

sports	a & e	opinions	features
SID Saba retires after 25 years	Spooky season arrives early in Pittsburgh	Time to update Labor Day	Duq alumni leads quartet
Fall sports are underway	Curiouser & Curiouser	The case for a 4-day workweek.	Red stripes and bowties take the stage
PAGE 5	PAGE 6	PAGE 8	PAGE 10



Costa Rica  
Supreme Court  
renews  
partnership

JAMESON MOLLOY  
staff writer

In a ceremony, held Wednesday evening in the newly renamed Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley awarded an honorary doctorate of law to retired Justice of the Costa Rican Supreme Court Luis Fernando Solano Carrera.

Shortly afterward, Gormley and Provost David Dausey added their signatures to the Academic Cooperation Agreement, already signed by active Justices of the Costa Rican Supreme Court. The document renewed a decade-old agreement between Duquesne and the Supreme Court of Costa Rica, the significance of which, according to Gormley, “is hard to overstate.”

During his introductory remarks, Gormley explained that Costa Rica is the ideal nation for the university to partner with, because of the country’s political stability and commitment to ecological sustainability.

Professor Emeritus Robert Barker then took the stage to provide some background on the program. Solano approached him in 1995 with an idea for a sort of informal collaboration between the university and the Costa Rican Supreme Court. Over the next few decades, Barker helped to shape the informal collaboration into an official agreement in 2012.

For Duquesne students, the agreement establishes a summer program consisting of a several week stay in Costa Rica in which they work as interns with the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica. Lodged in the home of a Costa Rican family, students have the opportunity to be completely immersed in the country’s culture and get a broader understanding of the legal systems of a country beyond the U.S.

see COURT—page 3

# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925

## Spotted lanternflies invade Duquesne



HANNAH KERN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spotted lanternflies have invaded campus, even landing on students' shoulders and made their way into buildings.

REBECCA DONNELLY  
staff writer

Lauren Palfey, a junior speech pathology major at Duquesne University, was on her way to her Monday anatomy class when something hit her on the shoulder.

She looked down to retrieve whatever has interrupted her morning walk to class. She saw an insect, stuck to her shirt with black, gray and red wings covered in spots. A spotted lanternfly.

This wasn’t her first time coming in contact with one, as she had started noticing them around Duquesne’s campus last year.

“The first time I saw a lantern fly was on Academic Walk. At that point, I had no idea what they were. I had no idea the problem that they would become,” Palfey said.

After becoming a Southside, Pittsburgh resident this past summer, Palfey said she has seen first hand how these bugs have affected the city.

“I believe if the invasion becomes worse, people won’t want to come here. You can’t go outside without one landing on you,” Palfey said.

As the city faces the attack of lanternflies, questions arise about how they got here.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the spotted lanternfly is native to China.

In 2014, the spotted lanternfly was detected for the 1st time in the U.S. in Berks County, Pa. These insects can spread large distances by infested materials or items containing egg masses.

The first lanternfly in the U.S. is believed to have traveled by a shipment of landscape stone from South Korea, where the species is also invasive, according to the New York State Integrated Pest Management.

Associate professor of Biological Sciences, Brady Porter, explained that when these bugs are in their natural environment they are rarely a problem. This is because their population is maintained by native predators.

Once removed from their native land and introduced to a new area, they no longer have predators and their population begins to increase rapidly.

In order to stop the spread, Porter says everyone should be careful of lantern flies or their eggs attaching to any traveling objects such as cars, train cars,

buses and packages.

“They lay lots of eggs on almost everything. If people cannot recognize these eggs they get transported to other places”

Ava Bailey, president of Duquesne Ecology Club, explains that if nothing is done to try to contain these insects, they will continue to cause harm to plant life with their secretions.

Ecology Club is an organization that focuses on getting students involved with the environment and ecological matters.

In order to bring awareness to the invasion, the ecology club has started a competition where they see who can stomp on and collect the most lanternflies.

“We need to make sure people know they are invasive and the potential harm that they could cause to the ecosystem,” Bailey said. “We need to encourage Duquesne students to stomp on them when they see them. Additionally, when winter comes around, we need to make sure people know how to recognize and remove the egg masses they will lay on trees.”

A 2019 study, by Agriculturist Tewodros T. Wakie, showed the dangers of the lanternflies potentially spreading to the west

coast, which could have an enormous effect on the agricultural industry and food production.

Porter agrees that the spread of lanternflies to the west coast would be problematic.

“Grapes are one of the crops lanternflies impact. California is one of our grape growing regions. If lanternflies do come to the west coast, the grape and wine industries would be affected,” Porter said.

Lanternflies are dangerous to crops when they feed on sap from plants, then excrete the excess sugars which creates large deposits under where they are feeding. This results in mold and can impact the plant’s lifespan.

While Duquesne’s campus has been swarmed by these insects, Porter said he has noticed that the crops planted by Canevin Hall and the trees on campus have not yet been affected.

Despite there being no immediate fix, Porter said that there is still hope for the future, although the process might take decades.

“The invasion will stop when there is the combined effort between humans and the acclimation of predators to start eating these insects,” Porter said.



## POLICE BRIEFS

### Friday, Aug. 25-

A student reported to Public Safety about another student breaking a "no contact" order. Victim will have a meeting with the Title IX Office.

### Saturday, Aug. 26-

The Resident Director conducted an administrative search of a room in St. Ann's. Students were found in possession of medical marijuana, mushrooms, vapes and alcohol.

### Sunday, Aug. 27-

An RA in Duquesne Towers reported that a possibly intoxicated student was missing near campus. An extensive search was conducted by all units. The student was located and escorted back to his room.

### Sunday, Aug. 27-

Duquesne police was dispatched to Magee Street for a student in distress with a foot injury.

## 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).

## FOLLOW THE DUKE

Instagram  
[@TheDuquesneDuke](https://www.instagram.com/TheDuquesneDuke)

YouTube  
[The Duquesne Duke](https://www.youtube.com/TheDuquesneDuke)

Twitter  
[@TheDuquesneDuke](https://twitter.com/TheDuquesneDuke)

Advertise with us!  
[duqdukeads@gmail.com](mailto:duqdukeads@gmail.com)

EMMA POLEN  
editor-in-chief

In its third semester as an official school-recognized committee, the University Sustainability Committee is putting their resources to work across campus.

According to Sarah Wright, chair of the nine-person advisory body of the committee, the University Sustainability Committee has been in the works for over two years.

The committee is made up of faculty, staff and students, with a connection to facilities management as well.

Even before the committee was officially recognized, the faculty and staff "were still doing all of this really incredible, sustainable work," Wright said.

Now, the committee's goals include supporting and promoting the work of preexisting clubs working on campus sustainability, Wright said.

"It's from the ground up, it's students doing this work, and we're just facilitating working with them to help," Wright said.

The benefit of the official "committee" title is the available resources for spreading the word. Wright is most excited about facilitating more relationships across campus.

"Now we can more strategically do that work and reach more people," Wright said.

The committee is currently involved in connecting sustainability efforts from campus and the broader Pittsburgh area with the Duquesne community.

On Sept. 8, Laval Day at Duquesne, Bike Pittsburgh will come table on A Walk to promote their green city efforts.

First, the University Sustainability Committee added a new member, faculty member Leda

Kloudas, who teaches biomedical engineering. Her expertise differs from the other faculty on the committee, and this "interdisciplinary" was part of the initial goal of the committee as well, Wright said.

"Sustainability at its core is interdisciplinary," Wright said.

For this reason, the committee's members are also co-teaching a Climate Change, Resilience, and Sustainability course. This is the inaugural year of the class, and it will most likely be offered every fall semester moving forward, Wright said, in addition to counting for theology credit.

"[We're] hoping to show students that conversation in sustainability is a campus-wide one," Wright said.

The committee is also interested in getting campus feedback about what projects they should tackle next, and with the help of, Duquesne's Center for Environmental Research and Education, they are on their way.

Mary Kate Ranii, program administrator of CERE, explained how CERE was involved with the creation and project work of the committee. The committee work has never been part of her job description, Ranii said, but it is something she wants to do nonetheless.

CERE has been working on campus sustainability for the past several years.

"Our coursework in the environmental science department always has a ton to do with sustainability and environmental issues," Ranii said. CERE hosts an online reuse listing, posts a clothing drive and clothing donation bin in Towers to be donated to Saint Vincent de Paul and also sends out a fall and spring sustainability newsletter.

With the help of CERE and the



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
Pittsburgh Blueberry Project plants were prepped at Duquesne last spring.

