



Red Masquer puts twist on Greek tragedy Medea

NAOMI GIRSON

staff writer

In the atrium of the Genesis Theater, through the large glass walls, Susan Betten and Julian Cerminara are practicing their lines. The director sits, watching silently, and confirming every word they say. As they rehearse, the words get louder, more powerful. By the end of the rehearsal, Betten is screaming, and her counterpart is close to tears. The director tells Betten, "this needs to be the most definitive line of the whole play."

On Feb. 8, Medea, a modern retelling of the Greek tragedy, will debut at the Genesis Theater, starring Betten as the mythical granddaughter of the sun god Helios — Medea.

Inspired by both the Euripides and Judith Anderson versions of the theatrical production, it features fluid dance breaks and revised dialogue.

Betten has spent almost a year working toward this opening night and is not only starring but producing and directing the production. In 2023 she even won the English Department's O'Donnell Award through the immense research she did for her capstone project, allowing her to pursue "Medea" even further afterward.

Last summer, Betten spent time in New York at the Public Library archives, looking at ancient Greek artifacts as well as the real scripts from the Judith Anderson screenplay of Medea.

Research-based performance is a passion of Betten's and she finds the idea of her character extremely enthralling, especially the parts of her story that are controversial and tragic.

The story, according to Betten's vision, is supposed to elicit strong emotions.

"I kind of want you to leave the theater and feel sick to your stomach. Like sort of just go

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Respecting native languages in the classroom is key to refugee success



DELANEY KRAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2022-2023 Faculty Research Award winner Xia Chao gave a lecture on English language learners and had students estimate statistics of immigrants and refugee students in the United States. Chao's dissertation on ethnography started her research on Bhutanese refugees.

KAITLYN HUGHES

staff writer

Duquesne Associate Professor Xia Chao studies immigrant and refugee languages and knows the importance of honoring a student's native language even while teaching them English.

Following her extensive work with Bhutanese families in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, Chao's goal is to teach educators to appreciate immigrants and refugees' languages, literary practices and customs.

On Jan. 25, Chao, the recipient of Duquesne's Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies 2022-2023 Faculty Research Award, spoke to students about her research in the Africa Room.

Chao's four-year ethnography in Christian, church-based English-speaking language programs for primarily Spanish speaking immigrants is what led her to apply to be a professor at Duquesne.

Chao's daughter is a former English as a Second Language student.

"I witnessed the struggles for her," Chao said, "the frustrations, confusions and the hard times as a parent."

Jennie Schulze, Director for the Center for Migration, Displacement and Community Studies, said the award is given to recognize a publication of a faculty member working in the field of migration studies.

Chao won for her publication "I walk in language circles": transnational-translocal entanglements of a refugee-background Somali-Bantu's multilingual identity," which was published in the *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*.

"The committee was impressed by the in-depth field work that informed her research, and by the strong connection of her research to the mission of the center in raising awareness about the challenges facing immigrant communities," Schulze said.

Chao understands the difficulties refugees and immigrants go through when they come to the United States. This drives the

passion in her research.

When she relocated to Pittsburgh in 2015, she reached out to Dan Cramer, the pastor at Zion Christian Church. At the time Chao found the church, they were conducting extensive research to help the Bhutanese refugee population that was growing in Pittsburgh.

"We were able to introduce her to the community, and then she took it from there," Cramer said. "That ended up earning her a well-deserved award."

Chao's work raised awareness of how Pittsburgh can be a more welcoming community to refugees and the challenges they face. Her lecture showed the importance of this topic by highlighting the number of individuals impacted.

She shared that 15% of the student body of refugee communities in Pittsburgh from 2019 and 2020 was made up of children who spoke Bhutanese, Burmese/Karen, Somali, Sudanese.

Clinical associate professor Julia Williams, teacher in the Leading Teacher PreK-4 Program at Duquesne, noted how

prominent these numbers are in the Pittsburgh Area.

"The challenges that the students face in regards to not being able to utilize their own language in school impacts their overall development," Williams said. "I was wondering if we need to go a different direction in how we engage and instruct ESL students due to the fact that many schools and teachers believe in full immersion in the English language and not allowing students to bring their home language into the classroom."

According to Chao, English language learners transfer the information cognitively by deciphering what is being asked of them in their own languages.

Chao's lecture highlighted that parents and grandparents of students learning English are unable to assist their children with homework because of the language barrier.

"Through more storytelling, discussions, and immigrant voices we will be able to build a collective learning culture and help students," student Delancey Walton said.

see **ENGLISH** — page 2

POLICE BRIEFS

Tuesday, Jan. 23-

A Duquesne student caused minor damage to another vehicle while parking her car in Locust Garage.

Saturday, Jan. 24-

DUPO officers were dispatched to Duquesne Towers for a report of the smell of marijuana.

Sunday, Jan. 28-

Duquesne University Facilities Management Supervisor reported damage to the paper towel dispenser and ceiling tile. The men's second floor of the Student Union.

Tuesday, Jan. 23-

A Duquesne student caused minor damage to another vehicle while parking her car in Locust.

Tuesday, Jan. 30-

A man unassociated with the university entered the Barnes & Noble bookstore, asked to see the Duquesne rings and walked out of the store with four rings without paying at approximately 8:24 a.m. . He was pursued down Forbes by Duquesne Police, entered Fisher Hall through the first floor entrance behind someone who swiped into the building and then was caught in the stairwell. He was arrested, according to Duquesne Police.

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

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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What's new for the upcoming 2024 Hackathon Hacking4Humanity

MEGAN TROTTER
news editor

The Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology and Law's hackathon returns to the Bluff for the annual "Hacking4Humanity" technology and policy hybrid event's 2024 kickoff on Feb. 9.

This will be the hackathon's second year combining the efforts with University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon. Students have the opportunity to base their projects off of two tracks. The first is technology dealing with problems created through things like apps, robotics or designs, and the second is policy, which focuses on federal, local, regional and corporate issues.

With four additional organizers including Pitt Cyber: The Institute for Cyber Law, Policy and Security; The Center for Informed Democracy and Social-cybersecurity Research Group; The Collaboratory Against Hate Research Group; and The Sara Fine Institute, this is the first year the hackathon is open to undergraduate students across the entire Pittsburgh area.

Students can compete as individuals or teams up to four.

John Slattery, director of the Grefenstette Center, said that this year some of the event's kinks have been ironed out to simplify instructions for competitor clarity and so "everybody can know what they have to build and have a really good time doing it."

The event will provide networking experiences with guest judges including Annie Newman, the director of digital strategy for Gov. Josh Shapiro, Jonathan Rubin, an engineering manager for Google and Chad Heitzenrater, the senior information scientist at RAND Corporation.

"There'll be sort of a break. And then the guest judges will actually come back and have a bit of a conversation. So we'll talk about what they do [and] how they work with technology on a daily basis," Slattery said.

So far, the event has over 50 registrations, with about one-third of the students attending from Duquesne. In the 2023 competition, most Duquesne students entered the hackathon individually.

One of Slattery's hopes for the 2024 hackathon is to provide students with the opportunity to have their ideas picked up by the judges and advisors with the intention of moving toward the next steps and eventual implementation.

"Our main goal for all the students that win any prizes is to, especially if they're not seniors, to keep that work going in the fall," Slattery said. "Then just to slowly partner with other technology companies [and] with

development companies to help to get these ideas and push them out into the real world."

Last year, Duquesne runners-up Tessa Datte and Emily Brozski, also known as Team Hater Deflators, received a Common Good Award in the policy track for their project "Redesigning Send."

The premise of their project was to redesign the send button to show both profile icons "meeting" as you swipe to press send.

