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Students learn effective ways to utilize open records

EMMA POLEN
news editor

Duquesne's Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism hosted an open records symposium on March 16. The event, during Sunshine Week, was designed to highlight the importance of holding government agencies accountable and to teach students how to better use Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know law.

Tara Bradley-Steck, the directing fellow at the institute, provided a background of why the institute put on this symposium.

"[News] has evolved over the decades," she said. "In the age of social media, in the age of cable news and opinion-presented news, ethics and integrity have sort of been lost."

The purpose of the institute is to "educate the public and students about what is good news gathering practice and what isn't, how a good journalist double checks the facts...with the appropriate sources," Bradley-Steck said.

"Today, as facts continue to be skewed on so many platforms for a variety of reasons, our ability to access public records is really more important than ever," said President Ken Gormley during his opening remarks.

To current students, Gormley said, the symposium would also be an opportunity to network to learn from distinguished professionals in the field.

"Ultimately, this is all about giving you, our students, opportunities to become the leaders

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duquesne debate team champions nationals



EMMA POLEN | NEWS EDITOR

Two Duquesne students brought home semi-final awards from the national forensics debate competition last weekend at West Chester.

MAX MARCELLO
staff writer

For the first time as a team, Duquesne University's Debate Society practiced the art of rhetoric at the Pi Kappa Delta national forensic tournament in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Over the week of March 17, six Duquesne students competed in several rounds of events. Both individual students and teams advanced through several rounds, and the most successful Duquesne team reached the semi-final round, receiving a third and fourth-place in the nation.

Debate competitions were each organized in a different way. In parliamentary debating, participants are given a world issue, typically politics-related, and they have around 30 minutes to prepare. Each team is then allotted seven to eight minute speaking times with an additional four to five minutes to make closing arguments.

Impromptu speaking, is an individual competition in which students selected one of three

potential prompts and have a total of seven minutes to brainstorm, develop an argument and deliver that argument. Other forensic events included readings and more theatrical interpretation events.

At the tournament, two of Duquesne's three competing debate teams made it through the preliminary rounds and into the four round of finals.

The parliamentary debate team, made up of sophomore Allison Rousu and freshman Nick Freilino, worked its way through octofinals, quarterfinals, and semifinals before being defeated in a debate where they were required to defend reinstating the draft. In total, the duo won seven straight rounds of parliamentary debate and lost their semi-final, eighth debate.

Freilino discovered his passion for debating while in high school. Now in college, Freilino is a quadruple major in liberal arts, majoring in Spanish, international relations, political science and international security with a pre-law certificate. The Duquesne freshman placed tenth for over-

all best speaker at the Pi Kappa Delta competition.

Reflecting upon his experience at the tournament Freilino said, "Debate... really makes you consider the perspectives of those you disagree with. And that's given me a lot more informed, nuanced perspectives on political issues."

"I feel even stronger in my belief system now than I did before because I've actually considered the other side's arguments more fully," he said.

Rousu, a sophomore business student, currently serves as the organization's president.

As the society's president, Rousu organizes the team's strategy and practices. At the heart of this team is dedication and passion shared by all its members, she said.

"The average college student wouldn't give up their Fridays and Saturdays to go debate a bunch of random topics and give a bunch of speeches unless they really cared, and it's a lot of fun. We're all really close," Rousu said.

The debate society is open to all majors and backgrounds. All

academic disciplines are encouraged to consider becoming a member of the debate society.

"There's a lot of new opportunities. We recently made a switch to a different debate circuit that also focuses on a lot of forensics. In addition we will also still be engaged in parliamentary debates as we're looking to hold more public events," Rousu said. The new circuit is Collegiate Forensics Association which includes more speech and philosophical debate topics.

Debate season starts in the fall which the society eagerly awaits, Rousu said. The team practices four times a week for at least an hour. Duquesne offers debate as a class which is why practices are scheduled for the early afternoon.

Dr. Anthony Wachs, a professor of rhetoric in the communications department, serves as the debate society's faculty advisor.

The 2022-2023 debate season was his first in the role as sole faculty advisor, but Wachs is no stranger to debate as he was part of his own college's debate team.

see DEBATE—page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, March 14-

Residence Life recovered marijuana and paraphernalia in St. Martin's Hall.

Wednesday, March 15-

A Parkhurst manager reported a student went into Campus Market, took merchandise and left without paying.

Saturday, March 18-

Student was sent to Mercy Hospital after vomiting in her room as a result of alcohol and excess consumption of Mucinex.

Sunday, March 19-

Two St. Ann's residents reported clothes stolen from the first floor laundry room.

Monday, March 20-

Officers were called into Barnes and Noble Bookstore after a patron said a "homeless looking" man stole a package of Reese's Cups.

Monday, March 20-

A student was issued a state traffic citation as well as a university parking citation after driving the wrong way on a one-way street on campus.

EMAIL TIPS

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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COURTESY OF STUDENT HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Spring Into Action 5K is sponsored by the Student Health Advisory Council and will take place Saturday, March 25.

EMMA POLEN

news editor

In an effort to promote students' health and wellness, the Student Health Advisory Council is hosting an on-campus 5K on Saturday.

This is the council's first time hosting a 5K, but they hope to make it a recurring event, said Sophie Kopyar, senior biology major and current president of the Student Health Advisory Council.

"The Student Health Advisory Council is dedicated to advocating for the overall wellbeing of our Duquesne campus through the promotion of good physical, mental and spiritual practices in accordance with Duquesne's mission statement," Kopyar said.

Event check-in will begin at 8 a.m., and the race will start at 9 a.m. on A-Walk. Interested runners and walkers are welcome to register up until the start of the race.

A QR code (attached) leads to the registration page.

The cost of registration for Duquesne students to participate is \$10, \$15 for non-Duquesne students and \$35 for all others.

Free t-shirts and refreshments will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. First and second place finishers will receive prize baskets, including tickets to a Pirates game and to the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, as well as a signed picture of the Steelers' Cameron Heyward.

All additional questions may be sent to the Student Health Advisory Council at duquesneshac@gmail.com.

Breanna Eichenlaub, assistant director at Health Services and faculty advisor to the council, will be at the event along with several other Health Services staff members to support students and participants.

"I am most looking forward to seeing the Student Health Advisory Council's plans come to fruition. This event should be a lot of fun," Eichenlaub said. "I couldn't be prouder of how they [the students in the council] came together to make their vision a reality."

"Promoting physical activity is important in maintaining good health as there are several physical and mental benefits to an active lifestyle," Kopyar said.

Duquesne Debate in national competition

from DEBATE—page 1

Even with a younger, underclassmen-heavy team, Duquesne was able to find success.

At last week's competition, experience brackets were removed, allowing novice debaters to engage with more experienced rivals on a collegiate circuit.

"It's really about becoming a persuasive leader within society."

"Debate is a persuasive game that can be somewhat subjective, only because in our final rounds, we had three judges that had to vote on a single ballot. Sometimes judges disagree upon who was most persuasive. Ulti-

mately, there is a subjectivity to that, but every judge is weighing this upon the logic that is being used," Wachs said.

Parliamentary debates are scored on a scale from 0 to 30 – 30 given to the debate's best speaker. Impromptu debates are judged in a similar fashion.

When the scores were tabulated, Duquesne took a series of semifinalist awards in parliamentary debate to, impressing Wachs. The final point tallies put Duquesne in the top third and fourth places in the nation.

"It's really about becoming a persuasive leader within society. I really do have hope that in the future we will be one of those big teams with a very natural national presence that people are saying, 'Watch out for Duquesne University,'" Wachs said.



