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March 14, 2024  
Volume 110  
Number 9  
www.duqsm.com



# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

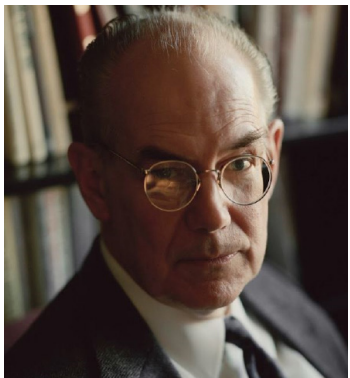
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## Duq gets new perspective on current foreign policy

**BENJAMIN KARAZSIA**  
staff writer

The future looks grim. Prominent political scientist John Mearsheimer visited Duquesne on Monday, to talk about the grim state of United States foreign policy in Ukraine, Israel and China.

John Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, and much of his research focuses on the behavior of great powers in the international system. His discussion at Duquesne marked the inaugural speech for the political science department's New Perspectives on Public and Foreign Policy speaker series.



COURTESY OF JOHN MEARSHEIMER  
Political Scientist John Mearsheimer.

Mearsheimer has authored several books, including the *New York Times* best seller "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy." He is credited with putting forward the theory offensive realism. This means states are constantly power seeking, with the goal of reaching hegemony to ensure security.

Clifford Bob, the chair of Duquesne's political science department, praised Mearsheimer for his contributions to the field and said he is a leading political scientists

"He's one of the most distinguished political scientists and especially international relations specialists in the world," Bob said, "someone who can be

depended upon to give, I think, a very reasoned, well-argued perspective."

Mearsheimer's talk covered three current issues affecting the future of American foreign policy: the war in Ukraine, conflict in the Middle East and the potential threat of Chinese dominance in East Asia.

"We're pinned down in Europe, we're pinned down in the Middle East, and we've driven the Russians right into the arms of the Chinese," Mearsheimer said.

For Mearsheimer, the prospect for a victorious Ukraine is low.

"The Russians are going to win an ugly victory," Mearsheimer said.

He also discussed the war in the Middle East, and the rising potential for America to be bogged down in a large conflict involving Israel, Palestine, Hezbollah and other actors, as well as necessitating the possibility of Chinese power rivaling the United States.

"The United States does not tolerate other regional hegemons," Mearsheimer said.

Mearsheimer also commented on the willingness of former president Donald Trump to abandon NATO allies, if elected, for supposedly refusing to pay their fair share of defense spending targets.

"I don't think he'll be able to cut and run like he says he will, but who knows for sure," Mearsheimer said.

Mearsheimer said to *The Duke* that his viewpoints are not usually accepted by the mainstream media, or by academia.

"There's no question in my mind that my views on the causes of the Ukraine war, the conduct of the Ukrainian war and the question of where the Ukraine war is headed have been largely iced out of the mainstream media," Mearsheimer said. "I think that my argument that the Ukraine war is largely a result of NATO expansion is

**see POLICY — page 2**

## Duq hosts its sixth annual Civil Discourse series about antisemitism



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Panelists Maggie Feinstein (left) and Michael Berenbaum (right) with moderator John Mitcham (middle) in Duquesne's Power Center Ballroom. They were about a panel on the importance of discussing anti-Semitism.

**ELIYAHU GASSON**  
opinions editor

Duquesne University hosted the sixth installment of its Civil Discourse series on Wednesday in the Power Center Ballroom.

The discussion, titled "The Holocaust, Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting and Educating Future Generations," focused on ways which people can and should discuss the topics of antisemitism and the Holocaust.

"I think [colleges and universities] have to create an atmosphere which is conducive to learning, but is willing to confront unsafe ideas and unsafe literature, unsafe philosophy, unsafe history," Michael Berenbaum, professor of Jewish studies at American Jewish University in Los Angeles said to *The Duke*.

Aside from Berenbaum, featured speakers included Maggie Feinstein, Executive Direc-

tor of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, a Pittsburgh based organization which provides support and resources to Pittsburghers impacted by the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in 2018. The event was moderated by Duquesne University history professor John Mitcham.

"The Holocaust was a catastrophe," Berenbaum said during the panel, "and a catastrophe is different from a tragedy."

Berenbaum evoked the words of Holocaust survivor and memoir writer Elie Wiesel.

"Wiesel in his own unique fashion said the Holocaust becomes a question," Berenbaum said. "It's a question of Western Civilization. How is it that a human being can love his wife and adore his children and go out in the morning and slaughter other people's wives and children?"

To bring the discussion to Pittsburgh, Mit-

cham also asked the panelists about the Oct. 27, 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, committed by Baldwin resident Robert Bowers.

"The person who perpetrated that was a neighbor, he was somebody here in Pittsburgh," Feinstein said. "Often with this question of 'where does education and civil discourse come from and how does it play a role?' Civil discourse has to be intragroup."

Feinstein drew parallels to the shooting at Tree of Life to other national tragedies including the 2022 Buffalo shooting in which a lone gunman attacked shoppers at a Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo. She argued that discourse should start within the community affected by the tragedy.

"From the perspective of the victimized community, sometimes we stop

being curious about each other," Feinstein said. "We want the story to be so familiar that we forget that civil discourse actually has to start with the people right next to us."

Feinstein also acknowledged the importance of including outside voices in discussion following tragedies. She said she never wants to overlook the importance of beginning the discussion with other members of the community.

Pertinent to the issue of civil discourse, the topic of educating new generations on the Holocaust was brought up. According to Mitcham, a poll conducted by *The Economist* found that 20% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 believe the Holocaust is a myth.

"I have a principle, which is I never appear on a panel with Holocaust deniers," Berenbaum said.

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## FOLLOW THE DUKE

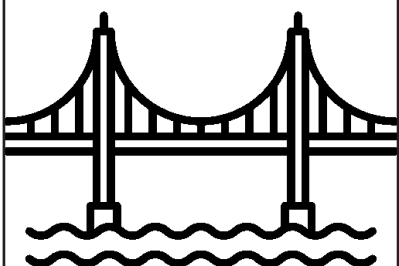
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# Citizens donate blood one pint at a time

NAOMI GIRON  
staff writer

A local nonprofit is taking care this March for Bleeding Order Awareness Month, serving the community one pint at a time.

Vitalant, a nonprofit health-care company dedicated to healthy blood donation and collection, is traveling throughout the Pittsburgh area to collect blood. Especially during this time of year, when spring storms can cause blood drive cancellations and keep donors from coming out, Vitalant said in a news release that donation is vital. Year round, an adequate blood supply must be ready for patients every day before it's needed — “blood cannot be manufactured,” said Linda Nevies.

Nevies is a Vitalant employee, and she supervised Vitalant's stop on Monday at the Elizabeth Municipal Building in Elizabeth, Pa.

Township Manager Greg Butler has worked at the Elizabeth municipal building for the last

three years. Since he stepped into his position, he has overseen numerous blood drives.

“People need it. I think it's people helping other people,” Butler said. “It's a nice community event too, it brings people in, it feels like a community event but it reaches beyond the community, so I think it's a great thing.”

They are offering many incentives for blood donation, including free entry into a gift card giveaway totaling \$5,000 and numerous pieces of free merchandise. Students can find the full schedule for Vitalant blood drives on their website. Some locations this March include local hospitals, universities in Oakland and businesses in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Red Cross Blood Donation illustrates the major impact giving can have. Just one pint of blood can save more than one person, their website said. It is essential to always be collecting blood because of the immense amounts that are used everyday in hospitals, during surgeries and procedures. O negative is especially useful in blood donations because



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Jessica Gronlund (left) and Tory Hartley (right) chat as she donates.

O negative is the universal donor, so anyone can receive O negative blood.

“We're trying to do two or three per year, based on their schedule. I think we've averaged about 12 people, which they say is really good,” Butler said.

He also said that he would donate later in the day, and he hopes that if he ever needed blood it would be there.

Jessica Gronlund, 25-years-old, donated her blood on Monday, and she found the location extremely convenient since she works as an executive assistant in the very same building. She is a recurring donor.

