

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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Duq alumna wins trophy in Ohio Valley "Dancing with the Stars" competition

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

Baylee Martin's day job is news anchor on Wheeling West Virginia's local station, WTRF. But last week, she rocked out to Taylor Swift on Ohio Valley's "Dancing with the Stars" (DWTS) and won.

Martin graduated last spring from Duquesne and, working since last June at the station, was already considered a "local celebrity" for the "Dancing with the Stars" competition.

The event fundraises money for Avgastalevy Learning Center.

WTRF, Channel 7, is a sponsor for the event, and someone from the studio is picked as a local celebrity contestant every year. And this year, the station specifically chose Martin to compete.

"And, immediately, with no hesitation, my answer was yes," Martin said. It's always been her dream to be on the nationally-broadcast version of DWTS, and Martin was "thrilled, honored and excited."

Unlike the traditional DWTS competition airing on ABC every year, the Ohio Valley competition takes place over the span of one night, where three couples of local celebrities and local pro dancers are awarded first, second, and third place for their performances. However, planning and practice didn't happen overnight – it began at the beginning of September.

Martin met her pro-dance

partner, Nathan Stark.

Stark is a ballroom dance instructor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Pittsburgh, but this is the first time he was brought on as a "pro" for the Ohio Valley DWTS competition. He grew up dancing competitively, and dancing has always been his passion, Stark said.

From the start, Martin and Stark worked well together as a dancing duo.

"Every single time we were in practice, she was ready to run the dance over and over and over again," Stark said.

When discussing what song to use for a quick-step/jive routine, the pair wanted to know what music made them feel the happiest, and to that, they both agreed, the answer was Taylor Swift. Martin channeled her earlier cheerleader days, saying the upbeat music and dance style selection was very much "pep-rally-ish."

"This routine reflected both of our personalities very well," said Stark.

They ultimately decided on "Shake it Off," which Martin appreciated because of the tune's message.

"You're gonna have people who look down on you and who aren't a fan of what you're doing," Martin said. "But the more you just keep letting it go and letting it roll off your back, and the further you're gonna go."

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Father Hogan's lasting legacy on Duq's campus

MEGAN TROTTER
news editor

The Rev. Sean Hogan born in Limerick, Ireland in 1941 never expected to end up at a small Catholic University 3,345 miles away.

One of eight siblings, he served as a missionary and was ordained and living in Kenya when he learned that Duquesne was offering its campus for any Spiritan to attend school and get a degree.

In July, forty-three years after arriving on the Bluff, Hogan retired.

Hogan moved to the U.S. and began attending school at Duquesne. While in school, the cardinal Archbishop of Nairobi asked him to take a job raising money for him and so he held the position for about 20 years.

He then graduated from Duquesne in 1976; however, his time at Duquesne was just beginning.

"I never expected to be at Duquesne. The problem is they asked me to come in. So, I came in. I was still doing the mission appearance for Nairobi at the same time," he said. "I enjoyed it and eventually decided to change provinces from the Irish province to the American province."

Starting his career in 1980, only a few years after graduation, Hogan was appointed as associate director of development. Then in 1982 he became the first director of the Office of International Education.

Hogan became Duquesne's executive Vice President for Student Life in 1991. In addition to being the longest position Hogan held (almost 26 years) he also remembers it as his favorite because of all the one-on-one contact with students.

Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain Bill Christy saw how much care Hogan put into his relationship with Duquesne's students. Christy said that Hogan would often look through student's accounts before meeting with them to gain insight into their backgrounds.

"Father Hogan had a great impact on Duquesne's campus," Christy said. "Almost every student organization that the leadership had to meet with him when he was vice president of student life."

During his time as Vice President of Student Life, Hogan had 13 different divisions reporting to him. Hogan describes this time as "hectic" but enjoyable.



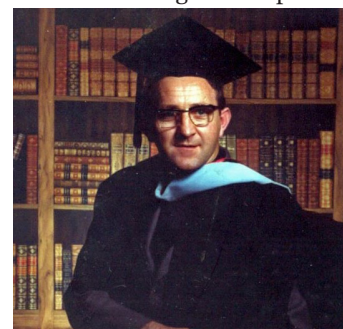
BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Anthony Sward, Natalie Dick, Mary Dick, Sean Hogan, Ronald Dick, Quinn Dick and Mary Genirich. Hogan baptized both children.

In 2014, Hogan took over as the first president of the Duquesne Scholarship Association.

"Duquesne is very expensive as you know. When I was Vice President for Student Life, I came across the students who were not eating or going to be dismissed because they hadn't paid their bills or whatever. So, I developed two scholarships, one in my name and one in my parent's name, which wasn't enough, but it helped several students. I enjoyed that," Hogan said.

While holding this position,



Hogan shared that he had a lot of scholarship requests from international students because they weren't allowed to work.

"You know, many students came, and they had \$20,000 [in] debt. I wasn't able to give them \$20,000 because I'd be wrecking my budget," Hogan said. "As I grew the job, they came to me every semester to help them pay their extra costs."

Adam Wasilko, Associate Vice President of Student Life said that Hogan has been a major figure in his life for two decades.

"He was my boss and became a trusted mentor during this time. He also married my sister

and brother-in-law, baptized my godchildren, blessed my house and was there for my grandmother's funeral," Wasilko said.