COURTESY OF ALLISON ROUSU

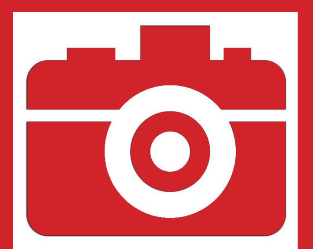
Allison Rousu (left) and Nick Freilino (right) show off their parliamentary debate awards from the Pi Kappa Delta tournament at West Chester.

WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE



Come Visit Us
College Hall 113

Contact our
editor-in-chief
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The first death row DNA exoneree talks to law students 3

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

Kirk Bloodsworth spent eight years, 10 months and 19 days incarcerated, including two years on death row, for a crime he never committed.

After five witnesses testified that they saw Bloodsworth on the scene, he was convicted in 1985 in Baltimore of a 1984 rape and first-degree murder of a 9-year-old girl at the age of 24.

Bloodsworth was the first man to be freed from death row in the United States on the basis of DNA evidence.

"If you sat down and made this out to be a movie, people would think it's a little too unbelievable," said associate professor of law, John Rago. "Whatever could have gone wrong, went wrong."

On Wednesday, the Duquesne Student Bar Association hosted Bloodsworth along with Rago as part of a panel called, "Wrongful convictions, conviction integrity and accompanying issues in Allegheny County."

"I think it's something that everybody should care about because it affects everybody," said Student Bar Association vice president, Chole Clifford. "Anybody can be arrested or falsely convicted. I think it's important to see how this happens and to bring awareness to it so that it can be an issue that more and more people are made aware of."

Bloodsworth was released from prison and fully exonerated in 1993 and has spent the past 30 years fighting to abolish

the death penalty and addressing wrongful convictions. He was the executive director of Witness Innocents, a national organization that gives voices to wrongfully convicted from death row.

"What I admire about Kirk," Rago said, "he didn't waste this experience. If it was me, I'd probably go sit in a room and just be depressed for the rest of my life. Angry for the rest of my life. He took his time and did so much good for 30 years when the rest of us would have just taken a seat. I admire him for that."

The repealing of the death penalty in Maryland, Delaware, Washington State, New Hampshire and Connecticut are a direct result of his activism.

"It took me 20 years to end it in the state of Maryland," Bloodsworth said. "But no innocent person will be executed there."

According to the National Registry of Exonerations, the rate of wrongful convictions in the U.S. is estimated to be somewhere between 2% and 10%. With a prison population of about 2.3 million, there could be anywhere between 46,000 to 230,000 innocent people incarcerated.

"I had two trials, 24 jurors, the entire police department from Baltimore County, Maryland, two judges, two prosecutors and every single one of them, including the state of Maryland, were dead wrong about it," Bloodsworth said. "That's what wrongful convictions equate to."

Bloodsworth has also spent his life after death row telling his story, and even after three decades it

is evident that the scars from that experience have not healed.

"Well you can imagine what it's like living in a prison accused of killing a child," Bloodsworth said. "But if I didn't do anything wrong, you're not going to chastise me over it. I stood up to it every day of life, and I didn't always win out but I bought out more than I lost."

Bloodsworth's retelling of his story is filled with harrowing accounts. His prosecution for his alleged murder of a 9-year-old girl, with a lack of physical evidence, only relied on witness testimony.

"Witness identification is one of the leading causes of wrongful conviction in the United States," Bloodsworth said.

The cheers that erupted when his guilty verdict was read still ring in his ears, and his heart still breaks for the deceased child.

In addition, while he was in prison, Bloodsworth's mother died.

"She could do the *New York Times* crossword puzzle in an ink pen," Bloodsworth said. "She could do them in ink and get it right."

While he was in prison, Bloodsworth passed the time working in the library, where he picked up reading.

"I read everything from gestalt psychology to Stephen King," Bloodsworth said.

He also read "The Blooding," a non-fiction book written by Joseph Wambaugh about how DNA was used to solve a brutal murder. The book gave Bloodsworth the idea to push for DNA to over-

turn his conviction.

"Here's the magic in my view," Rago said. "Here's a high school graduate that reads a book and says to himself, 'If DNA can find somebody, maybe it can help to tell them I didn't do this.'"

Almost immediately after being released from prison, Bloodsworth went to work sharing his story on talk shows and universities.

Rago, who heard Bloodsworth speak about 25 years ago, became motivated to make a change.

"When I came back from listening to Kirk, I thought, 'What are we going to do in Pennsylvania?'" Rago said. He started reviewing cases and found discrepancies happening in Penn-

sylvania. There were multiple accounts of eye witness failure, use of jailhouse informants and false confessions.

Rago was able to catch the attention of the Pennsylvania senator for the judiciary committee and started to work on reforms to minimize the risk of error recording custodial interrogations and better evidence preservation practices.

"We're trying things in Pennsylvania to minimize the risk that [Bloodsworth] suffered," Rago said. "But none of that starts without him coming to Duquesne University School of Law 25 or so years ago."



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

Kirk Bloodsworth, the first man to be freed from death row in the U.S. based on DNA evidence, spoke to law students at Duquesne on Wednesday.

The Cost of Not Knowing: Why open records matter and how you as students should be using them

from **RECORDS**—page 1

of tomorrow. And leadership, I firmly believe, begins with ethics and integrity," he said.

Next, Gormley introduced Liz Wagenseller, keynote speaker and the executive director of the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records and an advocate for government accountability.

Since 2008, Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law has presumed all public records to be public unless proven otherwise, Wagenseller said. Under Right-to-Know, the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records was created to ensure that government agencies keep their documents accessible to the public.

Wagenseller provided a hypothetical example to explain how her office keeps government agencies accountable. An agency, such as PennDOT, could know a road needed repair but fails to take action until a driver is injured by falling debris. In this situation, community members and reporters would have the right to demand documents proving the agency's error.

If a reporter believes a gov-

ernment agency's denial of a request for documents is not "in good faith," Wagenseller suggested submitting an appeal to her office (openrecords.pa.gov).

"Information is a powerful tool for persuasion," Wagenseller said. "Treat it like a skill you need to hone as a journalist."

Wagenseller's address was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Paula Reed Ward, a professional fellow in the Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism. The discussion invited panelists from all across Pennsylvania's media community to speak to challenges of accessing open records and to answer audience members' questions.

After a reporter has requested records from a government agency, the agency has five days to respond to the request. They may provide the document, refuse to provide it or they may ask for a 30-day extension.

"The things I hear about most are the investigation exemptions...you can't get the results of an investigation," said Melissa Melewsy, a panelist from

the Media Law Council for the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association.

"We shouldn't be seeing 30-day delays," said panelist Paula Knudsen Burke, a Local Legal Initiative staff attorney in Pennsylvania.

Overall, panelists agreed that agencies can gain trust with consumers by being as transparent as possible with public documents. Wagenseller even suggested that agencies make public documents available online to demonstrate their openness.

Trust works both ways, though, as panelists reviewed how to approach document requests.

"In my experience," Melewsy said, "journalists often get records that aren't necessarily public under the right to know law because they have a relationship with the agencies that they cover."

For Melewsy, these informal requests are the most successful and should be utilized first before a more formal request.

Rich Lord, another panelist and the managing editor of PublicSource, a news non-profit in the Pittsburgh area, also sug-

gests that reporters research what exactly they need before submitting their formal request.

"The more you know about your document, the better your chances of getting it," Lord said. "Be as narrow in your search as possible."

Lord's team at PublicSource provides a list of resources to become more informed before making a formal request to agencies: www.publicsource.org/public-records-101/.

Sometimes, informal sources might even lead a reporter to knowing more of the picture, like in a personal experience Lord shared. He met a source in a graveyard that helped him understand the data available for city police before he made his formal request to the police department.

Even if these formal requests are met with denial, panelists said this is not necessarily a dead end.