“I never did it when I had the opportunity in high school, but doing it now ... that I'm older I realized how many people need it and can't get it so just the thought of saving someone that could need it and hopefully it's there if I ever need it.”

Ethan Thoma, an intern at the municipal building, has donated since he was able to at 16. Five years later, he still donates every chance he gets, as does his father, who works for the township as well.

The two of them donate blood for the same reason — for his mother, Thoma said.

“Pretty much my entire childhood my mom was in the hospital and she got a lot of blood transfusions,” he said. By donating blood early on, Thoma said he was able

to save his mother's life. His hope is to help even more lives in the future through continued donation.

According to Vitalant's website, every two seconds, someone needs blood or platelets, and they work to collect both.

The two, along with plasma donation, are used for different procedures, but no donation is more painful than any other, according to Tory Hartley, a full time employee for Vitalant. Donors have the choice to donate double the amount of blood through the Power Red donation. A simple machine in this process collects just their red blood, as opposed to whole blood, and it takes half an hour. But since they are given fluids as they are donating they do not have to wait before leaving, making the length of time the same either way.

When a person donates on the Power Red machine, they have to wait 120 days to donate again, Hartley said. Without, they can donate every 56 days.

Donating blood is a service that can provide to virtually anyone, and it has the ability to save lives.

“It's just the fact that people come in here to volunteer. They actually take time out of their day to come here,” Hartley said. “That's the best part of the day, because somebody cares.”



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Linda Nevies (left) and Ethan Thoma (right). Thoma donated his blood in honor of his mother who has had many blood transfusions because of kidney cancer.

## Speaker talks public and foreign policy

from POLICY—page 1

an argument that people in the foreign policy elite do not want to hear and is an argument that most academics don't want to hear, as well.”

Duquesne's New Perspectives on Public and Foreign Policy speaker series will continue to invite speakers with a wide variety of perspectives on important issues in the future, Bob said.

“All the political science faculty members want to expose students and, frankly, the Pittsburgh community, more broadly, to a very wide variety of perspectives on these kinds of critical issues,” Bob said.

Sophomore student Nicholas Petrilli remarked positively about the prospect of new perspectives and ideas coming to campus.

“I'm all for hearing different

perspectives on my own or from stuff that I've learned. So I think it's just a cool opportunity to have different people, and especially highly educated people, come and talk to us,” Petrilli said.

Junior Student Lance Catlos explained that he gained insight during Mearsheimer's speech, and that the talk changed his outlook on some issues.

“I actually got new perspectives. So actually, I kind of now agree with some of the stuff he's saying,” Catlos said.

Toward the end of his speech, Mearsheimer left the audience with a chilling prediction for the future of American foreign policy.

“Five or 10 years from now, if someone like me comes to talk to you about the state of American foreign policy, it will be as bleak, or bleaker,” Mearsheimer said.



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Political scientist John Mearsheimer visited Duquesne's campus on Monday to discuss problems with American foreign policy. During the event, attendees participated in a Q&A. This section of the event sparked discourse between students and Mearsheimer.



# 1975 Duquesne alumna named to *Forbes* “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors”

MEGAN TROTTER  
news editor

Class of 1975 Duquesne alumna Karen Greb was named among 2024 “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors” and “Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State” by *Forbes Magazine*.



COURTESY OF KAREN GREB

Karen Greb started Greb Management Group.

With only a few elective business courses under her belt, Karen believed she would graduate and use her liberal arts degree to become an English Literature teacher. By 1978, though, she had begun an extensive career at Merrill, an investment management division of Bank of America, and she founded the Greb Wealth Management Group.

Now, almost 50 years later, Karen doesn’t believe you need to have a degree in business to succeed in business.

“You’re made to feel [that] because you’re not a business major, you can’t have a career in the business field,” Karen said.

Many of Karen’s family members also attended Duquesne. She met her husband, James Greb, as an undergrad and worked with him at WDUQ radio, which is a local radio station that used to operate out of Duquesne. James was a Pittsburgh local, and after graduation, she wanted to stay close to him. To do so, she stayed in Pittsburgh de-

spite difficulty finding a job.

Like many of her fellow graduated Liberal Arts friends, she worked as an office temp bouncing around different businesses in Pittsburgh, before landing her position at Merrill.

Karen said she believes soon-to-be graduating college students should try to be more adaptable when entering the workforce.

“Keep an open mind about different types [of] careers,” Karen said.

David Fortna, Director and Executive of Education & Leadership Development for Palumbo Donahue School of Business, said it has become increasingly common for students with degrees outside of business to later pursue roles within the business world.

“Success in a business career is based on a broad skill set, including leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and proficiency in data-driven decision-making. While obtaining a business degree can enhance your prospects, there are other paths to success,” Fortna said to *The Duke* in an email. “Evidence suggests that employers highly value the diverse expertise offered by double majors, such as psychology or communications, coupled with finance or information systems.”

Karen obtained her position at Merrill by answering an ad posted in the *Wall Street Journal*.

While working there, she took the office by storm, becoming one of the first certified financial planners in Pittsburgh and the first female Vice President.

Among her list of “firsts” at the company, in the mid to late 80s, Karen also became the first woman to have a child while working there.

With no daycares around, Peter Greb, Karen’s son, quickly became acquainted with the financial world.

“He sort of went everywhere with me,” Karen said.

Growing up, Peter would play with the children of Karen’s clients during her financial meetings. Afterward, Karen said Peter would ask her questions about the

meetings and her job.

Unlike his parents, Peter graduated from John Carroll University with a degree in accounting.

In 2012, Peter joined the firm, working alongside his mother at Greb Wealth Management Group. He likes to joke that he’s been working there for either “12 or 36 years,” depending on how you look at it.

Peter said one of the benefits of always being around her growing up is that he knew they would work well together.

Greb Wealth Management Group prides itself on being a “multigenerational financial practice comprised of a mother-son advisory team,” according to their website.

With the knowledge of several generations at Greb Management Group, Peter said that the best thing for college-aged students to do financially is beginning to save money for the future.

He said he’s never heard someone say “Gee, I wish I hadn’t saved so much.”

Since its founding, the Greb Management Group has expanded to include two more

members, Assistant Vice President Kristine J Gutkowski and Wealth Management Client Chalina Ciccone.

Peter said Greb Management Group has always been “ahead of the game” because of his mother.

“I could see the meaningful impacts of her helping people,” Peter said.

Karen was also awarded “Best-in-State Management Teams” in 2023 and 2024; “Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State” in 2023; “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” in 2019, 2020 and 2021; “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors” in 2020 and 2021 and “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State” in 2022 by *Forbes*.

Peter said Karen’s success comes from her ability to designate people’s financial plans around their goals.

“She’s [Karen] always been one to face challenges head on,” Peter said.

Karen believes a major part of life is keeping up with how things change over the years.



COURTESY OF KAREN GREB

Karen Greb and Peter Greb are a mother-son duo at Greb Management Group. The pair have stated they often “finish each other’s sentences” while working together.

## Civil Discourse panel talks about Holocaust and antisemitism

from CIVIL—page 1

“Not because I don’t think I can win, but because in a very basic way, if I appear on the panel, let’s assume 95% of people think that I want the debate, but 100% of the people can say the fact of the Holocaust is debatable. And that’s not the case.”

The panel discussion was followed by a

Q&A lasting around 20 minutes. Audience members were encouraged to write questions for the panelists on index cards they received when they arrived at the event.

The panelists responded to the questions, connecting the Holocaust and antisemitism to the current conflict in Israel and Palestine and the way the issues are used to justify violence in the region. They

also answered questions about reclaiming spaces which were the site of tragedies, referencing the construction of a memorial and museum of antisemitism at the site of the Tree of Life shooting.

The Q&A session was followed by a reception in the Power Center’s Shepperson Suite.

Katelyn Waranavage, a sophomore political science major at Duquesne, was present for the panel discussion.

“I think the idea of learning, to continue to learn, to have discourse, to be able to talk about topics like this that are so polarizing in our country are important,” Waranavage said.

Along with Duquesne students were visiting students from Washington & Jefferson College.

“There are a lot of tough topics that we need to take on, and I think discussion works,” said Michael Burke, a junior political science major from Washington & Jefferson.