Attendees at Hogan's retirement party, which was held in the student union ballroom, came from all over the world, including different countries. Many of them were Duquesne alumni and had been contributing to his scholarship fund.

"I was amazed that they came in and wanted to congratulate me and say, 'why are you retiring?'"

Since his retirement Hogan has visited his family back in Ireland and has been enjoying reading in Trinity Hall.

Christy said that despite Hogan's retirement he continues to inspire the other Spiritans living there.

"His participation in the community life, his participation in the prayer life of the community, is something that is grounding something that is of great benefit to the rest of the community. It inspires us. It reminds us that we're not here primarily because I'm a vice president, or I'm a professor, or I'm an administrator or I'm an advisor. Having him continue to embrace his spirit life and his priesthood life in the community, says, 'Hey, this is why we're all here,'" Christy said.

Hogan Dining Hall, named after Hogan himself, continues his legacy as Duquesne as students make use of the newly renovated space for mealtimes.

"Duquesne is a community, and a major contributor to that feeling is Father Hogan," Wasilko said.



COURTESY OF BAYLEE MARTIN

Journalist and Duquesne alumna Baylee Martin and her dance partner Nathan Stark hold their first place trophies for winning Ohio Valley's "Dancing with the Stars" competition. The pair started training in September for their performance.

POLICE BRIEFS

Monday, Nov. 27-

A student reported her vehicle was damaged while parked on the 12th floor of Locust Garage in early November. Damage has been repaired since the report.

Tuesday, Nov. 28-

There was a non-reportable vehicle accident in Forbes Garage.

Tuesday, Nov. 28-

There was damage to an untended vehicle in the Locust Garage.

Wednesday, Nov. 29-

A commuter student reported damage to her vehicle while it was parked in Locust Garage.

Wednesday, Nov. 29-

A Parkhurst employee suffered from a severe migraine.

Wednesday, Nov. 29-

A resident student reported that she left her wallet behind after using an Uber service. Three unauthorized transactions were made at an unknown T-Mobile store.

Saturday, Dec. 2-

DUPO was dispatched to Boyd Street and Forbes Avenue for a car accident in front of Mendell Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 2-

A student reported receiving an unwanted sexual text message from an unknown male. Male was advised not to contact the student further.

Sunday, Dec. 3-

A resident student was highly intoxicated and vomiting outside of St. Martin Hall. Student was transported to a local hospital.

Sunday, Dec. 3-

A resident student called in to dispatch to report her Airpod Pros earbuds were stolen from Hogan Dining Hall.

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 Emma Polen at polene@duq.edu

Baylee Martin Shakes-It-Off while "Dancing with the Stars" in Ohio Valley

from STARS—page 1

As far as the actual dancing, Martin said it was her first time doing ballroom dance, and also her first time doing any big moves or tumbles since high school.

Even with all of these "firsts" inside the choreography, Martin said she felt comfortable working with Stark to move past any worries she had about the routine.

"It really showed me just how much I can do because he was able to push me to get over being scared," Martin said. "He was the best partner I could have asked for."

"This whole experience opened up a whole new love for dance for her and, like, that's another reason why I do what I do," Stark said. "I also made a lifelong friend out of this."

That first meeting in September was also where the order of dancers for the Ohio Valley competition was randomly decided. Everyone in the room was scared to go first. Martin and Stark had the honor.

Stark began immediately brainstorming ways to bring the energy up for the show.

"We had to make sure that we did something that was impactful for the judges," he said. "So that's why we came up with the whole pep rally cheerleader theme to start off the show."

In the end, though, the pair was happy to get the opportunity. By going first, "you don't even really have time to get nervous," Martin said.

Like the national DWTS competition, a camera crew came to film Martin and Stark's rehears-

al, but only for one day. But for the majority of the time, Martin documented the eight weeks of rehearsal herself, broadcasting it to her 344K followers on TikTok.

Martin's TikTok page typically has to do content that shows the "behind the scenes" of being a news anchor. In the same way, documenting her DWTS journey was a way to show off her personality outside of on-air reporting, and make her experience fun for others, she said.

At the same time, recording her practices was part of a personal goal for Martin as well.

"I wanted to not only post for other people to see, but also for myself," Martin said. "I wish I could go back and relive it every single day."

In the end, Martin and Stark's opening performance for the Ohio

Valley DWTS competition earned them the first place trophy.

"We went out there and we did our best," Martin said, appreciating the time she had with the other competitors as well.

"There's so much talent in the Ohio Valley," she said.

As the winners, Martin and Stark will get to repeat their first-place performance at next year's competition, where Stark will also dance with another local celebrity for a chance to place.

Martin's win marked the first winner for WTRF.

"Everyone has been so supportive throughout the entire journey," she said. "I love my job, and I love where I work, and I could confidently say that and it's because of the camaraderie and the people there that make it so special."

Food insecurity never takes a holiday

MAXWELL MARCELLO

staff writer

This past fiscal year saw Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank distribute more meals than it did during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and is reaching levels not seen since the 2008 financial crisis.

Although food insecurity is a year-round problem that needs remedy, the holiday season ushers in additional challenges. Despite advocates helping to address the serious problems of food insecurity, 2023 is shaping up to have an abnormally high demand.