Deans at the School of Science and Engineering, the University Sustainability Committee has put out a call for working groups. The first call was made last semester, and was received with enthusiastic response from faculty and staff campus-wide, Wright said, especially toward current campus garden projects.

Wright understood the appeal for getting involved in visible, tangible garden initiatives.

"A lot of joy...can come out of green spaces, and a lot of opportunity and potential," she said.

"We want the campus to be involved...to get their participation in helping Duquesne, live out [what] Pope Francis is calling LaudDC, and just generally, living out that Spiritan mission of serving God by serving others," said David Chismar, a steering University Sustainability Committee member.

Chismar is the supervisor in energy management and forecasting at Duquesne. His hope with the committee is getting people more involved in the executive aspects of campus sustainability, and facilities assisting these roles.

"Just by getting everybody integrated together, we can make sure that we are supporting each other, not working against each other or duplicating each other's efforts," Chismar said.

Future projects include employing students that could benefit from making connections with groups that already exist for sustainability on campus, in an attempt to "tell students that they can be integral," Wright said.

Such groups include the university food pantries, community gardens and dining halls' takeout services.

The goal is to "think more consciously about consumer and consumable items on campus," Wright said. "Are there ways to cultivate more sustainable use?"

The committee's mission, since the beginning, is "sharing the love and the care for the world and the people that live in it," Wright said.

To get involved, students can email Wright at [wrights3@duq.edu](mailto:wrights3@duq.edu) with ideas for potential new sustainability projects or who want to join working groups that already exist across campus.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
Sarah Wright gets her hands dirty for the Pittsburgh Blueberry Project.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
Taylor Reitz (left) and Josh DeLia (right) prepare plants for potting.



MAXWELL MARCELLO

staff writer

Today in 2023, students, teachers and everyday routine are at a crossroads. Advanced artificial computing has emigrated from the pages of science fiction and is now an inescapable fixture in daily life.

Within a relatively short amount of time, artificial intelligence has quickly adapted to complete a multitude of tasks from a bot that can have human-like conversation to machines capable of winning art competitions.

Despite the current public interest in AI, artificial intelligence has for decades, to a certain extent, been around in some form. From TurboTax to Word's autocorrect feature, machines have exercised significant autonomy from the human programmer going back to the 2000s. This changed following breakthroughs in generative AI.

Director of the Carl G. Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law, John Slattery, said that he believes that universities that have established AI policies might be jumping the gun as AI continues to change.

"AI presents a number of big challenges. Obviously, the biggest one for academia right now is the question of pedagogy," said Slattery. Pedagogy, the method and practice of teaching, has been studied since ancient Greece and since then has always been practiced by humans until recently.

These predicted and current changes will be discussed in depth at a symposium scheduled for Nov. 10.

"I'm talking to a lot of people about how they're using generative AI in the classroom," Slattery said.

In addition to academic administrators, governments are also struggling to regulate AI in part due to its rapid evolution.

Congress has yet to pass any legislative framework for AI, leaving the judiciary and executive actions to fill the gap. One noteworthy case working its way through the federal courts is centered around whether or not artificial intelligence can legally hold copyright.

Last week saw U.S. District Judge Beryl A. Howell rule that AI generated artwork cannot legally hold copyright. Whether or not this decision will remain is up to the appellate and U.S. Supreme Court. Regardless, we can expect to see a series of decisions moving forward that will significantly impact generative AI and 21st century jurisprudence.

While it remains a challenge to exactly pin where artificial intelligence is heading one fact is crystal clear, artificial intelligence is only going to entrench itself into every crevice of our daily lives.

From personal to professional, the adaptability of AI will make it ubiquitous in the coming decade, and just as the ability to read or use word processor software is a necessary prerequisite to participate in society, so too will the understanding of artificial intelligence.

Unlike other forms of artificial intelligence, generative AI has the ability to create content from sentences to movies independent of human guidance. The use of generative AI in an academic and professional setting creates a new set of twenty-first century questions that are being integrated across the board.

Programs such as OpenAI's ChatGPT are capable of passing both the U.S. medical licensing exam and the bar exam. It is the versatility and depth of knowledge of programs such as ChatGPT that makes them both useful and detrimental to academia.

David Dausey, provost of Duquesne, said that due to the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, Duquesne is struggling to



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMENTS

Governmental agencies and administrations are struggling to reckon with and regulate generative AI.

create a fair and flexible AI policy.

"We are encouraging thoughtful experimentation with the teaching and research possibilities that AI affords us as a tool. To aid faculty, the university is developing template guidance to use in syllabi to address AI use and issues in course contexts or in research activity," Dausey said. "During this academic year, we will discuss ideas for this policy with deans, faculty, and students that address teaching and research alongside academic integrity, privacy, attribution and ethical guidance, among other concerns," Dausey said.

Until a centralized policy is drafted and implemented, the responsibility of managing AI in the classroom largely falls to deans and professors.

Wesley Oliver, director of the criminal justice program and professor of law takes a different approach to artificial intelligence

in his classroom. Rather than reprimand its use, he encourages students to use the tools they will have in the real world.

"I want you to use ChatGPT and or some version of Bard or one of these and I want you to come up with the best possible query. I want to see your queries, and I want to see what comes out of them," Oliver said.

He also stresses the importance of not over-relying on artificial intelligence as the outputs may not be factually accurate or up-to-date. Instead he opts for using AI as a tool rather than the primary driver of content generation.

"I just personally think that you have to train students to use the things they will have available to them when they graduate," Oliver said. "Afterall NASA is no longer using slide rules and doing long division by hand."

## Supreme Court visits Duquesne

see COURT—page 1

Gormley said that the Academic Cooperation Agreement was one of the first international programs at the Kline School of Law, calling it the "gold standard of a true academic and legal partnership."

The agreement with Costa Rica opened the door for the development of programs in China, Germany and even Vatican City.

"Many law schools have just summer programs abroad, and often they just take their own professors to go study in Paris and teach American courses. This is truly learning about different legal systems, learning about different cultures and cooperations," Gormley said.

When the formal part of the ceremony ended, Solano, with the assistance of his son, Fernando, acting as a translator delivered a brief lecture on the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica.

Created in a 1989 amendment to the country's Constitution, the Constitutional Chamber is a vital element of the Costa Rican judiciary. Solano explained that the chamber has been responsible for determining the constitutionality of laws and

regulations pertaining to issues such as health, environment, equality, minority protection, and prison overpopulation.

Since its formal establishment in 2012, five Duquesne students have had the unique opportunity to intern with the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica.

Joseph Lewis, who participated in the program in the summer of 2018, between his second and third year of law school, described the experience as having "opened up doors for me later on."

During his eight weeks in Costa Rica, Lewis "had the opportunity to work with Olman Rodriguez, who's the law clerk for the entire judiciary there," as well as "write a couple of opinions for the board that were actually voted on later."

Josef Raszewski, Duquesne's most recent student involved in the program, who returned just two weeks ago, contrasted the Costa Rican and United States legal systems.

"They love to use comparative law... it's very important to their decisions," he said.

"When I was working on the case, I used a lot of American law to discuss the laws that we were discussing in the case".

He further explained that he intends to



DELANEY KARAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justice Luis Fernando Solano Carrera (left), David Dausey (middle), President Ken Gormley (right) sign Academic Cooperation Agreement.

"try to use what I learned down in Costa Rica and understand all these laws at a deeper level, see how they connect, and see how they relate to other bodies of law."

Offering advice to those interested in participating in the program, Raszewski recommended that students talk to Professor Barker, who is still very much involved with the program. He added that applicants should be ready to work, and not expect the experience to be a vacation.

Despite the rigor of working with the highest court in Costa Rica, Raszewski

shared that after his work day was done, he was able to have fun and make friends, explaining that he "thought of [himself] as a citizen... just living and working like anybody else."

Gormley is proud to have re-signed the agreement and continue Duquesne's partnership with Costa Rica's Supreme Court.

"It opened my eyes to understanding that other countries have totally different systems. And that's something that's important for students to understand as they enter a global world."



## WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Come Visit Us  
College Hall 113

Contact our  
editor-in-chief  
polene@duq.edu





## WSOC loses pair of one-goal games, now 1-3

**SEAN MCKEAN**  
staff writer

In two closely contested games, the Duquesne women's soccer team picked up a pair of losses in the last week- first at home to Youngstown State, then on the road vs. West Virginia.

Under the lights of Rooney Field, the Dukes fell to Youngstown State University on Thursday, Aug. 24th, 2-1.