"When an agency tells you why you aren't allowed to get these records...you learn something that's more newsworthy than the records themselves," said David A. Strassburger, a

panelist and the president of Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky, a civil trial firm.

"If an agency can't find [the documents], sometimes there's something in that attestation," moderator Ward said.

"While it is absolutely a journalist's privilege not to disclose why they're making the request [for documents to an agency]... establish trust in your request," Strassburger added.

What a journalist can publish and what they should publish might be the difference that decides the ethical approach to a story, Melewsy said.

Following the panel, students had the opportunity to learn practical skills for accessing public records online with a workshop with Ward and Lord.

"There's so many brushes in your palette that you can use, and the Right-to-Know Law is an important one but there are many other things out there," Burke said.

Editor's Note

Ward is the advisor to *The Duquesne Duke*.

Star wrestlers bring sport back to Duquesne

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

The Duquesne club wrestling program had its only two wrestlers who participated in the National College Wrestling Association (NCWA) Mid-East Conference Championship at Slippery Rock University qualify for nationals on Feb. 25.

Gram Hepner placed third in the 235 weight class, while Drake Gindlesperger placed fourth in the 197 weight class. The top five in each weight class qualify for the national tournament in Puerto Rico.

“Gram and Drake wrestled great at the conference tournament,” said Duquesne Head Coach Alexander Martinez. “They both beat some really quality wrestlers on their way to qualifying for nationals. One thing we did well was press the pace of the matches. Our guys didn’t sit back. They pushed the pace and executed their game plans well.”

Hepner, ranked as the ninth seed, wrestled five matches. He was 5-1 on the day, which included a forfeit by his opponent in the semifinals — Rowan’s Dan Corrigan.

His only loss came in a tightly contested match that ended with a 9-4 decision at the hands of Penn State’s Caleb O’Cain.

Hepner’s first match against Rutgers’ Christian Ortiz lasted 22 seconds before ending in a pin. His final match for third place against Wyatt Hampton of West Chester also ended in a pin in the first period, taking 50 seconds to seal the victory.

Gindlesperger finished fourth with a record of 2-2 on the day. His first match ended with a narrow victory, holding on to a 7-5 decision against Penn State’s Connor Morton.

Morton and Gindlesperger would meet again for their final match of the day. This time, Morton got the win, pinning Gindles-

perger in the third period.

It was the third time the two wrestled in 14 days.

“I was able to beat him twice,” Gindlesperger said. “He’s a great guy. I actually talked to him after the match and we became buddies. That’s why I love wrestling — competitors become friends.”

Having the only two wrestlers that participated qualify for a national tournament is impressive. However, overcoming the adversity of being a rather new club may be the more notable accomplishment.

Duquesne has not had a wrestling team since 2010. While there have been a few attempts to bring back the sport in some capacity, it was only with Hepner’s tenacious efforts that the university was able to welcome back the sport.

The most-recent journey to restart the Duquesne club wrestling team began in March 2022.

“It took maybe eight months to get things actually going,” Hepner said. “I got turned down. I had to go through legal, had to go through multiple people and get sponsorships, all that kind of stuff. It was difficult.”

Not one to back down from a challenge, Hepner was able to connect with the NCWA, the largest club wrestling association in the United States, to help facilitate the process.

“It’s made to replace programs that can’t exist otherwise,” Hepner said. “With the regulations and funding structure of college sports, a lot of sports can’t exist. They’re seeking to replace that.”

Hepner fronted the \$515 start-up cost that included the liability insurance associated with the sport. The team also started a GoFundMe to help with some of the costs associated with the team, such as equipment.

With just a little more than a month before the conference tournament, the wrestling club was able to secure a prac-

tice facility at North Hills High School and secure Martinez — a Duquesne wrestling alumni who was on the 2010 team — as their volunteer head coach.

“When I heard that wrestling was back at Duquesne, I knew I needed to get involved,” Martinez said. “I currently teach social studies at North Hills High School, where I also coach football, wrestling and track, so I have a pretty packed schedule. But the chance to coach college wrestlers at my alma mater was just something I couldn’t pass up.”

Despite wrestling being known as more of an individual sport, Hepner has approached the club with a team-first attitude, looking to share credit and improve the skills of his teammates.

“One of the first people that really influenced me was Max Lamm,” Hepner said. “I watched him wrestle in high school. I was amazed by him, and when I came here and met him through another friend, we’ve gotten pretty close.”

Lamm, who has competed in wrestling for most of his life, pushed Hepner to continue his pursuit of bringing wrestling back to Duquesne.

“He was calling me about it every week and calling other people, trying to figure it out,” Hepner said. “He encouraged me and gave me motivation. Wrestling gives him a lot of value in his life, and watching him wrestle inspires me.”

Lamm, along with approximately 19 other students, currently make up the club wrestling team. The practices are not mandatory, and Hepner does not want the athletes to feel pressured to participate. He commands a self-motivation structure that allows wrestlers to show up to practice on their own terms.

“It’s a great group of guys that actually want to be there,” Lamm said. “We’re not

on scholarship to do this, we’re not getting paid to do this. It’s literally just [that] everyone has a common interest, and it makes it so much nicer when the whole squad is actually on board and excited to get on the mat, excited for the competition.”

As for the future of the club, things look bright. While Hepner and Gindlesperger both qualified for nationals that take place in Puerto Rico, they decided to save the funds for next year’s squad.

The team is looking to get a practice area on campus, as well as incorporating a women’s program.

“Sky’s the limit for this team,” Martinez said. “I truly believe that with a consistent practice schedule and an expanded roster, we will be [a] force at the club level next year, and I would not rule out a top 25 finish nationally.”

“In terms of the future of the program, I would love for this team to be the driving force for getting a Division 1 squad back at Duquesne. And, with enough success, I don’t think that is out of the realm of possibility.”



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE CLUB WRESTLING
(From left to right): Gram Hepner, Alexander Martinez and Drake Gindlesperger.

Football announces 2023 game schedule

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

Following a 2022 campaign in which the Duquesne football team went 4-7 — its worst record since 2009 — the Dukes now officially have a 2023 schedule to prepare for.

The team officially released next season’s schedule on Monday, and it’s a loaded with capable opponents, both in non-conference play and in Northeast Conference action.

The season will get underway on Sept. 2, when Duquesne hosts Edinboro — a member of the NCAA Division II’s Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) at Rooney Field.

This will mark the sixth-consecutive full season (Spring 2021 season was limited to four games, all against NEC opponents) in which Duquesne’s home opener will be against a non-Division I opponent. The Dukes’ last full-season home opener against a Division I team came on Sept. 10, 2016, when they defeated Bucknell 30-19.

That home opener is followed by a four-game road trip that will keep Duquesne away from Rooney Field until Oct. 14.

The lengthy trip begins with back-to-back games against FBS opponents — West Virginia and Coastal Carolina — on Sept. 9 and

Sept. 16, respectively.

Since 2018, the Dukes have played six games against FBS opponents: UMass and Hawaii in 2018, TCU and Ohio in Fall 2021, and Florida State and Hawaii in 2022.

Arguably one of the biggest wins in program history came for Duquesne on Sept. 11, 2021 against Ohio. Despite being nearly 30-point underdogs, the Dukes snuck past Ohio 28-26.

Despite being separated by just 75 miles, Duquesne and West Virginia haven’t met since Nov. 16, 1935. The Dukes have never played Coastal Carolina.

After a bye week, conference play will begin for Duquesne with a matchup against Long Island on Sept. 30.

After another non-conference road game against Delaware on Oct. 7, the Dukes will finally return home for three of their final six games.

A back-to-back pair of home games against Central Connecticut on Oct. 14 and St. Francis (Pa.) on Oct. 21 will get Duquesne into the heart of its NEC schedule.