Vice President of Market-

ing & Communications for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Brian Gulish said that the Pittsburgh area, specifically, is seeing a steady rise in requests made to the food bank.

"In the past three months we've distributed 6% more food (total pounds) than the same time last year. This fall we are averaging approximately 1,800 calls per month to our call center. Last year we received more than 18,000 calls, which is a 12% increase over the prior year," Gulish said.

The holiday season in years past has exacerbated the demand, and this year is no exception.

The United States Department of Agriculture released a report earlier this month that showed the number of people living in food insecure households nationally during 2022 increased to 44 million.

The report also concluded that 7.3 million children live in food insecure households. This constitutes a 31% increase for all individuals and 44% for children from the previous year, the highest rate and number of individuals and children since 2014 and the largest one-year increase in food insecurity since 2008.

Working to reduce stigma and keeping up with demand have been the food bank's top priorities, while providing the food itself largely falls to the agencies, partners and individuals that collaborate with the food bank.

People's Gas is a partner of the food bank and a long time sponsor of the annual Christmas market in Downtown Pittsburgh.

People's Market Square Holiday Market has been in operation since 2008 and has become a holiday tradition for many. This year's holiday market offers attendees the chance to get a special Christmas ornament if they donate to the food bank.

"This is the first time we've created a custom, souvenir ornament. We provided 5,000 ornaments to the food bank for the season, and with that, a commitment to match the first \$5,000 donated to GPCFB during the People's Gas Holiday Market. We also contributed \$25,000 to the Food Bank this year, separate from the matching gift to provide support for programs that increase accessibility like refrigerated food lockers," said Nicholas Paradise, External Communications Manager for People's Gas.

Food insecurity at Duquesne has spurred students and faculty into action as well. Amber Kolesar, a professor of nursing,

in charge of the School of Nursing mini pantry. The initiative began in 2022 with mostly canned goods before expanding into more substantive meals.

The holiday season can be extremely difficult for students as other expenses create uneasy decisions; either buying a gift for someone special or eating. Food insecurity activists like Kolesar want students to know there are resources for those who are struggling and implore the student community to work on reducing the stigma around those asking for help during the holiday season.

Kolesar noted that food insecurity can have a ripple effect on students.

"Food-insecure students are more likely to have a lower GPA than their food-secure peers. In addition, food security is a social determinant of health as a nurse, this is paramount. There is an incredible amount of research that links food insecurity with depression, anxiety, poor sleep and even chronic health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension," Kolesar said.

Duquesne's Residence Hall Association and the Migration Club are also holding a food drive for unexpired food items only. Each of the donations goes directly to the McNulty Food Pantry.

Jennifer Zgurich, director of Corporate and Community Giving at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, noted the emotional impact holiday timing has on those who are food insecure.

"So much of the holiday celebration is surrounded with food. The image of gathering with your family around this large meal, there is a lot of pressure, guilt and insecurity. It can be very isolating," Zgurich said. "So many families are facing food [insecurity] throughout the year, the feeling of not being able to provide feels that much worse."



MAX MARCELLO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank volunteers Emma Moss and Sarah Holt collect donations at People's Gas Christmas Market.

WBB splits games with Delaware, Fordham

SEAN MCKEAN & JACK MORGAN
staff writers

Duquesne bounced back from a blowout loss to Delaware on Sunday by earning their first win of the Atlantic-10 Conference season over Fordham on Tuesday.

Against Delaware, Nae Bernard's 3-pointers and Precious Johnson's close-range shots showcased the Dukes' offensive prowess as they kept pace with the Blue Hens early on. However, despite their efforts, the Blue Hens' defensive endurance kept them ahead, and the Dukes found themselves trailing by 1, ending the quarter 21-20.

The second quarter was a nightmare for the Dukes. Bernard was the period's only scorer, as they were outscored 19-3. At half-time, the Dukes faced a substantial deficit, trailing 40-23. Delaware, led by Tara Cousins with 14 points, Klarke Sconiers with 11 and Sydney Boone with 6, dominated the scoreboard.

A spirited comeback emerged in the third quarter as the Dukes outscored Delaware 19-15. However, the increase in fouls by the Dukes handed Delaware numerous opportunities at the free-throw line, re-opening the gap. The score at the end of the third quarter favored Delaware at 55-42.

The fourth quarter saw the Dukes fighting to regain momentum with fast-break points, but players fouling out thwarted their efforts. Despite their energy, Duquesne ultimately succumbed to Delaware, 74-57.

Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt expressed disappointment, emphasizing the need for improvement in effort, coaching and toughness.

"I felt that Delaware played harder than we did, and they were a very physical, well-coached team," Burt said. "We were not ready for their physicality or toughness, and you could tell that – with the different

lineup changes throughout the game – I was searching for any solutions I could find."

While acknowledging standout efforts from players like Ayanna Townsend, Burt lamented missed opportunities and a frustrating loss.

"I think Townsend played like a warrior today," he said. "Even though the ball just never went into the basket for her, her effort was outstanding ... I thought Kiandra Browne and Townsend did that, and Megan McConnell. Still, a bitterly disappointing loss despite our effort today."

Top scorers for Duquesne included Bernard with 13 points, McConnell with 8 and Amaya Hamilton with 8. No scorer was able to put together a performance that jumped off the scoresheet, something Burt lamented after the game.

