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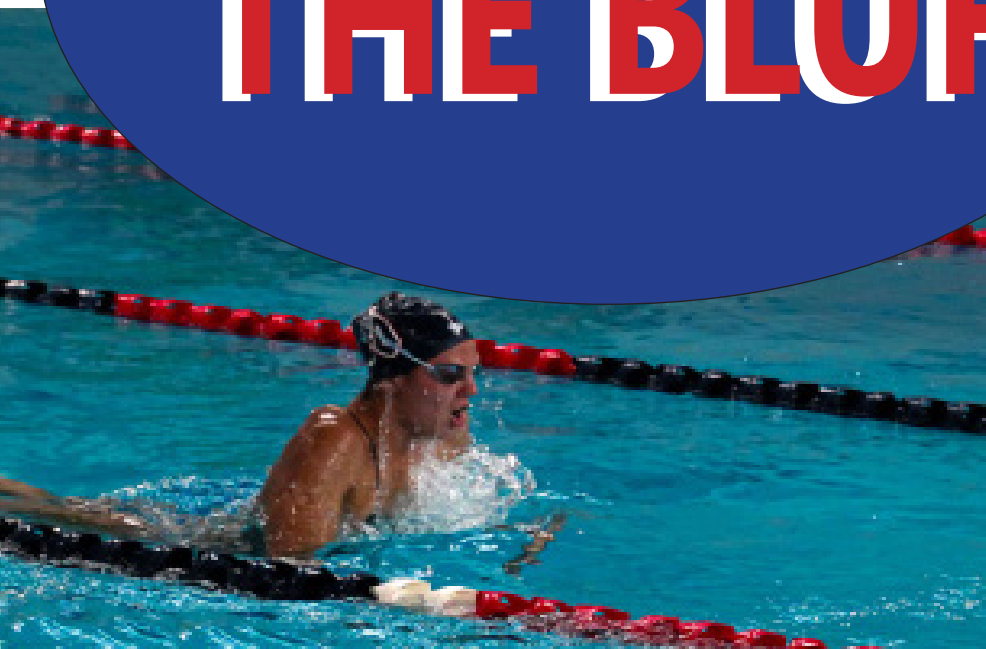
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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Proudly Serving Our Campus For 100 Years!

BACK ON THE BLUFF



See page 7 for info

First class of Osteopathic Medicine students reflect on their first two months

POLICE briefs

Monday, Aug. 19-

Duquesne University Police were dispatched for a medical emergency at the Rangos School of Health Sciences. EMS were notified.

Wednesday, Aug. 21-

A vehicle in the Locust Garage was struck by another vehicle.

Thursday, Aug. 22-

A non-affiliated juvenile was given a courtesy transport from Duquesne University to their home located at an off-campus location.

Friday, Aug. 23-

A vehicle was damaged in the Forbes Garage, and no note was left at the scene.

Monday, Aug. 26-

A Duquesne University parking employee accidentally hit another vehicle while moving a vehicle in a valet manner. The garage was full, and parking employees were moving vehicles. There were no injuries and no towing needed. Very minor damage to vehicles.

ELIYAHU GASSON
opinions editor

After a grand opening last fall, the College of Osteopathic Medicine got an early start molding the minds of Duquesne's first class of medical students.

For the first class of medical students, the academic year started on July 15, more than a month earlier than all undergraduate programs.

"The medical school starts earlier because there's so much more information," said John Kauffman, Dean of the Duquesne University of Osteopathic Medicine. "We cover in



ELIYAHU GASSON | OPINIONS EDITOR
The osteopathic medical students celebrated the end to their first round of exams with an ice cream social on Monday.

one semester what a master's program will cover in one year."

At 7:30 a.m. on Monday, medical students started their first round of exams. The students had four hours to take the exam followed by another

class at 12 p.m. and lab later.

Medical student Kylie Howe, said her classmates and herself can feel the burden of their heavy course load, but that doesn't stop them.

"It's definitely an adjustment," Howe said. "It's intense at first but you kind of get used to it."

"We worked really hard this weekend," said classmate Olivia Mulè. "We were in the library for over 12 hours a day."

Kauffman said that the medical school's first year is going well so far.

"I think everyone has a great attitude, a great spirit and they're engaged and working hard," he continued. "What more could I ask?"

In an interview with *The Duke* in January, Kauffman told a reporter he hopes the school of medicine will train new doctors to understand how to help the body heal itself and will put more emphasis on prevention of disease and lifestyle adjustments to aid wellbeing.

"We teach everything that they would down the street at [The University of Pittsburgh]," Kauffman said on Monday. "We also offer an additional hour a week on the musculoskeletal system and then two hours of lab. In terms of philosophy, we're very focused on the whole person."

According to Kauffman, the values at Duquesne make it a great fit for an osteopathic medical school.

"That opportunity, the intersectionality of our philosophy with the university, is the perfect opportunity to really advance medical train-

ing and medical care," he said.

Kauffman's opinion was echoed by Howe.

"Just the philosophy of Duquesne as a whole really resonated with me as well as their mission statement when I was going through my interview," she said.

Howe also said that Duquesne having an osteopathic medical school is one of her primary reasons for coming to The Bluff.