That two-game homestand is followed by another multi-game roadtrip. The Dukes will play at Sacred Heart (Oct. 28) and Wagner (Nov. 4) before returning home for its

final home game against Stonehill (Nov. 11).

Duquesne’s regular-season schedule concludes with a game at Merrimack on Nov. 18.

Of Duquesne’s four wins in 2022, three came against NEC opponents (Central Connecticut, Sacred Heart and Wagner) by an average margin of 21.3 points.

Only one of the team’s four NEC losses was decided by more than seven points — a

51-14 loss at St. Francis (Pa.) on Nov. 12.

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt — who is set to begin his 19th season leading the Dukes — has guided Duquesne to a winning record in 13 of his 18 seasons with the program.

Although the season is over five months away from kicking off, the team will hold its spring scrimmage this Saturday at Rooney Field. The start time is set for 1 p.m.



LUKE HENNE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Duquesne football team unveiled its 2023 game schedule on Monday. The Dukes will play at Brooks Stadium in Conway, S.C., against Coastal Carolina (*seen here*) on Sept. 16.

WLAX falls to St. Bonaventure at home

MATTHEW THEODROS
staff writer

The Duquesne women's lacrosse team lost its fifth-straight game, falling to St. Bonaventure 16-15 at Rooney Field on Wednesday afternoon in heartbreaking fashion.

Coming into the matchup, the Dukes historically had an overwhelming advantage

The Bonnies responded with three consecutive goals from Abby Hiltz, Kassi Hogan and Courtney Fox.

The offense was not clicking throughout the rest of the first quarter for the Dukes, as Chelsea Evans scored their only other goal of the opening frame.

After St. Bonaventure scored two quick goals to begin the second quarter,

four of the game's next six goals in just a 6:51 span, cutting Duquesne's deficit to just one goal at 8-7.

However, two last-minute scores from St. Bonaventure's Brook Piper and Cassie Hogan — including a beautiful buzzer-beating score from Hogan — gave the Bonnies a 10-7 edge entering halftime.

Duquesne defender Hanna Pawela spoke after the game on how important it is to maintain defensive intensity throughout the game.

"Our defense fought to the end, but I think we need to work on coming out strong because we get down early in these games," Pawela said.

Momentum swayed in the Dukes' favor at the start of the third quarter. Leszczynski scored her fifth-straight goal to make it a two-goal game. Rodriguez-Shaw (twice) and Evans scored three of the game's next four goals after that, knotting the score at 11 with 4:54 to go in the third quarter.

From then on, however, the Bonnies created separation with four-straight scores to push their lead to 15-11.

Duquesne kept pushing behind a ricochet-rebound score from Leszczynski. She finished the day with six goals, one shy of her career-high mark.

With 3:58 left in the game, Jessica Notaro scored her third goal of the day for St. Bonaventure, pushing the team's lead to a seemingly comfortable four goals (16-12).

In the game's final 1:49, Rodriguez-Shaw found the back of the net three times — including once with a lone second to go — to bring the Dukes to within a goal. However, proper game management and

clock burning from the Bonnies made a Duquesne comeback virtually impossible.

The loss pushed Duquesne to 1-8 overall, and 0-3 in Atlantic 10 Conference action. The Dukes still have yet to win a game at Rooney Field.

The second half saw huge defensive improvement from the team as they locked in and limited scoring opportunities.

Goaltender Mady Piersielak was excited about the potential and growth of the defense after their improved performance.

"We made so many stops on defense today," Piersielak said. "Our slides were there, our second slides were there. I saw so much improvement out there."

Piersielak gave credit to Pawella and her effect on the defense.

"She did a great job on defense," Piersielak said. "She was getting charges, making stops and getting a ton of ground balls and draw controls."

Duquesne Head Coach Corinne Desrosiers spoke highly of her team, while also detailing the emotions after such a close game.

"They are frustrated," Desrosiers said. "They want to win, and I know we are [going to] keep fighting every day, and that's all I can ask from these girls. This is the first team I've had since I've been at Duquesne that I can legitimately say [that] everyone wants this for each other."

The Dukes will be back in action Saturday afternoon when they are hosted by George Mason.

Duquesne won its last meeting against George Mason 18-13 on Apr. 14, 2022, and the Dukes will look to win their second game of the season.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Duquesne women's lacrosse team gather in a huddle during Wednesday's 16-15 loss against St. Bonaventure at Rooney Field. It was the Dukes' fifth-straight loss.

over the Bonnies, beating them in 11 of their last 12 matchups prior to Wednesday.

Delaney Rodriguez-Shaw scored the game's first goal just 27 seconds into the game, as she bullied through the defense and put Duquesne in front early.

Duquesne freshman Mia Failla scored the first goal of her young career to trim the Bonnies' lead to 6-3.

Mackenzie Leszczynski made her presence felt for the Dukes, having an automatic impact on the game. She scored

MBB's season comes to end with loss in CBI

LUKE HENNE
editor-in-chief

The Duquesne men's basketball team ended its season Sunday with an 84-78 loss to Rice in the first round of the Discount Tire College Basketball Invitational.

Although the Dukes — the No. 5 seed in the postseason tournament — improved from six wins in 2021-22 to 20 wins in 2022-23, they also dropped three games in a row to end this season.

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot — rounding out his sixth season at the helm — said that his team competed, saying that was "the best thing we did."

"We tried to win, we tried to give our best effort," Dambrot told Mid-Major Madness. "Obviously disappointed with how we played the last three games. I think that's something we have to really work on."

"I think it was the first time for a lot of these guys playing deep into the season with meaningful games, and we just have to learn to get through the grind of it. We certainly didn't play our best basketball at the end of the year, which is something that we're going to have to really analyze and understand and see why."

The Dukes played from behind for much of the game, never leading by more than 4 points against the No. 12-seeded Owls.

Duquesne's Dae Dae Grant led all scorers in the game with 28 points.

Duquesne — picked to finish last in the 15-team Atlantic 10 Conference at the start of the season — finished sixth in the conference, bowing out to No. 11-seeded La Salle in the second round of the conference tournament.

Despite the end-of-season struggles, the Dukes participated in a postseason tournament for the first time since 2015-16, when they also competed in the CBI.

"We took a step up, there's no doubt," Dambrot said. "I was proud of the step we took. I wish we would've finished it a little stronger, but again, you have to look at the big picture of things."

"This is probably the first time for most of these guys that they've ever been in big games in February and March. We didn't react well to it, but I think the next time we have the opportunity, we obviously will be a little more prepared for it."

Dambrot relied heavily on transfers this season. His top three scorers (Grant, Jimmy Clark III and Joe Reece) all transferred to Duquesne prior to this season.

"I think, with another good recruiting class, that we can take another jump," Dambrot said. "We've got good people in the locker room. We've got high character."

Dambrot emphasized the perspective

that comes following a season-ending loss, especially in a postseason tournament.

"I guess there's a couple different ways you can look at it," Dambrot said. "If you win the tournament, it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to be great next year. And if you lose the tournament, it's not like losing an NCAA Tournament game or an NIT game."

"Obviously we try to win every time we go out, but really, it probably is going to have very little effect on next year's team. So we just have to learn how to play a little bit better at the end of the year."

The Dukes went on multiple scoring runs throughout the game, but couldn't maintain the momentum for prolonged stretches.

"I think that's probably our biggest issue, is that we've been a little bit inconsistent," Dambrot said. "We've been consistently inconsistent. Sometimes we play really good, and then other times we make mistakes."

"We had opportunities to win the game and just didn't make enough plays when it really mattered. But we have to really work on our consistency next year. And that's discipline. That's defensive toughness."

Some players like Reece and Austin Rotroff (among others) are set to graduate and move on. Some standout contributors like Grant and Clark III have remaining eligibility and, barring anything unforeseen,

will return to Duquesne next season and will project to be key veteran players.