It wasn't just a contested basket the Dukes struggled with. They went a combined 8-of-21 from the free-throw line over the two games.

"When you miss 10 open layups and wide-open threes in the second quarter, I don't know what more I could do. I can't put the ball in the basket for them," Burt said. "There is a lot of work for us to do, especially when we bring Fordham in for our first Atlantic-10 game, who are a similar team in terms of toughness and playing hard."

It was a different story from Burt after Tuesday's win. He felt this may not be where they need to be when it comes to their performance from the tip to the final horn, but a 75-73 overtime win in their conference opener was an undoubtedly good way to regain momentum. The Dukes survived a couple of late rallies from Fordham to secure the 45-minute victory.

Duquesne outscored Fordham 29-14 in the third quarter. This included an 18-4 run in the final 4:20 of the quarter. The duo of Tess Myers and McConnell shined bright

during that run, contributing 12 of those 18 points. The two also made two three-pointers apiece as well, and it seemed like once they got going, there was no stopping them.

"I think we always play off each other," McConnell said. "I know as soon as Tess sees her first three go in, we have to keep feeding her."

"As a shooter, you see one go in, you want the ball more," she said.

That third-quarter surge was quick-



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kiandra Browne starred in Duquesne's victory over the Fordham Rams on Tuesday evening.

ly stemmed by Fordham, who erased a 16-point deficit in the fourth. With 45 seconds left in regulation, the Rams' Emy Hayford hit Maranda Nyborg with a clean pass, and she laid the ball up and in to tie the game at 65. The Dukes and Rams traded empty possessions to end regulation, signaling an extra five minutes of basketball.

In the overtime period, both sides traded buckets until the 2-minute mark. With the game tied at 70, Kiandra Browne added to her nine-point night with two more off of a layup inside. On the next possession, she hit Tess Myers on a back cut to give the Dukes a 4-point lead. Along with the nine points, Browne had 10 rebounds, three assists and two blocks.

"[Browne] plays harder than everybody on the floor," Burt said. "There's a sense of desperation when she plays. I mean, the kid's on the floor, every third or fourth possession it feels like, either taking a charge or fouling someone. She makes things happen."

The Dukes almost lost control of the game again in overtime. With 20 seconds left and the Dukes up by four, Fordham's Mandy McGurk was fouled on a three-point attempt by Bernard. McGurk stepped up and calmly converted on all three free throws. Bernard would get fouled after that with 19 seconds to go, but she missed both free throws. However, Hamilton came up with her fifth offensive rebound of the night. Bernard got the ball again and drew the intentional foul. She made one-of-two on that trip to the line, but Fordham had the ball back with a chance to tie or take the lead. With no timeouts and 10 seconds to go, the Rams raced down the court. Taylor Donaldson got off a clean look from midrange, but it hit off the back iron and bounced out to give Duquesne the win.

The Dukes will continue their homestand on Sunday against Kent State at 2 pm.

Clark's 24 put Dukes past Thundering Herd

SEAN O'DONNELL
staff writer

Duquesne relied on the hot hand of Jimmy Clark III on Wednesday night, defeating Marshall 85-72 at the Cam Henderson Center. The win marks Keith Dambrot's first in a non-conference road game as Duquesne's head coach.

Clark scored 24 points, 19 of which came in the first half. Clark's ability to score at will in the first half prevented Marshall from going on any sort of run. With Duquesne down 12-7 early, Clark knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers during a 14-0 Duquesne run; making it 21-12 Dukes.

Clark's 24 points tied his season-high and made it his seventh game scoring in double figures this season.

Clark caught Marshall defenders biting on his pump fake numerous times throughout the night which set his teammates up for easy buckets. Early in the second half Clark pump faked, the defender bit and Clark dished it out to Dae Dae Grant who swung it to Kareem Rozier who nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the key to go up 46-37.

A couple minutes after the Rozier 3-pointer, Clark's pump fake was successful yet again. He pump faked and kicked it out to Fousseyini Drame in the corner for a 3-pointer putting the Dukes up 49-39.

Good ball movement for Duquesne wouldn't stop there. Just a few possessions later, Dave Dixon would kick the ball out to Fousseyini Drame on the perimeter, who quickly found Rozier who would drive to the hole knocking down a running floater. Rozier's basket made it 54-43 Duquesne.

"As a staff we really stress moving the ball," said Graduate Assistant Will Swartz. "Passing up good shots to get great shots."

"There are five guys on the court," Swartz said. "We really stress making that one more pass."

Duquesne's bigs exposed mismatches in the paint, primarily led by Andrei Savrasov, who has found his stride after a slow start to the campaign. Savrasov crashed the glass early for Duquesne, securing a pair of offensive rebounds in the game's opening minutes. Savrasov was able to score a second-chance bucket off one of his early rebounds.

Savrasov finished the game with a team-high nine rebounds.

"Staying consistent with me going to the glass," Savrasov said was the key to his rebounding success.

To go along with his rebounding, Savrasov was also attacking the basket aggressively; converting a tough and-one basket in the first half.

"You just have to be strong about it," he

said. "Just stay the course."

Savrasov was taking advantage of his matchups in the paint, drawing fouls and shooting nine free throws. Savrasov went six-of-nine from the free-throw line and finished the game with 14 points. This is the third time he has scored in double figures this season, following a season high 15 points vs UC Irvine last time out.

