

# SPECIAL NCAA TOURNAMENT COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

Let's Go Dukes!

Fans talk past and present team spirit

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After winning A-10 Title, Keith Dambrot announces retirement

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## THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

In his final season, Keith Dambrot is bringing Duquesne back to March Madness

**Duquesne- 57**  
**VCU- 51**

**SPENCER THOMAS**  
sports editor

The last time Duquesne basketball put on their dancing shoes, the footwear in style would have been something like Chuck Taylor's or Converse. Now, they'll go dancing in whatever they want.

Duquesne defeated the VCU Rams 57-51 on Sunday afternoon in Brooklyn to win the Atlantic-10 Conference Championship and clinch a spot in March Madness. It's their first time in the NCAA Tournament since 1977.

It is the biggest win in program history, and is the climax of a season fit for the silver screen. Soon-retiring Head Coach Keith Dambrot's father, Sid, played at Duquesne in the 1950s, reaching the NIT championship game. He remained close to the school long after, telling his son that he wanted to be buried in his letterman jacket.

In his introductory press conference seven years ago, Dambrot said that this connection to Duquesne is what drew him to the Bluff.

"If he wants to wear his letter sweater into his casket, then I

have to resurrect Duquesne basketball before I die," he said. "Or I'm going to die trying and wear my letter jacket into that thing."

Safe to say the resurrection is complete.

All week, Duquesne fans spouted off with those they wanted to win a championship for. Some said Ray Goss, Duquesne's play-by-play radio announcer, since 1968. Others said Sid Dambrot, whose legacy has been fulfilled 70 years after he wore a Duquesne uniform and two years after his death. Another rallying point was Keith's wife Donna,

who has been battling breast cancer all season but found herself in Brooklyn embracing her husband in a downpour of confetti. People also said Tre Williams, the joint-longest-tenured player on the team who may have seen his college career end with a shoulder injury versus Dayton on March 14.

In truth, Duquesne won for Williams. They won for Goss and Sid and Donna Dambrot, too. They won for every member of the Duquesne community – the students who gathered for a watch party in Cooper Field-

house, and the alums who descended on their fingers and hope in their hearts. They won for everyone who experienced all 47 years of disappointment as well as the new fans who will pass down stories of Duquesne glory the same way that Sid did for Keith.

Finally, they won it for each other. Their sacrifice and investments immortalized on the court in Brooklyn with the trophy they carried off it.

"It's something that you can never get taken away from you," Dambrot said.

## POLICE BRIEFS

### Monday, March 4-

A student was seen on a security video taking two items from the kiosk in Fisher Hall and one item from Connections food service in the Union without paying for them.

### Friday, March. 15-

A Duquesne staff member sustained damage to her vehicle.

### Saturday, March 16-

A student was observed by Duquesne resident assistants consuming alcohol inside of his dorm room during visitor checks. The student was under the age of 21.

### Monday, March 18-

Officers responded to a call regarding an intoxicated student in Towers. The student was seen by medics and was later transported home for the night by their emergency contact.

### Monday, March 18-

Officers responded to Libermann for an unaffiliated female suffering from mental health issues. The person was reported missing from New Jersey. She was transported to UMPC Mercy Hospital for evaluation.

*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

## Women's team iNIT to win it

SPENCER THOMAS

sports editor

The Duquesne Women's Basketball team will be competing in a postseason tournament of their own. They are part of the 48-team Women's National Invitation Tournament. The bracket includes many programs that had successful seasons, but fell short of March Madness. On Tuesday, Duquesne learned they had one of 16 byes to the round of 32, where they will face the winner of Thursday night's game between Monmouth and Buffalo. Date, time and location have yet to be announced. It will extend a season that saw the Dukes make a run to fifth place in the Atlantic-10 Conference, before falling to future champion Richmond in the A-10 semifinals.

MEGAN TROTTER

news editor

Dedicated fan and Red & Blue Crew member Matthew Magnani drove over 24 hours from Pittsburgh to Omaha to watch the Duquesne Men's Basketball team play a two hour game in the NCAA Tournament.

After winning the Atlantic-10 Conference for the first time in almost 50 years, the Dukes are making fans proud.

When the buzzer sounded at Sunday's game against VCU Duquesne President Ken Gormley was first to run onto the court. He embraced Dae Dae Grant and Jimmy Clark III, a moment seen nationally on CBS.

His enthusiasm continued at Tuesday's send-off for the men's team at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

"Today is my birthday," Gormley said. "I only want one thing for my birthday, and that is a big win on Thursday in Omaha."

Lifelong fan Paul Jankowiak has only missed four home games since he started his freshman year at Duquesne in 1968.

The alumnus said he wasn't sure he'd live long enough to see *The Dukes* back in another tournament.

"It was very emotional," Jankowiak said. "The tears started to flow ... I'm still on Cloud Nine."

At the end of Sunday's game, the coaches, players and Gormley came up to his seat to thank him for his support.

Jankowiak was even given a snippet of the winning net the team cut down in Brooklyn. The superfan said the piece of net and confetti from the floor will hang with a picture of him and the A-10 trophy in his family room along with other football and basketball memorabilia from Duquesne over the years.

Jankowiak said that the team's kindness meant more to him than the actual win itself.

Paul Hightower, the assistant athletic director since 1990 shared a similar sentiment about the team.

"We have a great mix of talent and heart," Hightower said. "They're committed to playing hard and playing both ends on the court.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne University President Ken Gormley shares an emotional embrace with Dukes center Chabi Barre after the buzzer at last Sunday's A-10 Championship game where the Dukes beat VCU 57-51.

And they've been very selfless. They all get along. They're good guys. It's a very easy group to be around."

Many fans are excited about the opportunities March Madness means for Duquesne.

Alumnus and professor at Duquesne, Robert Healy said the new visibility from March Madness will garner national attention and help drive admissions.

"As an alumnus, it means it's just a greater source of pride than being a regular sports fan. And I think that's the magic of college sports," Healy said. "When our teams ... represent our Alma Mater, ... we feel a greater sense of attachment to it than I think normal sports fans feel about their favorite [local or national] teams."

Magnani will be fulfilling his job as a crew member, "promoting school spirit, school unity and awareness of athletic activities," according to Duquesne's website, when he travels to Omaha for the game.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the team. I think we definitely have a chance to win and make some noise and really show people who we are on a national

scale," Magnani said.

Graduate assistant of marketing and fan engagement Carson Zaremski is in his first year at Duquesne overseeing the Red & Blue Crew.

"It's really big for us. We want to build off this momentum. And hopefully they do well in March Madness. But regardless ... they've already succeeded in our eyes, and I think it's a huge step in the right direction, considering how it's gone the last 47 years," Zaremski said.

The Red & Blue Crew has already begun preparing for increased attendance at next year's games and put out new applications for Red & Blue Crew members.

Second year law student John Fazio has grown up watching the Dukes play.

"I came to Duquesne games as a kid and always rooted real hard for them," Fazio said. "I knew this program had what it would take to be successful; it was just a matter of time."

Since Head Coach Keith Dambrot announced his retirement at the end of the season on Monday, there has been lots of conversation reflecting on his time coaching.

"You're going to be hard-pressed to find a game where [Dambrot] is going to be out coached," said Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper. "It was just about sticking to our principles."

"I'll just say, today is about Keith Dambrot, period. He deserves this, he deserves all of what's going on. The team deserves this week, he deserves this week, and that's what today's about," Harper said.

Zaremski said he believes that making it into the tournament is going to be tremendous for the next few years of recruiting.

Marketing intern and newest member of the Red & Blue Crew Tyler Grupac is excited about this possibility.

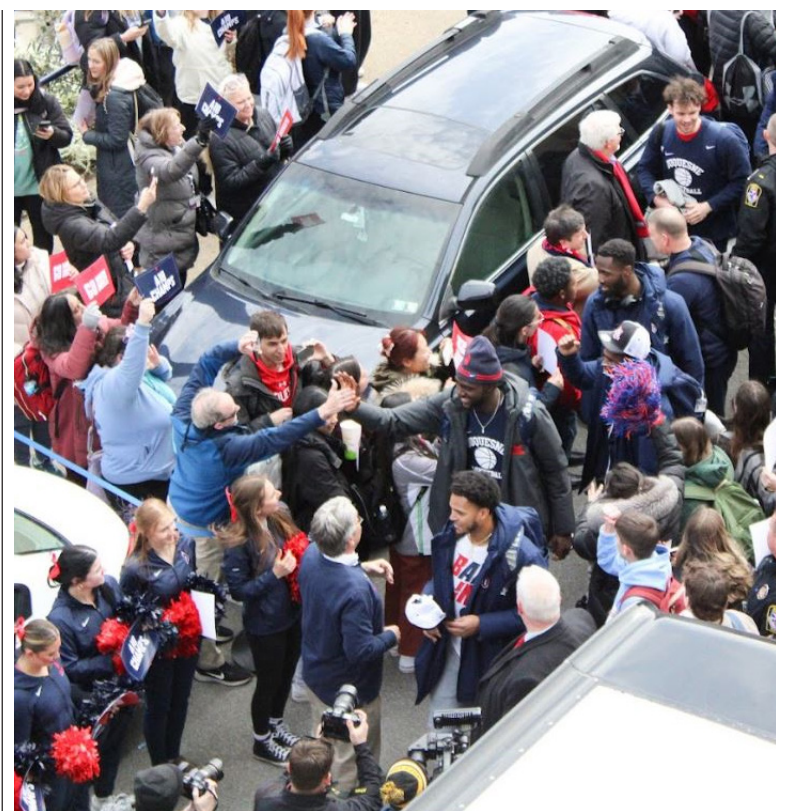
"I think that this run for Duquesne is a really great thing to see with all the national attention and just all the attention Duquesne is receiving. This team has played really good throughout the season," Grupac said. "It's just nice to see them being rewarded like this."

