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High-scale  
playing  
along with  
the PSO

EMMA POLEN  
news editor

At the Mary Pappert School of Music, Duquesne students have the chance to work with award-winning musicians every day. This week, the opportunity was extended to local high school students.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Side-by-Side concert provided a full program performed by students sitting alongside professional musicians in Heinz Hall Tuesday evening.

The participating 58 high school students from 28 regional schools were required to submit an application to be considered for the opportunity, and commit to multiple sectional and full-group rehearsals over a five-week period leading up to Tuesday's concert.

Rhian Kennedy is an adjunct professor of flute and piccolo at Duquesne, as well as principal piccolo chair flute for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO).

The participating high school students are mainly juniors and seniors in high school with an interest in expanding their musician experiences, but a majority are not going into music as a career, Kennedy said.

"I hope they have some 'wow' moments getting to hear what it's like to play with this caliber of orchestra," said Jim Nova, second trombone in PSO and Duquesne's brass area coordinator and professor of trombone.

see PSO—page 3

# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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## Duqathon dances their way to success



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Special events co-chair, Shaelyn Walker, hypes up the Duqathon attendees alongside young visitors from UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Duqathon raised nearly \$70,000 for hospitalized kids in need.

BRENTARO YAMANE  
layout editor/multimedia editor

Duqathon hosted its annual dance marathon for the third consecutive year, putting the groove on inside the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

The event was led by students to raise funds and awareness for sick and injured kids treated UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Throughout the dance marathon on April 1, students had fun with the patients by performing numerous activities such as dancing, playing dodgeball, painting, making bracelets, shooting basketball and going on inflatable slides.

The theme of this year's Duqathon was "Olympics," and the team running the event took a lot of inspiration from precious years' critiques, said Celia Fortebraccio, a senior in supply chain management and the operations director for Duqathon.

A lot of planning goes into the annual event, according to special events co-chair Shaelyn Walker, a sophomore biology ma-

jor, and her other board members.

"While our dance marathon at the end of the spring semester is our biggest and most important event all year, this is just a culmination of the dedication we have to put in during the entire year to promote and support Duqathon," Walker said. "Our biggest goal is to create a cause connection between our campus and the UPMC Children's Hospital and the Children's Miracle Network."

Fortebraccio is a returning executive board member, and she has been an active member for three years. She was happy to know that the students taking over Duqathon had the same mindset as her when it came to helping kids in need.

"I joined because I've always had an affinity for health care. I've really enjoyed interacting with people in a hospital setting," Fortebraccio said. "My grandpa was in the hospital, in and out, like all throughout my life. So that was one of the reasons that I enjoyed joining this organization. And then one of the kids that I babysat for, he spent a good majority of his

youth going in and out of Children's for different things. So, seeing him develop and advance has been a good opportunity and why I'm doing this."

Overall, the past three years, Fortebraccio has seen major development in the organization and with that, she feels optimistic about the future of the program.

From the first year back from Covid, when there could only be 20 people outside for an hour, the restrictions have loosened and the crowd of participants has risen to more than 300 people.

"There's definitely been major growth," Fortebraccio said. "I would love to see more people attend in the years to come and, you know, even grow more in what we can give to the children's hospital."

One of the participants was freshman Christian Daikeler who went with members of his fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"My favorite part of the event was shooting hoops with a young boy I met there," Daikeler said. "The entire time we were just shooting far away shots and do-

ing all these dribble moves and just having a good time. Seeing the smile on Miles' face during this time felt like I was making someone truly happy."

Duqathon president Molly Keller, a fourth-year in the Speech Pathology program, was pleased with the interactions she saw between Duquesne students and the kids in attendance.

"As the president of this organization, my biggest goal was to create an environment where people really feel the passion and love for this cause and want to be a part of this culture of wanting to change the kids' health," Keller said. "It really makes my heart happy to see the kids from the hospital being able to have fun and just be kids and not worry about their medical issues."

This year, Duqathon raised \$70,959.16, which was almost \$5,000 more than the organization raised last year.

"We try our best to spread the word about it and get students involved in promoting health, while doing so through events and incentives that college students would love," Walker said.



## POLICE BRIEFS

### Tuesday, April 4-

Damage was reported at the water fountain inside the Duquesne Grotto, or the Lourdes Grotto, located behind Old Main.

### Wednesday, April 5-

A male student was found on Forbes Avenue highly intoxicated. He was transported to UPMC Mercy Hospital, and he was referred to the Office of Student Conduct, as well as issued a state citation for a second offense.

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

ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

Stepping on a college campus for the first time can be a powerful experience for anyone.

Duquesne's Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG) club will be looking to harness that excitement and spread it among a group of girls in grades 3-5 from the Pittsburgh area.

"I'm very excited. My kids are really excited," said SWSG member Karis Pempek, who has been mentoring elementary students this year. "They've been looking forward to it since we told them about it, and they've been wanting to come to campus for so long. It's going to be a really great opportunity for them to get to know Duquesne and ways to be a college student."

Duquesne's SWSG connects student mentors in young students with various Pittsburgh Public schools throughout the semester. The goal of the organization is "to empower girls to imagine a broader future through a curriculum grounded on female role models," according to the SWSG website.

After a four-year hiatus from an in-person field trip to campus,

the SWSG along with other student organizations including the American Sign Language club, various education clubs, the media department, Evergreen Club and the Duquesne Dance Team will be providing activities for the mentees.

"We're inviting all the girls to come to Duquesne for a sort of field trip where we host events for them and they get to see and tour campus," said field trip coordinator Abigail Messner. "We're collaborating with different groups so they'll get to meet some of those girls and members as well. They get to have the college experience for a day."

Outside organizations, including Eaton engineering, a power management company, will also be providing an activity for the girls visiting Duquesne's campus.

Duquesne's ASL club, DUASL, was eager for the opportunity to spread awareness of sign language while providing an inspirational message to the young girls.

"The activity we planned is to show the girls affirmations in sign language, such as 'I am strong,' 'I am beautiful,' 'I am powerful,' in which we can all sign together," Duquesne ASL president Sara

Tuddenham said. "We hope that the girls will take away some signs in ASL and a newfound awareness for the Deaf/HoH community, along with the knowledge that they have a voice and can make an impact."

The girls will also have the opportunity to eat at Duquesne's dining hall during their visit.

The goal of visiting campus is not only to get these young women familiar with a college campus but to instill the traits that the mentors have been teaching their mentees all semester.

"Some of their family members haven't gone to college," Messner said. "We are familiarizing them with the college aspect while instilling confidence and providing mentoring with role models."

The event kicks off at 10 a.m. with breakfast and an assembly. From there, the young visitors will break off into groups and attend various stations set up around campus for activities.

Cara Brdar, a mentor for SWSG, went to a high school that did not qualify for a Strong Women Strong Girl program. Her experiences in high school and undergrad inspired her to get involved with the program.

"I would have loved to have a

strong female role model," said Brdar. "So being able to be that for the kids that I can tell are in need of that and need a little bit extra. Being able to be that person for them can be so rewarding."

While the theme for Saturday is a carnival, the messaging will be based around inspiring the young visitors to believe in themselves.

"We will definitely have a lot of women empowerment themes going on throughout the day," said field trip coordinator Taylor Reitz. "For instance we'll be saying our chant, which is 'Strong, loud and proud.'"

Saturday's event is a combination of a learning experience and a celebration for all the hard work both the mentors and mentees have put in this semester.

"We're trying to show them that one of the opportunities they have is to go college if they choose to do that," Reitz said. "This is one way to give them an opportunity to see what life is like on campus."

Strong Women Strong Girls is always looking for more partner organizations and student mentors to contribute to their mission. Interested clubs or individuals can reach out to them on campus link.

# ROTC gets marching orders for their new home

ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

Delta Company has received their marching orders. They have been ordered to leave their current position and march a quarter mile east until they reach their objective at Libermann. The mission: To move into their new home.

Duquesne's chapter of Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is relocating from the Van Kaam building to the first floor of Libermann Hall this week. The change comes following ROTC's recent growth in recruitment.