"This school kind of encompasses why I want to be a doctor, to treat the patient first," she said.

Howe and Mulè agree that their first year is off to a good start.

"The school is absolutely state of the art. It's brand new so we have everything that we need to succeed," Mulè said.

Mulè said that it's not just the equipment that makes her feel set up for success, but also the support of her peers.

"Med school usually has a competitive nature, but we really do help each other. We want everyone to succeed," she said. "So I'd say the environment as a whole, it's just mentoring us toward success."

Duquesne's first class of medical students totals 91 participants, all of whom share a class in the medical school's lecture hall.

"Having a small class you kind of get to know everyone pretty well," Howe said. "It's really easy to meet people and we all have shared study spaces so we run into each other a lot."

To celebrate the end of a long day of exams and classes, the medical school hosted an ice cream social for the students on Monday.

Kauffman spoke to those gathered at the event. "We put a lot of effort into picking the best people to come here who resonate with our mission."



ELIYAHU GASSON | OPINIONS EDITOR

Left to Right: Grace Eberwine, Gwyneth Hamilton, Kimberly Sok and Erin Cogne are four of 91 students in the first Osteopathic Medicine class.

Will DUQ students protest this autumn?

KAITLYN HUGHES
& MEGAN TROTTER

features editor & news editor

With the election only about two months away, political pressure is heating up as young adults across college campuses make their voices heard.

Unlike surrounding universities, such as University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne did not make headlines for hosting a series of summer protests and demonstrations.

As the election grows closer The Duke asked students from different clubs and backgrounds why they believe Duquesne has not had the same stint of activism and if they believe this will change closer to November.

Civil discourse in student clubs

Makenzie Barchiesi of the International Relations Club said the club helps promote discourse on campus and education.

"Yes, we do talk about outside influences ... but we mostly inform people about these certain topics," Barchiesi said. "We wholeheartedly agree with the civil discourse. Because if we didn't, we as a club and as a major — we would just fall apart."

She said the International Relations Club hosts discussion nights where professors and students ask questions about political issues. Last year, Barchiesi said they hosted multiple meetings about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I think that also helps to ease some people's minds," Barchiesi said.

Limits on political activity

While Duquesne does allow for discourse on campus there are strict restrictions put in place.

"Faculty and staff may participate in partisan political activities provided that participation does not interfere with their regular responsibilities to the university and its students, does not invoke or imply endorsement of or by the university and does not include the use of university property, funds, supplies or equipment," according to Duquesne University's webpage on political policy.

However, the section also states that no partisan political activities are allowed to take place on campus property.

Ava Hickman, a member of College Republicans, said while she thinks Duquesne does a good job at making sure campus is safe and under control, she does feel like the restrictions limit discourse.

Hickman said she feels Duquesne administration is, "a little bit possibly too excessive on the free speech restrictions."

Campus is too small of a 'bubble'

Natalie Rodriguez, president of Duquesne Debating Society, said the team meets everyday. They discuss a wide variety of topics from serious issues across the world and fun topics to lighten the mood.

"We try to make students argue both sides of the coin," Rodriguez said.

That setting is a vessel for students to engage in respectful political discourse.

Rodriguez said that since Duquesne's campus is its "own little bubble in the city," that students would not want to protest on A-walk. They would rather go out into the greater Pittsburgh area so their voices

would be more likely to be heard.

"People feel as though, even if they were to protest, they might not have the broader audience of the city that the other protesters have," Rodriguez said.

Though the students are politically active, they don't necessarily express these views on campus.

Rodriguez said that if something major were to happen at the university, the students care enough to use their voices and that most of the time she believes political statements issued by the Duquesne administration reflect the general student body.

"It's just enough to where they [the school] recognize that things are going on to make students aware of what's going on," Rodriguez said, "but also not to make any students angry about what's going on."

Rodriguez thinks that the school understands there is a mix of viewpoints on campus, so they don't make strong stances.

"So I don't necessarily think we'll see a lot of large protests, especially with the election. I honestly just don't see us getting too involved with politics as a campus," Rodriguez said.

Joining other campus demonstrations

While Duquesne remains a small campus for political activity, Mia Olenick, President of Hillel Jewish Student Organization said that the University of Pittsburgh was a hotspot for larger and more unruly protests.

"If you wanted to protest," Olenick said. "It was easier to go join one of the big ones."

Olenick said that protests on Duquesne's campus would most likely have a smaller turnout.

She also believes since the Duquesne Police are so active on campus it would be shut down immediately.

"If it were to be me holding a Pro-Israel protest this [Duquesne] is not the place that I would choose to hold it," Olenick said.

Though no conflict has arisen en masse across campus, Olenick has experienced some personal troubles revolving around the Israel-Palestine situation.

"It's not unreasonable for students who want to protest to go to other campuses to do so," Barchiesi said.

Olenick also said the only way she thinks an insurrection would happen on campus is if a drastic event like public verbal or physical assault would occur.

"I don't think there will be protests at Duquesne," Olenick said. "I don't think people care enough here."

Hickman describes her fellow Duquesne students as mostly moderate when it comes to politics.

"I feel like at the very least, there are not a lot of extremes of Duquesne where someone would be violent or angry or cause serious disturbances," she said.