Dambrot complimented Grant's growth this season, and he expects more to come.

"I'm proud of Dae Dae," Dambrot said. "He's competed. He's been a good leader all year. I think his game jumped this season from when he was at Miami (Ohio)."

"I still think he has a lot of upside to really improve. I think he can get stronger. I think he'll get better with a lot of different areas, but he tried to do what we asked on a consistent basis."



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Dae Dae Grant — pictured here on Feb. 26 — scored 28 points in Sunday's loss to Rice.

Penguin Palooza takes over the National Aviary

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Children, parents and grandparents waddled on over to the National Aviary’s Penguin Palooza last Saturday and Sunday to enjoy everything penguin-related. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., trivia, scavenger hunts and discovery tables were available for anyone willing to learn more about the African Penguin species.

These black and white creatures stole the show as visitors were able to watch them swim, jump and play in their habitat. If they wanted, visitors could even add on a penguin encounter to their tickets for an up-close and personal experience with one of the aviary’s flightless friends.

During the day, countless activities were available including making a penguin craft which had a lot of giddy and energetic small visitors running toward the craft table.

Here, visitors only needed one piece of paper, two googly eyes and an orange construction paper beak to make a card that resembled a penguin.

As activities were in session, visitors were encouraged to visit other areas of the aviary, like the tropical rainforest, where they could view some of the other brightly colored flying creatures in their habitats surrounded by stunning greenery.

The aviary includes a wetlands habitat, a grasslands habitat and

a penguin habitat which are all designed to mimic the wild these birds may have lived in. Some main features include natural lighting, waterfalls, pebbly beaches, heated rocks and ponds. Other mentionable birds which can be seen soaring, playing or resting throughout the many habitats include the American flamingo, bald eagle, barred owl, blue-fronted amazon and brown pelican. There’s even a two-toed sloth!

Manager of behavioral husbandry and training at the National Aviary, Jenny Owens, said many patrons attend the Penguin Palooza due to the animal’s popularity.

“I think people are really drawn to the charismatic nature of penguins in general,” Owens said. “So I think that’s why it’s really attractive for people to come and learn more about some of their favorite types of birds.”

In their Penguin Point habitat, visitors are able to view the birds outdoors, indoors and even through domed bubbles that are set up to immerse guests into the penguin’s home. Children could be seen sprinting to these domes, trying to get a penguin’s attention.

Some of these penguins are even named after celebrities like Sidney the penguin who’s unofficially named after the Pittsburgh Penguins’ Sidney Crosby.

“We have a lot of hockey fans so we have Patrick who’s named



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

The Penguin Palooza serves as a way to educate audiences about penguins as the National Aviary continues their work to support the different species.

[from] the former Patrick Division of the NHL,” Owens said.

Although Patrick the penguin is female, they decided to stick with the name.

“Once she was named Patrick we didn’t know if she was a male or female, but we have since learned that she is a female, but the name had stuck,” Owens said.

Some other penguin names include Sunshine, Bette, Buddy and Holly.

Penguin Palooza isn’t just for gushing over penguins, it’s also used to share information about the endangered African Penguins worldwide.

The National Aviary works as a leader for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Saving Animals From Extinction program.

African Penguins are an endangered species, Owens said.

“The National Aviary is actually running the Association of Zoos and Aquariums SAFE program for African Penguins right now, and that’s a collaborative effort to try and help to save the African Penguin from extinction,” she said.

The SAFE program researches why the penguin species are endangered and finds solutions for supporting penguin colonies, rescue and rehabilitation organizations, according to Owens.

“Their decline has become rapid over the last several years, so kind of figuring out why that is and working to stop that decline is important,” Owens said.

According to the National Aviary’s website, human disturbance is a big cause of endangerment. Pressures like overharvesting of fish and disasters like oil spills have caused the population of this species to decrease to 1%.

Many zoos and aquariums like the National Aviary make sure to keep the penguin populations healthy and diverse for the future. Visitors can help by buying exclusively from sustainable seafood and reducing the use of plastics.

Some upcoming events at the National Aviary include an egg-themed scavenger hunt and an Earth Day celebration. Visitors can visit the aviary’s birds every day for feeding activities.



ISABELLA ABBOTT | FEATURES EDITOR

The National Aviary houses many different species from a variety of habitats, including birds from wetlands, grasslands and tropical environments.

Aquarius ♒

What is it with you and Twilight movies?

Pisces ♓

Tally Ho, scrublord!

Aries ♈

The town will think we're actually cryptids and start online conspiracy theories.

Taurus ♉

I would definitely not pass a bang eval at this time

Gemini ♊

Funny haha for sure...nothing funny bad to see here people

Cancer ♋

The duality of man: Cocomelon veggies and dinosaurs.

Leo ♌

There's this new meteorological phenomenon called clouds.

Virgo ♍

4 out of 9 circles of Hell achieved

Libra ♎

He is a bajajajaja blast kind of feline.

Scorpio ♏

I need a man like a fish needs a bicycle.

Sagittarius ♐

The FOMO I have not being in Era-zona rn is unreal

Capricorn ♑

Must dash. Much to avenge, revenge and destroy.

CAMPUS
EVENTS

Vinyl Record Wall Hanging
March 23 @ 5 p.m.

Join the Center for African Studies in Towers MPR to paint, collage or both on a vinyl record to create a wall hanging.

DPC DUNite: Stuff-A-Bear
March 24 @ 9 p.m.

Head to the NiteSpot to create a new friend with Duquesne Program Council!

Martial Arts Club Watch Party
March 25 @ 7 p.m.

Watch UFC San Antonio with the Martial Arts Club in College Hall Room 105.

Serenade
March 23 through April 2
Thurs. — Sat. @ 8 p.m.
Sun. @ 2 p.m.

Follow the Red Masquers across the pond to London in this international love story.

Non-affiliated tickets, \$10
Duquesne Affiliated, Free

EMILY'S
EPIPHANIES

Comfort in Company

Whether you're an introverted extrovert or an extroverted introvert, sometimes it can just be healing to be in the presence of someone who loves you through your silence or listens to you through your emotionally chaotic verbal vomit.

Lean into your people.

There are many ways to express love or extend compassion to those who are most important to us.

Sometimes it means lending your listening ears or giving a shoulder to cry on. Other times it can be eating mental health mashed potatoes at 10:30 p.m. or rewatching that comfort movie one more time.

Whether you are in need of some TLC or looking for ways to support someone close to you, remember that you are loved. You have a network of people who express their care for you in a multitude of ways.

Revel in that love, look for little ways to lighten someone's load, and pass along that compassion to another in need.
— Emily Fritz

Taylor Nation takes over as the "Eras" tour begins



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Taylor Swift opened her "Eras" tour in Glendale, Ariz. on March 17.

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

Are you ready for it?

Taylor Swift fans, commonly referred to as "Swifties," are going wild on social media as long-standing pop star sensation Swift takes the stage once again.

For some, the highly anticipated tour is marked with bad blood between adoring fans and Ticketmaster, after the ticketing giant allowed for unregulated price gouging during ticket resales.

Regardless, Swift's cult following has pushed her into a new level of fame. Not only is her discography beloved by millions, but the nature of her tour has pushed 10 of her albums into the Billboard 200. Swift is only the fifth artist to achieve this feat, and only the second to accomplish this during their lifetime.

As fans come together for their turn to see the star perform, many have designed unique outfits to represent a different "era" in Swift's career or reference specific songs and lyrics that they resonate with.

"I have seen, like, 17 people dressed as miracles. I've seen, like, really amazing, specific vi-

sual representations of lyrics or weird online jokes that we have. Or, you know, I've seen, like someone dressed as a whole, entire willow tree," Swift said during one of her performances.