"Our program is expanding, and we have really big plans for the program," said Chuka Ufomadu, Army Captain and officer in charge of Duquesne's ROTC chapter. "Our current location wasn't ideal anymore."

ROTC is an officer commissioning program that allows students to train as they complete their education. Cadets that finish the program will have met the requirements to enlist as an officer, active or reserve in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Space Force. "ROTC is a great opportunity for our students," said Gabriel Welsch, university spokesperson, "particularly those with an interest in a military career and the armed forces."

While Duquesne has the Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC programs available on campus, 35 of the 51 cadets are enrolled in the Army ROTC section.

Duquesne's Army ROTC program is part of the Three Rivers Battalion that consists of 14 schools within the greater

Pittsburgh area. Duquesne's Army ROTC is part of Delta company which consists mostly of Duquesne and Point Park University cadets.

Delta Company, which was formally just a platoon until this semester, has seen an increase in its membership from 20 cadets last year to 35 cadets this year.

The change in venue is part of Duquesne's historic commitment to support the United States armed forces. The university has hosted ROTC on campus since 1917.

"Moving the ROTC program to the newly renovated space in the Libermann Building on campus provides a great hub for the program and demonstrates Duquesne's commitment to providing creative and exciting learning spaces for our students," Welsch said.

The new location provides cadets not only a place to learn but allows them to build camaraderie with one another, a key aspect in the military.

"When a student comes to our university, and they join ROTC, they have an instant community," Ufomadu said. "My goal for the [new] place is to continue that community building process in that program."

Students will be able to watch TV, play video games, do homework and converse with one another. There is a lounge area for the cadets to relax, a treadmill and also consideration for a pool table.

Rose Conlin, who joined ROTC as a freshman and now is a senior in the nursing program, is excited for the move and to get out of the old space.

"We were just on the third floor

of a building, not much space," Conlin said. "It was kind of a hangout spot for us, but it was really more of just a classroom."

The new area in Libermann will be better equipped to handle the growing number of cadets in the ROTC program.

"Having the offices there but more separated out than just having a desk in the middle of an open room will be nice," Conlin said. "There has to be some private conversations sometimes, so being able to have that and having a place that people want to go to will be nice."

Anelise McGee, who also joined ROTC as a freshman and now is a senior in a five-year program of biomedical engineering and nursing, is looking forward to spending her last year in the upgraded headquarters.

"I think a new space would be really useful for us," McGee said.

"I feel like the amount of time that we put into [ROTC], with earth other, we are almost like a sports team."

On top of their academic curriculum, cadets enrolled in ROTC are likely to spend their four years at Duquesne taking leadership classes, physical fitness tests, learning about the military and participating in field training exercises.

"I think we deserve room space in our building," McGee said. "A place where we can meet in, teach, learn, hang out and do homework as a team."

While the space is dedicated to current Army ROTC cadets, Ufomadu wants all students to feel welcome at the new facility.

"We want to make it a program that everyone wants to be a part of," Ufomadu said. "Even if they don't end up becoming Army officers."

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BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The ROTC program outgrew their old Van Kaam building facilities.



from PSO — page 1

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is composed of string instruments as well as woodwind, brass and percussion. For the woodwind and brass student players especially, Side-by-Side may be their first chance to play with strings in an orchestral setting in Heinz Hall, Kennedy said.

Elizabeth Bennett, a senior flute player, spoke about her anticipation before the event.

"I have been coming to Heinz Hall for years to hear the Pittsburgh Symphony, and it is truly surreal to have the opportunity to perform with them onstage," Bennett said.

She plans to go to college for flute performance and anthropology, and Duquesne is one of her options.

"I'm very interested in ethnomusicology—the study of why and how human beings are musical—because the most valuable part of music, for me, has always been the community that it creates," she said, "and I would love to explore the way people interact with music within and across cultures."

Bennet was not the only student considering studying music at Duquesne. Student string players Hannah Bedeck and Heys Reyes are both headed to Duquesne next year to explore their musical interests in new ways—Bedeck with violin performance and Reyes with music therapy.

Bedeck earned her place next to PSO violinist Jennifer Orchard, who also happened to be her violin teacher. From private lessons where Bedeck's teacher taught her phrasing and character for the Side-by-Side program, to performing together at Heinz Hall, Bedeck said it was an honor to sit next to her teacher in a professional orchestral setting.

Reyes prefers performing jazz music, so the orchestra setting was, for him, "a once in a lifetime opportunity to play on this stage," he said. "It's really been an honor."

Sophomore percussionist Wesley Madge has other plans after graduation.

"I don't plan on taking music to college, but I want to make it a part of my life as long as I can," Madge said.

Even before Tuesday's performance, Side-by-Side provided



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMUNICATIONS

Moon Doh conducts a strings and brass sectional rehearsal with student and professional musicians practicing side by side.

students opportunities for personal coaching and full orchestral rehearsals, Nova said.

Side-by-Side is unique in that it connects students with musician professionals with tips they might not otherwise have access to, Kennedy said, "much like a youth football player getting to play with the Steelers for a day."

The Side-by-Side concert is just one of many opportunities for young Pittsburgh musicians to get involved in music groups outside of school, including the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra (TRYPO).

"They're all great opportunities for them to experience different music in different ways, different conductors, different people around them, different coaches. Any time you can do any of that stuff...even though you may not go on to be a musician, it changes who you are as a person," Kennedy said.

Kennedy grew up performing in her own local youth orchestras in Calgary, Canada, and now she coaches the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra (PYCO) seasonally.

"I believe very strongly in the power of music, to influence you and your power to learn,"

Kennedy said. "Music is a language that is wordless. And so it reaches human beings. On a very deep level."

Nova also had an early start in performing alongside professional musicians, joining every youth orchestra he could while he was a high school trombone player in Connecticut.

"I had an unquenchable thirst for playing," he said.

Nova was excited to play Gustav Mahler's "Totenfeier," a specific arrangement of the piece which the trombonist had never played before. The name translates to "celebration of the dead" and was written originally as its own piece but incorporated into Mahler's second symphony.

The program of pieces for Tuesday's concert included three technically challenging works.

The symphony first played Nancy Galbraith's "A Festive Violet Pulse," a flowing melodic work with both loud and triumphant and quiet and contemplative parts.

Galbraith was in the audience as well, and she received a shout out after the performance.

Moon Doh, the assistant conductor of the PSO, conducted the student and professional musicians through the program.

He introduced the second

piece, Gustav Mahler's "Totenfeier," explaining to the audience that the work was over 20 minutes, with various dynamically complicated parts, and Doh promised that it would move everyone who listened.

"We'd like to invite you on this musical journey to reflection, contemplation, joy, sadness, moments of light, dark-

ness and death," Doh said.

During moments of "Totenfeier," the volume of the score made the musicians play so quietly that their breath was more audible than the actual notes they played, and the scraping of their bow across the strings louder than the notes.

The symphony finished with a third piece, "Intermedio no. 4" from "La Boda de Luis Alonso" by Gerónimo Giménez.

The arrangement included castanet and triangle interludes, and the piece concluded with multiple fortissimo crescendos, met with standing applause from the audience.

Throughout the program, students and professional musicians worked side by side to perform the piece, sometimes sharing music or turning each other's pages.

"This kind of work is vital, because it keeps us connected to the community in a different way than just performing does," Nova said about the PSO's annual commitment to put together the Side-by-Side experience, which educates students and directly connects them to professionals in their field.

"We need to support our students in their endeavors, and that includes arts and sports and math and science so that...there are audiences for us who are professionals now but also for the ones...who are going to be professionals in the future," Kennedy said.



COURTESY OF JASON COHN

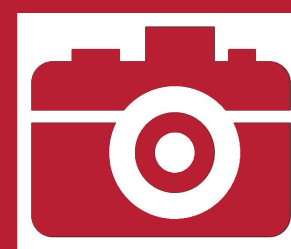
Moon Doh conducts with a flourish during the Tuesday night Side-by-Side PSO concert.



## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE

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# Bowling's historic season comes to an end

**LUKE HENNE**  
editor-in-chief

The Duquesne women's bowling team earned its second trip to the NCAA Bowling Championship in program history. However, they bowed out after losing to Nebraska and Stephen F. Austin in last weekend's double-elimination regional round at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes.