In the opening minutes of the game, a great setup play from Duquesne's Mackenzie Muir allowed for a goal by Jaimi Araujo at the five-minute mark. After a strong first half which included four more shots on goal, Duquesne Head Coach Al Alvine spoke about how the early weakness from the Penguins fueled their first half.

"It gave them energy," Alvine said. "They're a team that feeds off that stuff, and it tilted the field in their favor a little bit."

However, the atmosphere around the game changed at the 36-minute mark, when the Penguins tied at one. For the rest of the half, the Dukes and Penguins jockeyed for possession, with neither team appearing to have control of the game.

Once the second half got under way, Youngstown began to take control of the ball in their offensive zone, getting three shots on goal in the first 20 minutes of the half. The Dukes tried to keep their form, getting three shots for themselves. From there, the Dukes' cohesion began to deteriorate.

"We knew we should've been up by a couple of goals just based

on the opportunities we had right in the box," Muir said. "Being 1-1 for so long was something we weren't comfortable with."

A similar sentiment was shared by Alvine.

"We thought we took control for a while, but when we get away from playing our game, it becomes a struggle for us," Alvine said. "When we stopped moving and passing in the game, it became a little slow for us."

The end of the second half can only be described as chaos. With constant shots on the goal and players going off the field with injuries, it was only a matter of time until something gave. With 34 seconds left in the game, YSU forward Chloe Weiland broke into the Duquesne half, outran two defenders, and beat Duquesne goalkeeper Maddy Nuendorfer to give the Penguins a 2-1 victory at the death.

Following the loss, Alvine commented on the undelivered potential he saw on the field.

"It's unfortunate we couldn't score three to four goals in the second half. We had plenty of opportunities. Sometimes, when you take risky chances at this level, it comes back to haunt you, and we saw that happen tonight."

"Every game is a new opportunity to learn something. Sometimes, lessons are learned from games like tonight. This loss hurts."

When asked about what specific factors led to the loss, Coach Alvine attributed it to multiple things coalescing.

"Being able to keep the ball and

trying to make good decisions out of the back," he said. "We got caught playing too direct in the second half. It's still very early in the season, so we're also still trying to find our full-backed fitness."

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, Coach Alvine still remains optimistic about the Dukes' chances.

"We know what this team's capable of. We got a great blend of new players and experience. Just looking forward to another opportunity to get back on the field, so we're excited for that."

Muir shared a similar level of optimism.

"I know we have it in us to play

like we did on Sunday against American University," she said, referring to the Dukes' dominant 5-0 blowout. "It's just a matter of working for each other."

On Sunday afternoon, the Dukes dropped a 1-0 contest to West Virginia, conceding less than three minutes after the opening kickoff. Despite holding the Mountaineers scoreless for the rest of the game, they failed to convert an equalizer. Outshot 22-6, the Dukes saw less than one-third of the possession.

The Dukes will be back in action on Thursday, when they travel three miles east to face Pitt in the city game. The Panthers enter the contest ranked 21st in the nation.



ISAIAH ODOM | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Duquesne's Karley Steiner (left) and Eva LaVecchia (right) exit the game during the Dukes' heartbreaking loss to Youngstown State on Thursday.

### Volleyball wins pair of games in New York

The Duquesne volleyball team began their 2023 campaign last weekend with a 2-1 tournament at the Binghamton Invitational, held at SUNY Binghamton. The Dukes opened up shop Friday with a 3-0 set sweep over Saint Peter's, an effort aided by sophomore hitter Carsyn Henschen's 16 kills. Duquesne went on to split a doubleheader Saturday, first losing in four sets to host Binghamton before handily sweeping Merrimack to finish the weekend at 2-1. Henschen had a total of 32 kills on the day, which landed her in the All-Tournament Team along with sophomore defender Madison Grimm. Another honor went to freshman setter Chloe Wilmot, who won the A-10 Rookie of the Week award thanks to her 104 assists over three games. Duquesne will return to action this weekend with a Friday double-header against Canisius at the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. On Saturday, the squad travels to Moon Township to face Robert Morris.

-Michael O'Grady, Staff Writer

## Steelers look to escape loaded AFC North in 2023

**AIDAN WEISS**  
Staff Writer

As the start of the NFL season approaches, hopes are high throughout western Pennsylvania as the Steelers try to contend for the AFC North crown and beyond. Last season, the Steelers finished with a 9-8 record, finishing third in the AFC North, and barely missing a playoff spot. With the moves made in the offseason, the team is expected to take the leap forward and get into playoff position.

The core of the offense is all back, mainly revolving around second-year quarterback Kenny Pickett. Pickett is coming off a rough statistical rookie season in which he had only 2,404 passing yards and seven touchdowns compared to nine interceptions. However, he showed promise in leading the team on many game-winning drives, such as in back-to-back weeks against the Las Vegas Raiders and the rival Baltimore Ravens.

Pickett has many weapons on hand. Najee Harris and Jaylen Warren will compete for reps in the backfield, while receivers Diontae Johnson and George Pickens, and tight end Pat Freiermuth will supplant the pass game.

In addition to this core, the team also made a trade with the Los Angeles Rams to bring in

slot receiver Allen Robinson, who is looking to bounce back after a rough season in 2022.

Additionally, notable acquisitions were made to bolster the offensive line. The team signed starting left guard Isaac Seumalo from Philadelphia, and drafted left tackle Broderick Jones in the first round of the draft. However, Jones appears entrenched in the backup role behind Dan Moore at left tackle, and Chukwuma Okorafor, James Daniels and Mason Cole all return to their roles from last season.

The defensive side of the ball was the strength of the team last year, as they finished among the top-10 across the NFL in most statistical categories. Along the defensive line, arguably the best defensive player in football, T.J. Watt, is hoping to play a full schedule this season after missing six games last year due to a torn pectoral. In his last full season, Watt tied the NFL record for sacks with 22.5. He will be supplemented by the newly extended Alex Highsmith and his NFL-leading five forced fumbles last season, along with veteran Cameron Heyward and his 10.5 sacks. Defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi also returns to round out the starters. The team also brought new talent to the defensive line through the draft by selecting Wisconsin run stuffer Keanu Benton in the second round and outside linebacker Nate Herbig in the

fourth.

Meanwhile, the linebacker core was completely redone, as Mark Robinson is the only remaining inside linebacker from 2022.

General Manager Omar Khan went to the free agent market to find replacements, bringing in Cole Holcomb from Washington on a three-year deal and Elandon Roberts from Miami on a two-year deal. Additionally, Kwon Alexander was signed during preseason to shore up the rotation depth. This group is considered to be the biggest question mark on the roster, and their play will be crucial in determining just how competitive the Steelers can be.

Another player to watch at the position is second round draft pick Joey Porter Jr. the son of former Steelers linebacker Joey Porter.

At cornerback, the team returns Levi Wallace from last year, but their big-name addition was former All-Pro Patrick Peterson.

Star safety Minkah Fitzpatrick returns alongside Damontae Kazee. Additionally, the team added Keanu Neal to provide depth and open the door for potential three-safety looks.

Finally, the special teams will be the same with kicker Chris Boswell, punter Pressley Harvin and long snapper Christian Kuntz, a Duquesne alum, all returning. As other teams throughout the league scramble to trade and

add their kickers, it seems that Pittsburgh is content with Boswell, who looked strong throughout preseason.

The team also returns most of the coaching staff, as Head Coach Mike Tomlin returns for his 16th season in charge. However, the big story of the offseason was whether to retain offensive coordinator Matt Canada, who's play calling often drew criticism from fans. A common theme was his resistance to utilize the sidelines and their dynamic receiving core in the pass game. He is back, along with defensive coordinator Teryl Austin.

The Steelers are looking to compete in 2023, even within their crowded division. Both the Cincinnati Bengals and Baltimore Ravens are coming off of postseason appearances, and the Cleveland Browns enter Deshaun Watson's first full season since 2020 with playoff-or-bust expectations.

All three teams are generally considered to be in their "window to win", with star players under the age of 30 under center. In fact, Kenny Pickett is the only starting quarterback in the division who has not made a pro bowl.

Considering the amount of promising talent on this year's squad, fans are hoping the Steelers will be able to compete in what is likely the deepest division in the entire league.



# Saba retires after 25 years in athletic dept.

**SPENCER THOMAS**

sports editor

One of the most familiar faces around Duquesne Athletics said goodbye earlier this month, as Dave Saba retired after a 25-year career as the Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations. He worked with a variety of teams around campus, including football and men's soccer, and spent every season of his time on the

Saba said, "And I just remember her coming home, and one day she had a set of game notes... She must have grabbed by accident."