*Contributions from Duke Editors: Emily Fritz, Emily Ambery, Isabella Abbott, Elijah Gasson and Emma Polen*



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Students, faculty and staff made it out to support the Dukes during a send off celebration on Tuesday afternoon before the team headed to Omaha.



DELANEY KRAUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The men's basketball players made their way through a crowd of excited fans who came to support the players who won the A-10 Championship.

# Time to dance: the Dukes win A-10 3

REBECCA JOZWIAK  
staff writer

NEW YORK— For the first time in 47 years, Duquesne is going to March Madness.

In a game that came down to the wire, the Dukes defeated the Virginia Commonwealth Rams, 57-51, to win the Atlantic-10 Conference Tournament at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Duquesne had a lights-out performance in the first half. After the Rams scored the first basket of the game, the Dukes never looked back. Like clockwork, Dae Dae Grant exploded in the first half. Fousseyni Drame scored 4 points, but contributed five rebounds. All nine Dukes that played in the first half scored and the Dukes saw their largest lead of the game, 36-18, with a little over a minute left in the first half.

However, VCU finally got shots to start falling, and climbed back in the second half. 2:57 into the second quarter, red and blue confetti prematurely fell from the ceiling of the Barclays Center— which seemed to have been a temporary bad omen for the Dukes. From 19:28 to 10:56, the Dukes were outscored 11-0, blowing their double-digit lead in the process.

The Rams were able to capitalize off of a cold shooting spell from the Dukes, and senior guard Joe Bamisile led the offensive explosion with a game-high 20 points.

It was a similar pattern to the Dukes quarterfinal win over Dayton, but once again, Duquesne regained control after their early lead disappeared.

“I just try to stay the course, just like I did all year,” said Head Coach Keith Dambrot. “Again, I’m fairly experienced, so I just try

to stay calm because they’re going to feed off of your anxiety or your calmness.”

While the Dukes were able to mostly contain Rams guard Max Shulga. Shulga, a senior, was relatively quiet against the Dukes, scoring five points — well off from his 14.6 average. Shulga did have a breakthrough toward the end of the game, though: he scored a jumper to pull VCU within 6 less than four minutes left. With 1:45 remaining, Shulga stole the ball; after driving the ball down the court to Bamisile, Grant was called for a foul against Bamisile, who made both of his free throws.

“First, I’m just going to give props— Shulga is a great player,” Grant said, “He’s a good guard.”

Although Bamisile’s two free throws helped cut the Rams deficit down, Duquesne was able to draw fouls that sent them to the free-throw line: in the last 7:30 of the game, the Rams combined for seven fouls that sent six different Dukes to the line. Jimmy Clark III saw two fouls called in his favor, with the first one called with 21 seconds left, and the second called with one second left. Clark ultimately sealed the deal for the Dukes with a brilliant pass assist to Jake DiMichele with under a minute to play, and his two free throws were the final points scored in the tournament, resulting in a 57-51 win.

When the buzzer sounded a wave of relief crashed through the Duquesne sideline. Players jumped up on the scorers table in celebration and fans broke into tears as their nerves turned into excitement. One person who wasn’t anxious at all was Dambrot, who was one of the only people in the arena who knew that these were the final days of his career.

“It’s the most relaxed I’ve ever been in a game,” Dambrot said. “I just went out and tried to enjoy the moment, which probably was the first time of my career.”

Jakub Necas also enjoyed a terrific game and tournament. Necas hit a three-



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR  
Dae Dae Grant juggles his trophies after the win.

point jumper with 4:35 left, which was a pivotal moment to a consistently close second half.

Dambrot praised the freshman and his development this season.

“He’s just scratching the surface,” he said. “His work ethic is second-to-none.”

As Dambrot praised his players, they had nothing but glowing comments in return.

“He can be straightforward with us,” Grant said. “And everybody can’t get that from a player-coach standpoint.”

“It’s definitely good to have a coach to be able to tell you what is straightforward and straight to the point so you can make an effort to fix it,” Clark said. “I love him, man.”

Dambrot’s response?  
“I love you, too.”

The Duquesne Dukes will now take on the Brigham Young Cougars in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday in Omaha. Tip-off is slated for 12:40 p.m.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR  
Winning the A-10 tournament guaranteed Duquesne a spot in March Madness.

## Dukes prepare for Thursday game day

SPENCER THOMAS &  
MICHAEL O’GRADY

sports editor & staff writer

OMAHA, NE— After a spirited send off from students and fans, Duquesne men’s basketball team touched down at Eppley Airfield in Omaha, Neb., on Tuesday evening. They went through a practice at Creighton University that night, before an open practice and media day on Wednesday. The quick turnaround culminates on Thursday morning, when they play six-seed Brigham Young University at 11:40 a.m. central time.

For Duquesne’s biggest game in almost 50 years, Head Coach Keith Dambrot emptied the arsenal. That includes traveling Joe Carr, a sports psychologist based out of Washington, D.C., that has worked with national championship teams from UConn and Georgetown. Dambrot first brought him in when at St. Vincent-St. Mary’s to provide extra support for young superstar LeBron James. Since then, Carr has worked with Dambrot’s teams several times each year, including after Duquesne’s 0-5 start in conference. He preached the importance of connectivity, something Jake DiMichele feels has increased the past couple days.

“It’s been kind of a whirlwind of emotions,” DiMichele said. “But I think it works for us in a positive way because it just bonds us closer together.”

Players talked about their busy

week, which started with the send-off.

“I think it’s been a great and exciting experience, as well as emotional, because not many of us have been here in this position,” said Senior Guard Dae Dae Grant. “It’s very exciting and mind-blowing to me right now.”

Part of the current excitement and emotions surrounding the team are because Dambrot is in the final days of his career after announcing his retirement. Dambrot said that he wanted to make the most out of it, both from a basketball standpoint and a personal one too.

“I’ve had a whirlwind of emotions, but I looked around the arena many, many times, which I hardly ever do or have ever done,” he said. “I think when you go through some hard times, you start to change your perspective as to what’s important and what isn’t important.”

The normally high-strung Dambrot said it was still a normal week for him, but he admitted his normal preparation could be coupled with some enjoyment.

“We put in our hard work on a daily basis, and now it’s time to enjoy the moment, which I haven’t done a very good job of throughout my career,” he said. “A lot of times in this business the lows outweigh the highs. All I’ve tried to do now is try to enjoy the highs and not worry about the lows.”

Despite this, Duquesne’s practice at CHI Health Arena was visibly tenser than some held by other teams in Omaha. There were lots of smiles and hugs, but an ever-pres-

ent respect for how they got there.

“We do deserve this moment,” Grant said. “Although I feel like the process of us accomplishing that championship and getting here is not the end. It is what built us, our program and our team throughout these two years to become what we are right now.”

Where they are right now is pitted against an unfamiliar opponent in the BYU Cougars. Ranked No. 20 in the latest AP Poll, BYU was as high as 12th on New Year’s Day and finished 23-10 in their first season as members of the Big-12 Conference, by far the strongest league in the nation. The only reason they dropped to a six-seed was because their original slot as the top fifth-seed would have tracked them to play on Sunday, which goes against their religious policy. In the regular season, they won four games against other ranked teams, including against last year’s national championship finalist San Diego State, and they were the only team to beat Kansas in Allen Fieldhouse. The Cougars didn’t go far in the Big-12 Tournament, however, losing 81-67 to Texas Tech in the quarterfinals.

BYU has a high-flying offense that shoots a ton of 3-pointers. The Cougars are tied for the most 3-point attempts in Division I and have made the third-most number of 3-point baskets, but they are 133rd in percent made. As a result, they don’t shoot many free throws, leaving them dependent on their shooting. They rebound well, and succeed while shooting

worse than their opponent by the sheer volume of 3’s they attempt and their relentless pace.

That pace is the biggest difference between the two sides. Duquesne tries to operate at a slow and steady rate while BYU is more comfortable in a contest that looks more like a track meet than a basketball game.

“It’s kind of a game of contrasting styles,” DiMichele said. “They’re a very up-tempo team. They like to score the ball at a high rate ... I feel like the key to the game is trying to get them to play our style and not fall into their style of play.”

6-foot 7-inch guard Jaxson Robinson is not their most prolific shooter, but takes more shots than everyone else. The key is to make sure guard Trevin Knell and forward Noah Waterman don’t make

their shots so Duquesne will need to stretch their defense out with the likes of Jimmy Clark III and Jakub Necas, who has excelled with such tasks as the season goes on.