"We really researched just our human patterns and what our interactions look like. We wanted to focus on bringing empathy and an emotional response to our digital world that can sometimes be perceived to have a lack of consequences," Datte said.

This year, top entries in technology and policy will each receive \$500 and second place entries each will receive \$200.

Slattery said this event is a good opportunity for undergraduates to fulfill course requirements.

"As most undergrads should

know, everyone's required to do an ELO [experiential learning opportunity]," Slattery said. "This is the first year that The Grefenstette Center has started the ELO."

To complete the experiential learning (otherwise known as a Capstone) opportunity requirement students must present a poster at the fall symposium and participate in the spring hackathon.

"That's also a part of trying to connect more students to this work of ethics of technology," Slattery said.

"It was a cool opportunity to just be in this community and get to just practice and have fun like what we do," Datte said. "It was also awesome that all different schools could come."

The event will be both livestreamed online and held in-person at Duquesne's Power Center. It is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Hacking4Humanity will accept new registrations up until the kickoff at 1 p.m. on Feb. 9. To register visit duq.edu/ethics.



COURTESY OF JOHN SLATTERY

John Slattery (far left) stands with the 2023 winners of the Hacking4Humanity event held at Duquesne.

Students struggling without having English as their first language

from ENGLISH — page 1

The United States is singular in language. Williams hopes to encourage schools to require a foreign language to better prepare students to be a member of a global society.

One way to do this, according to Williams, is by preparing teachers on how to work more effectively with students learning English. It is important to discuss how students from different cultures are reacting to how information is being presented. Being mindful of every student's success will lead to a beneficial change for all.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for students who are not [English language learning]

students to be seeing some insights, shared knowledge and lived experiences from others," Williams said. "I think it makes the classroom richer."

As part of her work, Chao said she tries to support the refugee community. In 2019 and 2020 Chao delivered a series of refugee education workshops to the public. Her hope was to empower the vulnerable members of the refugee population.

While working in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, Chao had her students do collaborative research to interview people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Chao also took students to visit the immigrant and refugee communities. Her goal was to educate with experiences beyond sitting in the classroom.



DELANEY KRAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennie Schulze, the director for the Center for Migration introduced Xia Chao.

periences beyond sitting in the classroom.

"It is not just what we do for others, but what we do with others for the common good," Chao said.

Zack Kane, a student at Duquesne studying political science and international relations, said the process of teaching English language learners in the classroom can always be improved. He thinks it is crucial that people avoid losing touch with the experience of immigrants coming to our country to help divert the challenges they face.

"I think the future of ESL will brighten as more research and effort is put into improving the overall experience for immigrants," Kane said.

Medea comes to Genesisius Theater with a modern adaptation on the original tragedy

from MEDEA — page 1

home and then just lay in your bed and not stop thinking about it,” Betten said.

“I think that’s my goal with it because it’s unsettling having it be in front of you, as a live performance is so impactful too be-

cause it’s not like you’re watching it over a screen. It’s not like you’re reading about it. It’s not like someone’s telling you about it. It’s like a way you’re seeing it, and it’s the nature of the story, but you don’t know what’s happening next.”

The play’s theme is about femi-

nine rage as Medea, a misunderstood mistress, murders her ex-lover’s children after he abandons her. The Greek tragedy has been around since 431 BC.

The Greek tragedy was originally written at a time when not many women had stories about them. It was even less common for stories to spotlight female leads for the terrible or negative actions. Since then, the production has gone through countless rewrites, translations and adaptations.

Sarah Miller, a professor in the classics department at Duquesne, taught Betten and her castmate Cerminara in her mythology class. They read Medea together in her class.

“She’s a hero, but she can’t be a regular hero. So she has to go about things in her own way,” Miller said.

Cerminara, who plays Jason, Medea’s ex-lover, felt that the epitome of Medea was feminine empowerment.

“I keep wondering to myself if this was female empowerment to the Greeks as well,” Cerminara said. “This could have been a Greek comedy, and to us it’s like the greatest tragedy.”

Miller hopes some of the play’s original lines make it into Betten’s adaptation because they point out the difficulty with being a mother and compare women’s personal struggle to a man’s



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Betten lays on Chioma Nkpuechina during an intense rehearsal for Medea. There are numerous interpreted movement pieces throughout the production to break up the long sections of dialogue.



AVA RIEGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Susan Betten, as Medea, stands on a table in order to get in character for the beginning of a rehearsal. The play is going to be performed at Genesisius Theater from Feb. 8 -18.

Student guide to reserve free hoops tickets

What's new?

On Jan. 15, Duquesne Athletics announced a new process to claim free student tickets.

Carson Zaremski, the graduate assistant for marketing and fan engagement said the change is part of a bigger transition to mobile ticketing as Duquesne modernizes its ticketing processes.

“First, safety and security. This allows us to know more about who is in the building,” Zaremski said in an email to *The Duke*.

The new reservation process will also allow Duquesne Athletics to randomly select attending students to win prizes during select games. This idea was incorporated at the student appreciation game on Jan. 17, where 3 students won gift cards over the PA system.

How do I reserve tickets?

1. First visit the website goduquesne.com/students and sign in using your DORI multipass user name and password.
2. Once logged in, there will be a list of upcoming games on the right side of the screen. Select "Find Tickets" for the game you would like to attend. Ticket reservations will open at 8 a.m. one week prior to the date of the game.
3. After clicking "Find Tickets" you will be led to another page. Students can only add one ticket to their cart per game.
4. Next, add your ticket to your cart and checkout. The price will say \$0.00 in your cart because students get free tickets. To check out you will need to add your phone number and primary address information.
5. Click the box saying ‘Yes, I also want my

- tickets via text message’ and add your mobile number. Then place your order.
6. Once placed you will receive an email and text message with your ticket information.
 7. If you have an Apple device download your ticket to Apple Wallet. If you have an Android device download the ticket to your Google Pay Wallet for easy access.
 8. Once at the game be ready to scan your mobile ticket from your wallet and cheer on the Dukes!



Burt reaches 200, Townsend a thousand

SEAN MCKEAN
staff writer

It was a day of milestones on Sunday, as the Duquesne women's basketball team defeated Loyola Chicago with a final score of 73-57. In the victory, senior Ayanna Townsend scored the 1,000th point of her career, and Head Coach Dan Burt secured his 200th win on the job.

Duquesne jumped out to a hot start, with Townsend's and Precious Johnson's prowess

Townsend furthered that sentiment.

"Coach told us before the game that they would play with grit. We know it was going to be a more physical game than normal," she said. "I think that played into it a lot, as we had to match the physicality, even if we did a little bit too much [fouls], but enough to keep them away."

She had secured her place in Duquesne history when she drained a jump shot with barely a minute to go before halftime.

the strongest, highlighting her opening with a three and two layups. However, as has been the theme, fouls continued to be a problem for Duquesne, with Burt having to sub out key players like Amaya Hamilton to avoid accumulating too many fouls.

Though the Ramblers were within arm's reach of them, the Dukes flexed their muscles for the final quarter of the game. Despite successful shots from two Ramblers, a series of three consecutive 3-pointers from Nae Bernard and Tess Myers extended the Dukes' lead. The final nail for the Ramblers was a series of shots – a jumper from Bernard and another three from Myers – that landed, solidifying the Dukes' victory 73-57.

"We shortened our rotation," Burt said. "We found success with Precious [Johnson] and Ayanna Townsend to dominate in the post. Combined, they were 11 to 17 and at one point 10 to 12, and doing it with players all over the place, they had great amounts of success by keeping it simple."

Meanwhile, Burt got his 200th win just a few days after his 100th conference victory. Needing to string another acceptance speech together, Burt went deeper into the path he took.

