Larry Wielk, Dean of Students. "I don't think there is a... especially since we will be able to benefit from each other," said senior Caroline Campo. "We can ultimately make each school better."

This new collaboration shows much promise not only for academic improvements, but also for several of the sports teams at Sacred Heart.

In the announcement, which came via e-mail, Petillo said, "Through this partnership, Sacred Heart and Notre Dame will work together to enhance the high school's athletic fields and bring wireless technology to its classrooms. Sacred Heart sports teams will have scheduled time to use the updated fields, which will include a regulation soccer field."

Upgraded sports facilities will allow the Pioneer athletics teams to practice and work in an upscale environment. "Sports are a large part of our campus. It seems like there are always games and events going on," said freshman Adrianna Walsh. "New fields would be great for those teams, and would possibly give them an edge."

In addition to new fields and sports facilities, there will also be benefits for the students of Notre Dame High School. The Notre Dame students who meet the academic qualifications will be eligible for a 50 percent discount on tuition if they choose to attend the university.

"A discount in tuition is a great option for the students who graduate from high school and decide to attend SHU," said Walsh. "It's an opportunity for the students who want to go to college close to home."

In addition to the partnership, Petillo also announced that the university has purchased land for possible additions to campus.

"At the same time, SHU has purchased a two-acre parcel of land off Park Avenue from Notre Dame," he said in the announcement. "The parcel abuts property that we already own at 5401 Park Avenue and will be used for future academic building needs at that location. Within the coming months SHU hopes to present its plan to the Town of Fairfield."

As the number of students that attend Sacred Heart increases, so does the necessity for classrooms and other learning amenities. With the purchase of this land, the door is open for expansion and growth. "The thought of the development of new classrooms and buildings, even if it is just a thought, is exciting. It means that Sacred Heart is growing, developing and making room for a greater number of students," said Campo.

SHU announces partnership with Notre Dame

Jacqueline Duda
Asst. News Editor

Changes and additions to Sacred Heart University have been in full swing. With the new Student Commons quickly rising up at the center of campus, the university has announced another major change.

President John J. Petillo announced in December that Sacred Heart will be venturing into a new partnership with the neighboring Notre Dame High School.

"I think it's great that we're taking advantage of surrounding schools, especially since we will be able to benefit from each other," said senior Caroline Campo. "We can ultimately make each school better."

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SHU ranks at bottom of athletic event attendance

Ryan Hannable
Editor-in-Chief

At a school with over 6,000 students, both undergraduate and post-graduate, and 31 Division I sport teams, one would imagine students and the community would flock to all of the major athletic events hosted by the school.

This is not the case with Sacred Heart University. Despite playing outdoor home games at a relatively new Campus Field (opened in 1997) and indoor home games at the William H. Pitt Center (also opened in 1997), the Pioneers rank at the very bottom in attendance for the major sports in the Northeast Conference.

One of the major reasons for this is the lack of attendance among students. Especially considering the two freshman dorms (Seton and Merton) are at the bottom of the hill leading to the William H. Pitt Center and Campus Field.

"I don't see why you wouldn't walk up the hill," said Larry Wielk, Dean of Students. "I don't think there is a huge interest. There are 900 student-athletes and over 500 students that play club sports."

"That is a significant amount of people on campus that are into sports. We have close to 1,700 students who live on the main campus. They can't say it's too far to walk up the hill."

The athletics staff and administration realizes that there is an issue and have made it a priority to try and increase the student attendance at all Sacred Heart athletic events.

FOOTBALL

There are nine schools in the Northeast Conference that have football programs. Of those nine schools Sacred Heart ranks sixth in attendance at their games, despite having the fifth largest student-enrollment of undergrads in the conference according to College Board.

Sacred Heart averaged 2,230 fans at their home games this past fall. SUNY Albany averaged 3,928 and Central Connecticut State averaged 3,169 to lead the conference.

"It definitely has an effect on all the players to have Campus Field sold out," said red-shirt junior wide receiver Jomo Janriel. "The Homecoming game this fall against Monmouth was one of the best crowds I've ever played in front of."

While Janriel is right, the Homecoming attendance was 3,101 and Family Weekend brought in 3,468 fans, the difference in crowd size was not an indication of the actual attendance at the event. "It was not an indication of the actual attendance for a normal weekend game."

Without these games coinciding with University weekend events, the Pioneers would have likely slipped to the bottom two in the conference in terms of attendance. Wagner averaged 1,892 fans to rank eighth, and St. Francis (PA) averaged 1,400 to rank ninth.

"From students and professors, all the way to the community, it's just not important to a large number of people here," Janriel said. "As soon as football becomes a priority like at other big schools, I really don't see Sacred Heart football attracting huge crowds."