The Dukes defeated the Ladyjacks on

Friday morning before falling to the Cornhuskers later that day.

On Saturday, needing to win to stay alive, Duquesne won the traditional round against Stephen F. Austin 1022-946 before the Ladyjacks claimed the Baker round (a round of bowling where a team rotates who bowls) 952-887. Then, Stephen F. Austin won the Best-of-7 Baker round in seven games to take the overall match 2-1.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne's Kiearra Saldi (No. 23) celebrates with her teammates during Saturday's elimination round contest against Stephen F. Austin in the NCAA Bowling Championship.

The Dukes were eliminated from the tournament, but historic moments throughout the season were in abundance.

For the seventh-consecutive season, Head Coach Jody Fetterhoff guided the team to a winning record — they currently sit at 70-32. Duquesne also became just the third program in school history to earn multiple bids to the NCAA Tournament, joining men's basketball (five) and football (two).

This year also brought just the second tournament win in program history. Kiearra Saldi, who was named Second Team All-Northeast Region and First Team All-Northeast Conference, said that "this is a really big moment for us right now" following Friday's win over Stephen F. Austin.

"That was the goal," Saldi said. "That's probably the hardest part — that first match, getting it out of the way. It's a really uplifting moment, and we kept the energy strong all game."

"We didn't let ourselves get down. That was really important for us."

This year's Duquesne squad earned a share of the Northeast Conference's regular-season title for the first time in the program's seven-year history. Fetterhoff was named the NEC Coach of the Year.

The moment and the successful season was not lost on Fetterhoff, who said prior to the tournament that the team was "extremely happy to be here."

"The hard part is getting here, so they've done that," Fetterhoff said. "And now it's

just about having fun and showing everybody who we are."

She also took great pride in knowing the history her team made when it came to becoming the school's third program to make multiple trips to the NCAA Tournament.

"It means everything," Fetterhoff said. "These girls work so hard. To see them get rewarded with this and to be recognized on a national stage [means a lot]."

"This is the seventh year of the program. It's just exciting. I see how hard they work every day. I'm just happy for them to be here, and I just want, so much for them, to be able to hold a championship trophy at the end of the day."

While the team didn't hoist the championship trophy, they've set themselves up for success in the coming years. Saldi is one of the team's most-decorated players, but she is the only senior on the team's roster.

Of the team's 70 victories, 23 came against ranked opponents. They've proved that they can hang with strong competition.

Even this weekend's two opponents are among the NCAA's elite.

With six national championships, Nebraska boasts the most titles of any bowling program in the country. Stephen F. Austin has won two titles and was the finalist in 2022.

Duquesne's season will culminate with the Intercollegiate Singles and Team Championships, which begins this Sunday in Las Vegas.

# Gear up for memorable NBA postseason

**MATTHEW THEODROS**  
staff writer

The 2022-2023 NBA regular season is in the books, and playoff basketball is upon us. This season was as dramatic as it gets, with different storylines and historic performances topping each other daily.

This week, the play-in tournament will set the seven and eight seeds in each conference. The traditional 16-team field will get underway on Saturday.

Headlining the Eastern Conference is the three-headed monster of the Milwaukee Bucks, Boston Celtics and the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Bucks sit first in the conference, looking to make it to the NBA Finals for the second time in three seasons. Giannis Antetokounmpo's development into one of the best players in the game makes them a favorite to win it all. The eight seed will face the Bucks in the opening round, but Milwaukee's veteran core and elite defense overpower just about any possibility of an upset.

The second-seeded Celtics will play the Atlanta Hawks, who defeated the Miami Heat on Tuesday to earn the seventh seed. The duo of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown's ascension to two-way superstar talents makes them a formidable foe after a disappointing showing in last year's NBA Finals.

The three-seeded 76ers certainly have the most pressure among the remaining teams. The duo of Joel Embiid and James Harden carry the weight of their world on their shoulders after outstanding offensive seasons. They became the first duo since the 1976 NBA/ABA merger to lead the league in

scoring and assists, respectively.

Luckily for Philadelphia, they have a relatively calm matchup against the newly constructed Brooklyn Nets. Since trading superstars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, the Nets have struggled to find a reliable rotation and should not be much of a threat.

Potentially the most interesting Eastern Conference first-round series is between the fourth-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers and the fifth-seeded New York Knicks.

Both teams were in the race this past off-season to obtain a disgruntled Donovan Mitchell from the Utah Jazz. The Cavaliers gave a hefty package to acquire Mitchell, but it has been worth it and more. Mitchell and Darius Garland have created an extremely consistent backcourt this season. The twin-towers duo of Evan Mobley and Jarrett Allen erased all concerns, leading the Cavs to post the best defense in the league.

New York basketball is in a renaissance led by star free-agent acquisition Jalen Brunson. He's changed life for the Knicks, bringing back the excitement and aura of Madison Square Garden with his electric shot-making. However, the injury of all-star Julius Randle two weeks before the end of the regular season poses many questions.

A wild Western Conference has much more parity and opportunity for teams to make a run.

The offensive-heavy Denver Nuggets are led by back-to-back MVP Nikola Jokic, and the return of stars Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr. after a year of absence. Not often is the top-seeded team questioned, but Denver has struggled in recent years to do

anything come playoff time. This could be their chance to negate the skepticism.

The two-seven matchup between the Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Lakers will be appointment television. In his 20th season, LeBron James is playing his first playoff series in a full-capacity crowd since before the pandemic, and expectations are high. Massive overhauls and reconstruction turned a discombobulated roster into a sneaky competitor.

However, the Lakers are still inconsistent and were in the play-in tournament for a reason. James and Anthony Davis have to play at the level they played at during their championship in 2020 for there to even be a shot at them making it to this year's NBA Finals.

Memphis has all the talent in the world to win a championship with stars Ja Morant and Jaren Jackson Jr. The only thing in its way is a lack of maturity and reckless decision making.

The blossoming Sacramento Kings, the three seed, secured their first playoff appearance since 2006, ending what was the longest drought in North American professional sports. Unfortunately for them, they face the reigning champion Golden State Warriors, who are getting healthy at the right time.

Both teams are high-powered offenses predicated on the 3-ball. Despite the marvelous season of the Kings, the Warriors' core of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green are still formidable. Since 2015, Golden State has represented the Western Conference in every NBA Finals where those three were all healthy.

Absent with family matters for a long period of time, the return of Andrew Wiggins

puts the Warriors in a great position to run it back for what would be their fifth championship in nine seasons.

The Phoenix Suns have been undefeated when Durant plays for them. As the four seed, they appear to be the most-sound team in the West with the least weaknesses, as key players return from injuries. In addition, they've got a perennial all-star in Devin Booker who's ready to take that next step in his career, looking to avenge a loss in the 2021 NBA Finals.

The fifth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers are rounding into shape with Kawhi Leonard getting into superstar form following his 2021 ACL surgery. Former MVP Russell Westbrook adds an interesting dynamic to the team, particularly when it comes to his matchup against Durant, a former teammate of his. The availability for Paul George is still up in the air for the Clippers, but if healthy, we are witnessing a conference-finals-caliber matchup in the opening round.

What transpires these next two months will be legacy-defining moments for players and organizations.



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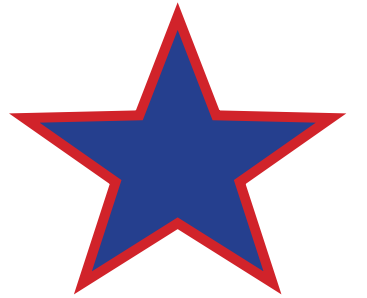
LeBron James is looking to win his fifth-career NBA title in 20 seasons in the league.





# 2022-23 *Duke Awards*

*The Duke* recognizes remarkable Duquesne players, coaches and teams for their successes over the past year.