"I am really proud. I grew up playing basketball in a barn, and I was an assistant coach for 15 years. I can just remember driving everywhere to go watch players play," he said. "Whether it was in Serbia, Macedonia or West Virginia. I always thought about what I would do if I was a head coach, and I said 'if I became a coach, I would go down with the ship, but the kids were going to like me and respect me.'"

Burt's journey even included stops as a referee, and he admired that irony.

"When I was a child, I never thought this was going to happen. When I was 23 to 24, I was a college basketball referee, so one of those people I yell at all the time, I was one of them," he joked. "To make the jump at age 27 and make the career I've had, I'm incredibly lucky."

On Wednesday, though, the Duquesne Dukes fell to the VCU Rams, 64-51.

Looking to extend their winning streak to five, Hamilton led the Dukes in points, putting up 10 in the first quarter. However, the Rams were ready for their challenges, with Lucia Sotelo Miguez and Timaya Lewis-Eutsey leading them with eight points each.

The Dukes put on a strong rally in the third quarter, outscoring the Rams 14-7. They were led by Townsend – who scored threes and a jumper – and Jerni Kiaku, who scored from a fast break and at the free throw line.

Ultimately, Duquesne came up short in the fourth quarter, outscored by VCU 27-17. The Rams were decisively led by Sarah Te-Biasu, who scored 26 points throughout the game. Duquesne returns to action at home on Saturday, when they host Rhode Island.



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dan Burt's team spoils him with a postgame water shower after he secured his 200th win.

in the paint and 3-pointers from Megan McConnell and Lauren Wasylyson springing the Dukes to a 20-12 lead after one quarter.

Johnson explained that offensive success came from a game plan that preyed upon the Ramblers' aggressive tendencies.

"We knew they could score both inside and outside with shooters, attackers. They have a good combination. We were switching [players] throughout the game so they couldn't get comfortable in any sense."

"It wasn't a focus. I definitely knew prior I was close, but I just wanted to keep playing," she said. "I'm proud of myself for this milestone."

In what might be a preview of Townsend's future, the program's Hall of Fame inductees were announced at halftime.

With the third player of the season reaching the quadruple-digits mark, spirits were high for the Dukes heading into the second half. It was Megan McConnell that came out



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ayanna Townsend shoots a free throw.

O'Grady: Crosby has ended the Ovi debate

MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writer

When the 2024 NHL All-Star festivities begin in Toronto this weekend, there will be a familiar face missing among the Metropolitan Division attendees, and this time it won't be by choice.

Alex Ovechkin, currently second in all-time goals behind Wayne Gretzky, was not voted as the Washington Capitals representative this year. In fact, it would've been a mistake to invite him.

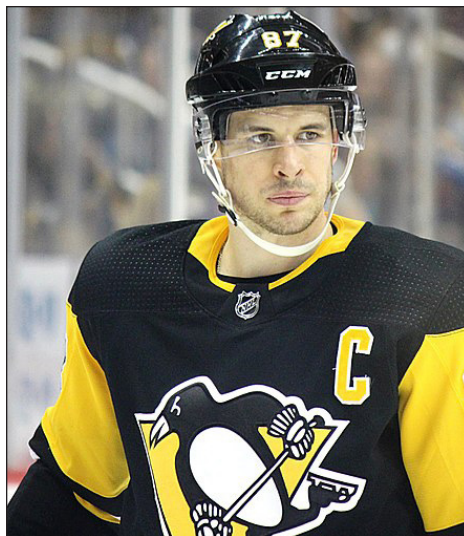
The 38-year-old has tallied just nine goals and 22 assists this year in 44 games, a stunning drop-off after his 42-goal season last year and 50 the season prior.

The record nine-time Rocket Richard Trophy winner now finds himself fourth on Washington's roster in goals, and although he ties for the team lead with 31 points, the NHL opted to send Tom Wilson to Toronto instead. Joining Wilson as the Penguins rep will be Sidney Crosby.

The Penguins and Capitals sit packed in a Metro Division more competitive than ever, yet despite their similar records, a 36-year-old Crosby is averaging over a point-per-

game and leads Pittsburgh in goals with 27, just six shy of his total last year in a full 82 games. Amid lackluster performance from most of the roster and rumors that the Penguins might trade Jake Guentzel, Crosby has almost single handedly kept his team competitive.

Neither the Capitals or Penguins have



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

made it out of the first round come April since 2018, the last of the three consecutive second round epics between the two teams. While Ovi and his Caps went on to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup that year, Crosby and the Penguins were victorious over Washington in 2016 and 2017 en route to Pittsburgh's fourth and fifth Cups, and it was the even the same story way back in 2009, when neither Crosby nor Ovechkin had tasted Cup glory yet.

The two greats are now both in their 18th season, and their battles are the stuff of hockey legend, but even today when playoffs are no longer a guarantee, Crosby has never relinquished the upper hand in the rivalry. A hot second half this season could get him 100 points for the seventh time, which only five players ever have done (six, once Connor McDavid finishes his season). As for Ovechkin? He has four such seasons, and it sure looks as if he'll finish his career with four.

The advantage is apparent even in international play. At the 2005 World Juniors, Crosby's Canada romped Ovechkin's (and Evgeni Malkin's) Russia 6-1 in the gold medal game. And there is simply no moment in

Ovechkin's storied career that compares to Crosby's Golden Goal in Vancouver, and the subsequent gold in Sochi in 2014.

As Ovechkin is demonstrating, we don't have too much longer to appreciate their collective greatness. But if Crosby is your champion, the memories will be a little sweeter, because he's won the war.



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Dukes eke out third straight win, 65-60

MICHAEL O'GRADY
staff writer

Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot might not like it when his team “mud wrestles,” but Wednesday night he conceded Duquesne’s dogfighting style of play was necessary in order to beat a tough Chicago State team at Cooper Fieldhouse, 65-60 — and to keep afloat his own team that is struggling offensively.

“Their quickness bothered us,” Dambrot said, “We just hung in there and mud-wrestled. We were good enough defensively to win



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jimmy Clark III goes for a tough finish at the rim.

and made plays when it mattered, but I think all our games are gonna kinda be like that until we start making a couple.”

It was not a game that was easy on the eyes. The Dukes and Cougars combined for

28 turnovers, many of which were on transitional errors in no-man’s land. Duquesne had a second straight stinker from behind the arc, making three-of-20, including an 0-for-nine second half. Both teams rebounded well at both ends, but possession was decided by tips and deflections rather than clean catches.

Dae Dae Grant, coming off the bench as he recovers from a concussion, reminded everyone who he is with a team-leading 17 points in 30 minutes and a share of clutch plays down the stretch. Jimmy Clark was right behind him with 16 points, and Fousseyni Drame bounced back from a rough first half defensively to finish with a double-double, 10 points and 10 rebounds. On the losing side, Chicago State’s Jahsean Corbett put in an enormous effort in nearly 37 minutes. He finished with 21 points, 11 rebounds and shot 11-for-16. He was one of just seven Cougars to see playing time.

“We did a good job, we kinda played two guys on him,” Dambrot said of Corbett. “We’ve had trouble with bigger, stronger guys, and they played half the game with Corbett at the five. That’s a tough matchup, because he’s a perimeter guy that can maul you inside as well.”

Duquesne started the game holding the Cougars in check, but continued their trend of having trouble offensively in the first half. The Dukes scored on a steady diet of free throws and layups, and didn’t hit a jump shot until Clark drained a three 12 minutes in. Chicago State found points cutting inside and challenging Drame, yet at the first half buzzer, the score was a lowly 28-28.

When asked about the recent string of low-scoring starts, Dambrot insisted his team could ascend to a higher gear but praised the

defensive effort. “I think we’re better offensively than we’ve shown, I do. I don’t think we’re as bad as we look right now, but at least we have an identity right now.”