If BYU goes cold or finds Duquesne’s perimeter defense overwhelming, they can use the size of Waterman or Fousseyni Traore to push for points in the paint, as injuries have left chunks of their backcourt questionable. Duquesne’s defensive depth allows Dambrot a wide array of options to figure out what works in the paint. That could be mobility in Andrei Savrasov and Dave Dixon, or the size and force of Dusan Mahorcic.

If Duquesne pulls off the upset, they’ll play the winner of the game between Illinois and Morehead State on Saturday.



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jakob Necas (left) and Matus Hronsky (right) at open practice Wednesday morning at CHI Health Center.

# Keith Dambrot announces retirement

SPENCER THOMAS  
sports editor

Duquesne Men's Basketball Head Coach Keith Dambrot is retiring at the end of this season, he announced at a news conference on Monday. A successor was not immediately announced.

He said he was 80% sure he'd be retiring last summer, but the decision was sealed over the course of this season, as his wife, Donna, battled health issues. His retirement comes despite his wife's insistence that he stay on.

"My mom was a psychologist, and she kind of made me aware as to what kind of person I am, and how I operate," he said. "I could see myself losing that edge at some point, and I don't want it to end that way."

Dambrot, 65, was hired in 2017 as the 17th men's basketball coach in school history. At the time, Duquesne had not had a winning record in five seasons and were coming off a 10-22 season where they had finished last place in the Atlantic-10. On Sunday afternoon, he accomplished his "shining goal" of bringing Duquesne back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1977.

Dambrot said that he hopes he not only made the program better while he was here, but in the future as well.

"Hopefully now people realize that it has capabilities to be a good job. And, I think it'll be a good job from here on in as long as the people that are here are here," he said. "It can be right up there as a top-25 program every single year."

Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper agreed with that statement, and expressed gratitude to Dambrot for committing to the revitalization of Duquesne basketball.

"There's only two words I can think of,"

he said. "Thank you."

Associate Head Coach Dru Joyce III said that Dambrot was unique in that he made winning a personal business.

"You just wanted to fight for him. He gave us everything he had," Joyce said. "I just want to remember him for the love that he's given to not only his job, but his players, his staff., relationships that he values because they mean a lot."



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR  
Keith Dambrot cut down the nets for the first time since he won the MAC at Akron in 2013.

"He's an older guy," said senior guard Jimmy Clark III. "He can give a lot of advice to a younger guy that's coming up in this life and the world in general."

In Dambrot's first season, the Dukes went 16-16, and improved to 10th in the

Atlantic-10 Conference. The following year, Duquesne won its most games since 2009, and finished with a winning record in the A-10 for the first time in eight seasons.

For the next three years, Duquesne fluctuated in the middle tier of mid-major programs, finishing as high as fifth out of 14 A-10 teams in 2020. After a nightmare 2021-22 season, Dambrot revived the program and won 20 games the following season. He became the first Duquesne coach to win 20 games on multiple occasions since Red Manning's tenure from 1958-1974.

Prior to Duquesne, Dambrot spent 13 seasons coaching at the University of Akron, his alma mater. Dambrot became the most successful coach in school history, winning the Mid-American Conference and reaching the NCAA Tournament on three separate occasions.

After rising through the coaching ranks throughout the Midwest, Dambrot made his name at the high-school level. He spent three seasons at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in his hometown of Akron, Ohio. He went 69-10, winning a pair of state championships and gaining national attention by coaching LeBron James for his freshman and sophomore year. The pair remain in touch, and Dambrot said that James called him on Sunday to offer congratulations on the A-10 title.

Dambrot has been praised for his evolution that allowed him to have success at several different schools over several different decades.

"He claims he's getting a little bit softer as he ages," Joyce said with a laugh. "He's never been stuck in his ways. Always continuing to grow and continue to learn."

"You have to be relatively secure in order to take varying opinions," Dambrot said. "Sometimes my wife will tell me things

that I really don't want to hear and then probably two hours later, I see maybe she's right. It's the same thing with these guys."

Nobody is quite sure what retirement will look like for Dambrot, including the coach himself.

"I don't know what the hell I'm going to do because I really don't have any hobbies," he joked. "I might be coming to all y'all's games all the time."

Coaching was always a personal business for Dambrot. His assistant coaches at Duquesne almost exclusively consisted of his former players, many of whom followed him from Akron to Duquesne.

"The game is important, that's the fun part, but it's really the relationships and the journeys that you get to go on with people," Joyce said. "I've been a part of his family as much as he's been a part of mine."

Joyce played alongside James for Dambrot at SVSM. In an emotional news conference, Dambrot thanked Joyce for trusting him and enrolling at SVSM. He was adamant that he would not have made it to where he is today without Joyce.

"I'm happy for him, that he's been able to live out his dream, his journey and everything that he's accomplished," Joyce said. "I'm a little bit sad as well because I know how much the game means to him, and also the work that he's put into it and what he means to my family."

Dambrot currently has a career record of 594-293 which puts him in a tie for 123rd in the all-time college coaching ranks. He will look to climb that list on Thursday, when Duquesne takes on BYU in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"He gets to finish out being an A-10 Champion," Clark said. "It's a beautiful story in the end, and I feel like we're not done yet. There's more history to add."

# Dru Joyce III is ready to fill his mentor's shoes

SPENCER THOMAS  
sports editor

During the press conference in which he announced his retirement, Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot briefly mentioned his expected successor, and every head in the room turned to one man.

Associate Head Coach Dru Joyce III has been Dambrot's heir apparent from the moment he joined the Dukes' staff in 2022.

"We've been kind of grooming Coach Dru to take over for me," Dambrot said. "Obviously, I'm biased, but I think the program wouldn't miss a beat if he gets the job."

Sandwiched between endless praise for his mentor, Joyce acknowledged what is an open secret surrounding the program.

"Even since I was 12 and 13 years old, [Dambrot] has been building me for an opportunity to be a head coach," Joyce said. "He's always understood that it was a dream of mine to do it, so I think he took full advantage of knowing what I wanted to do."

Joyce played for Dambrot his first two years of high school at St. Vincent-St. Mary's and then again at the University of Akron. Dambrot has known Joyce since the fellow Akron native started showing up to Dambrot's camps at the Akron Jewish Community Center when he was 12 years old. He credits Joyce as being instrumental in bringing LeBron James to

SVSM, where Dambrot coached them to a pair of state championships. Dru's father succeeded Dambrot and remains the Fighting Irish's coach to this day. In all likelihood, there will be a second generation of Joyces succeeding Keith Dambrot.

As Dambrot stood on the podium next to his brand-new Atlantic-10 Conference Championship trophy on Monday, he talked extensively about what the success in Akron meant to him.

"I wouldn't be standing here if it weren't for him," Dambrot said.

Joyce expressed how that feeling is mutual. "When you are able to have that relationship with a coach that goes beyond the years that you've played, it truly defines what I believe what sports are about."

When asked about his successor, Dambrot deferred to Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper, who said, "Today is about Keith Dambrot."

In a media scrum after the news conference, Dambrot was back to his opinionated self, where he argued that Joyce's succession would ensure continuity from the program's most successful season in 47 years.

"I think there'll be very little turnover. We've got some good young kids in that room," Dambrot said. "With the way things are now, if Coach Dru didn't get the job, the portal becomes a problem."

The 39-year-old Joyce certainly seems to be



DYLAN FISTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Dru Joyce III smiles during the open practice Wednesday morning at CHI Health Center.

connected enough to lead a program in this everchanging arena of college basketball.

"I'm confident in who I am and what I'm capable of," Joyce said. "You never know when the opportunity is going to come."

Joyce spent the last two seasons as the associate head coach to Dambrot, after another three seasons as an assistant at Cleveland State University. His coaching career began after an

extended playing career overseas, and just five years in, he looks likely to step up to his first head coaching job.

"Are you ever quite ready for something you've never done before? Who knows?" Joyce said. "I think all you can do is take the chance, and if that opportunity presents itself, I'm ready to dive in and take the chance and give everything I've got."

# Pittsburgh Police policy changing — what about off campus students?

ELIYAHU GASSON  
opinions editor

Since Feb. 26, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has no longer been sending officers to respond to calls that are not in-progress emergencies between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7 a.m.

This means that Pittsburgh police officers will not respond to calls for criminal mischief, theft and harassment. Instead such calls will be handled by the Telephone Reporting Unit or online citizen reporting.

“The data that informed the changes shows that only about 8% of all priority calls are dispatched between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m.,” Cara Cruz, Public Information Officer for the City of Pittsburgh, told *The Duke* in an email.

According to Pittsburgh police Chief Larry Sciroto, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police is aiming to cut call volume from around 200,000 calls per year to around 50,000 calls per year.

Police will continue to respond to incidents in progress, a news release from the City of Pittsburgh said, including any crime where a person may need medical aid, any domestic disputes, calls with evidence or where the Mobile Crime Unit will be requested to process a scene.

The news release also stated that the change has been implemented to improve officer wellness and dedicate more officers to community outreach, transitioning personnel from eight-hour work days

to 10-hour shifts each week.

“An additional day away from work each week to focus on family, friends or outside pursuits is key to creating a healthy workforce and contributes to the bureau’s goal of not only recruiting new officers, but retaining them for the long haul,” Sciroto said.