"Even my freshman year when we were an undefeated 6-0 to start the season, the crowds weren't any bigger than our games this past season."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Northeast Conference has 12 schools with men's basketball programs, and Sacred Heart ranks last in average home attendance.

The Pioneers have averaged only 550 fans (all numbers as of Jan. 14) at their home games.

See ATHLETIC ATTENDANCE on page 15...
Academic showcases display faculty talents

Professors from all four colleges present lectures on a wide range of subjects

Mike Peterson
News Editor

Sacred Heart University’s Presidential Inaugural Lecture Series has featured academic lectures from several prominent scholars, will continue with four Academic Research Showcases in the Schine Auditorium.

Each of the four colleges at Sacred Heart will be represented in the Academic Research Showcase. According to the Sacred Heart University website, the four lecturers are Anne M. Barker, Ed. D.; Jacqueline Kelleher, Ph.D.; Peter Maresco, Ph.D.; and Jennifer McLaughlin. Each lecture is free of charge and open to the public.

The showcases give the university a chance to display the talents of its faculty members. “I think it’s a great idea,” said senior Kelly Rogers. “We always have people coming in from other colleges to speak. This gives people a chance to see how capable our own professors are.”

Proposals from Sacred Heart faculty needed to be in the professor’s academic field. They also needed to pertain to the university’s yearlong inaugural theme, “A Time for New Beginnings.”

The first lecture is tonight at 7 p.m. and will represent the College of Arts and Sciences. Prof. Jennifer McLaughlin will present “Reflecting on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.” McLaughlin’s talk will focus on the Treaty of Ghent in 1814 and the “new beginnings” that it led to in the U.S.

“Prof. McLaughlin’s lecture should be very interesting,” said senior Felicia Hernandez. “It’s great that someone will be commemorating the War of 1812, which was an important part of U.S. history. Plus, as a history major I’m excited that we’ll be representing the College of Arts and Sciences.”

The second lecture will exhibit the College of Health Professions. On Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., Barker will speak on “Complexity Science: A Theoretical Model to Inform New Beginnings.” Her lecture will discuss complexity science as it relates to Sacred Heart, and also suggest approaches for working and teaching in a complex, adaptive system.

Rogers looks forward to the lecture and the effects it will have for the College of Health Professions.

“It shows what the school is all about,” she said. “A lot of people hear ‘health professions’ and think it’s all about healing sick and injured people. But the professors here are concerned with a lot of different subjects and areas of study.”

Kelleher will address “Film and Perspective-Taking: Educating Educators on Youth with Autism” on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Representing the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, Kelleher will talk about the role that multi-media can play in equipping teachers with the tools and understanding to manage autism spectrum disorders. Her undertaking was partially inspired by her autistic twin 14-year-old boys.

Dr. Peter Maresco of the John F. Welch College of Business will deliver a lecture on “The Expanding Christian Marketplace: If You Can Name It, Or Make It, the Christian Marketplace Probably Sells It!” On Wednesday, March 14 at 7 p.m., Maresco will examine the considerable market for Christian-themed items. His lecture is also the introduction to a book he is writing about the Christian marketplace.

The lectures display the wide range of academic study at Sacred Heart.

“No two lectures are alike, which is impressive,” said Hernandez. “These presentations will show how diverse the school is. There are great teachers in every department.”

Rogers believes that the lectures will also demonstrate the faculty’s passion.

“Professors are interested in the subjects they teach on,” she said. “I think we’ll see how creative and enthusiastic they can be with these lectures.”

Calender of Events

Wednesday, January 25 - 7 p.m.
Academic Research Showcase: Reflecting on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812
Schine Auditorium

Thursday, January 26 - 7 p.m.
Men’s Basketball vs. Wagner
Pitt Center

Friday, January 27 - 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Chi Omega Installation Ceremony
UC Auditorium

Saturday, January 28 - 11 a.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Mt. St. Mary’s
Pitt Center

Sunday, January 29 - 2 p.m.
Men’s Volleyball vs. Lees-McRae
Pitt Center
Protests lead to SOPA rejection

Widespread blackouts prevent bill's passage in both houses of Congress

Associated Press

Caving to a massive campaign by Internet services and their millions of users, Congress indefinitely postponed legislation Friday to stop online piracy of movies and music costing U.S. companies billions of dollars every year. Critics said the bills would result in censorship and stifle Internet innovation.

The demise, at least for the time being, of the anti-piracy bills was a clear victory for Silicon Valley over Hollywood, which has campaigned for a tougher response to online piracy. The legislation also would cover the counterfeiting of drugs and car parts.

Congress’ qualms underscored how Internet users can use their collective might to block those who want to change the system.