The scoring ramped up in the second half, and seemed to explode after Chicago State’s Cameron Jerrigan threw down a thrilling one-handed dunk six minutes in. From there, the game resembled a normal basketball game. As the teams traded leads, it was Grant and Drame who found their games midway through the half, Drame especially. Their combined effort put the Dukes ahead down the stretch.

“Credit to Fous,” Clark said. “Coach got on him at halftime, and he ended up with a double-double.”

The Cougars, avoiding Drame’s newfound net presence, got hot from three and tied it at 57 with two minutes left. Drame scored in response, and Clark iced the game when he forced a steal and scored on the ensuing possession. Free throws from both teams would



BRENTARO YAMANE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dae Dae Grant returned from concussion protocol against Fordham on Saturday afternoon.

Athletes’ challenges extend beyond the game

KAYA RAND
staff writer

The seven-hour bus rides drag on for Haley Scholer. She naps, and when she can’t do that, she reads a book, or hops on Netflix. It’s not an unusual occurrence for her or anyone else on the swim team, as they drive to meets around the region. But for her, it was all worth it when she qualified for Olympic Trials this Summer.

These are the moments that student athletes live and train for. However, there is so much more to what goes into a game, race or match that the spectators are not aware of. This often-unnoticed mix of hard work, belief and sacrifice is displayed by the student athletes here at Duquesne University.

“I start the day waking up around 5:20 a.m.,” said Scholer, a junior marketing major. “I head over to morning practice until about 7:30 a.m. and then I head to the weight room for lift.”

According to Scholer, for many student-athletes on campus, the day starts at five in the morning, ending at around 10 at night. Yet for her, the hardest part of being a student-athlete isn’t the time management aspect. It is not being able to live a normal college life.

“It’s seeing other people, your age, being able to go out on the weekend or stay up late and hang out while I am at meets, practice or resting,” she said. “It’s much easier to see other people going out when you love the sport, but I think most athletes occasionally wish they had more time for fun outside of the sport.”

Scholer’s perspective of the sacrifices that come with being a student athlete isn’t only isolated to herself, but is in fact a shared experience among many, including Kareem Rozier, a sports information and media major. Rozier says that the hardest part of being on a sports team is finding the balance between enjoying his time in college, but staying focused on schoolwork and sport at the same time.

“This isn’t easy at all,” he said. “It’s almost a job with how much we put our bodies through, mentally and physically.”

Especially in the world of transfers and NIL deals, there are many common misconceptions following student-athletes. Some of these misconceptions are that college athletes only care about their sports, they get everything handed to them, and they don’t do well in school.

“I think a lot of people don’t understand the pressure that athletes put on

themselves,” said Libby Majka, a sophomore applied mathematics major on the women’s soccer team. “It’s hard to show up and perform everyday both on the field and in the classroom, especially at such a high level.”

Majka wants people to know that she and her teammates didn’t simply wake up one day and appear in the positions that they are currently in.

“Not only did we work our whole lives to achieve the dream of playing at the Division 1 level, but also while we’re in college we have so much we need to do to be able to continue to be a part of athletics,” Majka said. “It’s a lot of physical and mental work to keep our grades up and be performing in sports.”

Despite having such strict day-to-day schedules and demands, student-athletes find different ways to deal with being overwhelmed by the pressures of school and sport.

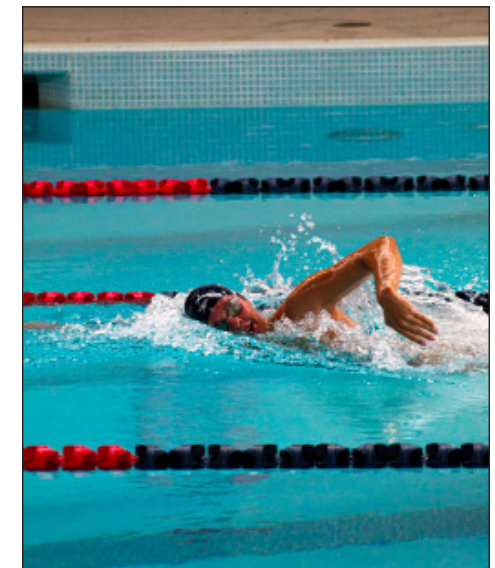
For Kailyn Cousin, a junior nursing major on the track and field team, she loves to scroll on her phone, watch TikToks, and do some self-care, calling her family and being surrounded by her friends. Creating a balance between athletic and social life can be very challenging, but for Cousin,

make up the final score of 65-60.

Two telling stats of the game were Duquesne’s 18-9 advantage in second-chance points and their 41 bench points compared to Chicago State’s 4, 37 of those points coming from Grant, Drame and David Dixon.

“Well, Dixon’s one of our best players,” Dambrot said of the bench’s impact. “He certainly is a starter and the only reason we don’t start him is because he fouls so much that I’m scared to death we won’t be able to get him in. But you figure you’re playing Drame, Dixon and Dae Dae off the bench, it’s almost like three starters, so you should score more off the bench.”

With the win, the Dukes move to 12-8 and finish their non-conference schedule, going an impressive 10-3 in those games. They resume their Atlantic-10 Conference schedule on Saturday afternoon when they travel to Rhode Island, and they return home on Wednesday night for Davidson, who they are 1-11 against since 2015.



AVA REIGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
All the trouble pays off when Scholer hits the water.

Pittsburgh artist balances the mystics and man

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

Opening the doors to 707 Penn Gallery, you are greeted with the powerful smell of perfume, transforming the small space into an altar for the gods, old and new. Along the walls are 12 paintings, called “Death of a Lunar Cult,” showcasing the shift from the morose and ominous underworld toward the shimmering glow of the new age.

This cryptic and otherworldly display was created by local Pittsburgh-born artist, Zach Brown. Self-described as working most frequently with themes of mythology and mortality, Brown became interested in what lays beyond at an early age.

“I was always drawn to the idea that there's things that are much older than I have any concept of,” he said. “I liked old stone, I liked old structures and things that felt eternal.”

Drawing upon the resurgence of pagan themes during the Renaissance and old-world painting and glazing techniques, Brown has created a signature style that delves into mysticism and ethereality.

Brown's original concept for the collection was to create an underworld burial show, which included a five-by-ten boat painting surrounded by the gods of sleep, death, night and darkness (Hypnos, Thanatos, Nyx and Erebus). However, the boat painting sold more than a year before the exhibition was set to open with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Instead, Brown elected to focus on the similarities and differences between cultures and ancient histories.

Now the show was “one foot in the underworld, one foot in the daylight,” Brown explained.

“[There were] different cultures occupying the same place at the same time, like Apollonian and Dionysian ideas [and I was] weighing them against each other. ... You have Perseus and Medusa, and then you have the Sphinx and Oedipus interacting. [That's where] those two [realms] meet. That's kind of how the show came together.”

The underworld, or lunar, side of the exhibit is decorated with deep shades of greens and blues, creating a creeping comfort in the darkness of its occupants. Meanwhile, the solar side of the exhibit was adorned with precious golds and glowing hues, rightfully named “Dawn 1-5.”

The warriors who belonged to the dawn were left anonymous, with helmets covering their faces and uniformed in leaves from the ginkgo tree. Having encountered the golden foliage in the Allegheny cemetery, Brown dressed them similar to “Peter Pan covered in leaves, or fish scales on the early Robin costume.”

In the intersection of the two halves was a portrait of “Artemis as Apollo.”

Although Artemis is known as the patron goddess of the moon in Greek mythology, she is portrayed with the golden palette of the solar arc and the stern, unwavering expressions of the lunar underworld.