Duquesne University president Ken Gormley started the Civil Discourse series when he took up his current position in 2016.

“I thought it was a perfect mixture to combine both history and looking at the Holocaust with more recent events,” Gormley told *The Duke*. “Dealing with acts of hate to prepare our students and our ac-

ademic community – to deal with the pain and the trauma of these events and to try to make something positive out of them.”



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Michael Berenbaum emphasizes the need to continue discussion about the Holocaust.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Maggie Feinstein, Ken Gormley, John Mitcham and Michael Berenbaum pose together post panel.



# WBB falls to champ Richmond in semis

**JACK MORGAN**  
staff writer

The Duquesne women's basketball team produced a strong showing at last week's Atlantic-10 Conference tournament, but it was not enough, as they fell to top-seeded Richmond in the semifinals from Henrico Sports and Events Center in Virginia.

Duquesne's trip to the A-10 semifinals was their first since the 2018-19 season, when they also fell in the penultimate round.

The five-seed Dukes got a single bye to start the tournament, so they were off on Wednesday. UMass beat La Salle in the opening round game, and so the Minute-women became Duquesne's first matchup of the tournament. Since Duquesne had already routed UMass earlier this year in Massachusetts, a victory for Duquesne was to be expected.

What was a surprise was how the game began for the Dukes. The Dukes turned the ball over on their first four possessions of the game. Miraculously, they only found themselves down 4-0 with 7:33 to go in the first when Duquesne Head Coach Dan Burt called a timeout. Duquesne restored order from that point on, and went on a 21-6 run to end the quarter, and the Dukes carried a 39-26 lead into the half.

The second half was the Megan McConnell show. She scored 17 in the final 20 minutes, and was dominant on both sides of the ball, contributing two steals as well. Duquesne stretched the lead to 15 by the end of the third, and in the fourth, they extended it to 27 with less than a minute to go. They ended

up taking it by 24, 81-57.

Duquesne was then tasked to take on George Mason. The Patriots blew out Duquesne at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse earlier this year, but this one was the complete opposite.

The Dukes got out to a quick start in the first quarter. In the first 5:30, they outscored George Mason 18-4. Nae Bernard hit two 3-pointers during the stretch to kick-start the offense. The Patriots continued to chip away at the lead slowly. By the end of the half, they had cut the lead to 6.

The second half was where things got intense. Duquesne stretched the lead to 7 on two different occasions. The second of which came when it was 47-40. George Mason responded with a speedy 7-0 run in just 1:49 of game time. Duquesne snuck into the fourth with a slim 51-50 lead, but it was quickly erased by Sonia Smith and the Patriots. Smith hit a layup to put her side up 54-53, and after Dukes' guard Jerni Kiaku responded in kind, she hit a tough reverse layup to pull her team back in front.

The teams traded buckets, until with less than a minute to go, McConnell made a nice entry pass into the post where only Precious Johnson could get to it, and Johnson finished strong to give Duquesne a lead it would never surrender, despite the controversy that ensued, when the Patriots thought they had the game won with less than a second left.

After Tess Myers misfired on an inbound pass with 8.6 seconds left, Smith took a handoff and drove her way toward the basket. She made the layup and was fouled. However, the foul was ruled before the shot

and the bucket did not count.

On the ensuing inbound pass with 4.8 seconds left, the Patriots again thought they should have had two free throws after Walton got undercut by Tess Myers. Myers seemed to trip over her own feet and fell right underneath Walton, and at first, it was ruled a shooting foul that would send George Mason to the line with a chance to win the game.

However, the officials went back and reviewed the call and changed their mind, despite the use of review in that situation not being permissible. They changed the call to illegal contact before the ball was inbounded, which doesn't allocate free throws. Even though the Patriots got a clean look off on the ensuing inbound, they missed, and Duquesne survived a 63-62 finish.

After the game, the Patriots issued a statement of their frustration with the foul call being reversed. Mass outcry was heard by the A-10, who issued a statement of their



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS  
The Dukes' season ends with the loss in Henrico.

own the next day.

"The Atlantic 10 acknowledges the misapplication of the rules by the officials... The decision made by the crew to reverse a call made at .5 seconds remaining in the game was not permitted within the rules. The A-10 apologizes to both George Mason and Duquesne Universities."

Regardless, the Dukes moved on to the A-10 semifinals and got a third crack at the Richmond Spiders. The two teams split the season series, with Duquesne claiming a 72-59 win at home on Jan. 24th and Richmond defending their homecourt with a 90-74 win on Feb. 28th.

The first quarter was evenly contested, with five lead changes and the largest lead for either team at 4 points. Duquesne led 12-8 with 3:38 to go in the first, however, Richmond would finish the quarter on an 8-0 run including 6 points from Addie Budnik. Budnik was a force all afternoon, leading all scorers with 22 points. She had 17 of those points in the first half.

Duquesne went down 27-19 with 5:37 to go in the half, and they made their best run at this lead in the following minute and 18 seconds of play, cutting the lead to two thanks to a couple of big buckets from Jerni Kiaku. But their run fell short, and the Spiders finished the half on a 10-2 spurt to lead 37-27.

The second half featured more of the same. Grace Townsend played a large role in the Spiders running away with this one, scoring 10 points in the half. Things were kept under control by Richmond, and they polished off a 80-66 win over the Dukes.

Richmond would go on to win the A-10

# Men beat SLU, on to A-10 quarterfinal

**REBECCA JOZWIAK**  
staff writer

NEW YORK— The Duquesne Dukes advanced to the quarterfinals of the Atlantic-10 Conference Tournament on Wednesday night, defeating the Saint Louis Billikens 83-73.

Three players cracked double-digits: Jimmy Clark III, Dae Dae Grant and David Dixon. Clark led the pack with 20 points, and also nabbed a pair of steals.

"Jimmy is a Pittsburgh stealer," joked Head Coach Keith Dambrot. "He steals the ball."

Dusan Mahoric helped pace the first half of the game by contributing 8 points in seven minutes. Jake DiMichele added 6 points in the first half, while Trey Williams caused a turnover. At halftime, the Dukes were up 43-39, which was too close for comfort for Dambrot.

"I was a little nervous at halftime because the score was so high," he said. "Typically, that's not good for us, and that's what we kind of dealt with at halftime."

The Dukes proved that the first half was no fluke. Clark exploded, scoring 15 of his 20 points in the second half. Duquesne jumped out to a 57-41 lead to start the second half. It took over three minutes for the Billikens to get on the

board out of the break.

"As a team, I feel like that's just what we do [disrupt opposing offenses]," Clark said. "That was our main focus."

The Billikens were also without guard Sincere Parker, who averages 15.9 points per game. The Dukes capitalized off the absence of Parker, with Dixon scoring 13 points and Grant with 17.

When asked about working on their defense, Grant talked about the team's support system.

"[We] just continue to stay gapped up, and continue to play team defense, and just be there for another," Grant noted. "One brother for another."

Matus Hronsky flew under the radar, hitting all three of his field goals and a 3-pointer shot. He finished the game with 7 points.

"[Hronsky] knows how to play. He's a good teammate" Dambrot said. "If we can keep surviving in the tournament, he becomes even more important, and our bench becomes even more important."

With the win over the Billikens, the Dukes advance to the quarter-finals where they will play the Dayton Flyers. This will be the third game this season between the Dukes and the Flyers, the Dukes lost both games by double digits.

The Dukes will have to contain A-10 Co-Player of the Year DaRon Holmes II,

who scored 33 and 24 in the two games against Duquesne.

"I'm ready. That's all I have to say," Dixon said.

"Locked in," Clark added.

"We're excited, man. We're ready for the challenge," Grant said. "Nobody really wants to play us, to be honest with you." Dambrot

had a little more to say about tomorrow's game against Dayton: "We're going to try to compete and try to win," Dambrot said. "But with that being said, we've got to go in there and try to do our job."

The Dukes tip off against the Flyers tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Barclays Center on USA Network.



MARY GENRICH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jimmy Clark III takes to the sky in the 19,000-seat Barclays Center, the home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets. His 20-point performance led Duquesne into the conference quarterfinals.