Olenick said Duquesne is a quiet campus where students listen and respect opposing viewpoints.

"I think it's very professional the way our school handles things," Olenick said, "because it's small enough it can round up its students easier."

In the heat of the election, Olenick thinks we will see backlash after a candidate is selected, but not on the Bluff.

"I think overall, Duquesne is here to support its students," Olenick said.

WSOC defense grounds Falcons in tight contest

SEAN MCKEAN
staff writer

The Duquesne women's soccer team took on the Bowling Green Falcons at Rooney Field on Sunday afternoon, and were victorious by a final score of 2-0.

Margey Brown and Mackenzie Muir were the two goalscorers. Brown's came in the first half while Muir's was in the second. Lindsay Krafchick was the lone player with an assist. Muir also led the team in shots with three. While Bowling Green went scoreless, Lexi Czerwein took four shots and Michelle Hochstadt fired three.

The first 15 minutes of the game saw zeroes across the board in nearly every stat, with the Dukes and Falcons jockeying for possession.

Duquesne took the lead at the 18-minute mark, when Brown managed to break free from defenders and scored her team-leading fifth goal in just three games, with the assist from Krafchick, her first of the season.



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mackenzie Leeder played a full 90 minutes in the heat Sunday afternoon.

After the game, Brown described how the goal unfolded despite how difficult it was for the Dukes to take prominent possession.

"Well, Lindsay had a break on the outside, and I noticed that [Bowling Green's] outside back was high so I made a run to the back post and put it in," she said.

After the goal, though, the game returned to a stalemate, with Duquesne only clocking two shots for the rest of the half, while Bowling Green was left off the half's shot chart entirely. Subsequently, the first half ended with a score of 1-0 in favor of the Dukes.

With the first half featuring few breaks for the players, the excessive heat of the day threatened to take a toll on the team. However, Brown and her teammates didn't view it as a mental blockage.

"Well, we try not to talk about the heat actually," she said. "That's kind of our rule. That shouldn't be a factor, it's hot for both teams, so we put that to the side."

Bowling Green opened the second half with a lot of energy, getting a shot on goal in the first few seconds from Brynn Gardner. Six minutes later, Gardner followed that opportunity up with a breakaway chance that was turned aside by Maddy Neundorfer.

The Dukes responded soon, however, with Hailey Longwell taking a shot that barely missed the post at 52 minutes. Muir also followed to take her first several shots of the game five minutes later, but all swung wide.

Muir finally succeeded in achieving a goal in the 67th minute, scoring on a centering pass from Jayden Sharpless with help by a Bowling Green deflection. For Muir, it was her first goal in nearly two calendar years.

Although Bowling Green ended up out-

shooting Duquesne with 12 total shots, all in the second half, the Dukes held strong for their first shutout of the 2024 campaign.

"You know, we knew they were going to be a good team, they have a very specific way of playing that was going to be a challenge to us. But we came out, we had a game plan, the kids stuck to it, and they did well," Duquesne Head Coach Al Alvine said.

Winners of two of their first three after a 6-2 rout of Division I-newcomer Mercyhurst and a close 2-1 loss to city rival No. 7 Pitt, Brown said the Dukes possess the qualities they need to keep their early-season momentum up.

"I mean, just in practice, I feel like, as a team, as a whole, we've been going hard at it," she said. "I feel like it's been paying off. And tribute to my teammates, they served me balls on a platter."

With the two goals, Duquesne has already found the back of the net nine times on the season, a marker that took them twice as many games at the start of last year's season.

For the upcoming practices, and eventual game against Kent State following an extended break, Alvine doesn't fancy making any major plans, but stressed that his team needs to continue to grow in order to sustain their success.

"Yeah, I think we're in a good spot right now," he said. "There are certainly things we want to fine-tune as we go through, we want our finishing to be a little better, our decision-making in the final third to be a little better, organization in the back is good, the communication is getting better every time. So given where we are with the season right now, I think we're on a good trajectory."

Alvine and his team will have ample time to improve, as Duquesne's long hiatus in the schedule means they won't return to action until Sept. 8, when they host the Golden Flashes for Senior Day at Rooney Field. They'll then visit Saint Francis and Youngstown State before kicking off Atlantic-10 Conference play on Sept. 19 at Richmond.



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defender Paige Kuisis, who played 16 minutes, looks to have a larger role in her sophomore season.

Men fire three past Canisius, open season 2-0

SEAN MCKEAN
staff writer

The Duquesne men's soccer team is off to a hot start in 2024, opening their season with a pair of 3-1 victories at Rooney Field. They beat Seton Hill last week, before welcoming another non-conference opponent in Canisius on Sunday.

Duquesne scored three times, as Jaxon Ervin, Roni Badler, and Ali Nasser all scored. Ervin and Bendix Bennetzen assisted on Badler's game-winning goal, while Maxi Hopfer paved the way for Nasser's score.

As for the Golden Griffins, their sole score came from Mesafint Ellingson in the first half. Ellingson, Michael Switala, and Ely Sibide collectively led in shots with two.

While Duquesne started rather conservatively – passing the ball without advancing much – Canisius came out aggressively, taking two fouls within the first minutes which gave the Dukes a pair of free kicks.