Her role as an entity also encompasses the hunt, which Brown emphasized as timeless and useful in the new-age solar storyline.

“War was eternal and always around waiting for the best practitio-



COURTESY OF ZACH BROWN | ZACH BROWN ART
“Hypnos” (left) and “Artemis as Apollo” (right) were created with contrasting glazes to emphasize the shift from lunar to solar.

ner, which was man,” he said. “Different gods take on different faces and stay useful. They change and adapt with [time.] It seemed appropriate to move her into her brother's role as I changed from the underworld to solar.”

Enjoying visual art can be largely intimidating, especially for those who are unfamiliar with the art scene. “The Death of a Lunar Cult” was intentionally created without additional context. Brown is an avid supporter

of open interpretation and individual meaning.

“You don't have to have an art history background,” he said. “You just let it wash over you.”

In an age characterized by activism and direct messaging in the visual arts, Brown noticed that people have started to seek out the predetermined meanings of shows, movies and books. YouTube channels dedicated to explaining pop culture have started to get in the way of appreciating what a work means to us on an individual level.

“Have enough confidence to form your own opinions about something and talk about it. It's not about being right or wrong,” said Brown.

707 Penn Gallery is a smaller venue that is free to all. Open hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, with a single exhibit on display at a time.

“It acts more as an altar. It's really fun when you create something almost like a temple with all the artwork in it. You know, it's like, the Rothko Chapel type thing, where you're kind of dictating the whole environment, and you get to see it all in one place.”



COURTESY OF ZACH BROWN | ZACH BROWN ART
“Dawn 1-5” acted as the emergence of a new people or culture, putting the gods of old to rest.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Paint Your Own Shower Steamer
Feb. 1 @ 5 p.m.

Join the Center for African Studies in Towers MPR for a paint your own shower steamer kit!

DPC DUNite: 2010's Trivia
Feb. 2 @ 9 p.m.

Head to the Nitespot to test your 2010 knowledge and enjoy some snacks!

The African Wedding
Feb. 3 @ 8 p.m.

Attend a fake African wedding party, with all the glitz and glam, in the William Pitt Union Ballroom.

Sweet Treats in the Nitespot
Feb. 5 @ 9 p.m.

Enjoy ice cream cookie sandwiches and brownie sundaes!

Slime Night with Art Club
Feb. 6 @ 9 p.m.

Destress by creating your very own slime in the NiteSpot!

EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

The Juggling Act

There are many areas of our life that we must learn to navigate with efficiency and care. Many of them require undivided attention and others we can multi task.

Often times, we find ourselves in a juggling act balancing all of these facets of life.

There are also times when we must decide to put something down temporarily or surrender it permanently.

What becomes most difficult is determining which of our responsibilities are made of rubber and which ones are made of glass.

What can be dropped and bounce back relatively unharmed? What will shatter if we fail to treat it with enough care or attention?

Unfortunately, we may not know what the 'right' decision is until we've shattered something. Life is imperfect. But even broken things can have a second life.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

Life is indeed a highway my friend.

Pisces ♓

I can taste the Soviet Union.

Aries ♈

Changing my life, one crouton at a time.

Taurus ♉

You are Charizard height.

Gemini ♊

Do you want honest answers or do you want to go to deluluville?

Cancer ♋

Don't eat with your mouth open just to make ASMR noises.

Leo ♌

It's my afterlife, let me after-live it!

Virgo ♍

Did you not learn from my mistakes? News at 11.

Libra ♎

Super cute. Thinking about making a rug out of it.

Scorpio ♏

She paid her tuition off with a quater and two shoelaces like, 30 years ago.

Sagittarius ♐

Flabbergasted but glad.

Capricorn ♑

Calm down, mutton man!

BRIGID 2024 celebrates Irish heritage, strong women

EMILY AMBERY
layout editor

BRIGID, the musical celebration of Irish saint and goddess Brigid, is returning to Pittsburgh this weekend after a successful inauguration in 2023.

The event, held in the August Wilson Center, has a matinee performance at 2 pm (doors open at 12:30 p.m.) and evening performance at 7:30 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.). Duquesne students can use code "DUKES" for 10% off the matinee or evening celebration of BRIGID.

The event features major performers: The Brigdeens, The Bow Tides, Morgan Bullock, Ally the Piper, The Step Sisters, The Bell School of Irish Dance and The Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance.

Mairin Petrone, the executive director of the Pittsburgh Irish Festival said the program, a project of the Pittsburgh Irish Festival, plans to celebrate Irish women by highlighting Irish music and culture.

"To me, this was all about the ladies; [we asked] how do we celebrate someone who is so symbolic of strong women and [the answer] was to present strong women."

Petrone said that the celebration sold out its 2023 location and in planning this year's event they had to

move to a bigger venue. A portion of the proceeds from the festival on Saturday will go to the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

"In the spirit of St. Brigid, we felt it was important to support a women-specific non-profit in the area and the women's center and shelter felt like a great organization because it's very in-line with the work Brigid

helping others.

Petrone, a Duq alum, said her mother, Maura Krushinski, founded the Pittsburgh Irish Festival to spotlight the large percent of Irish emigration to Pittsburgh. She said about 15% of Pittsburghers identify as having Irish heritage.

Areas in Pittsburgh like Wexford and Lawrenceville have strong con-



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH IRISH FESTIVAL

The Brigdeens, led by 9-time all-Ireland fiddle champion Eileen Ivers, are performing for a second year at the BRIGID Irish music festival with banjo, bass and spoons.

did," Petrone said.

St. Brigid is a Catholic saint and a Celtic goddess. She is the patron saint of many things including poetry, beer, midwives, newborns, Irish nuns, blacksmiths, dairymaids and boatmen. Her work centered around

nections to Irish heritage.

"Growing up in Pittsburgh and spending a great deal of my time dancing at the Burke School of Irish Dance, I was truly lucky to be exposed to so many areas of the Irish arts by my teachers and immersed in

a world that is so rich in tradition," said Katie Grennan, Irish dancer for The Bow Tides.

Duquesne's ties to Ireland are also strong and primarily linked to the Spiritans. Having a large presence in Europe, the Spiritans acted as a bridge to creating the "Duquesne in Dublin" program.

Shannon Baird, the former resident director of Duquesne in Dublin, said the newly deemed national holiday holds celebrations around the country.

"It was at first used as a day to celebrate the health care workers and essential staff but now it is a national holiday like St. Patrick's Day," Baird said. "Whether it's women through the arts celebration of women in innovation it's a nice counterbalance to St. Patrick's Day."

BRIGID 2023 was the largest U.S. celebration of St. Brigid. Partnering with one of the performers in the 2024 lineup, Eileen Ivers, last year's celebration won "Best New Event" and received a Bronze Award for "Best Overall Event" from The International Festival and Events Association.

"St. Brigid is symbolic of the strength and perseverance of Celtic women and what they did to take care of their communities and support each other," Petrone said. "They are the backbone of the support sys-

tem in Ireland and unfortunately they don't get celebrated enough."

2024 not only hopes to celebrate the past and St. Brigid's legend but also look to the future of Irish culture with performances by Ally Crowley-Duncan, more commonly known as Ally the Piper who plays the likes of Metallica and AC/DC on the bagpipes, or Morgan Bullock, the first Black woman to tour with Riverdance since its inception 30 years ago.

"Music is a universal language, and is an amazing source of community and connection," Crowley-Duncan said. "Brigid, being the Patron Saint of Poets, has a special place in the arts. I can't think of a better way to celebrate her than through Celtic music."



COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH IRISH FESTIVAL
Ally Crowley Duncan recently went viral with over three million followers for her rock'n'roll bagpiping covers.