Some fans have taken their creativity to a new level. Using <https://erastaybow.carrd.co/>, Swifties have organized venue-wide visual effects to take place.

Through the website, fans can select which city they are traveling to, what night they plan to see Swift perform and where they're sitting in order to create a rainbow display for the artist.

Other fans have taken to creating friendship bracelets to exchange at the concerts, in observance of the lyrics "So make the friendship bracelets / Take the moment and taste it" from the song, "You're On Your Own Kid," which appears on Swift's most recent album, "Midnights."

Because her newest album is not the feature for the current tour, Swift has sampled songs from all of her previous albums, including "Reputation," "Evermore," "Folklore" and "1989."

Two of her albums, "Red" and "Fearless," have been rerecorded due to a dispute regarding the

ownership of her first six studio albums. While "Red" and "Fearless" have been rereleased under the label "(Taylor's Version)," her debut album and three others have yet to be rereleased.

Since the beginning of the tour, many fans have taken to Spotify and Apple Music to recreate the event setlists for other fans. While the performances vary from day-to-day, each concert sits at around 45 songs with surprise numbers appearing from older eras.

As is typical of Swift's shows, the artist utilizes several outfit changes, intricate set pieces, immersive lighting effects and some mild stunt work.

Perhaps most notably, Swift dives into an opening in the stage floor. The visual effects give the illusion of the singer swimming underneath the flooring before she emerges in a different attire.

Overall, Swift has fostered a deep and empathetic connection with her fans that is well-known across the music industry. As was seen during the fall 2023 release of "Midnights," many of Swifties take to a cult-following style adoration for her.

As one of the largest tours

post-pandemic, it is difficult not to be swept up in the excitement that has flooded social media outlets and has received non-stop news coverage in the entertainment world.

The Eras Tour will be in Pittsburgh June 16-17 at Acrisure Stadium. girl in red will act as special guest for both performances, with Gracie Abrams present on June 16 and OWENN on June 17.

Tickets for the Eras tour are highly coveted, but some are available for resale through Ticketmaster and StubHub.

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Norwegian singer, girl in red, will be performing with Swift while in Pittsburgh.



Activities to look out for in the Steel City this spring

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

Although the weather is still warming up, spring has officially arrived in the 'Burgh with the passing of the spring equinox on March 20.

With the end of the semester approaching quickly, make the most of the time you have left on campus with upcoming events.

Steel City Con (Monroeville Convention Center) March 31 to April 2

As one of the largest comic cons in the United States and the exclusive comic con to the Monroeville Convention Center, attendees can meet their celebrity heroes during panel sessions, roam hundreds of vendor stalls for their favorite pop culture merchandise and mingle with other fans of their favorite franchises.

Ticket prices start at \$24 but add-ons can range from \$24 to \$425. To browse the event schedule or reserve tickets, visit <https://www.steelcitycon.com/>.

Spring Flower Show (Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Schenley Park) Now through April 16

What better way to celebrate spring than to stop and smell the flowers? For four weeks, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is putting on a vibrant and aromatic display of seasonal foliage. This experience is a feast to the senses, complete with a calming chime canopy and a spring-inspired menu.

Tickets for this event are \$10 for select dates. To learn more, visit <https://www.phippsconservatory.org/calendar/detail/spring-flower-show>.

Puttery (15th St., Strip District) Ages 21+ Only

Adult-only mini golf recently arrived on the Pittsburgh scene with immersive indoor courses, virtual scorecards, creative and contemporary snack-sized menu items and theme-inspired cocktails. The three golf courses vary in decor and difficulty, each ending with a unique trick shot ending.

Reservations can be made online at <https://www.puttery.com/>. Pricing starts at \$18 per putter per course.

Pittsburgh Fringe 2023 – Performing Arts Festival (Penn Ave.) April 26 – 30

At the center of Bloomfield, East Liberty and Garfield, Pittsburgh Fringe will be celebrating their 10th anniversary as an "all-out, no-holds-barred, inclusive multi-disciplinary performing arts festival featuring international, national and local artists," according to their website. Featured acts range from puppetry and comedy to visual arts and family entertainment.

Pricing and set lists have not yet been released, but keep an eye out for updates at <https://www.pittsburghfringe.org/>.

Museums (Various Locations)

Feeling like you haven't seen enough of what Pittsburgh has to offer? The Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh are a perfect place to start.

Whether you're looking to learn more about natural history, wanting to witness the art of Andy Warhol or hoping to have a scientific revelation, the Steel City has something to offer you.

Ticket prices vary by location and some locations offer student discounts with a school ID. To plan your next visit, go to <https://carnegiemuseums.org/about-us/our-museums/>.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Pittsburgh is a city rich with culture, history and entertainment. With the arrival of spring, there is a plethora of unique activities to try before leaving campus for the summer break.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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"A society grows great
when old men plant
trees whose shade
they know they shall
never sit in."

GREEK PROVERB

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 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.

Contact

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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Monday marked the 20-year anniversary of the Invasion on Iraq, kicking off the two-decade war against terrorism.

A look back at the last 20 years of war

On more than one occasion, while often said in jest, I have been accused of hating the military or holding some sort of animosity against my fellow veterans.

It's an accusation that, while hurtful, bears some truth.

It's been a decade now since I was honorably discharged from the Marines, despite the passage of time I have found myself holding on to a resentment that I cannot let go. Age has only sharpened my now life-long, grudge.

I thought that when Osama Bin Laden was finally killed that it would bring some sort of closure to this empty pit that has become a mainstay in my soul.

It did not.

When we finally pulled out of Afghanistan, I hoped that would soothe the tension.

Instead it just left me feeling like everything was in vain.

And, while I try my hardest to mask the frustrations, I cannot help to channel some of that disgust toward the institutions that facilitated these pointless wars.

Sometimes that disgust boils over to the enablers and proponents of the war.

It was 20 years ago on Monday, when the United States invaded the country of Iraq, kicking off one of the biggest foreign policy disasters in the existence of this nation. This would entangle the U.S. into a messy unnecessary war that, frankly, accomplished nothing.

It's painful at times, to see how much we forget the country changed after Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

We invaded a sovereign nation that had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks.

We traded in our individualism for blind nationalism in an attempt to regain the feeling of security. That over compensation of nationalism has festered into a disease in which the symptoms are peaking.

We allowed the PATRIOT Act to happen.

A nation that once prided itself on civil liberties allowed

one of the most intrusive pieces of legislation to pass with barely a whimper.

We got comfortable with torture. Despite the mountain of evidence that clearly states "enhanced interrogation techniques" do not work or the fact that it violates international law, we were willfully ignorant.

We forgot we were a nation of laws and opened up a jail in Cuba that would strip people from their rights. The ACLU reports that Guantana-



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

mo Bay is the longest-standing war prison in U.S. history.

Since 2002, 779 Muslim men and boys have been held at Guantánamo, nearly all of them without charge or trial.

As of today, 39 men remain indefinitely detained there. 27 of them have never been charged with any crime. Fourteen of those 27 have been cleared for transfer or release for years.

We allowed multiple institutions, including left-of-center major media outlets to believe this was a justified war and failed to ask the tough questions before it was too late.

We canceled the Dixie Chicks.

We allowed Brent Stephens and David Brooks to still have a platform.

We killed a lot of innocent people.

Brown University estimates the death toll at an estimated 897,000 to 929,000 people including U.S. military members, allied fighters, opposition fighters, civilians, journalists and humanitarian aid workers who were killed as a direct result of war, whether by bombs, bullets or fire.

It does not, the researchers noted, include the many indirect deaths the war on terror has caused by way of disease, displacement and loss of access to food or clean drinking water.

We destabilized an already incredibly destabilized part of the world. The horrors of war will be implanted in the memories of an entire generation of a region that has grown to hate the occupying force that made their lives hell for two decades.