# The three schools of Jimmy Clark III

**SPENCER THOMAS**  
sports editor

When this veteran-heavy Duquesne squad plays its last game, it will mark the end of seven seniors' careers. Perhaps none of them as tumultuous as Jimmy Clark III's. It has spanned three schools, one national championship and a quest for revenge that put him on *SportsCenter*.

In that time, Clark evolved and improved off of the court, while revolutionizing himself on it. In the final days of his college career, Clark endeared himself to the Duquesne fanbase, as well as his teammates.

Coming out of Covington, Georgia, a small town southeast of Atlanta, Clark committed to Virginia Commonwealth University. His 18 months there were spent as a role-player, developing his skills behind Atlantic-10 Conference Player of the Year winners Ace Baldwin Jr. and Bones Hyland. Defensively, he was elite as a pickpocket with quickness and effort. Offensively, he was irrelevant.

"We didn't used to guard him," said Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot, who first got to know Clark by coaching against him. "He was a non-offensive player that was just out there to play defense."

He slowly climbed up the depth chart but got into off-the-court trouble late in his sophomore season. After briefly being placed on university suspension, Clark was kicked out of the program. VCU never disclosed why.

He spent the rest of the spring watching on television as his old team made the conference championship game and earned a bid to March Madness.

In order to revive his career, Clark had to spend a season in junior college, at Northwest Florida State. He went from playing in front of 7,600 fans at VCU to traveling into gyms that had as few as six rows of seating. He started 31 games for the Raiders, and every time he laced up his shoes, he dreamed of putting them back on a Division-I court.

"That's all I thought about," he said. "Everyday."

Down in the panhandle, Clark and the Raiders finished with a 31-5 record, culminating in the junior college national title. It was a magical season, one that Clark feels brought him to where he is today.

"It helped me learn what it takes to win at a high level," he said. "You can see how connected as a group you have to be as a team to win at that level and at that magnitude."

It was there that Clark also developed offensively, becoming the ball-dominant player we see today. However, he claims that to be a byproduct of greater lessons learned in the sunshine state.

"It wasn't even about scoring," he said. "I learned that you've got to be a dog on the court, no matter where you're at: JUCO, D-I, overseas, NBA. Wherever you are, you've got to be a dog."

He singled out tenacious defense, setting picks and taking charges as major stats that, whether or not they show up on the scoresheet, he takes pride in. He knew it was those traits that would get him back in a Division-I uniform.

"It was just grind until I get back to where

I'm supposed to be. You see how that went," Clark said with a smile.

The results also got Raiders Head Coach Greg Heiar a Division-I opportunity at New Mexico State. He brought several of Clark's teammates with him and presented Clark with a scholarship offer as well. Clark never gave it much consideration, a decision that saved him from utter disaster. Less than a month into the season, one of Heiar's players shot and killed a student from a rival school in self-defense. In February, an investigation into reports of hazing on the

With those motivations, it should come as no surprise that Clark is an emotional player. It's part of what got him here.

Clark's first game against his old school was probably the best he's ever played. He set a career-high with 26 points, none of them louder than an ally-ooop he threw himself off the backboard. It landed him on the *SportsCenter* Top-10 plays the next morning, a feat he had achieved one month earlier with a game-winning shot.

Even now, he grins like a vandal when that play gets mentioned, and on senior



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Jimmy Clark III (center) poses with his family and coach Keith Dambrot prior to his final home game. Dambrot said the support system Clark had in place gave him the trust to give him a second chance.

team resulted in Heiar's firing and the rest of NMSU's season being cancelled.

Clark had better luck in his D-I endeavor.

Dambrot said that while recruiting Clark, he reached out to Mike Rhoades, the head coach at VCU. Rhoades green-lighted the move, and just like that, Clark was back in the A-10.

"I knew he was a good person," Dambrot said. "I had a good vibe from minute one."

Even with a national championship ring shining on his finger, Clark's past with the Rams followed him around. If he wasn't going to play for them, he wanted to play against them. Clark openly admits that the opportunity to play against his old school every year is part of what drew him to Duquesne.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

One of Clark's many show-stopping dunks.

night, his entire family wore t-shirts with that moment printed on the front.

Everything is personal for Clark.

After he threw down a show-stopping dunk on George Washington's Babatunde Akingbola, Clark was visibly delighted to learn that his victim leads the conference in blocks. He interrupted the postgame press-conference when he broke into a brace-faced smile and did the universal symbol for "you just got dunked on."

"On his head," Clark said.

In the final season of a college career defined by evolution, Clark says he is trying to step up and be a more personable leader. He isn't aloof, but anyone who sees him in practice or games recognizes that he is more observant on the court than he is talkative.

"I'd say that's always been me. More just locked in and just try to lead by example, rather than just talking."

But as he matures and accrues experience, Clark sees the benefits of stepping outside his comfort zone on a social level, and his personality begins to shine through.

"It's just being more engaged with your teammates, talking to your teammates more, getting to know your teammates more. Because if you don't know someone, they're not going to follow you."

Dambrot says that he gained an understanding of how to reach Clark and force the best out of him. He hits him head-on with criticism. Earlier this year, Dambrot called him out by name in a post-game press conference for his defensive performance. Blunt honesty is the key to Clark, who is so driven by his heart.

"Everybody marches to a different drum. There are some guys you've got to

stay on top of and there's other guys you've got to massage. Sometimes people misconstrue what fairness is," Dambrot said. "But sometimes you've got to get on Jimmy, you know, to really push him. That doesn't mean I like other guys better. It just means that I'm trying to understand how to get the most out of him."

The relationship that has bloomed between the 65-year-old Dambrot and 22-year-old Clark is one of mutual understanding and respect. It's a testament to how Dambrot has sustained a career connecting with players 35 years younger than him, as well as the maturity Clark carries himself with.

"He definitely holds me to a higher standard because he expects the best out of me, and that's why I respect [him]," Clark said. "Because if someone doesn't expect the best out of you, they're not really helping you."

"That's what makes it nice is even when he has issues where he gets frustrated, you go back to knowing he's a nice person so you can live with it," Dambrot said.

In January, Clark missed a pair of free-throws that would have tied the game in the final seconds. Stone-faced and silent, Clark trudged off the court. Forty-five minutes after the game, Clark was back on that exact spot, shooting free-throws over and over again.

Almost two months later, Duquesne was tied with George Washington with 2.1 seconds left. Clark stepped back to the free throw line with all the pressure on his shoulders. Not only was the game on the line, but he was sitting at 999 career points. Clark collected himself, and drained both shots to secure the victory.

"For most of us, what makes us great kills us," Dambrot said.

Clark's composure isn't flawless. When the team is struggling, he sometimes makes head-scratching turnovers and fouls that are more a product of him trying to do too much than anything else.

"His biggest thing that we harp with him all the time is discipline on both ends," Dambrot said. "He wants to do it; he just has to continue to work on it. It's like any habit that any of us have."

"His ability to gamble and steal the ball is a great thing. But he has to learn how to channel it and when to use it and when not to use it."

On Tuesday, Clark was named second-team all-conference, as well as being given the nod for the all-defense team. Reaching this position was never a given. Not when he was on the bench at VCU, and not when he was stranded in junior college. Undeniably driven by his emotions, Clark had to will himself to get here. At Duquesne, he finally found the people who understand the many layers he has and turned him into an all-conference candidate that Dambrot says should be getting NBA try-outs this summer.

"I'm just grateful man. Grateful for my teammates, grateful for everybody that helped me get to this position in life," Clark said. "Without the help of these guys and the coaches it wouldn't be possible."

"He certainly isn't perfect," Dambrot smiled. "He drives me bananas sometimes,



42nd Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show



Local grower Marcia Hughes showed off the pussy willows that she sells at Beautiful Bargains.



Jennifer Garczyk (left) and Terry Wiles (right) represented Construction Junction, one of the numerous eco-friendly home improvement businesses who made an appearance at the show.



Many artists attended the show, like Haley Clany, who created typewritten poems on the spot for \$10 per 5-inch-by-5-inch card.