The battle over the future of the Internet also played out on a different front Thursday when a loose affiliation of hackers known as “Anonymous” shut down YouTube, Department websites for several hours and hacked the site of the Motion Picture Association of America after federal officials issued an indictment against Megaupload.com, one of the world's biggest file-sharing sites.

In the U.S., momentum against the Senate's Protect Intellectual Property Act and the House's Stop Online Piracy Act, known popularly as PIPA and SOPA, grew quickly on Wednesday when the online encyclopedia Wikipedia and other Web giants staged a one-day blackout and Google organized a petition drive that attracted more than 7 million participants.

On Friday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he was postponing a test vote set for Tuesday “in light of recent events.” House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, followed suit, saying consideration of a similar House bill would be postponed “until there is wider agreement on a solution.”

The two bills would allow the Justice Department, and copyright holders, to seek court orders against foreign websites accused of copyright infringement. The legislation would bar online advertising networks and payment facilitators such as credit card companies from doing business with an alleged violator. They also would forbid search engines from linking to such sites.

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The chief Senate sponsor, Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., cited estimates that copyright piracy costs the American economy more than $50 billion annually and that global sales of counterfeit goods via the Internet reached $135 billion in 2010. He and Smith insist that their bills target only foreign criminals and that there is nothing in them to require websites, Internet service providers, search engines or others to monitor their networks.

That didn’t satisfy critics who said the legislation could force Internet companies to pre-screen user comments or videos, burden new and smaller websites with huge litigation costs and impede new investments.

It’s been framed as an Internet freedom issue, but at the end of the day it is a major turnaround, and in my experience it is something that has happened very rarely,” Moran said. “I am a public health nurse,” she told New Haven magazine. “The wealth of a country is measured by the good health of its citizens, so if I can make a difference in people’s lives as a public health nurse, then they will be stronger.”

Nurse has a ‘strong’ impact on community

Nursing professor receives awards for dedication to volunteer work and public health

Kelly Taylor
Asst. News Editor

It’s all in a day’s work for Dr. Linda Strong of the Sacred Heart University Nursing Department.

Strong has recently been declared the recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the New England Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) after she was nominated by the Stratford Community Department of Health.

According to the Sacred Heart University website, Strong has been a longtime volunteer for the civilian group, which assists in times of disease and epidemics.

MRC of Stratford-Trumbull-Monroe is a volunteer organization with 280 current volunteers and members. In a description given on MRC’s website, they explain what their program is about.

“The Stratford-Trumbull-Monroe Medical Reserve Corps is sponsored by the Stratford Health Department addressing the public health and emergency preparedness needs of the nearly 108,000 residents of Stratford, Trumbull, and Monroe,” according to the website.

“We draw on medical and non-medical volunteers from area towns to help the communities prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, disasters, and pressing public health needs.”

Strong’s work with the MRC is just one commitment she has made to her health care career. In 2011 Strong was named Healthcare Hero for Greater New Haven in the Community Service Category.

Upon being named a Healthcare Hero, Strong described her dedication to healthcare.

“I fell in love with nursing in my senior year in college and have had a passionate love affair with public health nursing all my life,” she told New Haven magazine.

Strong founded and co-directed the Sacred Heart University/St. Charles Health & Wellness Clinic. She also established Aging With Grace, a seniors program, in 2005.

Strong’s leadership and commitment to volunteer work has particularly impacted her students and fellow nursing professors.

Senior Gina Belfiore has had many personal experiences with Strong.

“I have worked with her in a clinic environment before, and she is an amazing nurse. She is very kind and helpful to the students,” she said.

One way that Strong assists students is by ensuring that they feel at ease.

“She acts as a mentor and helps you to feel comfortable while giving your first injection, which can be nerve-racking,” Belfiore said.

Strong has always believed in administering her services on a direct basis.

“I am a public health nurse,” she told New Haven magazine. “The wealth of a country is measured by the good health of its citizens, so if I can make a difference in people’s lives as a public health nurse, then they will be stronger.”
Exploring diversity during CURTIS Week

Students experience differences through community service and immersion

Mike Peterson
News Editor

From Jan. 11 to 16, students and staff members from Sacred Heart University volunteered in the Bridgeport area for CURTIS Week, an annual initiative that promotes community involvement and cultural understanding.

According to the Sacred Heart website, "CURTIS" stands for "Community Understanding & Reflection Through Inner-city Service." The name honors the Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis, the second Bishop of Bridgeport and founder of the university.

There were multiple purposes for the event.

"The main focus of the week was two-fold," said senior Samantha Fasanello, who was one of the student leaders. "We aimed to assist our Bridgeport neighbors to the best of our ability, while working to gain a better understanding of the cultural diversity that is present within it."