## Men's Team of the Year: *Soccer*

Led by 10th-year Head Coach Chase Brooks, the men's soccer team posted an 11-4-4 record and finished second in the Atlantic 10 Conference — their best regular-season finish during Brooks' tenure. The team was ranked in the United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll on multiple occasions, their first time entering the national rankings since 2005. Duquesne holds its opponents scoreless in seven of the team's 19 games. The Dukes finished with consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 2013 and 2014 — Brooks' first two years at the helm — and won a game against La Salle in the A-10 tournament before falling to Loyola of Chicago in the second round. They made the A-10 tournament in back-to-back years for the first time since 2015 and 2016.

## Women's Team of the Year: *Bowling*

The women's bowling team compiled a 70-32 record, earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament under seventh-year Head Coach Jody Fetterhoff. The Dukes have finished with winning records in all seven years of their existence, dating back to 2016-17. This year's squad earned its second trip to the NCAA Tournament in the last three seasons, becoming just the third program in school history to earn multiple NCAA Tournament appearances (men's basketball has five, football has two). Duquesne earned a share of the Northeast Conference regular-season title and battled before being eliminated by Stephen F. Austin in the NCAA Regional Semifinal.

## Men's Athlete of the Year: *Domenic Nascimben*

After playing in just 13 games across his first three seasons on the Bluff, the men's soccer team goalkeeper cemented himself as a staple of the program in the past two seasons. During the 2022 campaign, Nascimben started all of the Dukes' 19 games, allowing just 0.89 goals per game (17 goals in 19 games). He collected seven shutouts throughout the course of the 2022 season after getting just six shutouts across his first four seasons at Duquesne. The fifth-year goalkeeper from Sydney allowed more than two goals on just one occasion in 2022 — a 5-2 loss at Pittsburgh on Oct. 17. Nascimben earned a spot on the All-Atlantic 10 Conference First Team, becoming the first Duquesne keeper since Zach Varga in 2005 to be selected for that achievement.

## Women's Athletes of the Year: *Kiearra Saldi & Shannon Small*

The duo combined to collect five Northeast Conference Bowler of the Week honors. They were both named Second Team All-Northeast Region by the National Tenpin Coaches Association. Saldi and Small earned First-Team All Northeast Conference honors, helping the Dukes earn their second NCAA Tournament bid in three seasons.



Pictured above: Domenic Nascimben (left) and Kiearra Saldi (right). — COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

## Senior Athlete of the Year: *Austin Rotroff*

The fifth-year student from Wauseon, Ohio, returned to the men's basketball program after dealing with multiple injuries in his Duquesne career. He also returned to a program that went just 6-24 during the 2021-22 season. After appearing in just 13 games during the tumultuous 2021-22 campaign, Rotroff was one of just three Dukes to appear in all 33 games in 2022-23 (joining Dae Dae Grant and Jimmy Clark III). He led the team with 4.8 rebounds per game, and he helped Duquesne to a 20-13 record. Rotroff was a part of three winning teams during his five seasons on the Bluff.



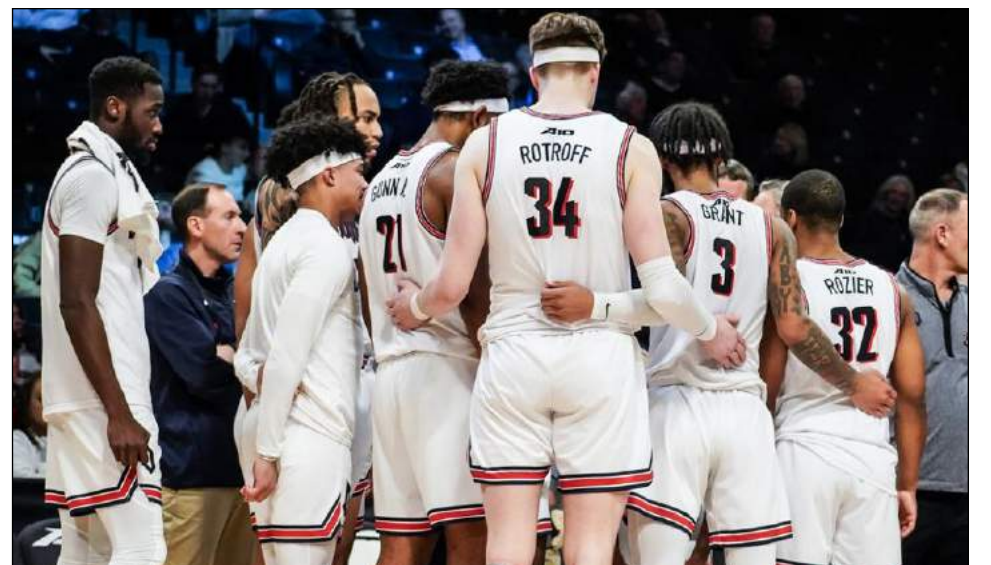
COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Top: Maxi Hopfer (No. 10) and Tom Tzabari (No. 6) celebrate during a men's soccer contest at Rooney Field. The Dukes went 6-1-2 in home games during the 2022 season, while allowing just seven goals.

Bottom: The Duquesne women's bowling team earned its second-ever NCAA Tournament bid this year.

## Newcomer of the Year: *Ayanna Townsend*

After spending parts of four seasons at Xavier, the Pittsburgh native returned home and joined Duquesne's women's basketball team in 2022-23. Townsend shot 46.9% from the field and averaged 10.4 points per game, good for third-best and fourth-best — respectively — on the team. She scored a season-high 21 points against Tulsa on Dec. 1, while also scoring in double figures in 17 of the Dukes' 31 games. She led the team in free throws made (73) and free throws attempted (116), while finishing with the second-most blocks (30). Townsend was a key contributor on a Duquesne team that went 19-12 in 2022-23 after going just 11-18 during the 2021-22 campaign.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

The men's basketball team improved by 14 wins and appeared in a postseason tournament.

## Most Improved Team: *Men's Basketball*

The men's basketball team improved from 6-24 in 2021-22 to a 20-13 mark during the 2022-23 season. The Dukes won 10 of their 13 non-conference games and played to a 10-8 record in Atlantic 10 Conference action. Four of the team's top-five scorers (Dae Dae Grant, Jimmy Clark III, Joe Reece, Tevin Brewer) transferred into the program and played integral roles in turning the program around. Duquesne also appeared in a postseason tournament for the first time under sixth-year Head Coach Keith Dambrot, participating in the Discount Tire College Basketball Invitational.



# Anonymous artist makes his way to Pittsburgh

HANNAH PETERS  
staff writer

Above a bike shop in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, for one weekend only, the art of the elusive Banksy went on display. The show featured over 80 pieces of his artwork in an immersive experience aimed to capture the mystique and cultural impact of the artist.

As part of a 32-city international touring exhibition, the event called 'Banksyland' visited Pittsburgh from March 31-April 2 at a 'secret location' that was announced only two weeks before its opening. It is the world's largest exhibition tour, according to its website.

The featured artist, Banksy, is a pseudonymous England-based street artist, political activist and film director. Most famous for his graffiti art style, Banksy gained popularity in the early 2000s and has had works sell for millions of dollars at auction. Despite a 30-year art career, the identity of the artist is still unknown.

His artwork often includes controversial and powerful imagery in addition to satire or dark humor, as many of his pieces are used to engage political themes like war, capitalism, consumerism, hypocrisy and greed. Using a variety of media, particularly stencil and spray paint on public spaces, his artwork can be found around the globe, appearing in Australia, France, Italy, the United States, Canada, Jamaica and Israel.

Banksy has also recently created installations in Ukraine to comment on the war with Russia.

The exhibition tour itself has also garnered controversy due to the fact that Banksy keeps the sale and authentication of his works tightly regulated and never authorized the 'Banksyland' tour. However, the company running the tour, One Thousand Ways, claims Banksy is aware the tour is taking place.

In fact, Britt Reyes, vice president of operations for 'Banksyland,' informed the *Los Angeles Times* that 'Banksyland' offered 100% of the proceeds to the artist and he declined.

Two ticket options were available for purchase — General Admission and VIP, which included a limited-edition, hand-screened exhibition poster, all-day access and an audio tour. Guests could purchase drinks at the venue and a gift shop was also available.

The art was found in a small, black curtained room lit up by moving projections that created an immersive viewing experience for patrons.