We have romanticized to the point of fetishizing underserving authoritarian figures under the guise of patriotism.

We almost made Rudy Giuliani president.

We collectively forgot our nation's founding history and have villainized dissidents, chastising and sometimes allowing worse fates for those that challenge the status quo.

And worst of all, we killed some of my brothers.

Men who were better than you and me are not here today because of this war. They left behind parents, brothers, sisters, wives and children for what they believed was some noble cause to only be grossly misled.

It seems to have become an almost semi-annual occurrence that one of the people I had the honor of serving succumbs to their demons. Our group chat slowly dwindles down, void of the laughter and inside jokes to be replaced with updated funeral arrangements for the latest Marine to enter Valhalla.

The irony is not lost on me, that one of the main slogans after 9/11 was "never forget."

It would be wise to heed that advice.

STAFF
EDITORIAL

Equal standard for coaches and players

On Sunday night, Tobin Anderson was preparing his Fairleigh Dickinson men's basketball team for an NCAA Tournament game against Florida Atlantic, just days after beating Purdue and pulling off one of the biggest upsets in tournament history.

By Tuesday afternoon, he was the newest head coach at Iona College. One win arguably altered the course of Anderson's entire career for the better.

It's a well-earned jump for Anderson, but why aren't coaches held to the same standard as the NCAA's student-athletes? With the emergence of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals over the past few years, players have come under some scrutiny for inking endorsement deals or earning money for their athletic performances.

Just months after winning the 2021 Fred Biletnikoff Award as the country's top wide receiver, Pitt football star Jordan Addison announced that he'd be transferring to USC — one of the country's marquee college football programs. Addison improved his draft stock, signed an NIL deal with United Airlines (cashing in in the process) and is now a likely first-round pick in April's NFL Draft.

Many around Pittsburgh scrutinized Addison, saying that he put money and himself over the program (Pitt) that originally took a chance on him. Why wouldn't he when this is the culture that he's surrounded by?

What drives viewers to television? What brings ecstatic fans into stadiums and arenas?

It's the players, a lot more than it is the coaches. Players win the games. Players help fans fall in love with a team.

The age-old argument that players shouldn't be paid because it compromises the integrity of the game is worn out. At this point, there's no turning back with the NCAA.

If their coach can jump ship and leave town (in Anderson's case, he's only moving across the Hudson River from Teaneck, N.J., to New Rochelle, N.Y.), why can't the players earn what they're owed without facing scrutiny and being criticized for compromising athletic integrity?

Events like the NCAA Tournament bring out the best in college athletics. Miracle upsets happen. Lifelong memories are established. Fans unite and connect over a worthwhile event.

This event also shows how much money talks. All it took was one win for Anderson's career to change forever, and that's fine.

But if that's the case, college athletes should never again be criticized for doing what's best for them, even financially.

It is finally time to hold Trump accountable

RORY BROUILLARD
staff writer

Since his presidency began, Donald Trump has been accused of criminal activity multiple times. However, every time it seems to catch up to him, he always manages to come out clean. But, just like baseball, three strikes and you're out.

The first impeachment of Trump happened during his presidency in Dec. 2019, becoming the third president to be impeached.

The House of Representatives adopted two articles of impeachment for both abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. These followed an investigation into foreign interference in Trump's 2020 re-election campaign. He was then found telling officials to ignore subpoenas for testimony.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against Trump, he was acquitted by the Senate in Feb. 2020.

On Jan. 13, 2021, Trump became the first president to be impeached twice. This was following the attack on the United States Capitol building on Jan. 6. The House introduced an article of impeachment for "incitement

of insurrection." However, he was also acquitted of the charges by the Senate.

Trump has seemed to slip through the fingers of the law and avoid conviction twice, but can he do it a third time?

Evidence of the former president paying off adult film star, Stormy Daniels, during the 2016 election has been presented in front of a grand jury. The panel will then decide if there is enough to formally charge Trump.

Now the question is whether there is enough for conviction. Paying someone for a non-disclosure agreement is not illegal, but with the timing of the election coming up, it could be in violation of a fair campaign. However, the charges that the grand jury are considering remain unknown to the public.

The defense remains convinced they can escape indictment, although many see this as unlikely. Trump himself has stated that he is preparing for an arrest and calls for protests.

I believe that Trump's actions have finally caught up to him and an arrest has been waiting for him since before his election. He has abused his money, power and people around him to get

what he wants.

Although the information of an affair may not have changed the outcome of the election, there should be transparency from any candidate. Obviously, it was important enough that Daniels needed to be paid off. Daniels says she accepted the bribe because she was worried for herself and her family.

Daniels stated in a 60 Minutes interview that Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen, approached her saying, "That's a beautiful little girl. It'd be a shame if something happened to her mom."

News of this threat would cause more harm to his campaign than anything.

The *New York Times* said that if he is charged, Trump will most likely be released. If the case makes it to trial, that will fall right in the middle of Trump's reelection campaign.

It appears that Trump's actions are finally catching up to him, but will it stick? Protests have already begun following Trump's call over the weekend. He still has supporters staying by his side.

Does this mean Trump is slowly losing support or are they hiding out of fear? What does this

mean for his campaign?

This is almost impossible to tell. The Department of Justice reports that over 1,000 people have been arrested following the storming of the Capitol, and more are worried of the consequences of further push against the government.

However, why weren't people afraid during the insurrection? This shows that Trump may be losing his grasp over the Republican party. He isn't able to control his supporters into doing his dirty work any further.

Trump's supporters have faced the consequences, but he has faced very little himself. Why are his supporters taking the fall every time Trump is in trouble? With some refusal to protest, there seem to be more people who are seeing through Trump's schemes and manipulations.

Trump has spent years manipulating the government and people through threats, foreign influence, tax fraud and his radical campaigns. So far, he has shown no remorse and continues to abuse his power and money. When will his grasp on the corrupt people in power come to an end?

Now is the time for his corrup-

tion, manipulation, crimes, and abuse of power to finally be put to an end.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Donald Trump could face indictment in the near future.

Journalists at the forefront of climate change

ELIYAHU GASSON
staff writer

**Note: The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) will publish a monthly column in The Duke's opinions section.*

Last month, a train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed near East Palestine, Ohio. The derailed train cars spilled around 100,000 gallons of the chemicals they were carrying into the land, air and water.

Concerned about a possible explosion Norfolk Southern — the rail company in charge of the train — ignited the flammable chemicals generating an ominous plume of black smoke.

Two days after the accident, the residents of East Palestine and its surrounding communities were given evacuation orders. They were allowed to return to their homes three days later on Feb. 8.

During the press event at which Ohio Governor Mike DeWine gave residents the go-ahead to return, NewsNation reporter Evan Lambert was pushed to the ground, handcuffed and arrested. He was charged with resisting arrest and criminal trespassing. The charges were later dropped.

Environmental journalism is a crucial element of the modern world. In recent years, this field has become increasingly important as human activity continues to catalyze climate change and its effects on the environ-

ment become more apparent. These journalists play an essential role in informing the public about environmental issues and holding corporations and governments accountable.

However, environmental journalists face many challenges in doing their work. One of the biggest obstacles is the influence of corporations and political interests prioritizing their profits over the well-being of the environment and the people relying on it. These entities use their political power and resources to suppress information and push their agenda.

This is especially true when it comes to climate change, where powerful industries have spent millions of dollars on disinformation campaigns to cast doubt on the science behind global warming.

At the same time, environmental journalism requires access to funding and resources to carry out in-depth investigations and analysis. However, these resources are often in short supply, leaving journalists with limited options for pursuing stories that require extensive research and travel.