The students were busy performing community service throughout the week. Participants were divided into groups and worked at various sites. On Wednesday, Jan. 11, they worked at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter, a Washington Terrace house, for Habitat for Humanity, and with the RISE Program, a group that helps post-secondary students with special needs.

The students worked at various sites. On Monday, they worked at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, the United Staff members from Sacred Heart University volunteered in the Bridgeport area for CURTIS Week, an annual initiative that promotes community involvement and cultural understanding.

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But the week was about more than just service. On Thursday night, members were treated to an authentic Puerto Rican dinner at St. Charles Parish. While they ate, they listened to the stories of actual Habitat homeowners, which proved to be an eye-opener as well as inspiration for them throughout the week.

"Meeting the Habitat homeowners definitely had an impact on me," said senior Sarah Burkart. "Hearing their stories made me want to work that much harder to help complete their house. Even though I only met these families one time, they will forever hold a place in my heart."

Fasanello agreed that the homeowners provided motivation.

"It's always interesting to hear the different stories of the families that we're building for," she said. "Not only do we gain an understanding of their culture and background, but the participants are further motivated to continue working with Habitat after hearing the personal accounts of families that we're directly helping." Throughout the week, the students also experienced the traditions of various religions. They attended services at Al A'ziz Islamic Center and Congregation B'Nai Israel, as well as a Spanish mass at St. Charles Parish and a service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Mt. Aery Baptist Church.

For Fasanello, these services proved to be memorable.

"I liked all of the cultural experiences during CURTIS Week," she said. "I truly found all of them to be valuable."

One important aspect of the students' initiative was defying stereotypes and assumptions.

At the beginning of the week, members of a halfway house called the Co-op Center presented a program called "To Tell the Truth." During this program, three performers -- one convicted felon and two actors -- answered questions about their alleged crimes. Students had to use the information they received to guess who the actual criminal was.

The exercise tried to teach a lesson about judgment.

"It really showed us that not all convicts or ex-convicts should be punished forever, and that rehabilitation is a viable outcome," said Fasanello.

Burkart echoed this sentiment.

"Through reflection, we had an increased understanding of those around us, and we were able to break away from the prejudices that surround our society," she said.

During CURTIS Week, Sacred Heart students spent a significant amount of time working with hunger programs. Among the kitchens where they served food were the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, the United Methodist Church, and the Holy Rosary Food Pantry.

One particular kitchen employee moved Burkart.

"Chef Paul, from Bridgeport Rescue Mission, truly inspired me," she said. "He told us that he could be a chef in a restaurant and cook for hundreds of people who simply want food, but he really enjoys serving food to those who need it most. His story really touched me."

Overall, CURTIS Week was constructive for both participants and the citizens they helped. Burkart appreciated the opportunities it afforded her and her classmates.

"CURTIS Week encouraged all the participants to get involved with, respect, and understand those in our own community," she said.
Perspectives

Life altering trip leads to questions

SHU alumnae extends his reach to Korea in hopes of finding himself

Frank Morrone
Contributing Writer

I left for Korea nearly two years after first conceiving the idea to teach English abroad. Too much of my time then felt like a stacked deck of cards that kept drawing on, without any sense of accomplishment, just going through the motions of a four year degree. So last May marked my graduation date and departure from the United States for the first time in my life.

Travel is a funny thing compared to what it must have meant years ago, before the Internet and social networking, because just going the distance doesn’t feel so remarkable. That’s largely because despite living so far from home, it’s possible to exist in a bubble where you shut the door to the outside, and through the speakers and monitor of a computer, you hold on to everything you left. Not only that, but there is a McDonald’s here, and they even deliver.

My intention to live out here in Korea was kind of a modern day Henry Thoreau type deal, with some notable exceptions. Instead of wanting a more objective, perspective on society, I wanted to know what there was to myself with the kind of clarity only living apart from home and friends can provide. However, with no disrespect to Thoreau, I wasn’t about to live in the wilderness in a self-assembled shack – though maybe I should have, because I was guilty of creating the kind of bubble I previously described.

Not only did that defeat the purpose of my journey, it also put me in a bad spot when I wasn’t satisfied with what I was trying to stay connected with, and I was also isolating myself from the country I was living in.

If I kept that up, I wouldn’t have lasted long here. Even worse, I would have been pretty bitter returning home to everything that had sabotaged my career in Korea (by no fault of my own). So I disconnected, not as cleanly as I should have, but I had to commit to something, or was about to be torn apart.