*Beautiful blooms, home improvement businesses and local vendors, artists, hobbists and plant fanatics gathered at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to celebrate the 42nd annual Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show.*

PHOTO STORY BY  
KAITLYN HUGHES  
staff writer



Hobby group Steel City Lug, for adult Lego users, assembled two tables of Legos for the show. The project took four days to build.



Founded in 1957, the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society shared techniques on how to correctly care for a bonsai while connecting individuals who share a love for the plant. They brought bonsais of different sizes and succulents to the show.



Angela Slowikowski and her two sons, Garrett and Landon, played with family-friendly Krazy Gears, a spinning puzzle for all ages.



The John DeSantis Riverview Cafe offered many food options — a ramen bar, smoked pulled pork, Pittsburgh chicken or steak salad — and was named after the late creator of the show.

CAMPUS  
EVENTS

Yarn Art  
Mar. 14 @ 5 p.m.

Get creative in Towers MPR and design your own masterpiece using yarn on canvas!

Food Truck Fridays  
Mar. 15 @ 11 a.m.

A-Walk will be lined with local businesses once again! Cash or credit only.

St. Patrick's Weekend Grilled Cheese  
Mar. 16 @ 10 p.m.

Buy a \$1 grilled cheese in the Des Places lobby to support the University Mission!

Duke It Out Tournament  
Mar. 17 @ 12 p.m.

Join the Fighting Game Club's premier fighting game tournament in Fisher 600.

Demo and Donate  
Mar. 20 @ 6 p.m.

Watch cool science experiments while raising funds for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank!

EMILY'S  
EPIPHANIES

Be a Leaf in the Wind

"When you meet resistance, you must be able to switch directions at a moment's notice."

~ Tenzin, *The Legend of Korra*

Adaptability is something required of us in any stage of our lives.

Weaving through obstacles, learning when to pivot or change directions is imperative to success.

This isn't to say that you should never stand your ground, but you should know your limits and when to choose your battles.

In a world of pay walls, exclusion and polarization, I challenge you to champion inclusion and accessibility while making yourself open to new ideas, change and compassion.

Be the leaf in the wind.  
Set yourself up to be flexible.

You will meet infinitely more opportunities by saying "yes" and "why not?"

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

I have no clue what's happening here, but it made me feel like a bunch of tangles necklaces.

Gemini ♊

Eh, rub some chlorine in it.

Libra ♎

When you mess with the *ba*, you get the *ja*.

Pisces ♓

Enchanted cheese fudge.

Cancer ♋

I'm not going to punch a gift horse in the foot...er, mouth.

Scorpio ♏

Get bogarted.

Aries ♈

Wow, something in my head just exited my mouth.

Leo ♌

Stop deep throating your foot.

Sagittarius ♐

Like *Ratatouille*, but with orcas.

Taurus ♉

Nothing hits better than a post-public shaming Chick-fil-A.

Virgo ♍

That gets me in the mood to see some flamingos.

Capricorn ♑

What's it like to be so devastatingly unentertained with the world?



## AWARDS: 'ALL THE BUZZ'

EMMA POLEN  
editor-in-chief

### The most talked about movies this season.

Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," and Christopher Nolan, swept the 2024 Academy Awards last week. But, in reality, did anybody NOT expect it to happen?

Aside from the massive sweep of seven Oscars "Oppenheimer" took home, there were a few films that made less of an impact in mainstream media, but certainly had a worthwhile win.

"Poor Things" took home awards for best costume design, best makeup and hairstyle, best production design and best actress, which went to Emma Stone.

"Poor Things" had only been released to theaters in early December, allowing the film much less time to make a stir on the internet.

In the new age of variety in digital streaming platforms, an individual's preferred streaming service could have made an impact on what Oscar nominees they were able to view before the show.

For example, Bradley Cooper's "Maestro" hit theaters for less than a month before transitioning to Netflix in December. Without a subscription, this film would have been inaccessible for general viewers.

Similarly, "Killers of the Flower Moon" received high praise from critics but did not go home with any Oscars, like "Maestro." The film premiered at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, followed by a limited theatrical release, and it was only available to stream globally on AppleTV+ this January.

And while "Barbie" might not have taken home any Oscars for the movie or its actors, it did win best song for Billie Eilish and FINNEAS' ballad for the "Barbie" movie, "What Was I Made For?"

The buzz surrounding Barbie kept it the talk of the night, despite its lack of official acknowledgement from the academy.

Ryan Gosling and his crew of dancing Kens stole the show with their live rendition of "I'm Just Ken." While Gosling's feature song did not go home with an award, he brought plenty of Ken energy that the internet is still talking about.

## Former Chief Florist shares fresh insight

KAITLYN HUGHES  
staff writer

From policy analyst to former chief florist of the White House, Laura Dowling shared how to combine passion and profession at the 42nd Annual Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show.

The show, which runs through Sunday, hosted Dowling as a special guest feature for its first three days.

During her lecture, Dowling showed attendees how to create a handheld bouquet and a wreath made out of natural items such as potatoes and shallots, while sharing anecdotes from her career.

The handheld bouquet she demonstrated was former First Lady Michelle Obama's gift to all her guests. Dowling said that the bouquets had been so popular that Oprah had her driver turn back around to the White House after she had forgotten it there.

Dowling's journey at the White House began during a public competition held for the Chief Florist position. First Lady Michelle Obama selected Dowling in 2009 after a seven-month interview process and a floral competition between two other remaining contenders.

Prior to that, Dowling had a full time job at the Nature Conservancy in Washington as policy analyst, while being a part-time florist that worked out of her kitchen.

Dowling always had an appreciation for nature growing up in Washington State, which she deemed to be "a place of natural beauty."

"My grandparents had a beautiful garden. I would always cut the roses and bring them inside," Dowling said. "I think just a lifelong appreciation for the diversity of different

flowers and plant material was always inspiring to me."

Her six years in the position at the White House consisted of creating the floral designs at Camp David and in both East and West Wings for parties, congressional events, state dinners and holidays.

In 2010, Dowling planned the

featured speakers such as Dowling caught people's attention and lured them to stop by.

"She was really approachable, she was very likable," Moore said. "People enjoyed her insight into things at the White House that the average person doesn't have access to."

Dowling explained to attendees



KAITLYN HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

Former chief florist for the White House Laura Dowling showed off her bouquets, skills and White House anecdotes at the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show.

Simple Gifts theme for the White House Christmas. She wanted to create a natural aesthetic that went with White House history.

"I really drilled down into the different kinds of emotion you can evoke with flowers," Dowling said. "Everything from nostalgia, to celebration like birthday flowers and what that would look like – dramatic flowers that have bold colors or softer flowers like Monet paintings. Thinking about a concept that way and the emotion that goes with it is always part of my creative process."

Executive director of the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show Mark Moore explained that having

that during her time at the White House there was always drama behind the scenes.

When she was in the position, she would bring in different groups to participate in crafts. One time she invited a garden club to create Kissing Balls – a mistletoe-based craft – for Christmas. A member of the club lost her diamond ring in the vat of water used to hydrate the greenery. The Secret Service was called upon to retrieve the ring.

Another story Dowling shared with attendees revolved around the 2010 Mexico State Dinner.

Entertainment for the dinner was Beyoncé. After designing the set,

which consisted of 10,000 faux butterflies and crystals, Dowling was able to listen to Beyoncé's soundcheck.

While creating the decor for the event, Dowling incorporated elements from Mexico that blended easily with American flowers. She chose a prickly pear cactus as the centerpiece. Some guests, who were less familiar with the plant, touched its thorns causing them to be sent to the medics.

Though Dowling's time at the White House was filled with lighthearted memories, it did not come without hard work. She worked 100 hours each week, seven days a week for the six years of her employment. Her passion is what drove her craft.

"I think the opportunity to be an artist and create is really a gift," Dowling said. "I enjoy the dialogue with other people who obviously like flowers and are creative too."

Dowling's creative work continued even after she left the White House in 2015.

She gave a TedTalk in 2017, designed four wreath-themed USPS stamps in 2019, wrote four books (with a fifth one on the way) and is now part of a food and wine tour with *USA Today*.