"My Fair Lady" national tour takes the stage at the Benedum

EMMA POLEN
editor-in-chief

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust invites patrons to the classic musical "My Fair Lady," showing this week through Sunday at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, part of the 2023-2024 PNC Broadway in Pittsburgh series.

The work has undergone countless adaptations over the years. Lerner and Loewe's 1956 "My Fair Lady" musical is based on a play by George Bernard Shaw called "Pygmalion," itself based on the Greek legend of Pygmalion and Galatea. Audrey Hepburn starred in a 1964 film adaptation of the musical, and the classic model of "makeover" for the main character in "My Fair Lady" has maintained its significance in pop culture today.

"My Fair Lady" asks the viewer: Is it worth changing who we are to have the life we've dreamed of?

The themes of social identity, female identity and sexuality all remain relevant in this traditional adaptation of Lerner and Loewe's musical.

The story surrounds Eliza Doolittle, a stubborn Londoner with a Cockney accent. Due to her lack of proper noble English, professor of linguistics Henry Higgins places a bet with his friend, Colonel Pickering, that he can fool everyone in high society into believing Eliza is a princess — not some ordinary flower girl off the streets of 1912 London.

Eliza's situation is tough from the start, portrayed beautifully by Anette Barrios-Torres, a Cuban-American actress who is making her national tour debut with this musical. "My Fair Lady" may be the only musical where not understanding what the main character is saying is acceptable, as Eliza navigates being a working woman to faking the accent of a noblewoman.

However, as Eliza's accent improves in her lessons with professor Higgins, Barrios-Torres' fake-on-fake accent remains true to the character. The actress does not lose the accent when she sings, and some of her early proper English reveals a stubborn strain of Cockney, neither of which are Barrios Torres' primary accent (unless they're teaching Cockney in southern Florida).

Eliza's situation is made no better by her pining father Alfred P. Doolittle, played by Michael Hegarty, whose boisterous, drunk foolery makes him a bit short on cash himself, let alone for his family.

There were less-admirable performances with various accents, including the Hungarian professor of language Zoltan Karpathy (Christopher Isolano) who claims to have been Higgins' previous star pupil. The audience could not understand what he was saying, made evident by the noticeable lower volume of laughter during his comedic lines.

Nonetheless, for an opening night au-

dience (on a Tuesday, no less), the audience's reactions to the main character's quips and unknowingly self-deprecating remarks were notably loud.

While Barrios-Torres had to act as Eliza as she blossoms from a commoner flower girl into a noblewoman, the ensemble cast members had to perform the roles of both regal gentry and energetic commoner townspeople throughout the show, which they did incredibly well.

During a scene at the races where horses race across the audience's seats through an intelligent use of speakers, the 17 cast members portrayed regality well, remaining unmoving and almost bored at the exciting race happening in front of them. The energy is entirely the opposite during "Get Me to the Church on Time," documenting Alfred Doolittle's last night as a free man before marriage, with men dressed up in a wedding gown and burlesque leotards doing splits next to women in matching, flowing dresses swinging inside a bar.

27A Wimpole Street, Higgins' home where Eliza receives most of her language learning lessons, rolled forward and backward with two stories of stage space and constituted the largest set piece of the show.

While the majority of the crew for the show comes from local theater help in Pittsburgh, head electrician Kyle Musson travels with the tour to each location along with 13 other crew members.

Musson, originally from Florida, spoke of his experience in Pittsburgh so far.

"The city's been really nice," he said. Aside from adequately chilling January weather, he thanked the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts crew for being great to work with.

Some of the cast and crew will be touring PNC Park while they're stopped in Pittsburgh. The tour group has also gotten to try Condado Tacos and Primanti Bro's, with plans to stop at more spots before they head out.

"One thing touring crew are very good at is finding the local places to go and eat and get some," Musson said.

At the end of the week, the crew will pack up their equipment, set pieces

and the cast, and head on to Auburn, Ala.

While an audience member might marvel at the size and scope of the set pieces used in "My Fair Lady," they might be even more surprised to learn that at the end of the week, all of these structures, including Higgins' study which takes up the entire stage, will fit nicely into the back of a semi-truck.

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust staff contributed as well, from guest services to infrastructural operations.

Duquesne students receive a discount at ticket sales with the promotional code 2324DUQ, or by heading to the university student tickets page of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust website (www.TrustArts.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN MARCUS

Anette Barrios-Torres as Eliza Doolittle, John Adkinson as Colonel Pickering and Jonathan Grunert as Professor Henry Higgins star in the national tour of "My Fair Lady."

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“The death penalty is not about whether people deserve to die for the crimes they commit. The real question of capital punishment in this country is: ‘Do we deserve to kill?’”

Bryan Stevenson

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

@TheDukesneDuke

EDITORIAL
POLICY

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NAOMI GIRSON | STAFF WRITER

Duquesne defaces beautiful buildings with overly bright and unsightly signs.

Alabama ushers in new dark age

ELIYAHU GASSON

opinions editor

Last week's execution of Kenneth Smith in Alabama marked the start of a new dark age for the United States justice system.

Nitrogen hypoxia, the method used to kill Smith, was sold as “the most painless and humane method of execution known to man” by the Alabama Attorney General's office.

Nitrogen hypoxia works by quickly displacing breathable oxygen and replacing it with nitrogen gas. The lack of oxygen causes the inmate to fall unconscious and, after some time, die. Subsequently, the quick release of nitrogen gas prevents high buildup of carbon dioxide. The result, as the theory goes, is that this prevents panic in the individual, allowing for a quick and euphoric death.

A gas mask attached to a tank of nitrogen is strapped to the inmate's face and, once the warden gives the go-ahead, the gas is turned on. In a few minutes, the patient is dead with no pain.

The state of Alabama wants the rest of the country to believe that they have discovered the cleanest and most humane way to kill.

The goal is noble. If the state is going to kill people as punishment it is more desirable that there be as little stress for the prisoner and as little cleanup for prison staff as possible.

This follows basic utilitarian ideology, that we ought to do what benefits the most people.

Nitrogen hypoxia has already been proposed as a method of assisted suicide.

The Sarco, created by Australian euthanasia advocate Philip Nitschke, is a large 3D printed sarcophagus designed to allow for comfortable and painless death.

Where the Sarco is a sleek and

modern device, designed by experts with the intent of allowing people to peacefully and voluntarily end their lives, Alabama's solution is a cheap and messy workaround to deal with shortages of drugs used in lethal injections.

The mask which Alabama used in its trial run of nitrogen hypoxia executions is inadequate.

In an interview given to the *Messenger*, Nitschke said that the nitrogen hypoxia via face mask only works if said mask forms a perfect airtight seal. A task that is nearly impossible.

An airtight seal is unlikely to form if the person being executed has facial hair like Smith did at the time of his death. There is also the risk of gaps forming in the seal when the inmate becomes unconscious due to the relaxation of face muscles.

In either case, the inmate is likely to suck in oxygenated air, diluting the nitrogen they are supposed to be breathing, prolonging or even preventing their death.

If they do avoid death, the chances are good that they may encounter brain damage due to lack of oxygen.

The stress of dying could make the situation even worse.

Alabama had tried to kill Smith on the same gurney in 2022 via lethal injection. They had to abort the execution due to their inability to locate a vein to insert the IV into.

Undoubtedly, the room and the furniture in it would have triggered memories for Smith. He was back for round two, the state's second chance to kill him.

In his interview with the *Messenger*, Nitschke described Smith's state of mind when he visited him in prison. He described Smith as an “anxious” person who is not at peace with his death and does not want to die.” Smith said him-

self that he was scared of what could happen to him during the execution in an interview with the *Guardian*.