Saba picked up and studied those notes. "It was so interesting," he said. "That kind of piqued my interest in the field." After working internships with the Philadelphia Eagles and the USFL's Pittsburgh Maulers, Saba was hired to work for the ticket office in Austin.

says gave him his break when he offered the chance to write occasionally in game programs. In 1988, Saba was offered the job as the baseball SID, and within a year he was with the team as they made a run to the National Championship game. Soon after, he was working with the basketball program as they made runs as deep as the Elite Eight. After 10 years, Saba went to Duquesne, and brought an unmatched level of competence and expertise.

"He was an ultimate professional when he came here, and he stayed like that his whole time," said Paul Hightower, Duquesne's Senior Assistant Athletic Director and a close friend of Saba. "He was always very consistent in what he did and how he handled things."

Despite being in a role that often goes unsung, Saba's talents caught the eyes of some big names in the industry. Hightower described how ESPN Senior Bracketologist Joe Lunardi described Saba as "having the best game notes of anybody in the business."

Hightower also attributed Saba's success to his people skills and personability.

"I think that when you last this long in this profession, a lot of that comes down to how well you deal with people and build relationships," he said.

In his quarter century, Saba built a towering list of friends from on the court to within the media. He described how his conversations with reporters would vary from basketball to each other's families and how they were doing. Even as people moved behind keyboards in place of face-to-face interaction, Saba valued the importance of human interaction.

"I miss the relationship aspect of things," he said, "To see kids grow up from a 17-year-old that would barely say a word to a 21-year-old graduate that is a polished adult ready to go out with the world. It's one of the most rewarding things about this job. It's just fun to

watch them grow up.

"I remember [Former Duquesne cornerback] Leigh Bodden standing in my office after he got a free-agent invite to the Browns and talking to him about how if he was going to make the team, he would have to excel on special teams... and I got to watch him up close."

Saba fondly ran down the extensive list of former players who he still keeps in touch with, including former basketball star Aaron Jackson, whose name is littered throughout the program's record books, and recently finished a decade long career playing professionally in Europe.

Saba also got the chance to work with household names like Randall Cunningham and Ricky Williams, as well as the thousands of names who passed by while Saba operated March Madness when it came to Pittsburgh five times during his tenure. Despite those brushes with celebrity, nothing meant as much to Saba as the people he got to know.

"Dave could be having a bad day and look up and see Aaron Jackson," Hightower said, "And suddenly he's in a great mood because he's seeing somebody that he genuinely cares about and makes him smile."

Over his career, Saba quite literally became a fixture courtside around the country. Last season he covered his 1,000th men's basketball game. "I have wondered at times what it would be like to have a weekend off and go home at 5," he said.

In 2001, when Hightower and Saba were in Greensboro for the NCAA tournament, news broke early in the morning that Duquesne's basketball coach had resigned. Hightower chuckled about seeing Saba jump out of bed and scramble to write press releases and contact the media.

"It'll be weird not having him around," Hightower said, "Especially during basketball season."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Dave Saba poses with Keith Dambrot and the men's basketball team on his final day of work. Saba covered 1,031 men's basketball games in his 35 years of work in college athletics

bluff with the basketball program.

After some time working in the athletic department at the University of Texas, Saba returned to his native Pittsburgh in August of 1998.

Despite being new to campus, Saba was no stranger to the once highly specialized industry of Sports Information. It was an interest that had found its way into his head long before.

"My sister was the director of promotions for the Pirates in the '70s,"

Despite not being within the department he desired; Saba left his landscaping job in Pittsburgh upon the advice of a friend. "I thought what the heck. I might as well give it a shot"

Upon landing in Dallas, he drove directly to the Cotton Bowl, where he worked at the will-call booth for the legendary Texas vs. Oklahoma rivalry game. Once things settled down, Saba got to know the Longhorns Sports Information Director Bill Little, who Saba

## MSOC falls to James Madison, beats Virginia Tech

**ROBBIE GRILL**

Staff Writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team started the season with mixed results, splitting a pair of contests in the Fairfield Inn by Marriott Invitational.

Duquesne lost the opening game to James Madison 3-1, but bounced back to defeat Virginia Tech 5-1.

In the latter game, midfielder Ask Ekeland scored a hat trick, the fourth in the program's history and the first since Austin Lange's in 2014.

Ekeland won the Atlantic-10 Offensive Player of the Week award for his performance over the two matches. In 112 minutes of action, he took six shots, with four on goal.

The Dukes opened their year against James Madison, who Duquesne beat and shut out last year on Rooney Field.

Duquesne went down early in the first half when James Madison's Clay Obara scored in the 12th minute and less than

four minutes later, Kevin Larsson doubled JMU's advantage. Fifteen minutes later, Larsson scored his second of the evening, leaving the Dukes three goals down 30 minutes into the season.

In the 57th minute, senior Cameron Territo scored. Jayden Da and Grant McIntosh were credited with assists. Although the scoreline didn't look too good for Duquesne, there were some indicators that their performance was not accurately reflected in the 3-1 loss.

In the second half, Duquesne outshot James Madison 12 to 5. Over the course of the whole game, Duquesne got off two more shots than James Madison did.

Just three days later, the Dukes would play their second game of the year against a Virginia Tech team looking to bounce back from a poor 2022 season.

The Hokies finished dead last in the ACC last year, not winning a single game within the conference. In this year's preseason coaches poll, Virginia Tech was

once again projected to finish last in the Coastal Division.

However, the Dukes fell behind early after a 21st minute goal by Virginia Tech's Ethan Ballek. Conor Pugh shot a ball right through the middle of the box to find Ballek's foot.

This time, however, Duquesne responded with a goal before the deficit got worse. Originally thought to be Zach Mowka's goal, it was ultimately given to junior defender Christoffer Vie Angell, giving him his fourth goal as a Duke.

Although Virginia Tech outshot Duquesne 7-4 in the first half, Duquesne came out firing on all cylinders in the second half.

Junior forward Jayden Da scored his first goal of the year in the 53rd minute after finding himself on the end of a ball from Anthony DiFalco.

Just over two minutes later, the sophomore Ekeland found the back of the net for the first time of the game.

Ekeland would go on to score in the 62nd and 76th minutes to achieve a hat trick. Jaxon Ervin provided the assist for the second goal, while Tate Mohny and Cameron Territo were credited with assists on the third goal.

The Hokies went a man down in the 64th minute after sophomore midfielder Ben Fisher was shown a straight red card. Duquesne narrowly outshot Virginia Tech 16-15 in the game. Duquesne also successfully defended 11 corner kicks from the Hokies.

The Dukes will now turn their attention to their home opener on Thursday night, when they take on Bowling Green at 7. The Dukes have won two consecutive home openers, and will look to continue that streak against the Falcons, who are also 1-1. Of six all-time matchups between the two programs, five have gone to overtime.

After that matchup, the Dukes will enjoy a 10-day break from action before a trip to New York to face Niagara.



Oddities & Curiosities Expo a ‘wicked good time’

ZACH PETROFF  
opinions editor

Creeping into Pittsburgh like a creature in the dark, the Oddities and Curiosities Expo found a haven at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Saturday. Not for the faint of heart, the traveling convention aimed to attract those looking to avoid the sun and explore the darker side of life.

In the case of Lilith Vonnichtshade of Penn Hills, it was a chance to interior decorate.

“We have a Tudor style home, it’s very traditional with a tongue and groove ceiling,” Vonnichtshade said. “It’s very cozy and warm with a cottage style. We’ve been looking for something to kind of fit that vibe and then we found this dude.”

The “dude” being the mounted head of an adult male caribou, whose impressive stature stood over four feet tall with its antlers.

“He will go great with my ‘Funeral Parking Only’ sign,” Vonnichtshade said. “Which is perfect because I also own a hearse.”

Stopping in Pittsburgh for the first time as part of a 30-city tour, the Oddities and Curiosity Expo is a traveling convention that features a hearse car show, a taxidermy class, an old-timey clown museum and vendors from all over the country showing off and selling their strange and unusual wares.

The event seemed to have everything one’s black heart could desire.

Owner and creator of the expo, Michelle Cozzaglio, started the expo in her hometown of Tulsa, Okla. in 2017 as a way for small business owners to sell their “unusual stuff.” Cozzaglio said she never imagined that her hobby would grow into a continental phenomenon.

“It really just comes from my own personal love of dark art oddities,” Cozzaglio said. “And now we’re doing shows all over the country.”