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police is also reducing the number of officers patrolling between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. with WPXI reporting that on some overnight shifts there will be 22 officers covering the city. According to Cruz, there will be approximately 12 less officers across the city.

“That allows our officers to be engaged in [the] community in a way. Now they’re at the YMCA instead of sitting on the 10th Street bypass with a bike complaint,” Sciroto said.

This news has some Duquesne students concerned about safety off-campus.

Jennifer Herron, a junior psychology major at Duquesne and resident of Pittsburgh’s Shadyside neighborhood, told *The Duke* that she feels uneasy about the news, but isn’t overly concerned.

“I live in a pretty decent area, but I do live with a bar right around the corner, and that is a little scary just because it’s different people every weekend,” Herron said. “It’s kind of scary that they’re announcing this. That could increase crime just because you think you can get away with more if there’s less police patrolling.”

“It’s kind of like, ‘hey criminals, from

the hours of 3 to 7 a.m. there’s not really going to be any police presence.’ And I feel like that’s a mistake,” said Izzy Silvestros, a freshman biomedical engineering major at Duquesne.

“I think that it definitely affects a lot of people, especially those who live on the South Side Flats or City View,” Silvestros said.

Silvestros is most concerned about the safety of students around Liebermann Hall where the biomedical engineering program is located. Liebermann Hall, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue, is at the edge of Downtown.

“I’ve seen homeless people trying to get into the building,” Silvestros said. “I don’t know how late people are usually at Liebermann. I’m not there that late, but other people might be, and that might be a concern.”

Duquesne University Campus Police Chief Eric Holmes said in a statement to *The Duke*, “We recognize the uniqueness of providing safety on a college campus in an urban setting. Our staffing levels are based on the needs of the university.”

For emergencies on campus, students can call DUPO’s emergency phone number: (412) 396-2677.



BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Police Pittsburgh Sgt. Jeff Tagmyer was present at the men’s basketball send off on Tuesday. Pittsburgh police will not be present, however, to respond to calls about not in-progress crimes from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. any longer.

# Calling all Crows to celebrate Women’s History Month with music

EMBER DUKE  
staff writer

Women’s History Month is a dedicated time to take an intentional look at female history in the face of oppression. One major aspect of women’s history is the role of activism in creating gender equality.

Women’s history has always been marked by activism, said Erin Speese, director of women’s and gender studies at Duquesne University.

“Basically, to advocate for women’s rights is essential to any women’s liberation or feminist project. So much of what we now have, as women’s history, has to do with a lot of advocacy done by women activists and activists more broadly in the feminist movement, as well as academics,” she said.

One national nonprofit organization, Calling all Crows, has a nuanced approach to activism. Their goal is to nurture equity and intersectional feminism in all aspects, but with a specific focus on advocacy in musical and artistic spaces.

Their year-round program, Here for the Music, provides training to musicians, staff and fans at live events to curb gender-based violence and educate people about safety.

Annie Bailey, engagement and operations manager for Calling all Crows, thinks music creates the perfect attitude for people to use their voices and unite in a cause.

“A lot of times, when you’re at a concert, you’re going to a show or a festival, we realized that music lovers and music goers are usually in a really positive mood and are wanting to use their energy for good. So, we like to be willing to meet them where they are...when they’re in those spaces, give people something to take action for to support a cause they believe in,” Bailey said.

Bailey said the organization uses women’s history as context to inform their advocacy. She said they are inspired by historical feminists and musicians like Joan Baez, whom they have named an annual award after.

“Taking the past into consideration while also realizing that we are living in a super fast-paced, ever changing world...we like to find new ways to fight for our rights and energize and engage people and mobilize people around feminist movements. So definitely honor the past but also realize you are the next generation and we are the future,” she said.

While Speese was not familiar with Calling all Crows, she thinks music can be a great platform to spread awareness. Looking to the past, she noted that female musicians and music about women has always been an inspiring force in activism.

“It’s something that can help mainstream feminist advocacy and help sort of uplift women,” she said. “We’re seeing that, again in our more contemporary moment, as we see musi-

cians who are using their art, for advocacy and drawing on that history of music and feminism to continue right in that tradition,” Speese said.

The nonprofit largely functions as an on-ramp for other advocacy organizations to reach wider audiences. On Mar. 19, Calling all Crows partnered with the Resilient Sisterhood Project, a Boston based organization, to hold an informational livestream about the disparities in female reproductive health in the Black community.

Calling all Crows has directed more efforts this year to education on reproductive health. Bailey said the nonprofit looks for experts in the topics they advocate for. The Resilient Sisterhood Project conducts research on numerous aspects of reproductive health and has education programs designed to engage communities.

In the livestream, Lilly Marcelin, founder of Resilient Sisterhood Project, spoke about starting the organization. She gathered testimonies from friends, family and women in her community. She realized how large the health inequality was and wanted to make a change.

“They revealed stories about just open medical contempt and neglect throughout their interactions with health providers. Meanwhile, these women felt that the ailments worsened and because they did not really have the proper diagnosis ... many of them felt alone,” she said. “They wondered

whether they were just alone dealing with some of those health issues and also they talked about the silence and inaction about these reproductive health issues.”

The Resilient Sisterhood Project conducts research in many different areas of reproductive health like the effects of environmental factors, disproportionate pregnancy risks for Black women and neglect from medical professionals.

Katie Durant, communications and operations director at Resilient Sisterhood Project, hopes the organization’s work empowers Black women and girls to advocate for themselves.

“My biggest motivator for this work is equity — equity for women, equity for Black women,” she said. “Systemic racism and sexism have affected the quality of life for black women for centuries, and it’s still affecting them today, in so many ways.”

Calling all Crows also tours with musicians by setting up informational tables in the lobbies of concert venues. The organization is currently touring with artist Mitski and has plans in the near future to tour with other musicians.

They have several upcoming events, including their Annual Benefit Show fundraiser on March 22 and a service project on March 23 with the organization Reproductive Equity Now, which will focus on increasing access and awareness to reproductive care.

## 8th Annual Brewhaha arrives with spring

EMILY FRITZ  
a&e editor

Contrary to recent weather, the first day of spring has arrived and Hollow Oak Land Trust is ready to celebrate with their eighth annual 'Brewhaha,' a 21+ event complete with a silent auction, raffles, music and gourmet food with perfectly paired local beer, on Saturday, Mar. 23 at the Mayernik Center at Avonworth Community Park.

"We're coming out of that gray and brown season coming into spring, the frogs are singing, the salamanders are making eggs and ... there's a different array of native wildflowers blooming in the woods," Sean Brady, executive director of Hollow Oak, told *The Duke*.

The land trust, located in the Pittsburgh Airport Corridor, consists of nine conservation areas encompassing more than 700 acres. The organization focuses on "land acquisition, habitat stewardship, municipal partnerships and environmental education," according to their website.

Inviting locals to enjoy the land comes from building miles and miles of trail for people to enjoy via hiking, biking, running, dog walking or anything that can be enjoyed without a motor. Born out of their volunteer slogan, "You volunteer, we bring the beer," Brewhaha came about in 2016.

"We didn't want to have another boring fundraising event, we wanted to make it fun, and Pittsburgh is such a hotbed for craft breweries," Brady said. "So to make it fun, make it a little fancy, we created [a] pairings menu."

Created by Chef Chaz Smith, owner and executive chef of Culinary Artists, the five-course menu features inspirations from his time abroad in Europe and Asia. For one dish alone, Smith and the Brewhaha committee tried 18 brews across three different breweries to perfect the pairings.

"You can complement, or contrast," Smith said. "So I have those two elements in my head ... I'm looking for something that's either going to have the same ... qualities that you're going to find in the lentils, or ... something that's going to cleanse your palate and be a refreshing sip after."



COURTESY OF RACHAEL MASTERSON | HOLLOW OAK LAND TRUST

In addition to the silent auction, which includes "big ticket" items, Brewhaha also hosts a ticket raffle with prizes and a spin-to-win wheel that reflects local flora and fauna in its prizes.

The VIP course, a Moroccan lamb tagine, will be paired with Penn Brewery's flagship brew, the Penn Pilsner.

"Meeting the people and having them try what we have to offer is exciting," said Penn Brewery office manager Amy Huseman. The local business hopes that once people try their Vienna lager, the restaurant will gain more foot traffic.

Other courses include a red lentil soup paired with an American IPA from Altered Genius Brewing, a salad paired with a German-style gose sour from Allegheny City Brewing, pasta accompanied by a black IPA from Cobblehaus Brewing, spicy chicken vindaloo complimented by a West coast IPA from Grist House Craft Brewery and a mixed berry cobbler dessert paired with a Sauerkirchen dry cider from A Few Bad Apples.

Versatility was a big component when drawing from six different breweries. Among lagers, IPAs and sours, the last is known for being the acquired taste in the craft beer world, but Smith's salad is expected to introduce attendees to the sweet and sour profile.

"A lot of times we feel like our sours are fruit-forward; we add fruit after fermentation so you get

a lot of sweetness from it but this one is a little different," co-owner of Allegheny City Brewing Matt Yurkovich said.

The German-style gose is brewed with coriander and sea salt, then fermented for a second time with orange zest. Yurkovich added, "it'll be fun to see people's reactions for sure."