The first 10 minutes saw possession mostly lie in favor of the Dukes, featuring three shots from Jesper Moksnes, Ervin and Bennetzen respectively. The Golden Griffins had their own three opportunities as well in the same period, but they also did not connect.

With the temperature over 86 degrees Fahrenheit, the referee opted to call for several more than the two mandatory hydration breaks. Starting in the 13th minute, breaks

would be called every 13 minutes for the remainder of play.

The Dukes took advantage of the first break, as right when they got back underway, Bennetzen got his second shot-on-goal of the game. Canisius followed this up with another shot from the corner by Switala.

Just over the 19-minute mark, Ervin finally connected into the net to put the Dukes up by one.

The Golden Griffins tried to follow it up, with shots by Ely Sidibe and Switala being on target at 24 minutes, but Sidibe's went wide and Zoltan Nagy turned aside Switala.

After these shots, Canisius also picked up the aggression on defense, but in the process gave Duquesne an opportunity at corner, leading to a saved shot from Moksnes.

The Golden Griffins would achieve their equalizer at the 38:10-mark. After a clumsy defensive spell near goal, it opened up the opportunity for Ellingson to get their first goal of the game.

Aside from a few more on-target shots, the first half would end with a score of 1-1.

The Dukes came out hot for the second half, just missing a goal only one minute into the half from Jack Rhead soon followed by another from Roni Badler. This started a theme similar to the first half, wherein the Dukes mostly maintained possession with the Golden Griffins maintaining solid defense.

Ten minutes into the second half, Duquesne

recaptured the lead. With a nice center from Ervin, Badler was able to ease one into the net, putting the Dukes back up by one.

Following the goal, Canisius returned to a more aggressive approach to offense and managed to gain more possession, but they were initially unsuccessful in their advances toward the net. This amounted to the first yellow card of the game – specifically, for Syndey Aggrey – for aggression toward Nagy in goal.

After this caution, Canisius took a step back, handing the Dukes back primary possession. Although they put up a littany of

shots, the Dukes initially couldn't find their way into a third goal. The second yellow card of the game also came from a Duke at 79 minutes from Grant McIntosh.

Duquesne finally put away the clinching goal at 81 minutes. Assisted by Hopfer, Nasser managed to boot it into the net from outside the box, putting the Dukes up by two.

With the win, Duquesne has started 2-0 for the second time in three seasons. They next play on Sunday at Xavier. The trip to Cincinnati is the return fixture of a home-and-home series which Duquesne lost last year, 2-0.



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maxi Hopfer recorded his first assist of his fifth season on the Bluff after scoring on Thursday.

Labor Day Weekend festivities in the ‘Burgh

EMILY FRITZ
a&e editor

With the blisteringly hot and humid days of September nearly upon us and the threat of dull dorm life – sans air conditioning – following the first full week of class, being back on the Bluff somehow seems even more laborious than it did when we pulled ourselves out of bed for that non-negotiable 8 a.m. class. Luckily, the Steel City never disappoints. The extended weekend is bursting with the perfect mix of food, music, festivities and most importantly, free things to do.

Market Square Farmers Market – Thursdays through Oct. 31

If you have a break in your class schedule between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., start the holiday weekend early with a walk down to Market Square for the weekly Farmers Market. Rounding out its 20th season at the end of October, expect to find more than 25 local vendors who are eager to share their craft with you. Stuck on the Bluff today?



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Now in its 20th season, the Market Square Farmers Market features live music for all to enjoy from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

with football, free concerts and of course, ribs, this event has grown from its inception in 1990 to cover the majority of Art Rooney Avenue and more than half of the stadium. Steelers mascot Steely McBeam will make his rounds alongside more than a dozen rib vendors as everyone gathers to kickoff the beginning of football season. Super fans will also be permitted to view Super Bowl trophies won by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the FedEx Great Hall and the Hall of Fame Museum for an additional cost.

‘Final Fridays’ at The Warhol – Aug. 30 at 5 p.m.

The Pop District at The Warhol Museum is sending off the summer season with its final ‘Final Fridays’ event from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Silver Street. This block-party style celebration brings artists, creatives and entrepreneurs together with live music, an all-ages hands-on art studio and El Sabor Latin Kitchen food truck for the ultimate outdoor program in the North Shore. This event is free with museum admission – which includes half-price admission after 5 p.m. Following the finale of ‘Final Fridays’ will be ‘Dandy Andy,’ an educational tour that explores the late contemporary artist’s queer identity and falls on the last Saturday of each month.

‘A Soulful Taste of the Burgh’ – Aug. 30 to Sept. 1

Nestled between Stanwix Street and Wood Street, Stop the Violence

Pittsburgh is celebrating the return of its soul food festival, which has grown to include more than 50 food vendors and 50 item and cultural vendors since its birth in 2019. Enjoy live music from the talents of DJ Marlon, Keith Washington, Sevyn Streeter and The House of Soul or participate in activities inspired by Pittsburgh’s rich Black history.