Joining Savrasov in exploiting mismatches in the paint was Dixon. Coming off the bench, Dixon was a force in the paint. Although he struggled to finish, he shot a team-high 14 free throws, making nine. Dixon had seven total rebounds including being tied with Savrasov for a team-high three offensive rebounds. Dixon topped his performance off with 11 points, making it back-to-back games scoring in double figures.

"We played hard," Dambrot said. "Jimmy was really the key for us in the first half. He put us on his back during that run, and it's good to see our inside guys helping out with production."

Dae Dae Grant struggled from the field in the first half but was able to help seal the victory for Duquesne. With three minutes remaining in the game, Grant nailed a deep 3-pointer to put Duquesne up 73-63. The following possession, Grant stopped on a dime and drained a jumper to increase the lead to 75-73. Grant went nine-

of-10 from the free-throw line and made history breaking the school record with 43 consecutive made free-throws.

After the game, Dambrot entered a jubilant visiting locker room and screamed, "It must be the haircut!" as players rubbed his freshly cut head.

The win improved Duquesne's record to 6-2. They return home to face Saint Peters on Friday night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Jimmy Clark III hit four 3-pointers on the way to tying his season-high in points with 24.

‘A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol’ reimagines classic

MAXWELL MARCELLO
staff writer

From Muppets to Mickey Mouse, vampires to Barbie — the Charles Dickens’ tale, “A Christmas Carol,” published in 1843, has transcended eras, being adapted countless times over.

One of the lesser known adaptations is currently in production on Duquesne’s campus as the Red Masquers put on “A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol,” set on Christmas Eve in the titular era.

However, just as the show was about to start, I began to ponder: Could the Red Masquers showcase a performance of a story that we’ve all seen every holiday season, but in a new and creative direction? The answer is a resounding yes.

“A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol” first diverges from the traditional Victorian England setting, instead unfolding within the Aberdeen Hotel in New Jersey at the height of WWII. The set designers adeptly captured the era’s essence, delivering an authentic portrayal that left me genuinely impressed.

Their meticulous attention to detail in crafting a stage by blending the style of 1940s broadcast with an ordinary housing interior was particularly impressive. The drama boldly blend different popular forms and styles of media at the time, incorporating elements from musical theater, radio shows and wartime propaganda.

War looms over the broadcast

heavily and influences the show’s progression, frequently referenced throughout. Characters often make asides, urging the audience to buy bonds, mirroring the real-life integration of such promotional messages of the time.

With the setting established, host Clifton Feddington, portrayed by Dante Martin, establishes the meta premise of the show: “A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol” is a rendition of “A Christmas Carol,” presented as a performance faithful to the storyline within a holiday radio broadcast.

Once the broadcast starts rolling, Scrooge, who is played by in-universe famous actor, William St. Claire (and portrayed by Alex Hladio), takes center stage, and the story begins.

At this point I expected the plot progression of “A Christmas Carol” to commence and the drama to go on autopilot. However, the performance deviated from my expectations in two ways: the interpersonal drama between characters slowly building over the course of the broadcast and the structure itself.

Efforts were made to be as accurate to the stylings of radio programs of the era as they could. The aforementioned disruption in the narrative does not just apply exclusively to government bonds, but for a variety of causes.

At times, major points in plot progression were interrupted by the actors who then transitioned



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The tired classic saw a refreshing twist as the cast took on a play within a play that doubled as a period piece.

into advertisers selling products ranging from lingerie to cigarettes then back to journalists giving updates from the ongoing war. Indeed, it truly was a dark and horrible time before skippable ads. Unintentional intentional interruptions were also interjected to give the studio an authentic hole-in-the wall feel.

In addition to advertising breaks, the broadcast would shift from the telling of “A Christmas Carol” toward musical theater featuring original compositions.

Shifting between diverse characters poses a significant challenge for actors. Nevertheless, the casting executed an exceptional job in meeting the demands of every role. Whether it was seamlessly transitioning into impromptu musical performances or authentically conveying the necessary emotional shifts woven into Dickens’ original work, the cast delivered.

Although I did notice some accents disappearing, it did not hinder my overall enjoyment of the production. Each and every cast member truly became their on-stage characters, down to the often overlooked mannerisms such as the fidgeting for the anxious character or the total lack of awareness for the comic relief.

Special recognition is due to Hladio for his remarkable versatility and commanding portrayal in the pivotal role as a lead character. Another noteworthy performance fell to Martin whose portrayal can best be described as being modeled off of Walter Winchell.

“A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol” achieves the impossible by creatively reimagining the familiar Victorian Era tale, adapting it into an uncharted setting while maintaining a balance between innovation and loyalty to the original source material.

For an authentic radio experience, I suggest occasionally closing your eyes – though not always – lest you miss the meticulously crafted period setting, endearingly quirky sound effects, and the subtle yet significant character transformations. This immersive journey into the world of vintage radio promises a delightful blend of nostalgia and artistry that shouldn’t be missed.

You can see “A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol” at the Genesius Theater from Dec. 6 to 9. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for seniors and \$20 for general admission. Purchases can be online through the Red Masquers’ website, <https://www.duqredmasquers.com/>.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Alex Hladio (left) portrayed leads William St. Claire and Ebenezer Scrooge. Dante Martin (right) fit the 1940s role of Clifton Feddington.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Reading Day Giveaways All Day on Dec. 7

Head to the third floor of the Union for free goodies while supplies last!