Many of the 11 brewery sponsors share similar values and goals to Hollow Oak as well, whether by sourcing local, managing historical sites or by protecting green spaces through similar fundraising.

In addition to culinary art and delectable bites, Brewhaha will also bring in local wildlife from Interactive Environmental Programs, owned and operated by herpetologist April Claus.

At the event, Claus will introduce seven live species alongside several models and shells representing the various reptilian and amphibian species local to the Pittsburgh area.

"Everybody sort of puts their brick in the wall when it comes to conservation-minded issues," she said. "[These animals] are a very misunderstood group of animals, you know, because it includes things that are really cute that people love, like frogs, but I gotta say the snakes are a tough sell."

Introducing sustainably-sourced food and drink, local wildlife and a silent auction for outdoor recreation to the public align with Hollow Oak's greater mission of developing, protecting and connecting green spaces to make them accessible for public enjoyment.

"That's what they need most, [to] get outside, breathe fresh air and reduce that anxiety that they feel or isolation that they feel by feeling connected to something greater than themselves," Claus said.

General admission for Brewhaha starts at \$100 per seat, but members of the Duquesne community can receive \$10 off by using promo code 'DUQ24' at checkout. VIP access can be purchased for an additional \$25, which includes happy hour at 6 p.m., an additional course and wildlife with Claus.

Those dedicated to conservation and land stewardship can inquire about volunteer opportunities at Brewhaha by contacting Rachael Masterson at [rmasterson@hollowoak.org](mailto:rmasterson@hollowoak.org).

"We're a pretty small organization to have nine different conservation areas and over 25 miles of trail. The way that comes about is through volunteers," Brady said. "And of course, it all supports the outdoors."

CAMPUS  
EVENTS

Fish Fry  
Mar. 22 @ 3 p.m.

Dine-in only at Towers MPR. Cash bar donations benefit Sister Thea Bowman Foundation.

DPC Top Golf Trip  
Mar. 23 @ 12 p.m.

\$15 includes admission, transportation and food. The bus departs from the Union at 11:20 a.m.

Easter Candy Table  
Mar. 25 @ 11 a.m.

Join CSI & DPC for an Easter Candy Table on the third floor of the Union.

Board Games with oSTEM  
Mar. 26 @ 8 p.m.

Bring a friend or game and take a study break in Towers MPR. Snacks will be provided!

Mario Kart Tournament  
Apr. 2 @ 7 p.m.

All participants must pay \$5 to enter to cover the cost for food, drinks and game play in Towers MPR.

EMILY'S  
EPIPHANIES

Spring Flowers

Spring has barely arrived on the Bluff, but it's important that we all soak up the sunshine after the harshness of dark winter evenings.

Easter is almost upon us and afterward we will be on the real countdown until finals and graduation.

There are 30 days from now until Reading Day.

I encourage you to hone in on what needs to be done for you to finish the semester successfully, but I also encourage you to spend some time with your loved ones on campus.

Work hard, play hard. Before you know it, we will be saying goodbye to our seniors and wishing our friends could come home with us.

If we aren't careful, we may also be wishing that we'd done that participation assignment on time to bump our grades from a B+ to an A-

Grow your garden tactfully this spring.

— Emily Fritz

## Aquarius ♒

Who needs alarms when you can wake up to the sounds of your entire house falling on the ground?

## Pisces ♓

OK, go bag Ms. T Swift then.

## Aries ♈

The sapphic trail of the traveling soba noodles.

## Taurus ♉

My life falls apart, like, twice a day.

## Gemini ♊

What do you mean "unhinged?" I don't even have hinges, bro.

## Cancer ♋

I'll have whatever that guy is on.

## Leo ♌

I never seek to stir the pot, but when the celestial ladle is thrust upon me...

## Virgo ♍

Prosper, stupid poultry.

## Libra ♎

If I had a nickel for every time she was locked out, I'd have 4 nickels. Which is kind of significant.

## Scorpio ♏

Life lesson or self-preservation?

## Sagittarius ♐

Mono Jesus.

## Capricorn ♑

You could not pay me enough to brush an orca's teeth.

# Local theater kicks off 2024 season with 'If/Then'

**MEGAN TROTTER**  
news editor

If you've ever wondered about the "would've, could've, should've" of your life, then Riverfront Theater Company's opening musical for its 2024 season, "If/Then," could be for you. Originally written by playwright Brian Yorkey, the show debuted on Broadway back in 2014 and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Score.

The musical's storyline follows 38-year-old divorcé Elizabeth (Katie Aiello) who moves back to New York City. Elizabeth ponders the "what ifs," of life, imagining how small, seemingly insignificant decisions could have led her life in two totally different directions.

Due to the Riverfront show's location, director Olivia Hartle had to work to create a show that would adhere to the restrictions of such a small, garage-like theater space.

"The thrust stage allows for the audience to sit on three sides of the stage, so they can see the actors in sort of [a] 360 view, which is kind of cool. And I wanted to use that particular design because of the ... nature of the show itself," Hartle said. "It's a show that's about interconnectedness. It's a show that's about the sort of intimacy of our personal relationships and how we all con-

nect with one another."

Despite the complex plot, costume designer Dana Schulte did an excellent job detailing the differences between Elizabeth's life as a career woman wearing pantsuits and professional business attire, and her other hypothetical life as mother where she has glasses and maternity dresses.



COURTESY OF RIVERFRONT THEATER COMPANY

Katie Aiello (left) and Sam Brooks (right) follow the 'if' of starting a family in one timeline, while the other followed the path of a terminated pregnancy.

Each scene of the show lasted no longer than a minute or two, to avoid any member of the performance from looking at an actor's back for too long. However, due to limited space for set placement, it was often the same seats in the theater who received the temporarily

obstructed view.

"[The stage manager] and I worked together to create a scene transition list. So, everybody in the cast knew exactly who was supposed to do what when and then we had to work through that a lot during the rehearsal process," Hartle said.

the show; however the tech team was only able to join them a week prior to the show's original opening night.

While Abramowich said the crew was able to run the entire show straight-through on Thursday, which was supposed to be the official opening night, the theater's unconventional layout continued to pose problems on Friday, and Frankie Shoup, one of the sound technicians, spent the entire performance combating sound issues.

Actor Mike Good said it was nerve racking on Thursday.

"We made the decision to convert Thursday to a preview, and then we ended up opening Friday. I'm just really happy and proud of the team that came together to make the show go off. This is a very difficult decision to make – to not cancel a performance but to convert the expectations of the performance," Good said.

While the show did have a 13-musician orchestra, a particularly large group for a community theater, they played remotely. Conductor Mike Meketa Sanchez watched the performance via screen so he knew when to instruct everyone to play.

Because the music was coming from a different room, Shoup had to adjust the sound level of the

character's voices and singing rather than the level of the orchestra. At times it was difficult to hear the cast members.

The two alternative storylines did become confusing when trying to determine the timeline of Elizabeth's contrasting lives, as the theater utilized the overhead wall to project scenery to provide context of where the play was happening in space and time.

The projections came from one set of three-row lighting, the most complex lighting ever used in the theater according to Shoup. Unfortunately, the projections were much too small to bring enough attention to them, especially if you're already lost in the actor's emotions and singing.

Scenes between Elizabeth and her lover, Josh (Sam Brooks) were raw and chilling. Aiello does an incredible job depicting her multiple character arcs, which included the agony of a wartime wife and the pain of losing a loved one.

The show begins at 8 p.m. and runs for roughly two and a half hours with a 15-minute intermission. The show will close on Saturday at Allegheny RiverTrail Park in Aspinwall. Tickets cost \$30 for general admission and \$50 for VIP seats in the front row; they are available at [riverfronttheaterco.org](http://riverfronttheaterco.org).

# Students Against Sexual Violence prepares for April Art Show

**SENIA DUGANHODZIC**  
staff writer

In Duquesne's population of more than 8,000 students, Students Against Sexual Violence provides resources to promote healthy dating and spreads awareness about sexual violence.

As part of their mission, Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) is hosting an art show event on April 9 in the Africa Room of the Union.

"Art itself is so expressive, sometimes you don't have the

words to describe what you're going through but music will do it, a photograph or even a painting" SASV president Madison Walker said.

The goal of the annual event is to provide students with a creative outlet to describe what they have or are going through.

Oftentimes survivors feel ashamed to talk about their experiences and don't know who to turn to; the art show provides an opportunity "to come all together in a room of people that have been right there with you,"

Walker said. "It's such a wonderful thing to build and to have."

After having their trust violated in such an intimate way, many survivors have difficulty trusting again. To have an art show where the community can come together can break their silence, according to Walker.

Mackenzie Barchiesi, a participant who submitted art in the form of short fiction at last year's art show, said that she wanted to bring attention to the topic through creative writing.

"I'm a women's and gender studies minor. I felt inspired by the stories I heard. I wanted to write about a girl who felt ashamed because it's a common victim response," Barchiesi said.

Many artists submitted works of poetry, while others opted to create image-based works using photography, sculpture, collages and paintings.

Deputy Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Coordinator Anne Mullarkey Sawa has been involved with SASV for the past eight years.

"[The art show is] an opportunity for the community to come together and talk about issues around healthy relationships, boundaries and sexual violence in general," she said.

