If I can live in a foreign country where I don't speak the language for two years, and I can make friends and I can have a good time and I can really value my experiences, then I can live anywhere,'" Pastrick said.



Of her experience in Rome, Pastrick said, "Living in Rome kind of gave me the perspective of, 'If I can live in a foreign country where I don't speak the language ... then I can live anywhere.'"



Pastrick (second from left) is pictured here at a scenic overlook in Capri, Italy, along with (in order from left to right): Essence Criswell, Alana Sac, Elisabeth Schembri and Michael Wright.

## THE DUQUESNE DUKE JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS



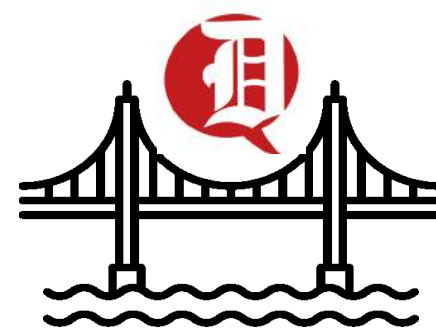
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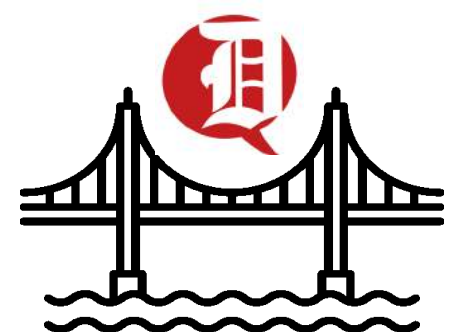
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