The art collection included original and studio works, salvaged street artworks, and never-before-seen immersive installations, according to the website. Assistant producer of the show, who identifies himself as simply 'Foley' explained how the collection process remains heavily classified.

"All the originals are on [loan] to us through private collectors.



HANNAH PETERS | STAFF WRITER

A wall of projected artwork allowed guests to be immersed in the works of Banksy and explore more than 80 pieces across many different media.

We don't even disclose which ones are originals and everybody on our team signs NDAs," Foley said.

Foley's favorite piece by Banksy is not just an artwork but part of a humanitarian rescue effort too.

"My favorite is Louis Michel's boat. He bought a navy cruise vessel and turned it into a rescue boat. They sail the Mediterranean every week with this vessel. Last week they saved 82 lives," Foley said.

Financed and decorated by Banksy, the 30-meter long vessel is customized to perform search and rescue missions and is manned by a crew made up of European activists who help save the lives of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa to Europe.

The Banksyland display of this project was composed of a short explanatory video, a picture of the boat, and a doormat labeled with the word 'welcomed' in orange.

"This orange welcome mat is made out of the life jacket material from the dead refugees that wash up on shore. He collected them himself and made 8 of these welcome mats and sold all of them at an auction for over a million dollars. He used all the proceeds to make a foundation to give the refugees a second chance at life."

"Not only does he save them from the waters, but he builds

them homes and works to give them a better life."

It is typical of Banksy to refuse the profits from his artwork and instead donate the money to various charities. Over the last 20 years, it is estimated that he has donated around \$30 million to charity, according to MyArtBroker.

This same sentiment is kept by the 'Banksyland' tour. Through an Instagram poll and an on-site paper poll, locals are encouraged to participate in deciding which non-profit the exhibit's proceeds will be donated towards. A local non-profit is chosen by voters in each city the tour visits.

This, coupled with the fact that Banksy is aware of 'Banksyland,' is why Foley believes that the exhibition tour aligns with Banksy's philosophy despite the artist's anti-consumerism and anti-capitalist beliefs. According to Foley, the overall message of Banksy's art and the exhibition tour is meant to be one that's thought provoking.

"Formulate your own opinions," Foley said. "A lot of people have preconceived notions about the world. A lot of people are robots to the world. They just go along with whatever the government or the world is telling them. It's okay to make your own opinion and Banksy proves that you can do that."



HANNAH PETERS | STAFF WRITER

"Rage, the Flower Thrower" is one of Banksy's popular political works that captures a masked Palestinian throwing a bouquet.

## Aquarius ♒

If you strike now, you will crush your enemies, unless they are a water sign, then they'll crush you.

## Pisces ♓

Fixating on that thing you said all week? Don't worry - nobody was listening in the first place.

## Aries ♈

You know that idea you had in the shower? You should do it. Also Happy Birthday

## Taurus ♉

Have that argument and then never admit you were wrong.

## Gemini ♊

You are your own algorithm

## Cancer ♋

Watch out for Tauruses this week.

## Leo ♌

Don't buy that thing. It's dumb and you won't use it in a month.

## Virgo ♍

not one pair of socks will match this week....and that's ok.

## Libra ♎

Things will fall into place if you start reading Bertrand Russell

## Scorpio ♏

Use your power for good.

## Sagittarius ♐

This space was intentionally left blank.

## Capricorn ♑

You're going to be exposed to your favorite album ever this week.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Spirit of Diversity Celebration  
April 14 @ 6 p.m.

The Center for Excellence in Diversity and Student Inclusion will be hosting a keynote speaker and recognizing students for their leadership and academic achievements in the Power Center Ballroom.

Self Care Night  
April 14 @ 9 p.m.

Join Duquesne Program Council in the NiteSpot for a night of relaxation, complete with face masks, body scrubs, stress balls and more!

Tree Planting  
April 16 @ 12 p.m.

Join the Evergreen club for their Earth-Week celebration as they plant 12 trees. Meet up with them outside of Brottier Hall.

Evergreen Pop-Up  
April 16 @ 12:30 p.m.

Head to the Union Atrium for granola, magnets and sustainability tips with the Evergreen club.

## EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Live in the Moments

As the semester continues to wind down, it becomes more and more stressful as we begin our intense study sessions, write numerous papers and prepare for the final push before summer.

While this time can be overwhelming, it can also be so refreshing and full of life as we enjoy the sunshine, spend more time with our friends and prepare to say goodbye to campus in a few short weeks.

Yes, it is important to focus on your education and give your best efforts to your studies. However, this is also a time to grant yourself some extra grace and live in the moments that make you happiest.

Make the memories that will become your college stories five years from now. Cherish this time as you navigate through the storm and find yourself in the little moments that make your days brighter.

Most importantly, wear sunscreen.

— Emily Fritz



## Steel City Con: Comics, cosplay and collectibles, oh my!

**ZACH PETROFF**  
opinions editor

A long time ago (Mar. 31- Apr. 2.) in a galaxy (The Monroeville Convention Center) far far away (Monroeville), comic book enthusiasts gathered to share their fandom, cosplay their favorite characters, look for missing items for their collection and meet the actors and actresses that portray the heroes and villains that have dominated pop culture from decades past and present.

The three-day convention, known as Steel City Con, was held in the Monroeville Convention Center and used the 100,000 square feet available for over 600 vendors, artists' tables and even a pop-up station for attendees to get tattoos.

There were also panel discussions throughout the weekend, where fans could hear insights from their favorite artist such as Caanan White and Pittsburgh native Scott McDaniel.

Over 30 celebrities ranging from TV to the silver screen were available for autographs and pictures. Actors and actresses like Dean Cain from the 1990's show "Lois & Clark: The Adventures of

Superman," Dolph Lundgren from the "Rocky" franchise, Richard Dreyfuss from "The Goodbye Girl" and "Jaws," Mara Wilson from "Matilda," Kelsey Grammer from "Cheers" and Randy Quaid from "Independence Day" were all present at the event.

"I was really excited to meet Paolo Costanzo," said Stephen Combs. "I am a huge fan of Road Trip and it was so cool to meet him. He hasn't aged."

Another event goer was eager to meet their lifelong idol, Nancy Cartwright, who voices Bart Simpson on the ongoing classic television show, "The Simpsons."

"I've been watching 'The Simpsons' forever," said Duane Walck "and to see Nancy Cartwright was a dream come true. It was like meeting my childhood."

While traditionally comic-cons have been a place for collectors to go and look to expand their collections, these days there seems to be something for everyone to enjoy.

From video games to obscure television shows, Steel City Con provided something for all ages, including a special appearance from two of the three hosts of the popular children's show, "Blues Clues." Donovan Patton (Joe) and

Joshua Dela Cruz (Josh) shared a Nickelodeon panel with Kathleen Herles, the lead voice actress of "Dora the Explorer."

"My kids came to see 'Blues Clues,'" Tracy London said. "I grew up with Steve [Burns], they grew up with Donovan [Patton]."

Burns, Patton and Dela Cruz were all available for meet and greets and autographs.

A major component of any comic-con is the use of cosplay, considered a performance art in which participants dress in costumes and makeup, representing characters from anime, video games, television and film.

In addition to wearing costumes, it's not unusual for cosplayers to "act" like the character they are portraying.

"I love to cosplay," said Matthew McDonald of Monroeville. "Costumes and everything, that's the main reason I can go to any con."

On the final day of SteelCon cosplayers had a chance to enter a contest to win prizes. Separated by age group, contest participants were judged on a variety of criteria such as "creativity" and "Originality."

Marcus Rodgers of Shadyside, who has been participating in cosplays for comic-con for over five

years, was excited to take home the prize for "most life-like" in the adult group. He cosplayed as the Harry Potter character Dumbledore.

"I have to give big props to my mamma," Rodgers said. "She has spent a lot of time making this for me."

While many came for the big names and the more popular attractions, there were plenty of local artists selling their creations.

Demetrius Belvin, a Pittsburgh Native had a booth to display his

comic book line Darkehand. He is not only the illustrator for the comic but also the illustrator and a mascot for the series.

"My graphic novels are based on my experiences," Belvin said. "I pull from my own life when I create these stories."

Darkehand is about a virus created by a racist regime that brought about the apocalypse.