Environmental journalists also face harassment, intimidation and even violence from those who oppose their work. This is especially true in countries where press freedom is limited and environmental reporting is seen as a threat to those in power. In many cases, journalists have been targeted by corporations, government officials

and even criminal organizations for their reporting on environmental issues. This puts journalists at risk and undermines their ability to do their work and provide the public with the information they need.

Take for example the case of Daphne Carina Galizia, a Maltese investigative journalist who was known for her reporting on corruption, organized crime and environmental issues in Malta.

In 2017, Galizia was killed by a car bomb near her home in Malta. Before her death, she had been investigating links between Maltese politicians and the Panama Papers scandal, as well as environmental issues such as the illegal dumping of hazardous waste and the impact of tourism development on the island's fragile ecosystem.

Although the investigation into her death is ongoing, it is widely believed that her reporting on these issues played a role in her assassination. Her death was widely condemned by the international community, and her legacy continues to inspire journalists around the world to pursue investigative reporting on issues related to the environment.

Then there is the case of Jagendra Singh, a journalist in India who was killed in 2015.

Singh had been reporting on alleged corruption and illegal activities involving a local politician named Ram Murti Verma. Singh had writ-

ten multiple Facebook posts and published articles in a Hindi-language newspaper alleging that Verma was involved in illegal mining, land grabs and other illegal activities. Singh had also accused Verma of attempting to have him killed in the past.

It is believed that Singh's reporting on Verma led to his killing. Singh was allegedly set on fire by a group of men who were reportedly associated with Verma. Before his death, Singh had named Verma and some of his associates in a dying declaration to the police. However, Verma denied the allegations and claimed that Singh had committed suicide.

Despite such challenges, environmental journalism is more critical now than ever before. As we continue to face the consequences of human activity on our planet, we must have a robust and independent press that is willing to hold those in power accountable for their actions. By raising awareness about environmental issues, environmental journalists are shaping public opinion and driving meaningful change.

Environmental journalists also help to connect individuals and communities with the resources and tools they need to take action on environmental issues. By providing information on ways to reduce waste, conserve energy and advocate for policies that protect the environment, environmental journalists empower readers to make

a positive impact in their own lives and communities.

Environmental journalism is a vital component of modern society. It serves as a watchdog for the environment, exposing issues that may otherwise go unnoticed and holding those responsible accountable for their actions. Although they face significant challenges, their work is essential in creating a more sustainable future for our planet and its inhabitants. It is up to all of us to support and advocate for environmental journalism, recognizing its critical role in shaping our world for the better.

Since the derailment in East Palestine, Norfolk Southern released a "six-point plan" to improve safety on their rails. The company said it also plans on installing additional safety measures including 200 hot metal bearing detectors with the first installed near East Palestine.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Journalists are trying to hold corporations accountable.

Kuhn embodies life of a student-athlete

ZACH PETROFF
opinions editor

It is 27 degrees at 5:25 a.m. on Monday. Despite the recent daylight savings time shift, the sun has yet to make its appearance across the horizon. The intensity of the wind increases closer to the river.

While most of the world is still sound asleep, the 50 women that make up Duquesne's rowing team have been awake and bearing the cold for over half an hour.

Among the athletes is senior Elizabeth Kuhn, a nursing student with a specific and lofty goal.

"I've been saying this since freshman year," Kuhn said. "I want an [Atlantic 10 Conference] medal and I keep pushing for it. I've never once given less."

That's a tall task for a team that placed near the bottom of the A-10 last year and faces steep competition for this upcoming season.

Yet, given Kuhn's relentless strive for excellence, and seeing her interact with her teammates, it's hard not to believe that she could accomplish that goal.

While there are many student-athletes on campus, Kuhn's workload is unrivaled by many of her peers. Often beginning her mornings around 4:30 a.m., she finds her day filled with not only rowing, but the coursework of a nursing student, clinicals, an internship and a part-time job at a hospital. She also maintains a 3.8 grade point average.

"My Monday, Wednesdays kill me because I don't go home until 6 p.m.," Kuhn said. "Tuesday and Thursdays I get to go home, eat breakfast at home and then go to clinicals."

The Duquesne School of Nursing is demanding. Students are advised to put in two hours of study time for every credit hour they take. Students are also re-

quired to maintain at least a 78% in all of their nursing classes.

"We are looking for those well-rounded, dedicated, really kind of conscientious-style students who know that it's going to be difficult, but don't shy away from the challenge," said clinical assistant professor Cara Morrill-Stoklosa. "They know what they're getting into, and

to perform at the highest level, continually working to progress the team's competitive edge."

Kuhn's natural leadership qualities seem to be driven by her compassion. The daughter of a salesman and baker-turned-kindergarten-teacher, she will be the first health care worker in the family. Kuhn credits her family for her strong work ethic.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIZABETH KUHN

Elizabeth Kuhn (left) has one goal this rowing season: to win a medal at the Atlantic 10 Conference championships. As one of this year's team captains, she strives to be a leader in and out of the water.

they are ready to face that head on."

While this is Kuhn's first year as a captain, she has always assumed a leadership role as the coxswain.

"Coxswains are meant to be somewhat of a coach inside the boat, and are to help the rowers perfect the complex stroke in real time," said graduate assistant coach Osa Wheeler. "Liz does very well at having a keen eye on the finite, technical aspects of rowing. She also wants the team

"Honestly, I don't think I've ever not seen my dad working," Kuhn said. "He didn't come from much, and he wanted to turn his life into something."

The women in her family also had a profound impact.

"My grandma was the first woman in her family to go to college, and then my mom opened up her own bakery," Kuhn said. "They are all a huge part of my life."

Originally wanting to become a bio-

medical engineer, Kuhn had a change of heart when she started volunteering and taking care of her grandfather.

"My grandpa got sick, and I took care of him for six years with my mom and grandma at home before he went into a nursing home," Kuhn said. "I think taking care of him really propelled me toward nursing."

When her grandfather was in the nursing home, Kuhn grew close with three of his nurses and cemented her plans to pursue a nursing career.

Giving back has always been an integral part of Kuhn's life.

"I did a lot more volunteering than I did science work in high school," Kuhn said.

She has volunteered at a domestic and substance abuse shelter in Erie, Pa. She also started a toy drive for the Mercy Center for Women (in Erie) that still happens each year.

While Kuhn is clearly passionate about helping others, she is also a competitive person driven to succeed. During her free time, she likes to train for marathons and half-marathons. She has figured out a way to study while training.

"I would write out a study guide, record myself saying the study guide and then listen to it while I was running," Kuhn said.

She would listen to them during her runs, which range anywhere between six and 18 miles.

Leading by example is an important part of Kuhn's leadership style. Her role as a coxswain requires less athletic output and much more of a mental strain. Her willingness to "buy-in" to the program reverberates among the team as she takes a steady hand approach, even when things on the water can be chaotic.

"Liz is very good at going with the flow," said Head Coach Matt Carlsen. "We'll have a set plan, and I will blow it up and change it, and she keeps everybody else calm."



Kuhn is pictured here in a coxswain seat, facing the rowers in her boat. She uses a microphone for motivation and steers the boat with both hands using cables attached to the boat's rudder.



Kuhn is in her senior year on the Duquesne rowing team. Although balancing nursing, internships, jobs and rowing can be difficult, she is able to maintain a 3.8 grade point average.



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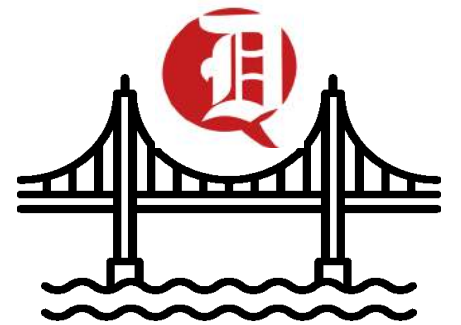
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