Saturday was no exception as the David L. Lawrence Convention Center featured 150 vendors with about 9,000 people attending, according to Cozzaglio.

“This expo draws that intriguing

thought,” Cozzaglio said. “People are like ‘what am I going to see at a place like that?’ And as I always say, this show is for lovers of the strange and unusual.”

Yesica Venturo, along with three of her friends, drove from Maryland for a chance to partake in the unusualness.

“Personally I love the wet specimens,” Venturo said. “I’ve never had any, so this is kind of the perfect market to shop around and see what I can find.”

The Georgetown law student was able to find her wet specimen, which ended up being a dead rat in a clear vial. Filled with a solution of ethanol along with a purple dye from inside the rat’s skeleton making the former furball a permanent piece of art.

Venturo found the expo was a perfect place to express herself and be among people who also have a love for the harrowing side of life.

“I think it’s not a bad thing to kind of explore out of your comfort zone,” Venturo said. “And when you do actually find a community of people that really support it and make creepy art like this, and you dive into that area, then you can really find a lot of stuff that you wouldn’t have thought you liked.”

Local Pittsburghers also partook in the fun, as Nick Poluha found the expo as a perfect opportunity to go shopping for his sister.

“We got her a cat head,” Poluha said. “She’s graduating from mortuary school so we think it’s the perfect gift.”

For those looking for something less grotesque, there were plenty of other creepy collections to torment one’s soul.

Owner of the Weeping Glass, Kelly Braden, was one of the vendors at Saturday’s event. Her shop, located in Allentown specializes in “Oddities, curiosities, unusual gifts, odd art, natural history, ephemera, melancholia and sadness,” according to their website.

One of the more popular brands of Braden’s tea is the Black Collection, which includes names like Nocturnal Black, Widow Black and Nocturnal Black.

Braden was “delightfully mortified” for the increased business and the growing gothic community.



ZACH PETROFF | OPINIONS EDITOR

Local resident Nick Poluha purchases a mummified cat head from Chicago Curiosities as a graduation gift for his sister who just completed mortuary school.

“I’ve been in the oddities business for like 10 years and there’s always been a community for it in Pittsburgh,” Braden said. “Everything we’ve done has always been heavily supported.”

Included in that younger generation was 10-year old Foster Wright of Detroit, whose love of the “Chucky” movies inspired him to sell his horror movie watercolor paintings at the expo.

“One day I was on YouTube, when I was like 4,” Foster said. “And I saw this video edit of Chucky and I literally screamed out ‘I like Chucky!’ My mom and dad were upset but from then I just started becoming obsessed with Chucky stuff.”

Foster, who draws inspiration from horror makeup artist and puppeteer Kevin Yeager, has found success selling his art at the expos.

“With the last show, I was able to buy a PlayStation 5,” Foster said.

And for those looking to get the full convention experience, patrons were able to take a 6-hour taxidermy class.

Focusing on beginners, Heather Clark of Cocoa Beach, Fla. provided sustainably sourced frozen feeder rabbits for students to learn the basics of taxidermy.

“This class gives you the initial

information that you need to build from,” Clark said. “You’re going to learn basic inductor level taxidermy with one-on-one instruction. It’s entry level so people can learn everything they need to know to make our little mounts.”

Being adorable was not the only reason Clark chose to use rabbits for her class of around 20 participants.

“They are very forgiving,” Clark said. “So when mistakes are made, which happens when you’re new at something, that fur is really forgiving and it helps create better looking mounts at the end.”

Angie Silhan missed the expo when it came to her hometown in Richmond, Va., but her boyfriend surprised her with the full-day tutorial.

Shilhan said it has been something she has been interested in learning how to do for a long time.

“I’ve always collected bones and pinned butterflies and insects,” Shilhan said. “I then kind of grew into wet specimens, and then real taxidermy, so it’s been a natural progression.”

It didn’t take long for Silhan to name her new dead pet.

“I named him Beelzebub,” Silhan said. “It’s a demon name because he’s all black and [has] little red eyes.”

CAMPUS  
EVENTS

Extra Life 24 Hour Livestream  
Sept. 1 @ 6 p.m.

Join the RPG club in the Africa Room for a 24-hour long marathon of games to support Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across the country!

DU Cares KickOff Tailgate  
Sept. 2 @ 11 a.m.

Join the DU Cares staff on College Hall lawn for a sober version of a tailgate. Food and drinks provided along with many yard games!

Trip to Phipps Conservatory: Flowers Meets Fashion  
Sept. 2 @ 9:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Center for Student Involvement. Transportation is not provided.

Cards for Veterans  
Sept. 3 @ 9 p.m.

Join the Center for Student Involvement at the Union NiteSpot to create cards for Veterans!

EMILY'S  
EPIPHANIES

Be a Light

“We work on ourselves in order to help others, but also we help others in order to work on ourselves.”

~ Pema Chodron

Welcome to week two of the semester.

You may be feeling sleepy as you adjust to morning classes, overwhelmed as you watch the syllabi assignments stack upon one another, or, maybe you’re in your stride.

Whatever your case may be, I find that it is most helpful to give another what I am most in need of.

Perhaps you can lend a shoulder to someone in need of a cry, or a friend to someone lonely, or even a pencil to someone having a rough morning.

Be a light in someone’s day. Strive to uplift others and you will uplift yourself.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

#15, Burger King foot lettuce

Pisces ♓

And I am a flightless bird.

Aries ♈

I am surprisingly calm although I am aware I have absolutely no reason to be.

Taurus ♉

Hips don’t lie?  
YES THEY DO. TAX EVASION.

Gemini ♊

I believe in you and so does Jimmy Carter.

Cancer ♋

“Presumed human remains”  
AKA: a people smoothie

Leo ♌

Anxiety spaghetti

Virgo ♍

Fight them right now.  
I can fight.

Libra ♎

I can feel it in my nuggets.

Scorpio ♏

This too shall pass.  
Perhaps like a kidney stone,  
but it will pass.

Sagittarius ♐

I’m technologically illiterate,  
Kymberlee.

Capricorn ♑

But what are the koalafications?  
Marsupial



# Sloths “hang out” for their birthday at the Aviary

EMMA POLEN  
editor-in-chief

The National Aviary of Pittsburgh celebrated their slowest birthday party of the year, with two of their resident two-toed sloths – Vivien, 6, and Wookiee, 23 – aging up last week.

Visitors could participate in many hands-on activities in celebration of the sloths, which included signing Wookiee and Vivien’s birthday card, coloring sloth headbands and sing-



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valentino, the two-toed sloth, signed the birthday card for Wookiee and Vivien.

ing happy birthday while special cakes were presented individually to the birthday sloths.

Each sloth’s cake included a variety of their favorite treats. Christa Gaus, senior manager of animal programs at the National Aviary, shared that the special sloth cake recipe includes hibiscus flowers, nutritious biscuits, and icing made out of sweet potatoes and leafy greens.

The National Aviary hosts three linnaeus two-toed sloths, characterized as such by their two front claws.

The birthday festivities concluded when the aviary’s third two-toed sloth, Valentino, signed the birthday card. Gaus called him “Leonardo Slow-vinci” due to his fascination with art and painting.

Gaus has worked with animals at the National Aviary for a total of 17 years. In fact, even before starting at the aviary, she already knew Wookiee the sloth.

“[We] go way back,” Gaus said.

During her work with the animals, Gaus has observed the unique personalities of the creatures, even within the same species.

While sloths are considered solitary creatures, they all inter-

act with their trainers, each other and their enclosure differently.

Vivienne the sloth appreciates her routine and her behavior is more cautious, Gaus said, while Valentino is more curious, and tends to offer more behaviors, including his painting.

Even the sloths’ birthday cakes were customized to their specific taste. Wookiee prefers carrots and green peppers, while Vivienne prefers other vegetables for her dinner.

Behind the scenes, aviary staff are working to cater to animal preferences and build trusting relationships, and this comes with understanding their natural history and integrating as much natural care as possible into daily observations.

Gaus said her job becomes even more rewarding when she and the other trainers at the aviary have a breakthrough with one of the resident animals.

A frequent patron of the aviary, Terri visited the aviary often enough to notice the sloths’ different behaviors as well.

“Sometimes Wookiee hides,” she said, but for his birthday, the sloth was not shy. The frequent visitor said she has always been

fascinated with sloths, and she is proud to have three right in the Pittsburgh area.

“He is magic,” Terri said as Wookiee steadily climbed across the branches. “They move a lot faster than you think.”

Terri, who declined to give her last name, has made the trip to the Aviary several times, and even had the chance to make Wookiee his dinner during one special experience. “If I lived down here [in the city of Pittsburgh], I would work here,” she said.