Avatar: The Last Airbender in Concert – Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Calling all ‘Avatar: The Last Airbender’ fans: a new way to enjoy your favorite comfort show is arriving at the Benedum Center this Saturday. This multisensory experience includes a live performance of the show’s original soundtrack while fan-favorite scenes from the Nickelodeon cartoon play out on a full-size screen. The symphonic fusion of Eastern and Western instrumentation has a runtime of nearly two hours and limited availability. Tickets can be purchased at www.trustarts.org.

Carnegie Science Center – Sept. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kamin Family Free Day, thanks to sponsorship by Dan and Carole Kamin, is happening this Sunday at the Carnegie Science Center and encompasses all general admission activities, four floors of exhibit space, Mars: The Next Giant Leap, Highmark SportsWorks, outdoor activities at MessFest and all live demonstration and planetarium

and astronomy shows. To celebrate the occasion, patrons can create their own slime and spin art, enjoy water activities using eco-friendly water balloons and dance to music from local DJs. Special entry to ‘The Science Behind Pixar’ exhibit and The Rangos Giant Cinema is not included in free admission.

Steelers Run Walk – Sept. 2

Registration for the 36th annual race is still open! Benefitting the Art Rooney Scholarship Fund and Chuck Noll Foundation, this 5K begins promptly at 8 a.m. on Labor Day and follows a mostly-level course through the North Shore, neighborhood of the team founder. The in-person memorial run concludes on the warning track of Acrisure Stadium. For those who prefer the path untraveled, virtual or at-home participation is available. All participants are automatically entered to win tickets for the Steelers’ home opener against the Los Angeles Chargers.

Mixtape Magic Academy – Now through Sept. 8

For those dabbling in the premature arrival of autumn favorites, Mixtape at 4907 Penn Ave. will be hosting their own 90-minute immersion fit for all ages. Fill out your own Sorcerer’s Report Card while you concoct your own potions, practice spell casting, solve mental puzzles and listen to mythical lore. Newly opened on Aug. 27, join the inaugural class of necromancers at Magic Academy by visiting www.mixtapepg.com.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Carnegie Science Center will be renamed after Dan and Carole Kamin — sponsors of the Kamin Family Free Day — due to their generous \$65 million donation.

campus events

[Free Dance Lesson: Hustle](#)
Aug. 29 @ 8 p.m.

Head to the 2nd Floor of the Power Center to learn from the Ballroom Association. No prior experience required.

[Welcome Back Picnic](#)
Aug. 30 @ 12 p.m.

Commuter Affairs is celebrating the first week of classes with free food in the NiteSpot.

[Extra Life Natural 20-Hour Livestream](#)
Aug. 31 @ 6 a.m.

Join the Tabletop Society in-person or online as they support Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals!

[Fall 2024 Expo](#)
Sept. 3-6 @ 11 a.m.

Discover your niche on A-Walk with more than 270 student organizations and departments to choose from.

[Paint Night](#)
Sept. 4 @ 9 p.m.

Create your next masterpiece and win raffle prizes in the NiteSpot with Art Club.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Pop District is a 10-year cultural and economic development plan by The Warhol museum to breathe new life into North Shore outdoor spaces.

Head over at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning for ‘Yoga in the Square’ instead, but be sure to bring your own yoga mat!

Acrisure Stadium Kickoff & Rib Fest – Aug. 29 to Sept. 1

Bring your appetite (and some wet wipes) for this saucy endeavor at Acrisure Stadium! Filled

emily's epiphanies

[Wayfind Through the Storm](#)

Syllabus days are over.

We have entered the true beginning of fall semester, and we must find our new groove before we become swept away in the chaos of assignments and the fight for restfulness.

As your fourth alarm goes off tomorrow morning, begging you to check-out early for the holiday weekend, remember that you are laying the foundations for the next 15 weeks.

This isn’t to say that you should study until your eyes begin to cross or stay up doing homework until the beginning of class the following day, but rather to pause, self-reflect and identify what needs to be done and what can reasonably wait.

You are the main character on this journey. You are responsible for the success of the story. Bear that weight with grace and accountability.

Overwhelm is the easy route. Taking moments of stillness to recalibrate and respond mindfully may be the deciding factor between a flop or a flourish.

— Emily Fritz

Aquarius ♒

I feel like a plant.

Pisces ♓

Sandwich of unbearable agony

Aries ♈

Live, Laugh, Lexapro

Taurus ♉

Peace and love, my little tomato girls.

Gemini ♊

The best minnow around

Cancer ♋

You give good noodle energy.

Leo ♌

I Yearn for the Urn.

Virgo ♍

Writing a resume? You mean filling out the character sheet for my worksona?

Libra ♎

Could you imagine *that* fan fiction?? I bet we could find it.

Scorpio ♏

It’s pretty, but sad. Like if a butterfly died.

Sagittarius ♐

Self inflicted stress mono is not the correct vibe, dearest.

Capricorn ♑

I need to inspect your bones. Might not give them back.

THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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“These are weird people on the other side. They want to take books away. They want to be in your exam room.”

TIM WALZ

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

@TheDuquesneDuke

editorial policy

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

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to 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

email: theduqduke@gmail.com

Weird endorses weirder



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. took the stage at a Trump rally in Arizona on Friday to announce his campaign's suspension and his personal endorsement of Donald Trump.

ELIYAHU GASSON

opinions editor

The political space seems to attract objectively strange people. One recent example is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a member of the prolific Kennedy political dynasty.