Language acquisition has never been a strength of mine. Living in a country without learning the native language is similar to watching a foreign film without subtitles. Yeah, I could manage without it, but I’d be missing out on a lot. It’s a matter of practice and persistance, making mistakes and working it out. It’s a lesson in humility. I know I am not the first person to go out on a limb for a different language, was simply putting myself out there. Having trouble speaking Korean, I’ve had some pretty good back-and-forth language exchanges. It’s not just one person you have to please, but all people you come in contact with, and I’ve given the language a fair chance. The English academy that employs me and sponsors my visa is a journey in and of itself. Managing my classes as a learn-as-I-go-experience, and teaching them is a test of attitute. My Korean co-teacher simply tells me I have yet to find my way as a teacher, and that I must accept the students’ problems as my own. That advice wasn’t so comforting the first time I heard it, but it has become encouraging in a nausea inducing kind of way.

Korea has been a lot of things, maybe most of all a lesson in humility. I know I am not the first person to go out on a limb to see what kind of character I am, and then deal with the disappointment of not being as strong or as good as I once thought. There have been difficult weeks I’ve seen turn into months. Every now and then, a lesson plan goes well or there is a three day weekend, and if only for a moment, I’m back in big city shape.

I often think about the good friends I haven’t seen, and the relationship I ruined by committing to Korea. Although some important people to me have fallen apart, it’s given me the opportunity to piece many things together. Maybe a year from now I’ll tell you if it was all worth it.

Amanda Rivera
Contributing Writer

How do you do SHU?
Finding the right seat in the classroom

Amanda Rivera
Contributing Writer

Ladies and Gent., where you sit the first day of class is very important. You see, the classroom might be the King or Queen of the classroom, but the students are the Lords and Ladies of the class.

So as a fine Lord or Lady, you need to pick the best territory. Where you sit determines whether you will take on the role of teacher pet or a commons student. There are life decisions being made!

During my first class of the semester, I was fortunate enough to catch a pretty cool spot. Alright, let’s pretend that statement with some sarcasm, because I didn’t really have a choice in the matter. I showed up late for my first day, and the only seat left was right in front — dead center. I’m assuming Lady Luck was busy helping some smarmy dude with leather pants in the casino that afternoon. She kind of has this habit of bailing on me. Whatever happened to “chicks before sticks.”

So while I was standing in the doorway that day during the professor’s lecture, my thought slapped me. They shouted, “Really?? You are telling me that everyone is in that class was thinking the same exact thing and avoided that seat? That they had a conference together and declared that seat no man’s land?”

I don’t know what it is about dead center seats in the front of the classroom, but they are the worst! It makes you feel like all eyes are staring at you. Like the whole classroom is watching your every move and there’s a sportscaster in the corner of the room shouting, “She is opening her bag. Will it be a pen or a pencil? Oh wait, she pulled out a stick of gum! It is safe to say that her breath smells. Let’s get an instant replay on this one — yes, her breath smells!”

Needless to say, it’s embarrassing. Not to mention how hard actually getting to that seat can be. It’s not just one person you have to squeeze past, but half a row of people. I’m not a big girl, but when people are a foot from their desk it’s pretty hard to squeeze by them.

To avoid all future craziness, I’m going to assign a professional Palmer to follow me wherever I go. That way when Lady Luck comes around I was force her to find me a seat in the back.

Amanda Rivera
Contributing Writer

A Wii bit of exercise

Keisan Gittens
Contributing Writer

While the winter weather may deter people from leaving their homes to hit the gym, electronics such as Wii Fit and Wii Sports serve as an alternative form of exercise.

Although these games have become increasingly popular as a whole, many Sacred Heart University students said they prefer more traditional styles of exercise.

“I have Wii Sports and Zumba,” said junior Sherrod Williamson. “However I’d rather go to the gym because it’s too popular but it will have its fair share of supporters.”

According to the study, those who use the bikes with the display preferred traditional video game qualities because they require the player to physically participate in a more demanding way.

“Video games are supposed to be a fun thing,” John said. “I don’t want to stand up to play them.”

While the new trend of “exergaming” may not be popular among college students, recent studies have linked the player to physical activity with increased cognition and decreased dementia.

The Cyber Cycle Study incorporated indoor bike equipment with virtual reality displays, and enrolled volunteers from independent living facilities. The researchers’ goal was to show the benefit of interactive physical and cognitive exercise over more traditional exercises.

According to the study, those who used the bikes with the display experienced a 23 percent reduction in mild cognitive impairment compared to those using a traditional bike.

While these “exergames” are beneficial to the elderly population, sophomore Crist Rivera thinks they are tailored for certain age groups.

“It appeals to a certain market, but I don’t feel that it is accessible to everybody,” said Rivera. “I don’t think it’s going to be too popular but it will have its fair share of supporters.”

Although these games may not be popular among students when used individually, senior Brittany MacVittie said that her entire family uses the Wii Fit and Wii Sports games. According to her, it’s more economical way to get fit.