“We love sloths,” said Amanda Isenberg and her daughter, Amira. They visit the aviary a couple times a year. Amira brought her long-time friend, Slothy – a stuffed sloth who has seen lots of love – and she was sporting a tie-dye sloth shirt. Isenberg said back at home, Amira has a sloth-themed bedroom, too.

“Truly a sloth fanatic,” Isenberg called her.

The reason for getting guests to “celebrate the animals we have here,” Gaus said, was, at its core, to “inspire conservation efforts.”

Conservation efforts for the National Aviary promote teaching visitors about the animals they see, and to solve several miscon-

ceptions about the animals.

For example, sloths move slower to conserve their energy, but they can actually move about 6 feet per minute, which is equivalent to a human running a slow-paced jog, Gaus said.

“Focus on what we do in front of desks, but also our conservation efforts behind the scenes,” Becca Hansborough, the content and communications manager at the National Aviary. More information about the aviary’s efforts can be found at [aviary.org/conservation](http://aviary.org/conservation).



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Amira hugs her sloth friend, who keeps her company in her themed bedroom.

# Taco Fest: Music, salsa dancing, artwork and more!

ACE SEVIGNY  
staff writer

Nestled in the Strip District, was a one-of-a-kind festival. The annual Taco Festival at The Stacks combines many aspects of Mexican and Latin-American culture, brimming with style and adding a splash of color to the Strip District with vibrant art and music.

This past weekend offered a unique experience, with traditional mariachi music, locally sourced tamarind juice, salsa dancing and the work of Latinx artists.

Food trucks and vendors lined the perimeter of the festival, and guests were quick to grab a bite of something familiar with a creative twist. Crowds were dense as each festival goer attempted to choose the best dish. Among the dining vendors was World Chef, a food truck dedicated to serving internationally inspired cuisine.

World Chef offered a “Taco World Tour,” which consisted of three different tacos beautifully displayed in one dish.

The trio featured a Hawaiian-inspired pulled pork taco, an American buffalo chicken dip taco and a Brazilian beef taco. Each of these tacos had a unique and original taste profile, though for those repelled by pineapple on pizza, perhaps the Hawaiian proved too adventurous.

The truck also offered buffalo chicken nachos, which allowed for a Mexican twist on an American favorite.

Aside from the festival’s namesake, vendors also celebrated Mexican and Latin-American culture by serving other traditional dishes, such as empanadas, quesadillas, burritos, elotes, agua frescas and other street foods.

With more than 25 stands to choose from, booths had a multitude of meat options, including chicken, beef, carnitas (slow-roasted pulled pork) and chorizo (a Mexican sausage).

Many also had vegetarian of-

ferings that relied heavily on vegetables and other plant-based meat alternatives inside tortillas or on a bed of chips.

Festival goers also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to send summer off with a final hurrah. With August being the last full month of the season, Taco Fest was the perfect opportunity to cherish the heat before the cold of fall sets in.

In addition to serving the “greatest hand-food known to man,” as described on Pittsburgh Taco Fest’s official website, the event also celebrated Latin-American heritage through art,

music and dance.

Colorful paintings adorned the space and several booths offered local and homemade crafts, giving the event a livelier atmosphere, akin to the feeling of entering a friend’s home.

Richardo Solis, owner of mixed media shop Costa RicArt, sold small keychains and other art pieces made with upcycled materials, including bottle caps and paper.

“Part of my inspiration comes from biodiversity and the goal to reduce my environmental footprint,” Solis told Handmade Arcade in 2019. Solis’ art featured various animals, jokes and Pittsburgh de-

tailing. His booth was filled with small magnets, pop-sockets, stickers and framed prints.

Another beacon of art at Taco Fest was the painted bus from Pittsburgh Art Bus, which featured a personified ram and a cat playing music on one side, and a woman bursting with color on the other.

Live music and salsa dancing also added to the ambiance of the festival. Musical talents were shared by Hugo Cruz and Caminos, PHDC Traditional Dance, Gavas Beat and Guaracha.

Returning to the main stage for a third year was local mariachi band, Mariachi Internacional.

“[We love] giving the people of Pittsburgh...mariachi music from Mexico,” said member of Mariachi Internacional, Jose Luis Nevarrete.

Other family friendly activities included live painting, community canvas and face painting. Many of the activities, dining options and artists required additional spending at the festival, but Pittsburgh Taco Fest partners very closely with Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation (PHDC) and Casa San Jose, which both receive generous proceeds from the event to further the education and presence of Latin-American culture and traditions in the Pittsburgh area.



ACE SEVIGNY | STAFF WRITER

Pittsburgh Taco Fest added a vivid layer of color to the Strip District.



ACE SEVIGNY | STAFF WRITER

“Taco World Tour” featured a trio of recipes.



ACE SEVIGNY | STAFF WRITER

Richardo Solis of Costa RicArt posed with sustainable pieces.



## THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall  
600 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

## editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Emma Polen
news editor	Megan Trotter
opinions editor	Zach Petroff
features editor	Isabella Abbott
a&e editor	Emily Fritz
sports editor	Spencer Thomas
multimedia editor	Brentaro Yamane
ads manager	Nicholas Zotos
layout editor	Emily Ambery

## administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

“To be yourself in a  
world that is  
constantly trying to  
make you something  
else is the greatest  
accomplishment.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

email: theduquduke@gmail.com



COURTESY OF FLICKR

Aflac released a report in April stating that almost 60% of American workers are experiencing a level of burnout.

## Grinding down to a 4-day workweek

I know it is only the second week of the semester, but I feel like somehow I am months behind in most of my classes.

I don't know about you, but I need a day off, on a permanent basis.

With my second favorite holiday, Labor Day, happening on Monday, I think it is a fitting time to reexamine the typical workweek and move to a more adaptive schedule for the average American worker. In the spirit of the American labor movement's success in the latter part of the 19th century, the moment has finally come to progress from the archaic 5-day 40-hour workweek to a more reasonable schedule.

This summer I was elated when I was given the opportunity to intern at a daily newspaper in a neighboring county. It was a paid gig, where I was given the opportunity to work the evening shift which was noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday with weekends off.

I felt like a real reporter.

I have heard stories from professors and seasoned reporters about the grind of a newsroom, and how new journalists have to put in the extra effort to make a name for themselves. Often framed as tales of caution, I interpreted these accounts as a romantic rite-of-passage. I pictured myself sitting at a desk frantically typing away as sweat dripped from my forehead onto the keyboard with my editor breathing down my neck.

While it sounds depraved, I longed for a chance to show my worth and prove that I could hang with the seasoned reporters. What art is worth anything without a level of suffering?

My goal this summer was that if I could not impress my editors with my writing, I was going to “wow” them with my work ethic.

And I did. I showed up early, stayed late, did whatever it took to hone my craft. I even worked the obituaries desk when there was a call off. I wanted to show the publication that was willing to take a chance on me that I was willing to put in the work.

Then something happened.

My brain reached muscle failure.

Now to clarify, I am not what you would call a “tight” writer. Ask any poor soul that has had to edit my first copy and they would be remiss not to mention all the “dumb” mistakes I make. My first drafts see so much red on them you would think they

are from the former Soviet Union.

But my “dumb” mistakes evolved. Toward the end of the summer, my typical mistakes not only increased in frequency but in scope. I found the writing to be uninspired and just plain sloppy.

Perhaps it was complacency, ego or even simply laziness. All of these were undoubtedly factors for this sharp decline, but I knew there was something else happening.

I was mentally exhausted. I was running out of steam.

As a marine, I was once given a Commendation Medal for a mission in Afghanistan that required me to be awake for 72 hours straight, so

moderate levels of burnout. A 9% increase from the last year.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that U.S. workers work, on average, 442 more hours per year than Germany, 295 more than the UK, 301 more hours than France and 184 more hours than Japan.

That seems to go against the “lazy American” stereotype.

The Seattle Times reported last week that San Juan County Council in Washington voted to move 70% of its county's workers to a 32 hour week, stating that a shorter work week is “socially responsible” and will make employees “more efficient.”

San Juan County, according to Seattle Times, said the county's transition to a 4-day workweek transpired from the findings published by the independent progressive research organization, “Autonomy,” who released a report in February on the results for a pilot UK program where 61 companies switched to a 32-hour work week for six months.

“Of the 61 companies that participated, 56 are continuing with the 4-day week, with 18 confirming the policy is a permanent change,” the report stated.