Sawa's mission is to promote

education and prevention around dating violence and share information to the campus community. In the past, SASV has had a craft night with psychology club, poetry night with art club and meditation sessions, as well as tabling at events like Autumn Fest.

With April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, campus will have a variety of different programs to advocate and educate on the topic, usually in collaboration with the Title IX Office.

"There are support measures available," Sawa said, "even if they [students in need] don't come to the office to address the incident. It could've even happened before they came to the university."

Sawa cited many on-campus resources available to students, including Spiritan Campus Ministries, counseling and Health Services at the Wellness Center and the Title IX Office. The group also collaborates with local organization Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

Most people know about sexual violence, but they don't know how to start the conversation. Sometimes it can be awkward or uncomfortable, but it takes organizations like SASV to help connect people with tools to heal and recover, Walker said.

"People get overwhelmed – it's an emotional disturbance [and] it changes how your brain functions," Walker said. "The resources we have are wonderful but getting it to the people that need them is difficult because of personal shame or fear. That is the biggest roadblock."

This art show is open and encouraged for everyone to attend. It can be intimidating to walk into a room and talk about such a heavy topic, but it is needed.

"To have an art show [where] everyone can share their stories and see that they're not alone is a wonderful thing to support and promote," Walker said.

Any medium of art is accepted, including writing, sculpture and music. The art show is still accepting submissions through March 30, which can be emailed to [SASV@duq.edu](mailto:SASV@duq.edu).

Themes can include "boundaries, relationships, safety, love and related topics," according to the artist call on the SASV CampusLink.

"This is something that isn't several hours long, it's something you can come through and visit at your own pace and own time," Sawa said.

"We hope people take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to stop by and experience it."



COURTESY OF REBECCA ULINSKI | STUDENTS AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

(From left to right) Artwork from last year's show included "Medusa at Peace" by Madison Walker, "Rare Little Dove" by Jay, "No Body's Home" by T.M. and "Doorstop Alarms and Mace" by Sao Mai Nguyen. Aliases, shortened names and initials were used to respect artists' privacy.

## THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“For those of you in the cheap seats I’d like ya to clap your hands to this one; the rest of you can just rattle your jewelry!”

John Lennon

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

### Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

### Contact

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BRENTARO YAMANE | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

PRT operated busses, light rail and inclines saw a yearly ridership of roughly 32 million in 2023.

## A case for reliable public transit

KAITLYN HUGHES  
staff writer

*This article is part two of a series by Kaitlyn Hughes about the importance of public transportation.*

With numerous cars on the road creating stress and pollution, Pittsburgh Regional Transit needs to stop reducing service on its routes. In fact, it is imperative for PRT to expand its services throughout the city, instead of forcing residents to find an alternative in an increasingly unreliable network of public transportation.

According to PRT’s website, they claim to “continue to seek ways to improve how [they] serve riders and the community.”

Over the past few months, PRT has cut services for multiple bus routes and light rail lines.

Though PRT claims to seek ways to improve their system, the cut in bus and light rail routes are serious disruptions to the community.

Improved public transit in the city will assist in getting cars off the road, while making the region more accessible for economically disadvantaged residents or any resident who prioritizes other costs over owning a vehicle.

What is normally a 25-minute drive going Downtown from the South Hills turns into an hour-long commute throughout the day, specifically during rush hours.

According to a 2018 report by research agency Inrix, Pittsburgh commuters lost 127 hours in road congestion.

This lengthened commutes and time lost due to road congestion can cause unnecessary stress on drivers.

According to a study done by *ScienceDirect* in Los Angeles, traffic-related stress was found to be connected to lowered health status and greater depressive symptoms.

Clearly, road traffic during rush hour can lead to a decline in residents’ physical and mental health and lowering the quality of life within Pittsburgh.

Not to mention the pollution that an excessive amount of cars on the road causes.

According to an article in *YaleEnvironment360*, during a 2020

study done by University of Pittsburgh professor of environment health James Fabisiak, he found that environmental justice communities, such as Clairton and Braddock, in Allegheny County were exposed to high levels of traffic pollution.

Environmental justice communities are those made up of people below the poverty line that are exposed to environmental hazards.

These neighborhoods were 25 times more susceptible to suffering from exposure to nitrogen dioxide.

According to the same article, “In April 2021, the American Lung Association rated the 12-county Pittsburgh region as the ninth-worst U.S. metropolitan area for fine particle pollution, even though it rose that year to its best-ever level by that measure.”

Traffic pollution is an issue in Pittsburgh, even with access to public transportation. This is because the transportation PRT does provide for the city is inconvenient, so people still prefer to drive when they can.

In fall of 2023, there were multiple bus routes removed from areas of Downtown with little to no explanation of where an alternative stop can be located.

On their website, the bus route changes are accompanied by the statements, “Downtown routing will change,” with no further information about the changes.

For a student who is out of state or a new resident of Pittsburgh, the thought of having to navigate the city with no guide can be intimidating and deter the desire to use public transportation even further.

Unreliable public transit also hurts low income residents. It’s tough to own a car. The costs of acquiring and maintaining a personal automobile suck what little money working-class people have out of their wallet, which not only leaves them worse off financially, but also generates a new source of stress.

According to an article by the *Pittsburgh City Paper*, the number of public transit commuters who are below the poverty line increased by about

11% from 2010 to 2019. This is while the total number of low-income car commuters over the decade decreased by 6%, showing a dramatic increase in the use of public transit among those below the poverty line.

Furthermore, PRT recently made the decision to remove the blue line trolley from the track during daytime hours.

This is an inconvenience to riders who live near South Hills Village station and need to transport to areas such as Carrick, Bon Air or Overbrook. Riders who get on at South Hills Village and need to access one of these areas have to transfer trolleys at Washington Junction.

With new changes in routes, residents may need to begin driving to their destinations because of a lack of transportation at the time they need it, or because of the nuisance of having to go through transfers.

Now, people who don’t own a car are at a disadvantage.

With an already high amount of pollution and cars on the road, these cuts in services are a disadvantage to Pittsburgh’s community.

The ultimate goals of improved public transit should be to reduce air pollution and driving related stress, while providing transportation to low-income households.

An article from UCLA, it states that using public transportation reduces CO2 emissions by 45% compared to personal vehicle use.

Some may argue that Pittsburgh already has a public transportation system in place that helps contribute to the reduction of air pollution, but there are still a significant amount of cars on the road which cause heavy traffic flow, accidents and delays.

The reduction of bus routes is due to the lack of bus and trolley drivers the city currently has. According to Adam Brandolph, a representative from PRT, about 100 operators retired in the past year, but they are planning to resolve this issue with the hopes of hiring 300 drivers this year.

This effort will hopefully serve to increase reliability to this vital service

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

## There is more to celebrate than MBB

After a 47-year championship drought, the Duquesne men’s basketball team has secured a spot in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Students, faculty and fans alike all seem ecstatic over the team’s victory, with university president Ken Gormley joking “people will finally know how to pronounce our name.”

Duquesne (du’kein) managed to stay trending Sunday for an hour on X. Every news outlet in the city was reporting on the historic achievement of our men’s team.

For the first time since its installation last year, the grandiose display in the Union Atrium is presenting something other than the promotional red and blue graphic it came with, now reading “Go Duquesne Dukes” in university Athletics branding. The men’s basketball team has finally managed to put the darn thing to use!

But, with all the enthusiasm surrounding the men’s basketball team, our priorities are called into question: Would we put the same amount of effort into rallying behind the women’s basketball program? Or the triathlon team?

This is truly an achievement we can all, as members of Duquesne University, celebrate, but we have more than just men’s basketball to be proud of. And we should be showing our support any opportunity we get.

The women’s basketball team has clearly also been putting up a good effort, being fifth in the A-10 this season with an overall record of 20 wins to 12 losses, the 11th time they’ve posted championship wins in school history. They are now headed to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

Our soccer teams also had decent records. The women’s team made it to the A-10 Championships in 2022, 2019, 2017, 2016 and 2015. The men’s team made it to the A-10 championship three years in a row.

Our football team has won three conference championships since 2015 and even won an FCS playoff game in 2018.

There’s so much to celebrate – the camaraderie and the school spirit – that which sport we’re cheering on becomes secondary to the reason why we’re there.

We’re there to support the Dukes. We’re there to show our peers that their hard work matters. We’re there to make the Fieldhouse shake with our chants for the teams.

So let’s all celebrate, not just the men’s basketball team’s achievements, but all of our



## Big concerts just aren't worth the cost

NAOMI GIRSON  
staff writer

Concerts are too expensive and too much hassle.

Is it really worth seeing your favorite artist live in concert, or your favorite comedian on a stage?

With the high prices for tickets just to enter the venue, let alone the even crazier prices for being closer to the artist with VIP or pit access, it all just seems too outlandish. On top of it all, you have to clear your schedule, buy the tickets as far as a year ahead of time and worry about parking, dinner and what to wear.

What's worse, with the tickets you have to buy online, there are always hidden fees attached that seem impossible to get rid of. This means that, even if you set your budget for a concert, you might surpass it with just the purchase of tickets.