“It costs a lot of money for the membership to the gym that we have close by,” MacVittie said.

While “exergames” provide an alternative to traditional types of exercise, some students have yet to try them said they would be willing.

“I would try them just because of my interest in sports”, said junior Kiley Evans. “I know a lot of my friends have it, but I just never have really been into video games.”
People wait in line at a job fair employer hiring event for Safeway in Portland, Ore. In hope of finding the a job match.

Searching for the perfect part-time job

Liz Lezama
Asst. Perspectives Editor

Finding the "perfect" part-time job is an increasingly difficult task especially with today's economy. Many Sacred Heart University students have found that this task becomes even harder when balancing a college schedule is involved.

College students search for jobs that will not only give them the money needed for bills and uncovered school expenses, but also those that take into account their needs in regards to education. Michael Dominguez, a graduate student at Sacred Heart University, has one of many who struggle to find a job that fits the bill.

"I work at a retail coffee shop," said Dominguez. "While my job takes my class availability into account, if I needed to take off any time for projects, I would have to dip into my vacation time for it."

For many college students, being able to have a flexible availability is a leading characteristic of the ideal part-time job. Some students find it easier to work through the school for this reason.

"My job takes my availability into account, mostly because it is through the school," said junior Kimberly Nania.

Some students take work-study positions at the university because of their focus on education.

"I have a work-study job in the Bridgeport school system," said junior Natasha James. "My supervisor has a clear understanding that I am working towards my career at school."

Other students have been more successful in finding jobs outside of school that meet all of the needs and expectations of a college student. Junior Matt Wagner has found the perfect part-time job at a farm in Long Island.

"I aim to be a teacher," said Wagner. "My job understands that I am working towards my own career and it also promises me a long standing position in the off-season."

Sometimes the search for the perfect job can become complicated when circumstances change.

"Past jobs have been better," said Dominguez. "They not only gave me the time off for school, but they were also flexible enough to give me time off for career building work."

However, others have had the opposite experience in the past at their jobs.

"Before I worked for the school, my job definitely saw education as unimportant," said Nania. "The employers decided not to hire me back because I had to change my schedule due to school."

Regardless of where and when students work, they look for a job in which they are celebrated for pursuing their own goals and are praised for doing well in school.

"They are very encouraging and make me feel good that I am a student pursuing a degree," said James.

"Other jobs are not as considerate of students' goals. If I do any career-oriented expanding, my job doesn't give me the time needed to do it," said Dominguez. "My manager does not go out of her way to help find cofee."

Staff is another factor in determining how a job influences the student's needs.

"My boss and his family are extremely friendly, understanding people, and I couldn't ask for better employers," said Wagner.

Wagner also has the added feature of having individuals with similar life goals working alongside him.

"My co-worker, Michael, is an English major from Long Island and the two of us extensively talk about the field," he said.

Whether it be working for the school or working elsewhere, the ideal part-time job is custom-made depending on the individual's needs and commitments. While some students have found their niche in the part-time job spectrum, others are still searching.

"I just want a job that fits my lifestyle and my experience," said Dominguez.

When push comes to shove, guys will either A) just get a job B) Go out and put in an employer effort to "forget" about that person and move on, or C) All of the above. Essentially, the point i'm trying to make is that in a male state of mind, Facebook is probably the last thing we think of when faced with the idea of a breakup.

I've never known of a guy contemplating how to attempt to further degrade their former significant other by depriving them of looking at their photos and posts. My only advice is that if you want you keep them as friends just to show how much better off you really are. The more you think about it, that is what you're looking to do, keeping them as a friend only gives you a greater opportunity to show them up and make them think of how big of a mistake they may have made.

As someone who has been on the receiving end of the whole "defriending" and being blown in the face, I honestly didn't even know until someone made an issue out of it. Even then, like most guys, I really didn't care as all at that moment I had already initiated point "B" up top. Don't get me wrong, after a breakup, no one wants to constantly be reminded of the other person as their photos and jokes are being displayed on a wall you are forced to face almost every two minutes.

The point that I'm trying to push is that making such a big issue out of Facebook book raises the importance and priority of a website over the importance of how you handle your own social life in the real world. Does deleting someone as a friend off Facebook really make a difference even if you make an effort to never talk to that person ever again.

I have a healthy breakup.

So, when should you un-friend an ex on Facebook? Immediately. This will automatically eliminate the temptation to peak at his or her Facebook profile and check out mutual friends for updates. If you don't feel comfortable deleting your ex right off the bat then there is a list of some things that are good triggering to stress anxiety, which is definitely not setting you on the right track to a healthy breakup.