Though Dowling was present at the show to engage with attendees' and advise on how to create a bouquet with the correct colors and variety of flowers, she was also there to inspire others who have a dream of their own.

"We all bring a unique history and experience along with us ... think about what your passion is," Dowling said. "Leveraging the skills and gifts you already have is a great thing ... Anything is possible."

## Netflix series outdoes 2010 film but doesn't excel

EMILY FRITZ  
a&e editor

Young actor Gordon Cormier (Aang) said earlier this year that he was excited for the live-action Netflix adaptation of "Avatar: The Last Airbender" to re-engage original viewers.

But fans of the 2005 Nickelodeon cartoon have approached the adaptation with understandable hesitancy, having been burned by M. Night Shyamalan's live-action film attempt in 2010, which had a white-washed cast and condensed 20 episodes into a 103-minute feature film.

Announced in 2018, the streaming giant's attempt at a live-action was fraught with controversy as both creators of the original series, Michael DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, left the project in 2020.

"When Netflix brought me on board to run this series alongside Mike two years ago, they made a very public promise to support our vision. Unfortunately, there was no follow-through on that promise," Konietzko said on Instagram in August of 2020.

The original show is "widely hailed as one of the greatest animated series of the 21st century, an ambitious, anime-inspired saga that blended gorgeous world-building and thoughtful storytelling," according to *Entertainment Weekly*.

After being trapped in an iceberg for 100 years, 12-year old Avatar Aang must master all four elements (water, earth, fire, air) to defeat the firelord and end the 100-year war. Between him and his friends, the group helps numerous communities while showcasing stories of empathy, anti-imperialism and connection.

Now with the eight episodes and a \$120 million budget, fans new and old are divided on whether or not the live-action series can be deemed a success. Comparatively, the Netflix attempt is "objectively better" than Shyamalan's.

The cast, which better represents the Asian and Indigenous inspirations of the show, is far better in portraying the beloved characters. Cormier, Kiawentiio Tarbell (Katara), Ian Ousley (Sokka) and Dallas James Liu

(Zuko) set up the foundations of the show, but the writing prevents them from following their original arcs.

Liu is a strong cast in the way his role was written, but the character comes off as more of a sulking teenager than the anger-driven antagonist that fans grew up with.

Ousley's character is much more approachable and keeps the dorkish charm of the Water Tribe warrior, but the character's development arc is lost to the rewrite.

Perhaps most disappointing was Tarbell's adapted character. Katara's trademark was always helping people in need and protecting those she loves. Instead, Netflix's Katara backs away from many conflicts due to inexperience.

Cormier is a commendable Aang, but there were many times that his line delivery felt awkward and his expressions seemed too choppy.

The mechanics of element bending also seemed to suffer. The original animations utilized various martial arts such as Tai Chi (water), Hung Guar (earth), Northern Shaolin (fire)

and Baguazhang (air), to cement the mechanics of the fantasy world.

"Every bending battle ... is sluggish," wrote Kelly Lawler of *USA Today*. "[T]he actors' move out of sync with the poor-quality effects."

Contrary to the original plot of season one in the animated series, Aang didn't learn any waterbending. Instead, he utilized the element only while in the 'avatar state' (when he isn't in full control of his body or actions but draws upon his past lives and experiences.)

Compared to similar young adult hero adaptations like Disney+ Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series, Netflix strayed a little further from a 1:1 adaptation of the original source material.

All in all, the entertainment company was pleased with audience reception, renewing the live-action show for not one, but two more seasons.

"The live-action reimagining of the beloved animated series will return," Netflix said in a press release, "to bring The Legend of Aang to its proper conclusion."



THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall  
600 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

editorial staff

- editor-in-chief Emma Polen
- news editor Megan Trotter
- opinions editor Eliyahu Gasson
- features editor Isabella Abbott
- a&e editor Emily Fritz
- sports editor Spencer Thomas
- multimedia editor Brentaro Yamane
- ads manager Nicholas Zotos
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Corrections/clarifications Readers should report any story or photo error to The Duke. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew defended the China-based tech company in front of Congress, but they still have doubts.

Time’s Up on TikTok: Ban the App

MAXWELL MARCELLO  
staff writer

Since as far back as anyone remembers, the heated debate over media evolution and its impact on society has persisted. Amidst the evolution from cable television to short-form videos on the phone, TikTok stands out for its unprecedented growth, attracting millions of American users.

Significantly, TikTok represents the first major social media platform of non-U.S. origin to accomplish this feat, with 150 million Americans alone who use their site. Given its extensive reach, particularly among users under the age of 30, concerns regarding the welfare of its younger audience are increasing.

This concern, coupled with the app’s potential use as a cyberweapon in the near future, has drawn significant attention from regulators and users alike, prompting other countries to take action against TikTok. It is time that the United States does the same.

The first and most pressing justification from U.S. leaders are concerns relating to national security. Based in Beijing, TikTok’s parent company, ByteDance, has a reputation for censorship and surveillance. The company, like all Chinese companies, is required to be in full compliance with the policies of the ruling Communist Party of China (CCP).

Although censorship is not as prevalent in markets outside China, the surveillance is. TikTok is arguably the most attractive and successful computer worm in history. Like other forms of malware, TikTok embeds itself into our phones and employs advanced user tracking.

TikTok records keystrokes, location and other data even when the user is not actively engaged on the app. All of this aggregated data inevitably ends up in Chinese ByteDance servers and is undoubtedly made available to the CCP.

This issue becomes particularly troubling in light of China’s dual justice system. There exists

one legal framework managed by the Chinese state and another under the auspices of the CCP. While the party’s courts are ostensibly designated for internal political issues, the reality is that it would be relatively straightforward for Chinese President General Secretary Xi Jinping, as the CCP’s leader, to frame data compliance as a matter of political concern.

Given this potential for unlimited and unsupervised mass surveillance, many countries have forbidden the installation of TikTok on all government devices, including the United States. However, an outright ban has stalled in Washington as the issue is a surprisingly polarizing one.

During the Trump Administration, the Republican Party rallied around the president’s vocal support for an outright ban and succeeded in restricting and later banning its use on government devices.

Now Trump has changed his opinion, arguing that TikTok prevents Facebook and its parent company Meta from achieving social media hegemony.

It is important to note that while American companies are also guilty of these gross privacy violations, Americans themselves have the capacity to force elected leaders to enact data protection laws. After all, it is easier for Americans to change the corporate behavior and laws of the United States than it is for them to do in China.

Democrats are far less divided on the issue, arguing against the ban. Millennial politicians like Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and our own Summer Lee have used the app in order to engage with young voters.

Generation Z and millennials make up the majority of TikTok’s user base and are a vital component in Democrats’ political victories. With election season fast approaching, it is clear to the Democratic political strategists that restricting TikTok will not bode well, especially after young voters have soured on Biden, primarily due to the administration’s policies concerning Gaza.

Despite the political dynamics, House Republicans have rebuked their now-christened presidential nominee by passing a bill that forces TikTok to either be sold to a non-Chinese entity or be banned in the United States. In spite of their defiance, it is unlikely to pass the Senate and President Biden is almost guaranteed to veto purely on his political interests.

Ignoring the potential of TikTok as a powerful tool for influencing political discourse would be a significant oversight for China. Gaining insights into American domestic politics opens up numerous opportunities for exploitation and potential misinformation campaigns in the foreseeable future. Although it’s challenging to predict the long-term political strategies China might employ with TikTok, the early warning signs are evident.

The second significant argument for imposing a ban on TikTok centers on the detrimental effects the platform has on its users and public health. With its rise to global prominence, a growing body of research has established a correlation between TikTok usage and diminished attention spans.

This trend can be attributed to two related factors: the nature of short-form content and the passive viewing experience engineered by TikTok. The platform utilizes state-of-the-art artificial intelligence to tailor a “For You” page, offering an endless stream of bite-sized videos.