Nitschke told Smith that the stress of the situation may lead to him vomiting into the mask, in which case, no one on the prison staff would help him and he'd die choking on his own vomit.

Alabama continues to insist that the execution method tested on Smith was effective.

“What occurred last night was textbook,” Attorney General Steve Marshall said at a press conference on Friday.

Smith's execution by nitrogen hypoxia took about 22 minutes from the opening to the closing of the viewing room curtains. The *Associated Press* reported, “Smith appeared to remain conscious for several minutes. For at least two minutes, he appeared to shake and writhe on the gurney, sometimes pulling against the restraints. That was followed by several minutes of heavy breathing, until breathing was no longer perceptible.”

Smith had been on death row since 1988. He spent 36 of his 58 years alive waiting to die, and this is how it happened.

States now have a cheap way to kill prisoners. They no longer need to concern themselves with the shortage of lethal injection drugs. Alabama used Smith as a guinea pig to demonstrate that their execution solution is a viable alternative and insist it is painless for the condemned.

Evidently, Alabama is wrong. Regardless, two other states have already approved nitrogen hypoxia as an execution method including Mississippi and Oklahoma.

According to Marshall, 43 other Alabama inmates have selected nitrogen hypoxia as their method of execution.

STAFF
EDITORIALStudents should serve
their community

The Mon Wharf in Downtown Pittsburgh flooded on Sunday. According to a report from WTAE, at least one person was swept up in the rising waters and was saved by emergency crews.

With nowhere else to go, homeless people had set up an encampment on the wharf. For a while they could at least shelter themselves in tents (for whatever that's worth). Now, with their encampment flooded and the remains removed by the city, they once again have nowhere else to go.

How easily do we take what we have for granted? The average college student presumably has food to eat, clean water to drink, electricity to keep them warm and a roof over their head to protect them from the elements.

According to a report from Allegheny County Analytics, there are an estimated 913 people experiencing homelessness in the county as of Jan. 24 — an increase of 177 people since last year.

That's 913 people essentially stuck in poverty with no easy way out. They may not be able to get and keep a job due to poor mental health, drug addiction or not having ways to maintain their personal hygiene.

The homeless experience things that Duquesne students don't. We are in a privileged position, and what good is privilege if you don't use it?

Duquesne has a number of organizations for students to exercise their privilege and do something good for those in need.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one such organization. Their work helping homeless people Downtown was featured in last week's edition of the *Duke*.

But students can do more to help their community than assisting homeless people. The organization Strong Women, Strong Girls works to mentor young girls to “counter the social pressures that discourage girls in under-resourced communities by combining multi-generational group mentoring to build a community of strength around every girl,” according to their Campus Link page.

The Duquesne chapter of Circle K International is another club that focuses on community service. They meet twice a month to participate in general community service activities.

And there are a number of other organizations on campus that leverage their privileged positions to help those in need and make the communities surrounding Duquesne better places to be.

We should not forget that we Duquesne students are in a special position to help those less fortunate than us. The core of Duquesne's mission is to serve God by serving students. Let's take that core and extend it to serve others as well.

On the financial perils of adjunct teaching

JACLYN BERG
guest writer

I was almost evicted over winter break. This is my first year no longer on Ph.D. stipend, which means I now make less per year for the same amount of teaching. I knew I'd make less each check, but I was left in shock at the end of December when my expected paycheck never deposited, nor the one expected two weeks later.

It turns out it's common practice for adjuncts to not be paid over breaks, but this was news to me. I was in a panic. I already get paid so little that I qualify for food assistance to feed my kids. But how would I pay rent? Heat and electricity? Phone and internet? Transportation?

If I'd known I wouldn't be paid, I'd have gone to work at my second job like I do over the summer instead of preparing course material for the next semester. Or doing the necessary research to complete my dissertation. Or finally spending time with my kids.

While many grad workers and adjuncts still aren't paid enough for the vital work they do at universities and colleges across the U.S., some universities have at least been trying to ease the increased financial burden caused by the pandemic by raising stipends and adjunct pay.

Those universities recognize that, if grad students are going to complete their degrees in the expected time frame, secure publications, attend conferences

and obtain a position that reflects well on their university, grad workers need financial stability and time to work on their research.

Unfortunately, Duquesne doesn't seem to find such measures necessary, given the last stipend increase occurred in 2017. In rental costs alone, from 2017-2023 there was a 78% average increase across all types of rental units, according to HUD User.

No amount of love for my students or enjoyment of teaching can make a difference in the stresses of financial instability.

In addition, our five-year stipend of \$18,000 is on the low end in comparison to similar Ph.D. program stipends from Emory University, Fordham University, Loyola University, DePaul University, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt University which range from around \$17,000 (being the lowest) to over \$30,000 per year according to their respective websites.

Other Ph.D.s also tend to teach less or have a funded year of research, allowing them crucial time to complete their dissertation, thus giving them a serious competitive advantage over Duquesne's Ph.D.s.

Once the stipend ends, we become ad-

juncts, as I am now. Being paid even less for the same amount of work is disheartening, to say the least.

For context, the cost per credit at Duquesne is \$1,562 according to the university's website. So, one three-credit course costs \$4,686 per student. I teach around 25 students per course, and two courses each semester. That totals about \$468,600 that students pay to Duquesne JUST for the courses I teach for one academic year. That doesn't include fees, on-campus living, books, or other courses.

My pay as an adjunct teaching those four courses is \$16,800 before taxes. That's a difference of \$451,800 that students are paying for a course that's not going to the person teaching the course, creating the curriculum, grading assignments and meeting with students.

When you consider this in addition to the fact that many of the courses at Duquesne are taught by adjuncts or grad workers, according to my personal observations, it makes you question what students (or their families) are paying for. I certainly don't expect instructors/adjuncts to be paid the full amount collected in tuition for the course. I understand others are involved in maintaining various aspects of the university. But I also know that students pay that amount for every course they take, in addition to technology, housing, food and other administrative fees.

I love teaching. Engaging with students in the classroom and reading what they have to say is inspiring. They're the

reason I've pushed forward in my Ph.D. when everything else made me want to give up.

The students I've had the joy of teaching are also the reason I believe a brighter future is possible. When I decided to pursue graduate school, I never imagined I would love teaching as much as I do, but now I know this is what I was meant to do.

No amount of love for my students or enjoyment of teaching can make a difference in the stresses of financial instability.

Discovering I wasn't being paid over the break caused me and my family serious financial struggles that will take months to recover from. If I had known in advance, I would have once again set aside everything I should be doing to finish my degree to go work another job.

The financial precarity of being a grad student at Duquesne has caused me to struggle with intense anxiety and severe depression since I came here in 2018. Now, I also constantly vacillate between anger and despair, wondering how it can be that I did everything right, am highly educated and incredibly hard working and still get paid less than I did at the nursing home where I worked before going to college.

Duquesne should realize that when teachers are paid well, the whole university benefits, and is thus better able to fulfill its mission of serving God by serving students.

This article was written by guest writer Jaclyn Berg, an adjunct professor and Ph.D. student at Duquesne University.

The tragic disappearance of the third place

PAIGE PARSONS
staff writer

People are lonelier than ever. This has coincided with an apparent increase in consumerism.

The Stanley Quencher, which went viral recently, is just one example of people buying an excess of useless items because they feel they need it to be whole. Starbucks had a collaboration with Stanley, causing people at Target to go insane over purchasing one.

Customers waited in line for hours just to receive a ticket, and then began fighting upon the realization there were not enough cups to go around. For a brand that preaches sustainability, this obsession with collecting their cups is absurd.