9 a.m. Bagels

10 a.m. Coffee, Lucky Charms and Messages

12 p.m. Candy Buffet & Ornament Making

1 p.m. Popcorn & Sugar Scrubs

2 p.m. Moe’s Queso & Chips

3:30 p.m. Burn Your Worries! S’mores @ the Laval House

Late Night Breakfast Dec. 7 @ 9 p.m.

Enjoy free breakfast, activities and hang out with friends at the annual study break in Hogan.

Mic Drop Winter Concert Dec. 9 @ 6 p.m.

Enjoy music in PNC Recital Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 with Duquesne ID, \$5 without at the door.

EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

So Long and Hello

“Things that begin quickly,
end quickly.”

~ Zach Petroff

Once upon a time,
a moderately wise millennial
bestowed upon me this piece of
advice and it happened to stick.

Whether we realize it yet or not, the
undergrad experience is a brief one
in the grander timeline of life.

Cherish your friendships,
participate in the club,
ask questions about yourself
and the world around you.

As you lay the groundwork for your
life in these short few years, I wish
you great courage and unending
curiosity.

If this is your time to continue on
into the next chapter, I hope that you
hold onto this sense of amazement
with the world.

Our time is unfortunately never infi-
nite, but we must strive to make the
smaller chapters just as worthwhile
as the entire book.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius♊

I licked a skinny pig at PetCo.

Pisces♓

There are only two brain cells and their names are Eepy and Cheedo.

Aries♈

Easy, breezy, cheesy.
Cover girl.

Taurus♉

If it isn't carbonated and it tastes like fruit, then it's juice.

Gemini♊

He's really going to talk about this cow for another two and a half minutes...

Cancer♋

You gotta get up to get up.

Leo♌

Too much marsh,
not enough mallow.

Virgo♍

A heinously priced cucumber.

Libra♎

I did not want to put my finger in a light socket, but my roommates set me up for failure.

Scorpio♏

Up a creek without a poodle.

Sagittarius♐

Ingredients: 2 erroneous rocks...

Capricorn♑

Tomatoes are the citrus of the veggie world.

THE DUKESNE DUKE

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“As a writer, you
should not judge,
you should
understand.”

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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

@TheDukesneDuke

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Dukesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications

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

Senior in college to senior citizen: *Opinion editor's parting words*

ZACH PETROFF

opinions editor

I still remember the anxiety that filled the pit of my stomach when I walked into the newsroom for the first time. I was meeting with Zoe Stratos, the opinion's editor, to work on my first story for the *Dukesne Duke*. I had no ideas what to expect, so naturally every repressed insecurity bounced around my head as I embraced myself for ridicule.

“What are you doing here?” the voice inside my head asked in third person. “You are way too old for this. These young people are going to eat you alive.”

It did not take long for Zoe to put my worries at ease. She was kind, thoughtful and patient as she provided the type of feedback I had been looking for since starting my higher education journey. As we worked, I remember feeling a sense of comfort as my insecurities melted away.

I've embraced the fact that I'm an outsider. Growing up, it was hard to find somewhere I felt like I belonged. Before I turned 18, my siblings and I had moved over a dozen times as my mother was searching for her place in this world. Even with the manufactured brotherhood in the military, I could not help but feel like I just did not belong.

For years I tried to be like my friends, who had found happiness in settling down and enjoying a more typical lifestyle. Despite the valiant effort to find happiness in suburbia, I could feel my soul rotting.

I may never find the place where I truly belong. What I hope to find instead are the moments where the world around me melts and I feel, even if it's only for an instant, like I am exactly where the universe wants me to be.

My time at Duquesne has been filled with moments just like that. The irony is not lost on me that a poor, class-conscious atheist found part of themselves at a private Catholic university.

From the moment I applied, I have felt embraced by the faculty, staff and my fellow students. I fondly remember coming to the Bluff for the first time for “Welcome to Campus” events. I felt so awkward as I walked around campus by myself as the incoming students toured the facilities with their parents.

Several times during my tour, I was

asked if I was excited for my kids to be going to college here.

My ego is still recovering.

It was not long before Don Maue, who likely noticed me wandering around, approached me and gave me a tour of the new broadcast center and put me with several members of the media department. His genuine kindness made me feel comfortable with my decision to attend Duquesne University.

I am also pretty sure I'm still running on the contagious energy he bestowed on me that day.

Attending a university is a privilege. And while there are plenty of things that are fundamentally wrong with higher education, which Duquesne is by no means immune to, there is something to be said about the amount of effort that the staff and professors put in to see the success of students.

I can easily say that whether it was a random question for the Student Success office with Bridget Ventrice or needing a last-minute quote from Communications Director Gabe Welsch, no matter how annoying the request, I feel like everyone at Duquesne has a vested interest in seeing students succeed.

It has been my experience that there are not many places with that type of genuine support.

College, especially when you are in your (early) 30s, can be intimidating. There have been plenty of times where every ounce of my being was screaming that I don't belong or that I am in over my head. I remember taking the elevator in College Hall and having an earnest conversation with myself on why I should drop out, go back to Ohio and sell cars.