The risks that this platform bring must be considered. Even if TikTok is not banned, this should prompt some degree of action. Whether it is artists going off to create a haven where content creation can be explored, establishing a platform that does justice to its creators, bravely independent of totalitarian regimes and taking serious consideration on its corporate-social impact or reforms to existing platforms. Regardless, TikTok remains a serious national security and public health threat that should not be ignored by citizens and governments alike.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Flighty Spring Flights

According to *Forbes*, an estimated 1.5 million college students travel for spring break annually. It’s no surprise that during popular travel times, airlines inflate the cost of airfare to increase profit. This is seen around major holidays, like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The month of March is no exception, as students and families around the country take advantage of the extended time off.

Last year, aviation trade group Airlines for America estimated that up to 2.6 million people traveled the skies *per day* in March and April. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said that travel related to spring break has gone up an additional 6% since last year, which doesn’t seem significant until you realize that the increase represents 156,000 passengers per day.

Citing the rising cost of jet fuel and labor challenges, many major airlines have announced recent price hikes in baggage fees. American Airlines, JetBlue, Alaskan Air, United and Delta have raised fees by 17% per bag, per direction, according to *ABC News*. Some companies, like American Airlines, are also beginning to place additional restrictions on how consumers can earn loyalty perks or mileage rewards.

Even airlines that advertise a lower base rate, like Spirit and Frontier, are hiding additional fees in their bookings process, causing less informed travelers to rack up additional expenses when trying to salvage their budgets.

While the increase comes as no surprise with aggressive inflation and the still-recovering tourism industry post-pandemic, many Americans are still trying to travel.

“\$50 billion in federal pandemic relief that the airlines got was supposed to be to keep employees on the payroll so they would stay ready for when the travel market recovered,” said NPR transportation correspondent David Schaper. “But they ended up giving a lot of veteran pilots and flight attendants, mechanics and other workers incentives to leave their companies or take an early retirement. So that’s what left them short-staffed.”

“That’s left a lot of travelers frustrated because they do see that taxpayers gave the airlines quite a bit of money to help them stay afloat,” Schaper said.

So the airlines have gotten their boost – when will fares start to plateau again for customers? The way the narrative reads, taxpayers carried the brunt of the airline bailouts, only for companies to abuse the government relief. Now, the multi-million dollar industry is blaming gas prices for significant price increases for the consumer.

At best, the price increases are just the latest litmus for the unchecked monopolization of accessibility and mobility. At worst, students nationwide are the first victims of the newest scheme for corporate profits.



# OPINIONS

## < It's not too late to learn email etiquette >

EMILY AMBERY  
layout editor

Since the turn of the century, email has become the primary mode of communication in the modern American office.

While this technology has revolutionized communication, it has also become a burden.

The average full-time worker in America receives 120 emails per day, according to a McKinsey report. This flooded inbox takes 28% of the work day to address, on top of the role-specific task completed 39% of the day.

While email etiquette might sound antiquated, only 25% of those 120 emails get a response. So upping your email etiquette game will help you get the response you deserve and be part of that 25%.

As we move from students to professionals, implementing good email etiquette now can help us navigate corporate communication.

Etiquette includes knowing when to send an email, how to address it and response expectations. Emails do not have to be a formal decree, but they should be relatively polite and professional.

The advent of texting and smartphones has put people under the illusion that everyone should be available to respond to email requests and questions 24/7. Not only is this wildly unrealistic, it's also annoying for both parties.

Getting an email at 11 p.m. can be disruptive to work/life balance and reading it the night before you can actually com-

plete the task risks it getting forgotten the next day.

While it can vary between jobs, if the subject is not life-threatening or time-sensitive, typically the time frame in which an email

time, emails should be addressed to the right people. Just because many people may be relevant to the subject of the email you are sending does not mean you need to CC everyone.

up is appropriate.

Before even sending or schedule sending an email, it's important to consider if the question could be answered otherwise. For example, at school, if the email could be answered by looking at the syllabus, it's a waste of everyone's time not to check the information you have first.

Once it's determined that an email is worth the hassle of sending out, *Business News Daily* suggests that opening an email with "Hi" or "Hey" is only appropriate for an already established connection with the receiver.

An email to someone you only vaguely know should be addressed with "good morning" or "good afternoon." An introduction should follow the address, so the recipient knows why you are relevant.

Because emails are so time-consuming for the average employee, Jodi R.R. Smith, owner of the etiquette consulting business Mannersmith, told *Business News Daily* that recipients only read the first line or two in their decision to keep or delete an email.

Not only should emails get to the point quickly, but they should remain concise. They are not texts, but they are also not essays. They should not be filled with jargon and unfortunately should not have emoji. 🙄

While email may seem like a silly thing to require an "etiquette," it is most likely how you will make a first impression on someone, and making sure it is a good one is crucial to job offers, industry connections and receiving an extension on your paper.

### Writing an opinion this week



🔔 Eliyahu Gasson <gassone@duq.edu>



Today at 6:07 PM

To: 📧 Emily Ambery

Hey!

Checking in to see if you wanted to write an opinion article this week?? You were talking really passionately about emails or something and it seemed like a good topic for an article.

Let me know 😊

A fictional email from opinion editor Eliyahu Gasson to layout editor Emily Ambery demonstrating how not to write an email.

should be sent is around 9 to 5. Timing your emails should respect the recipient's time as they are not on the clock 24/7.

Most email platforms have even built this into their software with a "schedule send" feature, allowing someone to draft the email anytime they want. Conveniently, rather than sending it then, it "sends" it at a time of your choosing, which should be within 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the standard workday.

People may request emails at specific times during the day which may be outside of the 9-5, and if that is the case, then send it at their requested time.

In addition to sending it at the right

Inboxes are already full. Making sure that the relevant people are copied to the email makes your messages more efficient and concise.

According to *Harvard Business Review*, "professionals delay replying 37% of the time," showing that emails take time. Someone might be out of the office, on a tight deadline for another project or just needs time to find information to answer an email.

Expecting a response within 12 hours, while that would be ideal and sometimes happens, is unrealistic. According to email analytics software TimetoReply, waiting 3-5 business days before sending a follow-

## PGH needs its own year-round food market

EMMA POLEN  
editor-in-chief

I recently visited Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market, a culturally-diverse food oasis in the city's center – something that Pittsburgh does not have.

What I noticed first, as I weaved in and out of the overwhelming number of stalls from one end of the train station-turned-food-hub to the other, was there was not a single chain restaurant in sight (unless my Pittsburgh eyes were just untrained for the Philly regional cuisine).

Reading Terminal featured seemingly endless booths of locally owned businesses, including made-to-order Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine,



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Reading Terminal Market has local food to satisfy any visitor's cravings.

and fresh-cut meats, cheeses, seafood and baked goods. Whether you had dietary restrictions or just had a taste for a specific variety of fish, they had it in this indoor marketplace – a proud cut of Philly's culture that I haven't seen in the area before but which exists in nearly every major city of Europe.

In Rome, there's an indoor food market called Mercato Centrale. This marketplace has four locations across Italy, and each differs in regional specialties. The one in Rome hosted cacio e pepe, the Italian version of mac 'n cheese, a meat counter with Trippa alla Romana, a specific way of preparing animal tripe and maritozzi, a cream-filled brioche bun Rome is famous for. With all of these offerings, there was a chance to try the best of the local cuisine without having to travel across the entire city for a taste of everything. And through it all, you could be certain you were supporting local business.

Versailles' Place du Marché Notre Dame compound is reminiscent of an Amish market with cheeses, fudge, fresh baked goods, and every type of wild honey for sale. But a weary traveler has to travel no further than the next booth over to try a different taste of France's regional menu.

The Keystone State has its own variety of cultural food markets. Harrisburg already has the Broadstreet Market, Philadelphia has Reading Terminal, so where's our indoor hub for local fresh goods and cuisine? Lancaster Central Market, while

markedly not located in a large city, hosts a number of local vendors in a continuously-running farmers market.

In Pittsburgh, there is no shortage of food culture variety, they're just not all available in the same place.

Every spring, local international non-profit Literacy Pittsburgh showcases the numerous countries that have brought their own taste of home to the region with a one-night collage of culture inside Stage AE. Their International Food Fair tables over 50 food and hand-crafting vendors from all over the world, who offer their goods at Pittsburgh storefronts, seasonal pop-ups or websites online.

So, here's proof that international cookery is thriving in the Pittsburgh area.