The next Steel City Con will be held at the Monroeville Convention when it returns on Aug. 11.



COURTESY OF JEFFREY BROWN

Attendees were able to attend panels, meet celebrity idols, dress in full cosplay or browse memorabilia and collectibles.

## Visiting the box office this summer? Look for these new films

**EMILY FRITZ**  
a&e editor

Whether you're graduating in May, working on an internship or other job, taking courses or relaxing this summer, there is a highly anticipated line-up of new movies scheduled to hit the silver screen.

### ***Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3***

The newest installation in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), directed by James Gunn, arrives in theaters on May 5. Fans have already been theorizing about cast changes and character deaths since the release of the promotional materials and posters for the film.



### ***Fool's Paradise***

One of the few original films expected to debut this summer on May 12, it stars Charlie Day, Jason Bateman and Jason Sudeikis. This satirical comedy follows a man recently released from a mental health facility and pushed into the spotlight by a desperate publicist.

### ***The Little Mermaid***

The long anticipated live-action remake of the 1989 classic is expected to arrive on May 26. Racially charged criticism has plagued the film since the casting of Halle Bailey as the title character. The bigger question is: will Disney be able to convincingly produce underwater scenes in a live-action reboot?

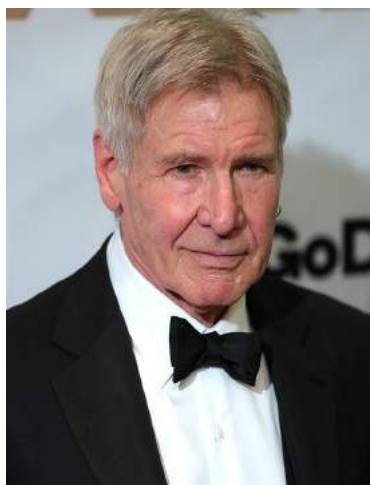


### ***Asteroid City***

Tom Hanks, Maya Hawke, Margot Robbie and Scarlett Johansson star in this sci-fi romantic comedy set in the 1950s. Coming to theaters on June 23, "Asteroid City" is based on a story by Anderson and Roman Coppola and follow the transformative events that take place during the Junior Stargazer convention.

### ***Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny***

The fifth installment of the "Indiana Jones" franchise is expected to hit the big screen on June 30 of this year, as Harrison Ford reprises his role from the 1980s, alongside newcomers Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Boyd Holbrook.



### ***Barbie***

The plot of the Mattel-funded film has been largely safeguarded despite the overwhelming hype surrounding its premiere on July 21. "To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken," according to IMDb. Ryan Gosling is costar to Margot Robbie.

### ***Ashoka***

The "Star Wars" saga continues as Lucas Films Ltd. launches their newest series on Disney+. While this series is not your traditional film, fans of the franchise will be excited to dive deeper into one of their favorite characters, originally featured in "Star Wars: The Clone Wars."



### ***The Marvels***

A triple threat is coming to the MCU on July 28 as fans watch Carol Danvers/Captain Marvel (Brie Larson), Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris) and Kamala Khan/Ms. Marvel (Iman Vellani.) The three heroines find their powers entangled and must work together to save the universe.

### ***Blue Beetle***

In a parallel to the MCU's "Moon Knight," DC Comics is introducing Jaime Reyes (Xolo Maridueña) as one of the first Hispanic superheroes to headline their own movie. The film is expected in theaters on August 18. Bruna Marquezine, Harvey Guillen and George Lopez will star alongside Maridueña.

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Chris Pratt (left) has been a focal point for "The Guardians of the Galaxy" movies.

Halle Bailey (center left) got her big break in the music industry alongside sister, Chloe Bailey.

Harrison Ford (center right) boasts a successful career dating back to the 1960s.

Margot Robbie (right), best known for her roles in "Suicide Squad" and "The Wolf of Wall Street," is the featured star in "Barbie."



## THE DUKES NEDUKE

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"The way to create art is to  
burn and destroy ordinary  
concepts and to substitute  
them with new truths that  
run down from the top of the  
head and out of the heart."

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

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.

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COURTESY OF WALLPAPER FLARE

The movie "Air" follows the story of how Nike was able to sign then Michael Jordan before his rise to stardom.

## "Air"ing out our cultural grievances

One of my more charming red flags, according to my girlfriend, is my collection of Nike shoes.

While the collection is far too modest for me to be considered a "sneaker head," I do enjoy buying the latest shoes when I can afford them. Whenever I had a good month in my last career, I would reward myself with buying a way too expensive pair of Air Maxs ignoring the price tag in order to satisfy that dopamine laden impulse.

There's just something that feels good when a young person, especially a young person that looks cool, compliments your shoes.

I also feel that a slight way to combat toxic masculinity is to normalize men giving other men compliments and there's no better way to do that than letting a stranger know they have some "dope footwear."

As most self-absorbed millennials are, I, too, am a huge fan of Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's "Good Will Hunting." So when the new movie, "Air" hit theaters, it seemed like the perfect movie for a date night.

What I did not realize is that I would be watching a horror film. For 100 minutes, I witnessed a slow and painful murder.

A murder not of humans, but a cruel killing of our culture.

If you are worried about spoilers, don't be. I will not be revealing anything that is not common knowledge.

"Air" advertised as a biographical sports drama, follows the events that Nike took to sign then-rookie player, Michael Jordan.

The hour and 40 minute Wikipedia-page-made-into-a-movie forces the audience, through Hollywood trickery, to believe that these old white men are heroes, going against the grain to revolutionize fashion while still being ethically responsible.

If you pay close enough attention to the film, there is a sequence that tries to get the viewers to draw similarities between Dr. Martin Luther Kings "I Have A Dream" speech to

Matt Damon's character's sales pitch to Jordan.

It's quite obvious Affleck took a lot of "artistic liberty," when creating this made-for-Amazon movie.

The painful realization while watching this way too long commercial for Nike is that we no longer have a culture. A movie that, according to Variety, made \$20.2 million in its first five days of release has us wanting to root for corporate entities as unsung heroes.

It seems fitting that during the same weekend, there was



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

a controversy surrounding too many mediocre beer distributors for their choice as a spokesperson.

Like soldiers picking their side for war, I spent way too much time this holiday weekend listening to people talk about water flavored beer and which side various celebrities took on this ridiculous issue.

It was also just a weekend removed from the unsanctioned Banksy exhibit that came to Pittsburgh. Another prime example of the commercialization of art and the eagerness to brand areas of our culture that do not or should not be monetized.

We have become a void of

individuality and become a bottomless empty pit of faceless personalities in exchange for loyalty.

Our culture has been erased and we have tied our personality to whatever these massive corporations are cheaply producing for us to gobble up like an addict begging for their next fix.

Despite the massive amount of commercial influence, we are not the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the water bottles we carry, the TV shows we watch or even the politicians we vote for.

We are, or at least we should be, so much more.

There has been a lot of talk about how we are divided as a nation. While this may be true, I have a hard time believing that it's due to our political differences.

It is my belief that one of the major catalysts that has on a brink of a civil war is how we have divided each other into separate camps based on our purchasing and entertainment choices.

It has become way too easy to tell how a person thinks based solely on their receipts.

Where is the art? Where are the artists that are breaking molds in order to shine light on the shared human experience that we all should find comfort in? Where are the fresh ideas? Have we become so profit driven that the risk of failing is too expensive to try?

I do understand that fear of standing alone and not fitting in can be overwhelming. We all, at least to some extent, have that need to feel like we belong. The vulnerability of showing one's true self can be one of the most terrifying experiences one can face.

Perhaps it's time for us all to act like the brave rich executives in "Air" and take a swing at the fences and create our own cultural icon.

Then, Amazon can make a movie about how brave and awesome we all are.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

## Power and danger of the majority

Justin Jones (D), a Tennessee state house representative, was reinstated to his position this week, but what led to his expulsion in the first place is a common theme of minimizing the minority voice.

On March 30, over 1,000 peaceful protestors made their way to the steps of Tennessee's State Capitol building to advocate gun control while a general assembly meeting took place behind closed doors.