Then I go to class.

There have been a few times when I felt my existential crisis was getting the best of me, but after sitting through Dr. Walck, Dr. Dillon or Prof. Patterson's lectures, I find myself leaving more inspired than when I walked into the classroom.

Their passion, war stories and commitment to the craft lingers. When I sit down to write I can hear their voices saying “Show, don't tell” and “Kill your darlings” or the classic “Zach, why are you so bad at spelling?”

But as the years go on, and time is put between me and my experience here at Duquesne, it will not be the lectures that I remember. What I will forever engrave in

my heart is how these professors believed in their students, even when the students may not have believed in themselves.

And of course, one of my fondest memories when looking back at my time at Duquesne will be the newsroom. For two years, I had the privilege of writing for this publication, and it has been surreal. Five years ago, I would not have imagined being able to write for an engaging audience, let alone have the ability to share my, sometimes radical, opinion.

The fact that the best journalist in Pittsburgh and part of a Pulitzer-Prize winning team Paula Reed Ward read and edited my stories is hard to fathom.

Paula has been an excellent mentor. She is soft when she needs to be and strict when she must be. To see someone who is not only successful in the industry but also so excited about journalism is so refreshing.

Just learning from Paula Reed-Ward, who I never had for a class, is worth the \$23,245 a semester.

And while the *Duke* has opened up so many opportunities for me, it more importantly allowed me to work with some incredibly talented writers. Again, I'm an outsider – an (early) 30-year-old who rarely understands the references, has a totally different set of priorities and cannot spell to save my life, but that didn't matter to my fellow *Duke* editors.

From Capri Scarcelli's kind words to Bella Abbott's ruthless sense of humor, I have always felt that I was welcomed in a room full of talented young people.

And of course there are the bonds that were created as we huddle around the table late Wednesday nights. The stress of hitting deadlines, the embarrassment of messing up a story and the lack of sleep drew us together.

I could not ask for better editors-in-chief than Luke Henne and Emma Polen. And while their styles are drastically different, I could not ask for two better leaders and friends. Luke is the most organized person I have ever met. He has a cage for a memory and the patience of a saint. Emma – one of the most talented creative people I know. They are a major reason my time at the *Duke* has been so special.

And if I didn't mention you, it's most likely because I hate you.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Layout editor Emily Ambery has spent countless, irritating hours showing Zach Petroff how to layout his pages. He has still not learned. But we digress. Petroff and Ambery are BFFs.



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Editors-in-chief Luke Henne and Emma Polen along with Zach Petroff attending the Golden Quill Awards Dinner. Zach did not win. Emma did.

Duquesne Debate Society hosts future campus debaters

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

On Saturday, high schoolers from around Pittsburgh followed the blue and red balloons hung up around campus all the way to Mellon to compete in a debate tournament hosted by the Duquesne Debate Society.

Members of the Duquesne Debate Society were up bright and early to prepare campus for their high school visitors. Team president Allison Rousu said the entirety of the event “ran smoothly.”

“As the team, we were there as a presence, answering questions about what it’s like to be in speech and debate at the collegiate level,” Rousu said.

“And those of us who had our clearances were able to actually sit in and judge the events.”

Rousu was able to judge one of the debates on taxes and universal basic income.

“A lot of your role as a judge is to not only decide who wins but also try to provide constructive feedback on how they can do better in the future, especially in this type of debate where they’re debating the same topic all year round,” Rousu said.

The assistant coach for the debate team, Bethany Ripley, said the college students did a fantastic job judging.

“They’re always super positive and always willing to help new students and do outreach for debate programs, so I’m

very proud of them,” Ripley said.

The Public Debate Chair of the society, Nicholas Freilino, who also judged, said it was a great experience.

“I really enjoyed judging, I like to be able to see what high school debate looks like since that wasn’t something I had experience with,” Freilino said. “I think it helped open me up to different perspectives on debate and different ways of approaching it.”

In preparation for the day, members of the society helped organize trophies, blow up balloons and put balloons up throughout campus.

Some members of the Debate Society were also able to form questions for the high schooler’s discussions.

These questions were then used as part of the extemporaneous speaking portion of the debate, meaning the students did not prepare for the speech before coming to campus.

“High schoolers would get three different prompts about current events and then get 30 minutes to research them and then write a separate speech,” Rousu said.

Freilino said the students liked the questions and how they were “engaging with current events” during that specific portion.

Co-president John Chekal said the questions “were probably the most successful part of the event.”

More than 200 high schoolers partici-

pated, higher than previous years.

“From what we did last year to this year, I believe we had double the amount of high schoolers come,” Ripley said. “I think it gave a lot of students the opportunity to get a lot of insight on their debate skills and see other people from the area excelling and supporting each other in that manner.”

Rousu said the number of students present was similar to other campus events.

“We had about as many high schoolers as a lot of the admissions events will bring in for Duke Days, it was really exciting,” Rousu said. “That’s why we had the Honors College stand there as well as Duquesne admissions, to not only provide a service to the students, let them be at the tournament, but also to have an opportunity for them to see what it’s like at Duquesne.”

Although the debate society had only a couple of members after the pandemic, Chekal said they’ve grown throughout the years.