Kennedy launched his 2024 presidential campaign on April 9, 2023 as a Democrat.

Upon realizing that his chances of winning the Democratic Party nomination were slim to none, he announced that rather than challenge Joe Biden's candidacy, he would run as an independent candidate.

RFK Jr.'s campaign recently ended in a semi-predictable way when on August 23 when he took the stage at a Trump rally and threw his weight behind Donald Trump, a move so controversial that he drew backlash from members of his own family.

“Our brother Bobby's decision to endorse Trump today is a betrayal of the values that our father and our family hold most dear,” his sister Kerry Kennedy said in a post on X (formerly Twitter)

However, if you take a step back and analyze the way that RFK Jr. has handled himself in recent years, this change in allegiances doesn't seem so out of place.

Since Kennedy launched his campaign, strange tale after strange tale about his personal life have come to the public's attention.

The first bit of bizarre information about Kennedy came from *The New York Times*, which uncovered and reviewed a 2012 deposition in which he said, “A worm ... got into my brain and ate a portion of it and then died.”

Obviously, having worms in your brain is no laughing matter. Regardless, the uncovered comments served as a source for mockery, mostly from internet users who had, up until that

point, used the phrase “worms for brains” to describe a ridiculous and weird person.

Kennedy's strange stories don't end with brain worms.

In 2014, a bear was found dead in New York City's Central Park – a place not known for its bear population – by two women walking dogs.

The mystery of the dead bear went unsolved until Aug. 4, when Kennedy uploaded a video to X in which he admitted to transporting and depositing the bear carcass in Central Park to comedian Roseanne Barr.

“Since Kennedy launched his campaign, strange tale after strange tale about his personal life have come to the public's attention.”

In the video, Kennedy explains that he was taking a group falconing in the Hudson Valley. On the drive up he saw the driver in front of him hit a bear with her car, killing it.

“I picked up the bear and put him in the back of my van because I was going to skin the bear,” he said in the video. He also explained that he intended on butchering the bear and storing its meat in his freezer.

However, he was unable to return to his home in Westchester, N.Y., in time due to a prior engagement at Peter Luger Steak House in New York City, after which he would have to go directly to the airport.

Not knowing what else to do, Kennedy dropped the bear carcass in Central Park.

“At that time there had been a

series of bicycle accidents in New York,” he said. “I had an old bike in my car that somebody asked me to get rid of and I said ‘let's go put the bear in Central Park and make it look like he got hit by a bike.’”

Shortly after *The New Yorker* released a profile of Kennedy, a 2012 interview of his daughter for *Town & Country Magazine* resurfaced in which she recalls the time he dragged them out to a dead whale.

“When she was six, word got out that a dead whale had washed up on Squaw Island in Hyannis Port,” the article said. “Bobby – who likes to study animal skulls and skeletons – ran down the beach with a chainsaw, cut off the whale's head, and then bungee-corded it to the roof of the family minivan for the five-hour haul back to Mount Kisco, New York.”

Kennedy's daughter also stated that as the car accelerated down the highway “whale juice would pour into the windows of the car, and it was the rankest thing on the planet.”

The article continues “we all had plastic bags over our heads with mouth holes cut out, and people on the highway were giving us the finger, but that was just normal day-to-day stuff for us.”

There are plenty more strange and disturbing stories from Kennedy's past including a tale involving what could have been a dog, a goat or a lamb.

A popular line from Democrats this election cycle is that their opposition is ‘weird,’ and it's a strategy that seems to be working well for them.

National polling averages continue to favor Democratic candidate Kamala Harris according to polling aggregate *270toWin*, more and more as time goes on. So it begs the question: Who is really surprised about this endorsement, and, more curiously, why did Trump think it was a good idea to accept it?

staff editorial

The Democrats' new groove

For over three-quarters of Duquesne's undergrad students, the 2024 Presidential Election will be the first one in which they are eligible to vote.

It is reasonable to assume that the majority of them will be voting for the Democratic party all the way down the ticket. Young people voting overwhelmingly blue isn't a surprise.

What is surprising is the pride with which they will do so. For the first time in what feels like more than a decade, the Democratic party finally has some foresight and backbone, which is giving long-awaited hope to its voters.

Thirty-nine days ago, the act of voting for the Democratic ticket was one that would have been done out of obligation and fear of the other outcome. “Anyone but Trump,” they'd say before voting for Joe Biden, who would have been 85 at the end of his second term. But by some miracle the deck was re-shuffled, and young 59-year-old Kamala Harris became the candidate after a dismal debate performance by Biden put pressure on him to drop out of the race.

With a relatively youthful, charismatic and positive leader, the Democrats seem to have gotten their groove back.

Since Barack Obama left office in 2016, the left in America has been led by focus grouped yesmen, who failed to showcase the same level of charisma that the 44th president had. The problem with that? They were there for a reason. All were inferior candidates to Obama in the 2008, and still are. It took until this year for the head-scratchingly reactive and placid Democratic Party to finally usher in a new generation.

After Obama left office with one of the highest approval ratings in the last century, Democrats grew complacent with the values that brought them there, and they were not willing to meet the desires of young progressives, but that has changed.