The report also concluded that companies' revenues stayed “broadly the same” during the time period.

The report found healthy growth of 35% during work-time reduction, compared to a similar period from previous years.

I am fortunate enough to be pursuing a career that fills me with passion. I am hoping to be one of the few people that get to make art for a living. Many of my fellow students, along with millions of workers who will not have the luxury of a college education, will not be so lucky.

This whole “grind” culture phenomena that is invading our algorithm on social media needs to be recognized for what it really is; another tactic used to exploit an underappreciated working class.

The short work week that we will experience next week does not have to just come on the rare holiday. A chance for a better work life balance is within our grasp.

We just have to work for it.



ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

I had a hard time fathoming that a writing job would be able to kick my butt. Once I removed my male driven ego from the equation, it was clear. Mental exhaustion is just as draining as physical exhaustion.

Our brains are muscles, and as any fitness trainer will tell you, one of the most crucial parts of building muscle is rest. When we work out, we are tearing our muscles down and the strength building occurs when that muscle gets repaired. Our brains are not much different than our biceps in this way.

We all have limits. Whether it's a blue-or-white-collar job, the typical 40-hour work week is taking its toll. Aflac released a report in April, stating that almost 60% of American workers are experiencing at least

STAFF  
EDITORIALHawaii needs more  
than gestures

Some are saying to avoid travel to Hawaii, others are begging people to come to keep their tourism economy afloat.

We have always treated Hawaii like a vacation state and ignored the collateral damage of our colonialism and treatment of native peoples.

Due to our careless commodification, we have enabled Hawaii to become a luxurious playground for the rich, allowing housing costs to soar beyond the Pacific horizon while forcing the indigenous peoples of Polynesia into crowded multigenerational homes.

Now, in the midst of the devastating Maui fires, housing is even more sparse, crammed and costly for people trying to keep their roots in their homeland.

Not only that, but we are losing hundreds to the devastation in Hawaii's wake and tainting sacred water sources in our ineptitude to keep them safe.

Named the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in more than a century, the Maui fires have taken 115 lives and left countless others missing. Search parties are scouring the shores to look for those who fled to the water to avoid the flames.

Federal aid and public fundraising are gestures that go unfelt by those in need of support. To add insult to injury, Hawaiians are still facing the ramifications of clout-chasing celebrities and ingenuine corporations attempting ridiculous ways to disguise their actions as a token of helpfulness when in actuality, they are ignoring the Hawaiian voices that need to be listened to.

To make matters worse, we've introduced a harsh double standard within our nation's treatment of island entities: Puerto Rico was without power for far too long without any aid last time an American island went out of commission.

Not once, but twice Puerto Ricans have been victim to harsh hurricanes and a crumbling power grid, unsupported by federal infrastructure efforts and left in the dark for months at a time. Hurricane Maria struck in 2017 and last year, Hurricane Fiona tormented islanders again, regardless of what political party held office.

What's the difference and why the double standard?

We use Hawaii as our vacation home and we have left Puerto Ricans to crumble in poverty without federal or state voting rights.

We have drawn the line where we can use these assets, disregarding the peoples whose livelihoods rely on mainland U.S. and our elected officials to protect them and value them for who they are, not how we can exploit



## Capital punishment is not moral justice

ELIYAHU GASSON  
staff writer

In my last article for the Duke about Robert Bowers, “Combating Hate with Mercy,” I thought using the death penalty in this case, as well as any other case, was immoral. With Bowers set to be killed by the federal government, I can confidently say that I still hold this belief.

We, as a country, do not value mercy enough. We like to assume that we know when it is okay to kill another person.

Bowers is no longer an immediate threat to anyone. He’s behind bars, where he cannot do what he did in 2018 ever again. The jurors in this case, as well as supporters of the verdict, are claiming, whether they like it or not, that killing in the name of vengeance is acceptable.

Please, don’t misunderstand me, I hate Bowers. He attacked my community. I hope he thinks about the damage he caused to the victims and families of the victims who were praying that Shabbat morning.

As evil as I think Bowers is, I would not want anyone to go through the experience of living on death row.

For the next decade or so, Bowers will suffer severe mental anguish as he waits for his turn to die. He will find himself paralyzed by the pancuronium bromide used to keep him from expressing the pain induced by the potassium chloride. Fire will set to his veins before it stops his heart. He will be given a sedative, midazolam, however the chance that it eases the pain is questionable at best.

None of that sounds like justice to me.

I understand the want to prolong the suffering of Bowers. I think it is only natural for us to feel this way toward people like Bower who kill innocent people based on lies.

We saw Bowers hunt down innocent worshipers in a place they felt the most safe in, in what is the most deadly attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States.

He has done irreparable harm to my community, which is still mourning this tragedy.

I want to see him face the consequences of his actions, but I don’t think being tortured and killed by the government is a fair consequence.

If what you really want is to mercifully punish Bowers, wouldn’t living

out the rest of his natural life to ruminate on what he has done be more effective? Our justice system is wrong for willingly not giving the perpetrator the rest of their life to maul over the damage they left.

There are some people I know who believe that the death penalty’s usefulness outweighs the questionable morals behind it. They argue that by using the death penalty, we are creating a deterrent for future criminals. This is not verifiable, however. There is no credible evidence that killing prisoners is a better deterrent for crime than long-term imprisonment.

Don’t you think we would have fewer massacres like we did in Squirrel Hill if the death penalty was an ample deterrent?

Bowers likely knew shooting up a synagogue would end with him in custody or dead. The same is true for the man who attacked Muslim worshipers in Christchurch, New Zealand, and for Dylann Roof, who shot up a Black church in Charleston, South Carolina. The people who commit such heinous crimes are not rational actors.

Deterrence does not work on irrational people who cannot figure out what is

best for themselves and think that all their problems stem from some minority group or another.

Our justice system is irrational for thinking that killing criminals is an effective deterrent for future mass murderers. The death penalty being upheld in this case serves as an indictment of American justice.

Our country is acting irrationally by continuing to dole out death sentences. Our nation needs to begin thinking rationally — we need to be better than Bowers.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Tree of Life shooting is deadliest attack on the Jewish community in American history.

## Netflix fails to tell the entire story

SPENCER THOMAS  
sports editor

As long as it has been the premier service for entertainment streaming, Netflix has always touted their commercial-free environment, but that doesn’t mean they don’t participate in their fair share of promotional content.

An escalating trend has seen Netflix produce a series of “documentaries” that are just dressed-up marketing for their subjects.

The latest installment of this trend is their sports documentary series, “Untold: Swamp Kings,” which covers the Florida Gators football teams of the late 2000s, who were as well known for their success on the field as their personalities off it.

The 2008 national championship team, led by Urban Meyer and Tim Tebow, reportedly had 41 of its players arrested at some point. Yet, the documentary opts to ignore the majority of these stories, and instead frames their success as some kind of inspirational culmination of leadership and magnetic personalities.

Within 10 minutes of the first episode, Meyer brags about how he inherited a program that lacked discipline. He talked about how his family’s military background influenced his iron-fisted approach to the team. Dramatic music plays as Meyer’s players go through brutal conditioning drills aimed to weed out players who lacked discipline and commitment. Their eventual success makes it appear that Meyer had reshaped the culture in the locker room.

The documentary does not mention

how wide receiver Percy Harvin attacked one of his own coaches in the clubhouse.

The most extreme tightrope act comes when mentioning Aaron Hernandez. The star tight end was convicted of first-degree murder in 2012 while playing for the New England Patriots. He also had a series of off the field issues while in Gainesville. The documentary mentions Hernandez’s involvement in a locker room fight, but not his involvement in a double homicide less than five years later.

Any mention of future superstar Cam Newton getting kicked off the team? Nope. Shots of Tim Tebow reading the Bible by a pool at sunset? Absolutely.

These mind-boggling omissions feel like production errors, but in reality, they are indicative of an increasing trend of documentaries favoring a glitzy retelling of one side of the story over an in-depth investigation of the whole.

I can only speculate, but I’d assume that the documentary only landed their three biggest talking heads — Meyer, Tebow and SEC Network employee Paul Finebaum — on the condition that crucial aspects of the narrative be manipulated or omitted.

For future documentaries, Netflix ought to focus on the truth. If that keeps the people who are only in it for good PR from telling their side of the story, then so be it. Carry on and tell the complete story as best as possible. They wouldn’t get an interview or access from some enigmatic names, but at least it’d be real journalism, which is good for producers and consumers.