According to the International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction, compulsive buyers experience increased levels of alienation and reported being lonely prior to a purchasing spree. This fixation on purchasing goods fills in for the lack of human connection experienced by some people. This phenomenon is demonstrated by the Stanley trend.

The obsession over Stanley Quenchers is certainly not the first trend that's led to over consumption. But, there's a solution for future generations to a better outlet for loneliness.

Ray Oldenburg's theory on "third places" presents the idea that humans require three realms to be happy – that of the home, work or school, and then a third place in which humans can interact without pressure. This third place is supposed to allow people to form a community without external stressors. College, in my

opinion, covers almost all of these bases, which is why it is regarded as one of the best times of someone's life. That begs the question: What happens after?

The future is terrifying for many. Financial stress is a big issue for young people, especially once weaned off parental support. This undoubtedly impacts the first two places, seeing how expensive housing is and the federal minimum wage sitting at \$7.25 per hour. But that is not even taking into account the third place.

Third places are not supposed to be somewhere that causes financial stress for people. It was always supposed to be something to make simple connections like chatting with neighbors over the fence or meeting a friend for walks in the park – something to establish easy company. This has been phased out of society over the years, beginning with the romanticism of privacy within the nuclear family all the way up to Covid-19 placing the final nail in the coffin of socialization.

With third places rarer and rarer in today's society, there is almost nowhere to spend quality time with friends that does not require spending excessive amounts of money. Hobbies have become more about collecting and spending than actually enjoying the hobby. Connection has been replaced with consumerism and it is not something that I'm looking forward to potentially experiencing after college. This thought prompted me to look into one of the few places that still exists without the expectation of spending: libraries.

Libraries are so under utilized, and it has a lot to do with rampant materialism. People are so obsessed with the idea of owning something that they will bypass

borrowing books from their local libraries for the streaming services or bookstores.

The library is also experiencing the effects of this loneliness epidemic and rampant consumerism. Books have become more of a collectable item in recent years rather than the open access information that the library readily provides. Similarly, streaming services are preferred to the movies and movie nights available via your local library. Overall, this has lessened the number of people using the library despite its many free amenities according to Statista.

“For a brand that preaches sustainability, this obsession with collecting their cups is absurd.”

To some students, this may seem inconsequential. College campuses have so many opportunities for passive interactions and human connection. With everything at your fingertips, the idea that it might all go away is almost impossible to imagine.

Making friends and getting involved is so much easier at college than it is in the real world. College students are likely going to graduate one day, and students will likely find themselves caught between an endless cycle of the 9-5 workday and their small apartment with nowhere else to relax.

The third place is so important to feel fulfilled. While a new purchase may feel great at the moment, that high will never replace the ones created by enjoying the company of others in places that are not devoted to spending money. Instead of buying that trendy item, I encourage you to invest in your human connections, especially when the ones we have in college are in the past.

If you're feeling lonely, take the time to find the third places in your community whether you live on or off of campus. You are likely to have a better experience there than you would adding another Stanley to your shelf.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has 20 branches spread across the city.

Public Relations Society of America wins award

ISABELLA ABBOTT
features editor

Members of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at Duquesne University attended the 2024 Renaissance Awards at the Fairmont, leaving with the 2024 Chapter of the Year Award on Jan. 25.

Each year, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Pittsburgh chapter celebrates the top communicators and best public relations campaigns and tactics from the city's professionals.

At this year's event, Duquesne's attendees had the chance to interact with some of the "most influential public relations professionals and top companies in the Greater Pittsburgh region," according to the PRSA Pittsburgh website.

The Chapter of the Year award honors a local PRSSA chapter at an accredited university within three hours of driving distance of Pittsburgh. And though Duquesne is in the city, this is their first time receiving the honor.

The PRSA organization's mission is to empower and educate a diverse community of professionals in the field who value the role of public relations in their lives, which is why networking with one another was a big component of Thursday's ceremony.

President of the Duquesne chapter and public relations and advertising major Elena Lazaro knows the importance of networking.

"It helps you grow as a professional, and you can learn from them, and they can learn from you," Lazaro said. "It's also a way to market yourself to let others know who you are and what your personal brand is."

Integrated marketing communications major and chapter secretary Giulia LaForgia had a similar stance on networking.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELENA LAZARO

Elena Lazaro and Giulia LaForgia accepted a Chapter of the Year award at the annual PRSA Renaissance awards this past Thursday.

"It's a way to get your name out there especially in a field like public relations where it kind of seems like everybody knows everybody in some way or another," LaForgia said. "So I think that it's important to have your name kind of in that mix when you go and get a job so people know you."

According to the PRSA website, public relations is a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their public, something LaForgia and Lazaro learn in their classes.

"PR is everywhere, and every single company should have a PR team just to be able to communicate with the public," LaForgia said. "Without that, there's lots of things that can go wrong so I think it's important to recognize people who are in

public relations especially because they're doing a lot of work behind the scenes, and I think it goes unrecognized a lot."

The night started with drinks, networking and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the award ceremony and more networking with coffee and dessert.

Former alumni were also in attendance, including award-winning sportscaster and author Josh Taylor, the emcee for the night.

Duquesne media adjunct professor and immediate past president of PRSA Pittsburgh and alumni Robin Rectenwald said it was exciting for Duquesne's chapter to win.

"It was a perfect fit for this year because Josh Taylor, who is also a Duquesne alum emceed our award so it was kind of cool to have such a big network of Duquesne

alumni in the room to celebrate," Rectenwald said.

When the time arrived, Lazaro accepted the Chapter of the Year award and spoke on behalf of her group at Duquesne.

"It felt really special to be recognized, and they were all cheering me on afterward," Lazaro said. "So it made me feel good about our chapter and the way I'm running it."

Advisor of the Duquesne chapter of PRSSA, Dr. Zeynep Tanes-Ehle, said she is very proud of her students in the organization and that she has a "minimal role as advisor" due to the student's ability to "take initiative and their willingness to take risks."

"It's a group that is open to learn and has been consistently like that for many many years," Tanes-Ehle said. "I don't think they were doing all the work they had been doing to get the award either, they were doing it because they were enjoying it, and it was recognized which is a phenomenal achievement."

Tanes-Ehle also notices the love her students have for the field of public relations.

"I think the best success in the field comes from the love that you feel for your work," Tanes-Ehle said. "And this is what this group is doing, so they love what they're doing, and they do good work so they're not only interested, but they're capable."

At the Duquesne chapter, students can participate in agency tours, visits from public relations professionals and hands-on skill-building activities. All students are welcome to join.

Their upcoming annual conference titled "Steps to Success" is for local aspiring communications field students to gain networking and practical advice experiences from professionals and occurs Feb. 9 - Feb. 10 and is co-hosted by Point Park University. Students can sign up through Duquesne's CampusLink.



This is the first time the Duquesne PRSSA chapter has won the Chapter of the Year award. Elena Lazaro accepted the award in front of her peers and PR professionals.



Countless alumni attended the award ceremony with alumni Josh Taylor as emcee. At the ceremony, professionals and students network with one another.

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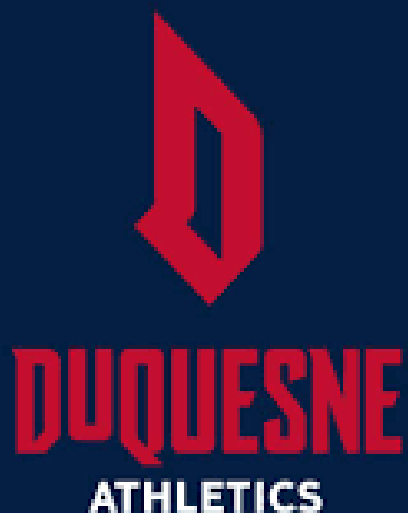
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