You might know how to get to Strip District Meats butchery, Enrico's Italian Biscotti or Chicken Latino from Peru. But what if there was a place where all of these special dining locations were on display, equidistant to each other under one shared roof?

When my family invites people to stay with us for the holidays, we take them to some of our favorite Pittsburgh spots: Phipps Botanical Garden, the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History and then an eat-out spot, too.

But, as the city is currently laid out, we have to go with just one regional cuisine. Maybe we take them to Smallman Street Deli to try a stacked Pittsburgh sandwich, or to Talia's Italian cuisine downtown. But there's no opportunity to try it all in our limited time together, and we (and our

guests) are missing out. And as an individual who appreciates the chance to try anything and everything, a one-stop, multicultural food center would satisfy that need to have a taste of Pittsburgh's best.

Pittsburgh has enough chain food stops. There's five Starbucks within two miles of each other just up the road from campus on McKnight Road, with not a single locally-owned, brick-and-mortar café in those same limits. What we need, what would boost local business, would be a permanent promise of cultural food diversity all in one spot – not an annual summer produce market, not a seasonal flea market inside a parking garage, but a place that reliably hosted Pittsburgh's proud list of diverse local-owned businesses year-round.



EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The meat counter at the Mercato Centrale in Rome is an example of the enclosed food markets that are a staple of major European cities.





## Local bakery ready for Pi Day



**ISABELLA ABBOTT**  
features editor

Pi Day is for local bakeries, pizza shops and math geeks to celebrate the number 3.14.

The day is observed worldwide on March 14 to acknowledge the symbol Pi, which in mathematics represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, about 3.14.

The day that started in 2009, when Congress first designated it as National Pi Day, has grown to become a fun, pie-eating celebration for mathematicians, students and bakeries alike.

Some bakeries, like CobblerWorld on Penn Avenue, celebrate Pi Day daily. However, on March 14, there's sometimes a special deal added to their menus. The owner of CobblerWorld, Terina Hicks, said anyone who purchases a pie on March 14 will get the second one for \$3.14.

Though Hicks gets most of her business near Thanksgiving with pumpkin and sweet potato pies, she's hoping to gain some more customers for pi day.

In-store, Hicks only sells personal sized pies.

"When I started my business, I wanted to be geared toward the individual. My market is college students, and the elderly because if you think about it they don't want that whole nine inch pie. They want something just to fill that sweet void," Hicks said. "We don't



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERINA HICKS

Terina Hicks, the owner of Cobblerworld, makes all of her pies by hand and by herself. For Pi Day she's offering buy one pie get one for \$3.14.

want to make a whole pie and then they don't sell."

She started making her pies at the age of 14, learning from her mother, and was the only child out of nine in her family to make a career from baking. Currently, she makes all her pies by herself in-store and is open between 11 and 2 Tuesday through Friday, though she's hoping to open on Saturdays soon.

In Pi Day spirit, Hicks said the difference between a cobbler and a pie by comparing a cobbler to a shoe.

"If you look at your shoe it has various layers, there's a sole and then the tongue and the top of your shoe," Hicks said. "So there's layers to your shoe. The way a cobbler is, you got your bottom crust, your crushed fruit, a little crust, more fruit and then a top crust. A pie is just the bottom crust, your filling and then the top crust."

Hicks describes her shop as a "nostalgic place."

"We're taking you back into yesterday where life was carefree and there wasn't social media ruining things,"

Hicks said. "My bakery takes you back to the good old days because we put our own unique spin on the more traditional pies."

Though she lives off of positivity, two years ago, she was faced with racial intimidation, and a brick was thrown through the shop window.

"I was the only store that was picked out, there are four storefronts along that walk but someone singled out my business," Hicks said. "I was getting ready for a farmer's market and I went down to my shop in the afternoon and was like, 'what in the world,' thankfully my landlord had boarded up my door and everything."

Unfortunately, she said incidents like that happen.

"It just makes me stronger, like the song, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," Hicks said.

The incident has made her continue her work; she still makes new pies and doesn't let it bother her two years later.

For Pi Day, Hicks recommends her lemon meringue pie, but if customers want something they've never tried for the celebration, Hicks sells walking cheesecakes which are cheesecakes on a stick.

Some of her other desserts include banana bread, cupcakes, cakes, bundts, pound cakes, zucchini bread, cookies and more.

Students and staff can visit her at 1059 Penn Ave. or check out her Instagram and Facebook @cobblerworld and website, cobblerworld.com.

### Types of Pie

**Across**

- 3. Typically served on thanksgiving
- 5. Has a word rhyming with milk
- 6. Pie filled with lemon custard
- 8. Contains a type of berry

**Down**

- 1. Contains something that falls from palm trees
- 2. Has a word associated with a lock and a word associated with a fruit
- 4. Contains nuts
- 7. Contains a filling made from fresh \_\_\_\_\_ which is chopped into smaller pieces and mixed with sugar

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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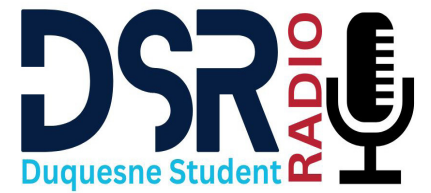
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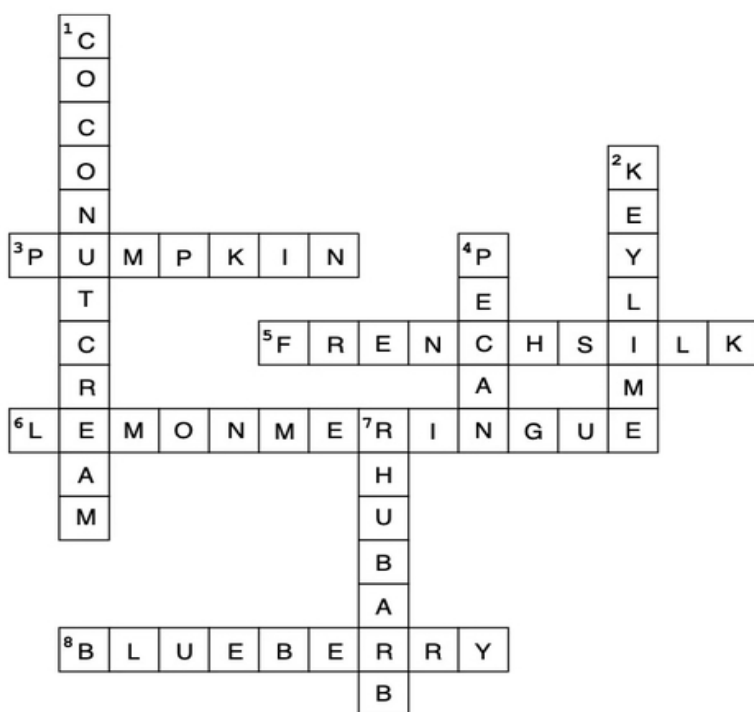
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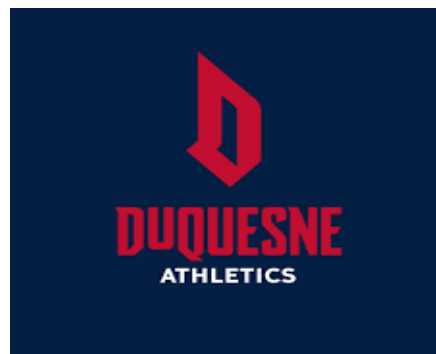
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## WANTED

Duquesne University's Literary Journal :Lexicon is hiring a new position for Editor-in-Chief for the upcoming year of Fall 2024 - Spring 2025! Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, attending events, scheduling meetings, and managing the over all production process of the journal.

Spring will officially be :Lexicon's 20th year of publication, so it will be an exciting and celebratory time for everyone involved!!!!

To apply for the position send your resume and cover letter to John Fried at [friedj@duq.edu](mailto:friedj@duq.edu) by Wednesday, March 20. If you have any questions about the position, please feel free to reach out to the current Editor-in-Chief, Jay Swarm at [swarmj@gmail.com](mailto:swarmj@gmail.com).

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