While the number of protestors literally outnumbered the state's leadership who were meeting inside, law-making decisions were up to state representatives – which at this time, is composed of a supermajority of Republicans.

For this reason, when three of Tennessee's Democratic state representatives, Gloria Johnson, Justin Jones and Justin J. Pearson, stood up in support of the anti-gun protestors, they were challenged by an overwhelming majority of unfriendly opponents.

Tennessee's state House of Representatives has 99 members – 75 Republicans and 24 (currently 23) Democrats. This same uneven distribution is seen in their state senate, with 33 total members and only six Democrats holding office.

The "Tennessee Three" stood up for what they and their constituents believed in, but in reality, their opinions were a minority when they came onto the house floor.

Their voices, and the voices of the 1,000 others at the state capitol, were not loud enough to make a difference following the Nashville school shooting.

Parents, students and concerned citizens who gathered for the protest brought forward an organized, peaceful agenda – strengthen Tennessee's gun control to prevent incidents like the one on March 27 from happening again.

However, their concerns went unrecognized when lawmakers called for protestors' and the Tennessee Three's removal from the general assembly.

The population these citizens represented felt the frustration facing minority communities in the U.S.

The leadership majority, on both a local and national level, is not an accurate reflection of the constituents who deserve to have their voices heard.

While the Tennessee Three's protest was honorable, leaders within the state government have a long way to go before they truly represent the whole of the nation.



## Treat pro athletes with standard respect

**LUKE HENNE**  
editor-in-chief

Darin Ruf is no superstar. In fact, he's what some would call a journeyman MLB player. But, just like you and me, he's a human being.

Ruf was traded from the San Francisco Giants to the New York Mets on August 2. He played only 29 games with the Mets, hitting just .152 (10-for-66) during his brief tenure in Flushing-Queens.

He was released by New York on April 2 before being re-signed by San Francisco six days later. Now, he's back in a market where he's more comfortable, and he was transparent about his up-and-down stint with the Mets.

"Anywhere you struggle, fans are going to be tough on you," Ruf recently told *The Athletic*. "I think the media [in New York] really runs with what fans' perceptions are. So you're kind of getting crushed by two entities. Even if you're not on social me-

dia a heck of a lot, you still have an idea and you see things."

Ruf's tale is a cautionary one. Why should he have to come to work knowing that he's outright hated by fans all because of his on-field performance, and why should that issue be exacerbated by sports media personnel who are out for blood?

He's a professional athlete, sure, but he's still a human being.

Ruf isn't the first player in recent memory to have a run-in with the "norm" in New York City.

Last year, just after being traded from the New York Yankees to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Joey Gallo shared a struggle similar to the one that Ruf endured.

Gallo told *NJ.com* that he didn't even show his face in public because he knew how disliked he was by fans because of his on-field struggles.

"I went through a lot of adversity and I really had to question myself a lot," Gallo said. "My

confidence suffered. I would say I hit rock bottom for the big leagues. So for me, I was just trying to remember to be a good teammate, play the game the right way, play the game hard and not do something stupid that I'd regret.

"I learned a lot about myself, I guess. Baseball is a tough game. But it definitely made me stronger because not many people have gone through what I've gone through."

In 140 games with the Yankees during the 2021 and 2022 seasons, Gallo hit just .159 (67-for-421). Those aren't desirable numbers by any stretch. But if a player is so afraid to go outside out of fear for how he'll be treated by fellow human beings, that's downright despicable.

It didn't help Gallo's case when, in October 2021, after a rocky couple of months to begin his tenure, Gallo was being mocked and criticized for things as simple as his dressing routine — he would sometimes dress and undress if he felt the

fit wasn't right.

In a tweet criticizing the criticism, Gallo said, "Me: Literally gets dressed. Media: Yup that's why he sucks."

Good on Gallo for standing up for himself.

Even Chris Russo, a well-respected member of the national baseball media, referred to Gallo as "Joey Galloway" during last year's trade deadline. That's inexcusable.

Fans are allowed to be entitled to fair criticism. They pay for tickets, television, concessions and so on.

What isn't fair, however, is to treat an athlete like a lesser human being because they're struggling on the field. It's also not fair to show athletes a complete lack of respect, such as critiquing their quirks or misspelling their name, when you'd want the same level of respect and attention from them when you try to cover them in any given story.

Athletes don't show up to your local accounting firm or

your newsroom to discuss your performance. Are you allowed to critique them? Yes.

But don't be so harsh that they fear even walking the public streets because they don't know how they'll be treated. That's not right.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
Darin Ruf lasted just 29 games in New York before the Mets released him.

## Competitive spirit is always part of sports

**RORY BROUILLARD**  
staff writer

The NCAA women's basketball tournament consistently brings in significantly less viewers than the men's tournament. However, women's basketball seems to become a focus when there is a controversy on sportsman-like conduct.

Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese met head-to-head on April 2 during the NCAA women's basketball championship game. Clark, Iowa's star point guard, has seemed to become the center of attention with her talent, bringing in more viewers than normal.

Reese, a 20-year-old forward at LSU, helped bring her team to the NCAA championship after her transfer from Maryland. The odds were in LSU's favor, but Clark was still a fan favorite.

The match-up of LSU and Iowa was a game to watch as two of the top NCAA women's basketball players fought hard for their team to earn the title.

By halftime, LSU held a commanding 59-42 lead. The Tigers never looked back, as they de-

feated the Hawkeyes by a 102-85 score.

Controversy came toward the end of the game after an interaction between Clark and Reese, in which Reese went up to Clark and waved her hand over her face, mimicking John Cena's trademark "you can't see me" gesture. She then pointed to her ring finger, showing Clark where her championship ring would sit.

Obviously, sportsman-like conduct is always valued, but a little rivalry never hurts anyone. Subtle bragging and victory gestures are always seen and often praised during sports, such as touchdown dances during football games.

People began speaking out against Reese on social media platforms, saying how it was wrong and that she should be punished for her actions.

But why?

Clark was seen making a similar gesture to another player in a prior game, but received no backlash for her actions.

Some speculated that the backlash toward Reese came because she is Black.

Women are supposed to be seen as kind and "lady-like." The media see these gestures as going against these ideals, and many claim women are playing with too much emotion.

Clark told *ESPN*, "Men have always had trash talk ... You should be able to play with that emotion ... That's how every girl should continue to play." She also mentioned that trash talk should be expected in a competitive game like an NCAA championship game.

What Reese did was no different than the normal, light trash talking that is seen during almost any sporting event.

Reese has spoken out, saying that she has been criticized all year for acting "too ghetto." She didn't apologize for her actions, but pointed out the double standard that is in place. There is minimal criticism for other players trash talk, but there is uproar toward her.

LSU Head Coach Kim Mulkey said, "She trash-talks on the court, but she doesn't cross, really, the line of vulgarity. She's had technicals called this year

and she's not going to apologize for it." Mulkey said that Reese knows the rules, and they have never had to get outsiders involved due to her actions.

Reese does not deserve any backlash. She is an athlete with great talent who has found ways to stay competitive, while also not crossing the line.

It is wrong to criticize to Reese for something that other athletes do without any trouble. It comes down to one thing, race.

Social media takes a Black woman, who is confident and proud of her abilities, and turns it around into something hurtful.

Reese has proven her abilities to the whole country, but it has been pushed to the shadows by a simple gesture.

Despite the backlash, many have come to stand by Reese's side. This includes former NBA star and LSU alum Shaquille O'Neal, who said, "She's probably the greatest athlete ever to come out of LSU sports. You heard it here first."

Clark also responded saying, "I don't think Angel should be criticized at all. I'm just one that

competes, and she competed." She also mentioned that she is a big fan of Reese and thinks she deserves nothing but praise.

When it comes to athletics, it is important to not let double standards creep through. Let all athletes play a fair game and have fair representation. Their talent and skill should speak for itself, and success shouldn't be overshadowed by opinions based on race and gender.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
Caitlin Clark's trash talk has been at the center of recent controversy.



**WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE**

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# Migration Club combats food insecurity

ISABELLA ABBOTT  
features editor

Duquesne's Migration Club is working with the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts to create a food pantry for all Duquesne students, faculty and professors to use if and when needed.