Is Kamala the best candidate ever? Arguably, no. But she represents a new generation of politics that took Democrats 15 years to usher in. That level of excitement around a candidate and their politics really matters. That much could be seen at last week's convention.

Would Lil' Jon have shown up to excite the crowd if Joe Biden were still at the head of the ticket? Probably not. That performance, and many other moments in Chicago showed that there is a new generation of Democratic politicians finally catching up to the base of their supporters.

Even little things that the establishment wing of the Democratic Party wouldn't have put up with seem possible on the national stage. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders, who previously would have been discounted for having ‘overly-progressive’ policies, have been embraced enthusiastically and given time to speak at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Whether that's just PR spin or political dead-cat bounce, the moves made by Democratic leadership this summer have played better for them than whatever their strategy was at the beginning of election season.

Pittsburgh to Paris: Duq alumna covers Olympics

KAITLYN HUGHES

features editor

Thousands of spectators sat silent in the stands, waiting.

Waiting for the scores to come in.

Waiting to see if history would be made.

Then, the women's USA gymnastics team won the gold, and the stadium erupted.

Duquesne Alumna Vanessa Perdomo got to see it in person.

She choked up, tears filling her eyes as she realized she had achieved her dreams while watching others reach theirs.

"It was incredible, definitely an unbelievable experience," Perdomo said. "Almost, surreal in the way that I felt like I was just watching any other sporting event I've ever been to my whole life except you don't realize 'Oh my God, this is the Olympics' like this is so elevated in a different way."

Growing up, Perdomo's aspirations were not always to be a sports journalist, but this past summer she found herself covering the business aspects of the Olympics.

Perdomo graduated from Duquesne in December 2016 with a multiplatform journalism degree and has gone on to be a business of sports reporter, host and producer for *Bloomberg News*.

Her journey to her current career started as a studio manager at Studio ME, a space where creators can shoot projects or rent out equipment.

"At the time, I didn't really know I wanted to do sports," Perdomo said. "I knew I just wanted to go into news."

After moving back to her home in New Jersey, she secured a freelance editor position with *Bloomberg*. Perdomo then went on to start her own team in 2017, becoming an editor and producer for *Bloomberg QuickTake*, now

known as *Bloomberg Originals*.

"I finally realized: 'Oh, everything I pitch is sports,'" Perdomo said.

At the time, *Bloomberg* did not have a big sports reporting team because the company focused on business-related endeavors. Despite this, Perdomo consistently suggested stories centered around athletics. There is now officially a business of sports team under *Bloomberg News* that became active again last year. Perdomo joined about three months ago.

Beyond the Olympics, Perdomo was able to go to the 2024 Super Bowl, Cannes, Paris for the Future of Sports event and interview the U.S. fencing team before they headed to Paris.

Sports were Perdomo's discipline her whole life. Whether they were teaching her how to be social, be a leader or manage her time, it has shaped her into the person she is today.

"I think sports has always meant more to me than just the game," Perdomo said.

Perdomo was a goalkeeper for Duquesne's women soccer before she graduated.

Brianna Foster-Lopez was a fellow goalkeeper on the team. The pair were roommates and still remain friends.

Foster-Lopez said the way Perdomo breaks down barriers has helped her become the reporter she is today.

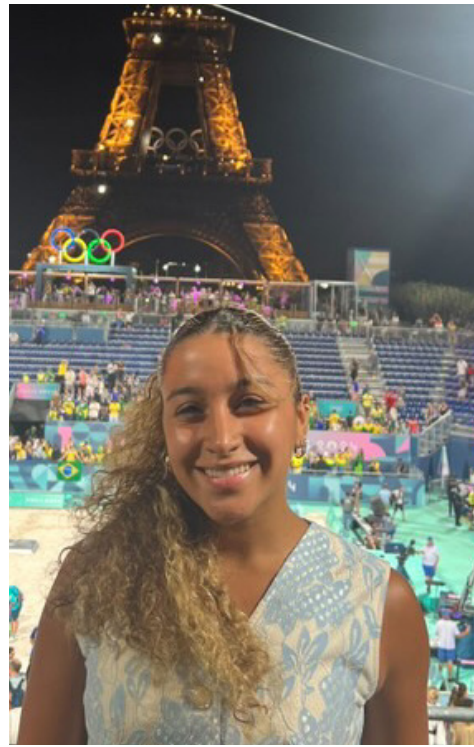
"She's handled everything with so much grace," Foster-Lopez said.

Between the Olympics and the Super Bowl, Perdomo is doing things that not everyone gets to do.

"She's doing something that I think many women dream about," Foster-Lopez said.

Foster-Lopez said that Perdomo has always been an amazing, hard working person socially, professionally and on the field back in college.

She said she gets emotional talking about Perdomo's successes.



COURTESY OF VANESSA PERDOMO
Vanessa Perdomo in the beach volleyball stadium, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

"I am really proud of her," Foster-Lopez said. "She's not an individual that takes no for an answer. She's constantly opening up opportunities for herself."

Perdomo is continuously touched by the stories of athletes, specifically, during her time at the Olympics.

"It isn't just a sporting event," Perdomo said. "These athletes are working their whole lives to get to this one moment. Seeing that dream become a reality is so different than winning a regular game."