With all this hassle, it is miraculous that so many people have room in their budgets to attend ... especially when daily essentials are becoming more expensive. According to a *Newsweek* article, products and services across all industries are so expensive because of the fallout from the pandemic.

"Supply chain bottlenecks and soaring demand for goods and services following the re-opening of the economy after the pandemic-related lock downs sent prices for goods and services sky-

rocketing to four-decade highs last summer," the article said.

Concerts have become even more of a luxury, with people having less disposable income and ticket prices getting higher. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Income, the lessening of income comes from the fact that wages are not increasing, as prices of everything else is.

In 1985, a good seat at an Iron Maiden concert would cost you \$17.75. This was when the band was at their peak. That's \$48.28 adjusted for inflation.

Today, a ticket to see them, with a decent seat costs \$129.50 (plus fees), and frankly, Iron Maiden is past their prime. With those hidden fees at the end, the ticket costs \$163.80 on Ticketmaster.

Concerts are supposed to be a fun night out, but they are too expensive to enjoy all the time. Why go at all?

Yes, you get to see your favorite artist live, but what does that really mean?

According to *Berkeley B-side*, concerts are known to be bonding experiences, and can even relieve stress.

People find a lot of joy seeing a musician or band that they have been listening to for years. It is an important experience for them. Unfortunately, lots of the people with this opinion are young and have

less money to spend.

So what little money they have, they are spending on a one-night event hosted by their favorite celebrity that is essentially taking their money. The concert is surely enjoyable, but then after, you are just left with an empty bank account and a lingering feeling of sadness.

In fact, some people even experience a wave of depression after a concert.

"PCD (post-concert depression) isn't in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, so it isn't a formal medical diagnosis. However, this doesn't make it — and the feelings and emotions you might have after a concert — any less real," according to *Healthline*.

And aren't there other better, cheaper forms of recreation?

Taking a walk is a free activity that relieves stress through endorphins and has other benefits too. The coolest part, you can listen to music while you do it.

There are lots of small venues in Pittsburgh alone that can give the same experience for much cheaper.

Seeing smaller local bands supports smaller venues without breaking the bank the same way a Taylor Swift concert would. Plus, there is a better chance you get to interact more with the artists. And, if you go to multiple shows,

you could even become friendly with them, something that would never happen if you sat a mile away from your favorite celebrity.

Concerts are a hassle, the stress that you are relieved of during the show is most likely the stress leading up to going to the show.

Finding parking in a crowded area is known to cause stress, and there is even such a thing as parking anxiety. According to JustPark, 1 in 10 people have experienced this, in which they do not want to go somewhere due to fear of not being able to find a parking spot.

And this is just one of the problems with concerts. The biggest are those hidden fees that you only find out about after you have decided to go, waited in an online queue for hours and are at the very last step of purchasing the tickets when your \$130 ticket gets a \$30 transaction fee. These additional costs are excessive, and it is on top of the already overpriced concert tickets.

In the meantime, everyone who wants to see a show will still have to pay those fees, if they decide that the sacrifice is worth it for them, to see their favorite artist. My suggestion? Save your money, go see a smaller artist or find a chance to bond over music somewhere else.

## Letter to the Editor

### Libraries are a vital third space

Dear Editor,

The recent Duquesne Duke article, "The tragic disappearance of the third place," by Paige Parsons discusses how the current loneliness epidemic has led to an increase in consumerism.

Parsons discusses Ray Oldenburg's theory on "Third Places," the idea that humans require three realms to be happy — home, work or school, and a third place in which to interact, a place that seems to be lacking in our world today. However, Parsons mentions one place that checks off all the boxes of a third place: libraries.

At Gumberg Library, we were thrilled to see such a clear explanation of the library's importance in our society and on our campus. We agree with Parson's assertions. Not only are libraries easily accessible places where it is unnecessary to spend money, but in our digitally immersed world it is clear that libraries are no longer just about books. At Gumberg Library, we have made sure to evolve with the changing needs of our community.

While some may think of the library primarily as a space where you can find quiet and solitude, it is also a place to build community. Our goal is to facilitate the experience of a "third place" on campus where students can connect, discover and collaborate. We achieve this goal through immersive opportunities such as: our Library of Things, the Curriculum Center, Therapet visits, exhibits, a relaxation room, therapeutic art events and more.

At Gumberg Library, we are continuously evolving and finding new ways to serve the needs of all students at Duquesne. We eagerly await interacting with you in this third place at the library on campus, through our engaging events, and online through our programming and social media.

Alyssa Rein  
Marketing, Communications,  
and Social Media Manager at  
Gumberg Library

#### Letters policy

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

## Penguins' uncertain future sans Guentzel

MICHAEL O'GRADY  
staff writer

The Penguins all but called it quits on this season last week. On the eve of the NHL Trade Deadline, goal-scoring winger Jake Guentzel was dealt to their Metro Division rival Carolina Hurricanes, placing Pittsburgh in an unsteady position regarding their future.

The 29-year-old Guentzel has been fantastic playing next to Sidney Crosby since his debut in 2016, notching 40 goals twice in six full seasons. A well-known playoff performer, Guentzel has 58 playoff points to match 58 playoff games and had a record-tying 21 points as a rookie in the 2017 playoffs to help win the Penguins a fifth Stanley Cup.

Already, he has made his mark on the Hurricanes, totaling eight points in five games.

Pittsburgh's season never got on the right track, and starting in January, rumors emerged that Penguins General Manager Kyle Dubas could trade the pending free agent Guentzel in an effort to get

younger players and somewhat replenish Pittsburgh's prospect pipeline. Years of trading assets for win-now pieces has left the farm system bare, and it is considered by many to be a bottom-10 pool in the league. As the deadline got closer, the Hurricanes, New York Rangers and Vegas Golden Knights reportedly were all in on Guentzel, and Carolina's offer won out in the end.

Dubas could have swung for the fences regarding a return, but what he fetched back for Pittsburgh seems like more of a bunt. With Guentzel and depth defenseman Ty Smith heading to Raleigh, the Penguins acquired forward Michael Bunting, prospect forward Ville Koivunen, Vasily Ponomarev and Cruz Lucius and two conditional 2024 Draft picks, one first-rounder and one fifth-rounder.

Bunting played under Dubas in Toronto and was a 2022 Calder Trophy finalist, albeit as a 26-year-old. He's under contract for two more seasons and will immediately replace Guentzel on the first line, but

he is undoubtedly a downgrade. Ponomarev is a two-way center struggling to make his mark in the American Hockey League, and Lucius is still in college, leading the University of Wisconsin Badgers in points. Koivunen appears to be the most promising of the bunch — he is nearly a point-per-game player in the top league in his native Finland.

The draft picks are the most head-scratching part of the deal, however. They hinge completely on Carolina winning the Eastern Conference. If that doesn't happen, the first-rounder turns to a second and the fifth-rounder stays with Carolina. Perhaps the return would have been larger if Guentzel signed an extension with the Hurricanes, but to not receive a guaranteed first rounder for the top-line winger is questionable.

That was not Dubas's only move of the day. Depth defenseman Chad Ruhwedel was flipped to the Rangers for a 2027 fourth-rounder, opening the door for rookie blueliner John Ludvig to see more ice time. Still, the return is less than ideal.

Dubas now finds himself in

a strange spot; no other asset on his team, save for Crosby, could have netted a bigger return than Guentzel could have, yet the Penguins don't seem as if they've benefitted.

Dubas will now have to make the tough offseason decision of trading a reportedly unhappy Crosby in a contract year in order to properly start a rebuild.

Other valuable pieces such as Bryan Rust, Rickard Rakell and even Erik Karlsson will be difficult contracts to move elsewhere, and at this point other teams won't be willing to give up much for Evgeni Malkin or Kris Letang.

Behind Crosby, the most moveable asset with value now is Marcus Pettersson, but if Guentzel couldn't turn into much, then Pettersson won't either. Teams will pay handsomely for Crosby — it comes down to if Dubas makes his franchise player available.

Crosby or no Crosby, Pittsburgh might be in for some lean years ahead, but the only thing they can do right now is hope Carolina makes it out of the war zone that is the East.

## Pittsburgh pipes along during annual Parade

ISABELLA ABBOTT  
features editor

The Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade wouldn't be complete without the sound of bagpipes. And as it turns out, there is a whole bagpiping community that practices year-round, not just for this special Irish celebration.

Many Pittsburgh pipers and piping societies are in the area, including a bagpiping major and program at Carnegie Mellon University.

Nine-year bagpiper and Duquesne graduate Amy Howard started her piping journey at the age of 17, learning from a CMU student in the Carnegie Mellon Pipes and Drums band.

While she attended Duquesne for her master's in accounting, she took a class in bagpiping at CMU. Her participation at the school allowed her to be a part of the Pipes and Drums band that she's still active in today. The band is made up of current university students and alumni.

The band performed at the parade on Saturday, among warmer weather and larger crowds than prior years.

"In previous years, it's been extremely cold, and our fingers would go numb because we can't wear gloves," Howard said.

Though she has been in several parades, some nerves still came through before she started playing.

"It's a little nerve-wracking, but if you're confident with the music, it's an enjoyable

experience because so many people love the sound of bagpipes and it's fun to hear the cheering," Howard said.