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Facebook, is an outlet that engages our always active and curious minds. We love knowing things about people we don't know. It is easy to feel like you know someone when you are able to see their them and read their statuses and updates. Newer features on Facebook even allow you to see where they are, pinpointed on a map.

Have you ever found yourself "Facebook creepig" on a mutual friend of a friend of a friend, working your way all the way back to their very first Facebook photo? I know I have. If we are willing to investigate into the interconnections, conversations, and lives of people we don't even know, what can we say about exes? Where do you draw the line between curiosity and stalking?

I don't think it's healthy to constantly paranoia an ex's Facebook page. What good ever comes from it? The only real results are jealousy, resentment, and an underlying force that makes you secretly hope he is unhappy. In reality, you are probably going to see him having fun, enjoying himself, and meeting new people. Life does not need to end with a break-up and that truth will be effervescently displayed throughout your ex's status updates, photo albums, and wall-to-wall comments.

I am not saying that you can't be on good terms with your ex. That is perfectly healthy. But what good comes out of stalking an ex on Facebook? You are giving constant reminders of your ex in your newsfeed and seeing his or her thumbnail photo on Facebook chat will just drive you mad. There are so many things that are good triggering to stress anxiety which is definitely not setting you on the right track to a healthy breakup.

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A message to New York Giants fans

Ryan Hannable
Editor-in-Chief

I will start this by saying I am a die-hard New England Patriots fan, but I also maintain a level of objectivity when it comes to the NFL, so I am not writing this just because the Patriots are playing the Giants in the Super Bowl.

I just would like to say a few things to Giants fans that I know will be brought up over the next week or so.

The media and Giants fans will be bringing up the 2008 Super Bowl when the Giants beat the Patriots to ruin the Patriots’ undefeated season.

I am not denying this happened, because the Patriots are playing the Giants in Super Bowl XLVI, but the world doesn’t need to be reminded of this every two years. It started pouring out about the corruption at the hospital for breaking his femur.

While visiting the orphanage in 2010, Mwanigi, a three year old boy, had been rushed to the hospital for breaking his femur. The director of the orphanage came to meet us.

From the moment I landed I should have known a level of objectivity when it comes to the Giants fans that I know will be brought up over the next week or so. We discovered the massive amounts of money being stolen from donors along with the excessive amount of child labor and child abuse.

By the end of the week, myself, Laura, and Jacqueline had enough. We decided to visit child services in Nairobi to try and have the director removed.

However, we found this process to be easier said than done. With only one day left in Kenya I was forced to leave our exhausted attempts in Laura and Jacqueline’s hands. To our discomfort, on the day of my departure, the director found out what we were up to and interrogated the eldest children at the orphanage.

While it has only been a week since I left, the situation seems to worsen every day. None of us are allowed back at the orphanage and we feel helpless on how we can make a difference.

This week in Kenya brought complications and heartache that I did not anticipate. I am left confused and unaware of what to do.

In my perfect world I would have the children moved or the director removed, but this has proven to be a seriously difficult task. I hope that our efforts made this month will be evident when I return this summer.

Mission work leads to broken hearts and discouraged attempts

Hannah Ackerman
Features Editor

My last editorial ended with a count down of how many days until I would return back to Kenya.

Well those days came and went in the blink of an eye. One week ago I returned to Sacred Heart from my home away from home, and it was a trip that was nothing I could have ever expected.

From the moment I landed I should have known that this time would be different from previous ones.

The director of the orphanage came to the airport an hour late, which left me making interesting conversation with some cab drivers until 5 a.m. when he finally arrived.

When I pulled up to the orphanage, I was warmly greeted by two other volunteers, Jacqueline and Laura, who I was lucky to have known before my arrival. By that afternoon almost all of the kids had made their way home from school and I could not have been happier.

However, within a day story upon story started piling out about the corruption at the orphanage, all due to the director and his wife. While visiting the orphanage in 2010, Mwanigi, a three year old boy, had been rushed to the hospital for breaking his femur.

On my first day back this past week, I learned that this was due to a staff member beating him so hard that she cracked his femur in half. The horrific stories about what went on at Watoto Wa Kanika Orphanage continued for the next week. We discovered the massive mistakes are part of not only football, but sports as well.

I haven’t heard any Patriots fans say the Giants got lucky beating the Patriots in 2008 and how their quarterback is elite.

What happened in the past, happened in the past. This is Super Bowl XLVI, not anything else.
Gallery brings art off the streets

Lisa Manente
A&E Editor

Bearded men pierced with nails, toes giving the peace sign, and guns with eyes. These images, along with 30 other posters, are now being displayed in the Gallery of Contemporary Art's "Voices in the Street," an exhibit of Polish street posters.