Other recent examples of this include Johnny Manziel’s documentary, which

doesn’t include interviews with anyone from the Cleveland Browns, the team that signed Johnny Football during his 9-month NFL career. Had another side of the story been told, it’s likely Manziel’s participation in the documentary would be in danger.

“McGregor Forever” covers UFC star Conor McGregor’s losing streak through behind the scenes footage that was likely handed over to Netflix on the condition they omit footage of McGregor assaulting an elderly man over a shot of whiskey.

These digital puff-pieces aren’t exclusive to the sports realm either. In 2022, “Harry and Meghan,” was a documentary series covering the drama surrounding Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s ordeal with the British Royal Family. Yet, despite starring Harry, Meghan, her family, Serena Williams and even Tyler Perry, there is only one interview with a member of the royal family. And no disrespect for Prince Eugenia, but it wasn’t anybody particularly insightful on the controversy. The Royal Family claims it was not contacted for comment.

Netflix earns the bulk of its subscribers through content that trends in the short term, which is what these “tell-all” stories with massive celebrities attached to them always do. But, if somebody were to produce a much more in-depth and impartial narrative, they might not get the big names to put on a poster or thumbnail. The film would be a more enduring success, one that years later, people can look to as a time capsule of what really happened.

However, steaming services are not

looking for long-term investments. They’ll take the fireworks over a slow burn every day of the week.

These documentaries are so easy and cheap to produce when withholding the truth means that producers get access to every interview and big name they could want. That’s why streaming services that make their money off content that trends for weeks at a time love to take these stories and mishandle them. It is simply cheaper and more profitable in a monthly streaming world to tell one side of the story than a thorough and honest narrative. It’s what Netflix has begun doing, and what they’ll continue to do.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Urban Meyer was the Head Coach of the Florida Gators from 2005 to 2010.

**FOLLOW  
THE DUKE**

**Instagram**  
[@TheDuquesneDuke](#)  
**Facebook**  
[The Duquesne Duke](#)

**YouTube**  
[The Duquesne Duke](#)  
**Twitter**  
[@TheDuquesneDuke](#)

**Advertise with us!**  
[duqudukeads@gmail.com](#)



# Gimme Four keeps Barbershop music alive

ISABELLA ABBOTT  
features editor

When hearing the words “barbershop quartet,” one may think of four men wearing vests, straw hats, bow ties and sleeve garters with signature barber shop pole colors of red, white and blue.

But for the group Gimme Four, more modern approaches are used, including a nice jacket with the occasional use of a bow tie. Mary Pappert School of Music alumni Dave Ammirata, the group’s lead, said the typical barbershop style isn’t used often anymore.

“I feel like most people think of a barbershop quartet, and they think of Jimmy Fallon and the Ragtime Gals where everybody’s wearing a striped suit and have hats on and garters,” Ammirata said. “But that’s really not what barbershops are anymore. There is a quartet that kind of embraces that image, and they were modeled after the Dapper Dans who sing at Disney World, but most 99.9% of other quartets don’t wear that.”

And although barbershop quartets are less popular in this generation, many groups still sing in the a cappella style today.

According to the Barbershop Harmony Society, approximately 850 quartets are registered with the society in the U.S. and Canada, including another estimated 1,000 more active quartets who are not officially registered.

In every quartet, there is a tenor who harmonizes above the melody, a bass who sings the lowest harmonizing notes, a baritone who provides in-between notes to form pleasing chords and a lead who carries the melody in the second-highest voice.

Bass of the group and full-time orchestra teacher Will Downey said he enjoys

being a part of the quartet because of their singing style.

“We tend to sing in what is called very tight harmony, so our voices are always very close together, and it creates this certain high when you do it,” Downey

They felt a special bond as alumni.

Fast forward a couple of years, they all sang with an a cappella group in their area called The Dapper Dans of Harmony where they were four younger members of the group, which ultimately led to their



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE AMMIRATA

The group ‘Gimme Four’ opened for Jay Leno in 2017 and said it’s one of their favorite memories performing. They opened for him at The Freeman Stage at Bayside in Delaware.

said. “Basically, when four people or even two people are singing together, they’re creating more notes than are actually there, so there’s what’s called overtones, and it’s like this head high that you get when you do it, which made me fall in love with it.”

The four of them met in high school and were part of the same a cappella group, The Retromen at different times.

beginning, Ammirata said.

“We decided to learn one song, and everybody went crazy and gave us a standing ovation and we were like, ‘should we continue this? I think we have something special.’”

And they did have something special. The baritone of the group, Joe Servidio, said their audiences continue to appreciate their music to this day.

“My favorite part of being in the quar-

tet is the rush of energy you get when you are giving everything you have to the performance and the audience is really enjoying your music so they send it back to you on stage,” Servidio said. “It’s not just applause, it’s the feeling that you created a moment for the audience that they hopefully never forget.”

Gimme Four may seem to be a normal title for a singing group of four, but that’s not the case for Paul, Joe, Will and Dave.

“Most people would assume that we are called Gimme Four because a quartet has four people and a four-part harmony,” Ammirata said.

The name was suggested by a chorus acquaintance in New Jersey, Ammirata said, one who only had four fingers on one hand instead of five, and used the phrase when he wanted a high-five.

Thinking the name wouldn’t last long, the four of them went with it while entering their first contest, and it’s stuck ever since.

“Looking back on it, a name is what you make of it,” Ammirata said.

Though the group only gets together typically once a month due to being spread out across the world, they still find time to come together for weddings, street fairs, competitions, and even opening for Jay Leno in 2017 at The Freeman Stage at Bayside in Delaware.

Their 12 years together keep them ready and willing to sing, which can be seen in their two released albums available for purchase on their website at [gimfour.squarespace.com/store](http://gimfour.squarespace.com/store).

“Nothing can compare to the feeling of the crowd’s energy, passion and joy,” the tenor, Paul Franek said.

“Being able to change someone’s night or maybe even change their life is the greatest gift performing has bestowed on me and on us.”



The group has met many well-known stars like Andy Cohen, pictured here, and Jay Leno. From left to right is Dave Ammirata, Will Downey, Andy Cohen, Paul Franek and Joe Servidio.



Gimme Four has performed an array of songs on many different occasions including weddings, street fairs, competitions and even at the Citizens Bank Park for a Phillies game.



WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE

Contact  
[polene@duq.edu](mailto:polene@duq.edu)



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



EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT IN  
COLLEGE HALL

PITCH STORY  
IDEAS AND GET  
TO KNOW THE  
EDITORIAL STAFF!

VISIT US IN COLLEGE HALL 113 OR  
EMAIL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EMMA POLEN  
(THEDUQDUKE@GMAIL.COM OR POLENE@DUQ.EDU)

want Ads?

Email

Duqdukeads@gmail.

The Duquesne Duke  
supports local businesses



ADVERTISE WITH US  
TODAY!

*Comic  
Artist*  
**NEEDED**  
FOR THE DUKE



Visit us  
at the newsroom in  
113 College Hall or  
email editor-in-chief  
Emma Polen  
(polene@duq.edu)

## JOIN THE DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT PUBLICATIONS TEAM!

Are you interested in:

- Writing for the *The Duke*?
- Producing video news and programming?
- Producing your own live radio show?
- Producing your own podcast?

Follow the QR code and tell us your interests!



**Writers &  
Photographers  
needed for  
the Duke**



Come Visit Us  
College Hall 113

Contact our editor-in-chief  
polene@duq.edu



# WELCOME BACK DUKES!

*Consider This:*



It is illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, possess or knowingly and intentionally transport alcohol (Section 6308 of PA crimes code).



It is illegal to carry or attempt to use ID that falsely claims you are over the age of 21 to obtain alcohol (section 6310.3 of PA crimes code).



First offense is a \$500 fine if issued a State Citation PLUS possible additional sanctions by the University, including possible fines:

- First Violation: \$100
- Second Violation: \$150
- Third Violation: \$200

*The risks are real for illegal and/or excessive alcohol consumption.*

Alcohol laws and policies can be enforced for behavior ON and OFF campus!

Learn more about the risks at:  
[duq.edu/ducares](http://duq.edu/ducares)  
Twitter: @DU\_Cares  
or email questions to Dr. Dan Gittins:  
[gittinsd@duq.edu](mailto:gittinsd@duq.edu)

This message is brought to you by DU Cares and the Office of Residence Life.

This program is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The opinions and statements expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

## Job Opportunity

Looking for a virtual administrative assistant. Work from home/remotely, for selected hours, Monday - Friday \$2,000 a month. Send your resume to Clinton West at: <[Clinton.W@monytrixpayments.com](mailto:Clinton.W@monytrixpayments.com)>