In Paris, she was able to watch gymnastics, basketball, artistic swimming, soccer, track and skateboarding.

Getting to this point in her career did not come without challenges.

"Not everyone saw the vision," Perdomo said. "It has been a hard journey to try and get people to see it years in the making."

The business of sports reporter gave credit to her mentor Jason Kelly, Chief Correspondent for *Bloomberg Originals*, for always believing in her. Kelly always would say they are building something special, according to Perdomo.

"That was what kind of kept me going," Perdomo said.

Being a journalist who focuses on the business side of sports is different from covering the sports themselves.

The information covered varies from media rights, salaries, team ownership, brand deals and more.

Perdomo said the business aspect of things is still her biggest growth area.

Kelly was the one to tell Perdomo not to be afraid to ask questions. She now constantly reads books, asks for clarification and re-searches definitions.

A big support system for Perdomo is her boyfriend, Jake Maglione.

She even refers to him as her first editor because he is the first person to read her stories.

"I could talk for hours about Vanessa Perdomo," Maglione said.

He said Perdomo is driven but never forgets her roots. She uses a Duquesne bag for a soccer league she's involved with twice a week.

"She did everything she had to do to get where she is going," Maglione said. "I don't see her slowing down. I only see her getting better and more confident with what she's doing. The world is her oyster at this point."

Orientation accommodates commuters

MEGAN TROTTER

news editor

For many students the first week of college means adjusting to a home away from home, but for commuters it means cramming their things into a backpack and traveling to a new campus.

To accommodate the newcomers who don't live in the dorms, welcome week has taken a new form.

This year, the Duquesne orientation team spearheaded a new program specific to acclimating incoming undergraduate commuter students.

Jet Jacobsen, Duquesne's first official Commuter Chair for Orientation, said the new program is centered around the idea of creating an orientation plan that is inclusive for all students just starting their time on The Bluff.

"I think the key to orientation is really in the first couple days, whether you're going to get students to latch on to an idea of what orientation is, or whether they're just going to kind of let it float by," Jacobsen said. "If they don't latch on to it [orientation week], they just don't have to be on campus anymore, and they will head home."

Traditional orientation programming includes a week-long schedule of activities and events designed to help new students familiar-

ize themselves with the campus and create connections with their peers.

However, due to the early morning and late night hours of past years' events, many commuter students were unable to take part in a variety of the intended activities. Move-In Day, which commuter students do not participate in, has also been a big part of orientation in previous years.

"I think it was a big issue because commuter students weren't really invited to orientation in a traditional way," Jacobsen said.

Since commuting students do not live on campus, they miss a major part of the orientation process where they receive t-shirts, lanyards and information about where they should be going throughout the week, he said.

New commuter and political science student Evelyn Sorg will be walking to campus during her freshman year.

Sorg's mother is an alumna of Duquesne which meant that she never received a formal tour because her family was already somewhat acquainted with the campus.

"I've never even been on the full campus," she said to one of the orientation leaders during a commuter orientation event. He offered to help show her around. Sorg said she appreciated that the leader was concerned with making sure she was comfortable for her first day of classes.

"He was more focused on making sure I knew

my way around, than the scavenger hunt. We would occasionally come across clues, and he'd be like, 'Oh, there it is,'" Sorg said.

While there were a few mandatory commuter orientation events, new commuting students were still encouraged to go to the traditional activities.

Jaidon Mears, a commuting cybersecurity student, attended a mix of both orientation programs.

"They did the speed-friending thing, where they have rows of chairs and sat us close to each other, and we have 45 seconds to talk to the person in front of us. I feel like that was pretty cool," Mears said.

However, first year-student Alyssa Hempfield-Best enjoyed the opportunity to meet other commuter students but said the schedule was confusing. She was unsure what events were mandatory and whether or not she was invited to attend traditional orientation in addition to the commuter programming.

While organizing the new program, Jacobsen said he worked with the Director of Commuter Affairs, Tim Lewis, to create a schedule that was conducive to as many commuter students attending as possible.

"Most commuters do have jobs. They do work throughout the summer and throughout the school year," Jacobsen said. "To see if they can get the time off of work to come for these

events is really, really important."

Jacobsen, who is originally from Seattle, Washington, said that commuter orientation was the last chair position he wanted when he applied.

"Being a non commuter student who was trying to bring orientation to these new commuters, I thought, 'Well, what do I know best? I know orientation.' And so my main goal was to really bring the orientation feeling, the orientation energy, to the program, even though it was going to be for commuter students."

It worked for Sorg.

"I got to meet so many different people that literally, today I would pass them and be like, 'Oh my gosh, it's you,'" she said. "I liked that I was able to just have a few faces in my pocket."



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF ORIENTATION
Commuter students paint Duquesne Canvases in the Africa Room.



Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke





EmailTips

We want your input!

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 Spencer Thomas at thomass15@duq.edu.



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About the cover:

All photos by Ava Rieger

Clockwise from top left: Swimming, new students on A-Walk, Zoltan Nagy, club sport captains with President Ken Gormley, The Duquesne Duke, Carly Werner, Katherine Scheller and Hope Wilson cheering on the Dukes in March Madness, Gormley being licked by a camel.

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