Graduate assistant for the Center for Migration, Gabriela Sanchez, said the project began to fight food insecurity on campus.

"Everyone simultaneously identified the need and the desire for a presence of something to mitigate food insecurity and then also to educate and sustain the community with more present gardening practices," Sanchez said.

As a club, their goal is to make sure everyone in the Duquesne community has reliable access to a sufficient quantity of nutritious food. Sanchez said it's important to have these options, especially as a college student.

"To be able to function well in an academic setting, the very base of what you need is a good body and a good mind," Sanchez said. "Food matters, you are what you eat."

Jason Minicozzi, the Vice President of the Migration Club, said his goal for the club is to define food insecurity for other students.

"We want to inform people of what food insecurity is," Minicozzi said. "If you're eating ramen, you have food on the table, but it's not nutritious. It's not a lot of food and because it's ramen, it means you probably can't afford more food."

"So, we want to inform people that they might be food insecure and not even know it," Minicozzi said.

According to a study done in 2018 that researched food insecurity at universities in Southwestern Pennsylvania, ap-

proximately 30% of Duquesne students experienced moderate-to-high food insecurity, with another 20% at-risk for food insecurity. In the same study, 70% of students surveyed said they would use a food pantry if that option was available to them.

Some students, like Sanchez, have even heard of other students taking immense

that there's a big awareness on campus that it exists and that it is accessible," Sanchez said. "Two, I want it to not be stigmatized, essentially that there wouldn't be a high barrier in someone's mind to visit."

Other demographics on campus also have an issue with purchasing sustainable food. An example is international

The pantry will even allow for students with special dietary needs to get what they need in order to function.

"We also have in the pantry, a way for students to be like, 'I have these dietary restrictions and the pantry doesn't offer my preference,'" Minicozzi said. "So then they fill out the survey, and then we will go out and source that food for them."

Dr. Jennie Schulze, Director of the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies at Duquesne, said she's proud of all the hard work that the club is doing, but acknowledges that more help is always necessary.

"So the student leadership of the club has just been outstanding," Schulze said. "But these initiatives are going to need a lot of volunteers and a lot of support in order to be sustainable over the longer term."

"Obviously, the students are really driven by Duquesne's spirit and mission and I'm really confident that all those initiatives are going to have an impact both on our campus and in our wider community," Schulze said.

The club has also set up donation boxes around campus for students and staff to donate non-perishable items like cans, rice and jarred pasta sauce. This will help them to stock the pantry when it's ready to be in use.

In the future, the club is hoping to connect with other pantries in the Pittsburgh area.

"In the longer term, we want to link up with other student pantries in and around Pittsburgh so that there's a bit of a pantry network, if you will, so that we can have more community outreach," Sanchez said.

Interested students can reach out to either Dr. Schulze or check out the club's



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GABRIELA SANCHEZ

With their food pantry project nearing its arrival on campus, the Migration Club is looking for anyone interested in helping. All majors are welcome, and everyone is encouraged to join.

measures to be able to afford food.

"I've heard of so many stories of graduate students donating blood to get money to be able to get their food," Sanchez said. "That shouldn't be the case."

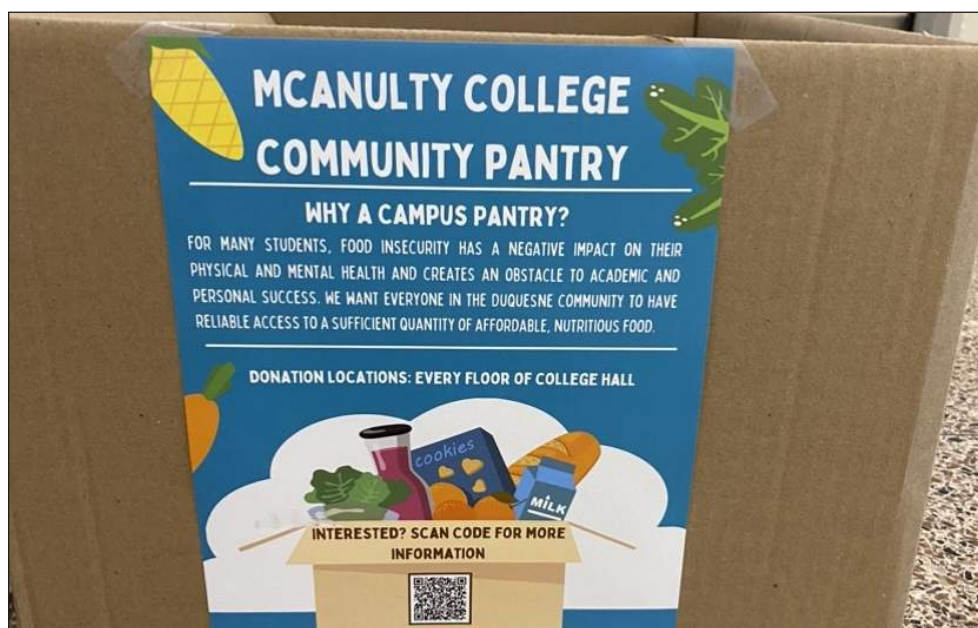
Sanchez hopes for this to not be an issue in the future.

"What I at least hope happens is one,

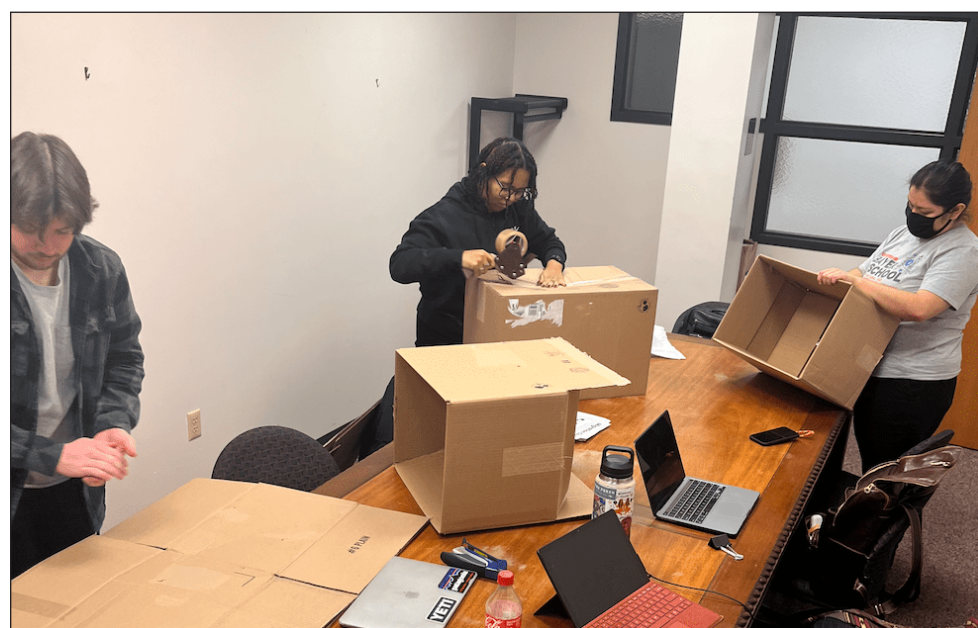
students.

"The international students have a student visa, they really can only do a work study so they have to work at Duquesne," Minicozzi said.

And working at Duquesne may not be enough to provide for themselves while they're away from home.



The Migration Club has donation boxes on every floor of College Hall for non-perishables to be collected. Any donations will help the club with their new food pantry project.



The Migration Club has been working hard all year to make sure their food pantry is ready to go in the near future. Students can be seen here making the donation boxes for non-perishable items.



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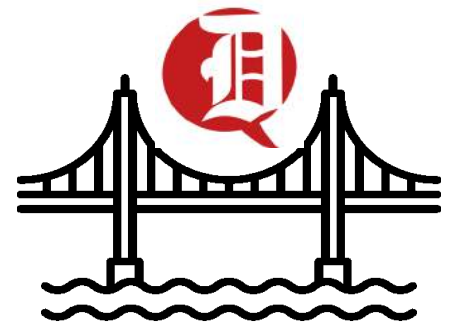
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