“We were a fairly small team, but over the past three years, we have grown a lot,” Chekal said. “So it’s been great to see the program grow, to see us find our footing...and I think it’s a beautiful experience to be part of.”

The team of Duquesne debaters has been able to send more students to recent tournaments, including last spring, where students went to the Pi Kappa Del-



COURTESY OF THE DEBATE SOCIETY

The Duquesne Debate Society has grown in the past couple of years. They’re pictured here at Shepard University for a debate competition.

ta national forensic tournament in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

At this tournament, one of Duquesne’s teams made it to the semi-final round and received a third and fourth-place award in the nation.

The debate society is open to any student.

Duquesne professor Philipp Stelzel’s cocktail gift guide

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

This holiday season, curl up next to the Christmas tree with a pet, a good book and The Senior Vice President for Unspecified Administrative Excellence cocktail.

This, among other academically-themed beverages, is part of Duquesne professor Philipp Stelzel’s 2023 cocktail recipe book, “The Faculty Lounge.”

Stelzel’s published work was very much “accidental,” he said. First, he began sampling concoctions during the pandemic with the ingredients he already had available in his Bloomfield apartment. Next, he began posting them to friends on social media. And, finally, after posting a complete list of around 30 different Covid/academia-inspired cocktails to Twitter and gaining popularity, was contacted about getting his recipes published.

Today, in less than half a year since the book’s release, he has sold over 2,000 copies of “The Faculty Lounge.”

Stelzel attributes his success to the relatability inside the satire of his book.

“Many of the things I satirize, they’re not unique to our university,” he said. Between his own experiences throughout his career and that of his friends and fellow academics, Stelzel had plenty of puns to draw from.

“This is not your typical cocktail book,” Stelzel said. “It’s a vehicle for humor.”

While Stelzel is well-versed in the world of academia serving as a professor at Duquesne for nine years he considers himself an amateur to mixology. However, Stelzel embraced his work, finding a simple



COURTESY OF PHILIPP STELZEL

Philipp Stelzel poses with a homemade Academic Politics cocktail at a bar in Munich, Germany. The liquor bottles behind Stelzel resemble his own apartment’s current bookshelf decor, his necessary “office supplies” now that he’s a published mixologist.

formula for when he tested recipes, and he stuck to ingredients that were easy to come by. After all, academics are very busy, and “don’t have time to search for exotic ingredients,” Stelzel said.

He sees the cocktail guide not as a way to teach something new, necessarily, but as a means to entertain anyone who is interested anyone interested in the relationship between professor and administration, in graduate studies (aka academics in training) or in general academia.

In his quest to humor academics with a cocktail menu that satirizes their day-to-day lives in the research and education

world, Stelzel has also been moved by the support he’s found, even from those outside the Duquesne community.

“I have gotten quite a few messages from people I don’t know,” Stelzel said.

Since beginning his journey in cataloging cocktail recipes, Stelzel knew there was an interest in an academic, drink-making community because of the positive response he received on social media.

However, he had no idea there were so many occasions for cocktail books, and sought inspiration from other punny works, such as “Tequila Mockingbird,” and even physicist Heisenberg’s “Uncertainty

Principle” which Stelzel swears is a pun, if only one that the science community could understand (something to do with protons and electrons).

In fact, Stelzel’s first book, before becoming the successful published author of several alcoholic beverages, was “History After Hitler” about post-World War II German and American historians’ perspectives on German history entirely historiographical with no mention of The University Mission Statement. “The Faculty Lounge” asks the maker to “ponder how tasty this cocktail would be. Then remember the reality on campus, pour out the cocktail and have a shot of vinegar instead.”

Since its release, “The Faculty Lounge” has appeared in several outlets throughout the city, including bookstores and local distiller Wigle Whiskey. An event featuring recipes from “The Faculty Lounge” this January at the distillery is already sold out, and Stelzel is excited to share the book with even more people outside the Duquesne community.

“I’m hoping it will introduce the book for a different audience,” he said. “It’s so much fun to engage with people in person and share the story of how this happened and what’s in it.”

Stelzel promises to continue posting recipes and comedy to his Twitter/X (@pjstelzel) and Instagram (philippstelzelthefacultyounge).

While fans await the next installment of Stelzel’s witty recipe writing, they can purchase “The Faculty Lounge” on Amazon, at the university bookstore in the faculty and staff section and straight from the Indiana University Press’ website.



The Senior VP for Unspecified Administrative Excellence

Ingredients

1 oz vodka
1 oz Cointreau
4-5 oz champagne

Directions

1. Combine vodka and Cointreau in a mixing glass with ice. Stir.
2. Strain into a coupe glass, and then top off with champagne.
3. Enjoy as you contemplate how many perfectly decent cocktails you could have bought for the price of the champagne.

Enjoy as you contemplate how many perfectly decent cocktails you could have bought for the price of the champagne.



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Pace your drinks

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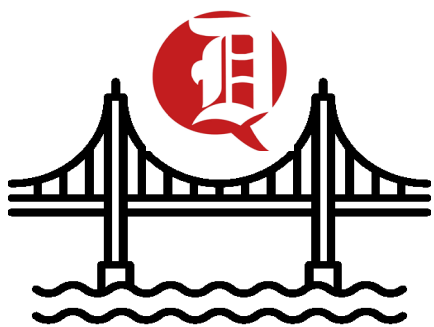
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