Another participant in the parade, University of Pittsburgh graduate Sean McCarthy, is a part of the Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh. According to their website, they're one of the oldest active bands in the region. Their purpose is to further the Scottish arts by promoting the study and performance of their music.

McCarthy has been playing for 18 years and was the youngest member of the Macdonald Pipe Band when he started playing for the group. He said during a parade performance, "you get that adrenaline where you forget you're cold."

"Before the parade started we're sitting there. It's kind of chilly but as soon as you get into that crowd, because there's so much people and everything going on, it instantly warms up," McCarthy said.

McCarthy described being a part of the pipe band as "a second family." He's able to practice with them, do a parade and get drinks after their performance.

Alex Knox, another piper in the CMU program, has been playing for seven years and was taught by her father. She said that during the parade, the pipers play for about 75% of the time, but there's always a drumbeat to march to.

"It takes about a half an hour to get through the parade route and we generally have two or three minutes on and a minute off throughout the whole thing," Knox said.

Howard said it can get tiring, carrying and playing the heavy instruments during the entire parade.

"If you've ever seen someone play the bagpipes, a lot is going on," Howard said. "You're blowing into a bag but you're also squeezing this bag in order to produce enough pressure to create a sound out of the chanter which is where the fingering and everything happens."

An aspect different from many instruments is that pieces have to be memorized. Howard said it is very rare to see someone with music in front of them.

Participants in this year's parade included marching bands, bagpiping organizations, Irish step dancers, community organizations and even Punxsutawney Phil.

A bagpiper who used to be a part of the Balmoral Pipes and Drums band in Pittsburgh, Glenna Van Dyke wanted to start learning the instrument to be able to perform at a St. Patrick's Day parade.

She begged her mother to let her get bagpipes and ended up playing at the College of Wooster in Ohio, where she received a scholarship for the instrument. She enjoys practicing and learning with others.

"I think a lot of people come from very different directions but we're just this network of people that are all kind of connected through this unconventional hobby," Van Dyke said. "I think it's definitely more diverse than people give it credit for."

While many people may think of a typical bagpiper being a male wearing the kilt and

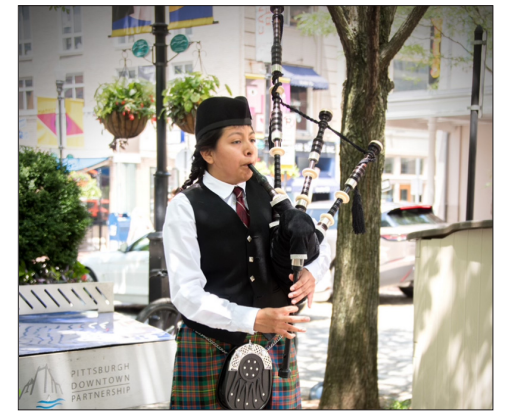


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY HOWARD  
Amy Howard has been bagpiping for nine years and graduated from Duquesne in 2020. She participates in the Carnegie Mellon Pipes and Drums band.

carrying their large instrument, Van Dyke said it's actually "a wide variety of people."

"I have met plenty of female bagpipers, and I think we have an even deeper sense of camaraderie because it's definitely an instrument that for a while was played by men," Van Dyke said. "But there are more women now playing which is really cool to see."

Pittsburghers don't have to wait until next year to see a bagpiper, they can follow along with the the Pittsburgh Bagpipers, the Macdonald Pipe Band of Pittsburgh, the Balmoral Pipes and Drums Band of Pittsburgh and more for bagpiping performances year-round.

## Duquesne hosts annual Integrity of Creation Conference

KAITLYN HUGHES  
staff writer

Two speakers who will visit Duquesne next week as part of the Integrity of Creation Conference hope to inspire students on the pope's teaching on ecology and climate.

The ninth Integrity of Creation Conference will return to Duquesne focused on the topic of pathways to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The event will take place on March 26 and 27 and invites all students and faculty to engage in workshops, presentations and posters. The conference will be held in-person at Duquesne's Power Center and live streamed on YouTube.

According to their website, the conference has three goals which include: provide a scholarly opportunity to engage established and emerging research on the conference topic; foster interdisciplinary discourse on each topic; and enlighten public awareness and discussion of the conference topic.

Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Grefenstette Center Ercan Avci said the conference is to inform students that the future of Earth is in their hands.

"We live in this environment and we need to protect it," Avci said. "We need to for our kids, our next generations leaving a healthy environment to them. In this case, we have certain responsibilities."

The event was commissioned by former university President Charles J. Dougherty in 2015 because he wanted to have an annual conference celebrating the Spiritan mission of Duquesne which focuses on climate change.

Each year the event has a different theme based around climate change, but this year's theme was chosen based on the upcoming deadline of 2030 to meet the U.N.'s goals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA MEURER  
The Integrity of Creation Conference will take place on March 26 and 27 at the Power Center. Pictured here is Tony Carbino on the left and Father John Osei Yaw to his right.

The conference used to only consist of invited speakers, but it is now in combination with student posters and oral presentations.

The opening plenary speaker at this year's event is Cardinal Christophe Pierre who serves as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, or in other words, the Vatican ambassador to the United States. Pierre will give a presentation on two documents written by Pope Francis: *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*.

The closing plenary speaker for this year is Kachi Adindu who represents the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. He will carry forward the idea of sustainability through the idea of ecological justice.

Adindu's talk will center around encouraging others to ensure everyone has the right to sustainable development.

"It will be an eye opener. It will be like telling them do you know that some people feel others don't have the right to develop," Adindu said. "When people know that, they will be

able to raise their own questions and be able to challenge the systems. Whether it is their government or transnational corporations, they will join the workplace in making that call for people now to support this movement that will bring freedom to every person on the planet."

Another goal of bringing in speakers is to empower students to present their research at the conference.

The committee works with faculty throughout the school year to encourage students to submit a poster to the conference. The classes that participate have coursework centered around the theme of the conference.

Duquesne sophomore Emily Gierczynski was a participant in last year's conference. She completed a poster for the conference as part of Daniel Schied's essential questions class, "Can Faith Save Earth?" The class was centered around learning about how to protect the environment from climate change.

From each class that participates, three

students are selected to give a five-minute presentation on the podium.

Students who submit a poster or give a presentation are eligible to submit an essay to be added into "The Conference Book" which is published every year after the event.

"The difficulty we are trying to avoid is you've probably been to many conferences where a lot of people come, and they see a lot, and they talk a lot, and the students are there but they're not really engaged," Magill said. "What we're doing here is having the students be engaged."

During the 2023 conference, Gierczynski submitted a poster and gave an oral presentation about her research on global warming's effects on coral reefs and how they can be saved. She enjoyed the fact she got to learn about global warming through a topic of her choosing.

Gierczynski said the conference helps students become immersed in research, work on their professional skills and become more involved with the university.

"It just made me be more aware of those topics and just things I can do," Gierczynski said. "Like small changes that I can make in my daily life to impact the Earth."

Gierczynski will be presenting again at this year's conference with her partner Dalton Zelwalk, with a poster focused on public health and poverty.

From her experience gained through the conference and her research, Gierczynski realized ways students can become more climate friendly.

"The first step is just being aware that these problems do exist and how impactful they are to the Earth," Gierczynski said. "Students can make very small changes in their daily life like taking public transportation or walking whenever you can, especially since we're in the city. I think just those really small changes in your daily life can have such a big impact."

Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke

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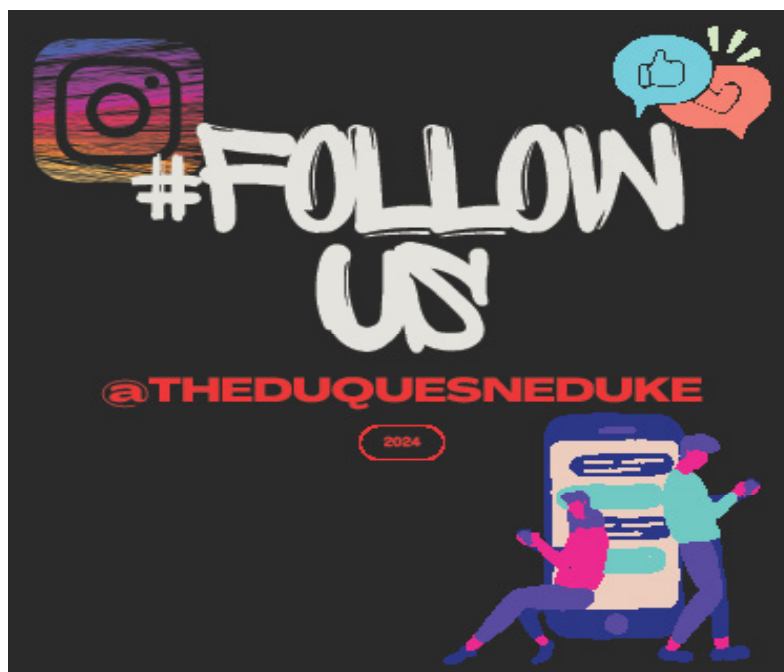
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The Duquesne Duke is the award-winning student newspaper at Duquesne University. With a weekly print edition and updated website, The Duke has desks in news (campus, local and national), sports, arts and entertainment, features and opinions, and is comprised of more than 60 student journalists



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