During the gallery's opening reception on Sunday, exhibit curator, Dr. Marek Bartelik, told the story how his collection that was "never meant to be a collection" accidentally began.

Acquiring the cultural posters from a friend who gave them to him after she failed to sell them, Bartelik donated the works to the collection of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York.

With the help of the Sacred Heart Polish Studies fund, the posters made their way to Sacred Heart. Bartelik chose these specific posters with art gallery director Sophia Gevas because of their, "visual impact," she said.

The abstract, graphic, some brightly colored and some black and white visuals did make an impact on visitors to the gallery.

"They are intriguing and there is a lot to be interpreted. They are very sticking," said senior Donna Nolan, who is a graphic arts minor.

The posters, which were created between 1954 to 1997, were created in street art for cultural elements in Poland, such as music, movies, theater, and opera.

Unlike standard, modern day American advertisements, the Polish posters were edgy, bizarre, and some even interpreted them as violent.

"One man told me he thought many of the posters were violent," said freshman Mareeka Dookie, who works at the gallery.

"He said they reminded him of war and Nazism," she said.

Although they were from Poland, many of the poster had traces of American influences in them, as Bartelik pointed out was because of Poland's new activity into Western Culture.

One poster entitled, "American Painting from the Eighties," was a picture of the American flag being painted by a paintbrush stamped with the phrase, "Made in the USA."

Other posters included familiar American names, like Sean Connery and 20th Century Fox.

While there were many obvious American influences in some of the posters, Polish visitor, Agnes Orlowski, believed that this type of art wouldn't be accepted if it were on U.S streets.

"It's disturbing. I don't think it would play out in America. It would be too controversial," she said. "Poland is darker than America."

However, her mother, Polish descendent Halina Orlowska, disagreed.

"No, no. I could argue that," she said.

While these creations may have been driven as advertisements, Bartelik explained that advertising was second priority to the artists. Their higher priorities were personal expression, releasing emotions, humor, and poetry.

By 1989, these semi homemade, expressive posters became obsolete compared to modernized posters using photography.

However, Bartelik said, "It is a period that is now extending into present reality. There has become more and more interest in what the posters say."

However, regardless of whether you understand the Polish words or not, Bartelik encourages viewers of the work to look beyond the unfamiliar language.

"It's not so important to understand the language. Art is important when it touches your emotions. It's a conversation that invites you to speak," he said.

One viewer who was struck emotionally by the work was Sacred Heart alumna Bill Adams.

"They [the posters] say to me, however hard the censorship was, it is nearly impossible to kill the human spirit," he said.

The "Voices in the Street" exhibit is open until March 1.

SHU band gets lucky in Ireland

Mia Selvaggio
Contributing Writer

After over a year of hard work and fundraising, the Sacred Heart University Band was finally able to take their long awaited trip to perform in Ireland.

The first ever international tour for the band consisted of five performances between Dingle and Dublin, Ireland.

Using the help of Sacred Heart's Dingle campus coordinator Sean Pol, a travel agency, and a special invitation from Father Pat O'Donohue of the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, 60 people represented the university in Ireland.

Keeping busy performing in joint concerts and a Mass at the Pro-Cathedral, the band took time out to do some good as well.

Kicking off their tour, they performed at a benefit concert called Hope Guatemalas. With the help of the band, the concert raised almost $2,000 for the Dingle-based charity that does service work in remote parts of Guatemala.

"I felt so privileged that I could help out just by putting on a concert," said freshman Winnie Maloney, who performed at the benefit.

Even though they have been performing music for many years, Sacred Heart band director Keith Johnston and instructor Galen Tate, took this once in a lifetime opportunity to perform alongside the band.

With Johnston on trombone and Tate playing the organ, the group performed a special concert in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart at the Duiseart Centre for Irish Cultural Studies, the home of Sacred Heart's Irish Study Abroad program.

In the last few days of their journey the band got to join native Irish men and women for two performances, one with the Mullingar Town Band and the other with the Clondalkin Youth Band.

"Both bands combined to perform four pieces together, with both bands intrmingling and getting to know each other," said Johnston.

Besides the Sacred Heart band, the concerts featured performances by award winning traditional Irish bands and step dancers.

"The Irish people we met were extraordinary, welcoming, kind, and gracious. The band's reception was one of the warmest I've ever encountered. We have truly made new friends and I look forward to returning," said Johnston.

Although their purpose of going was to perform, many of the band members found their greatest experiences in Ireland were interacting with the people and land.

"Making new friends was such a thrill. Some of my greatest experiences of the trip were spending time with friends and just walking around the streets," said Maloney.

It was the little things about the country that left the biggest impression on junior Christopher Mastirocola.

"My greatest experiences from the trip were meeting new people, learning about the culture, and drinking Guinness," he said.

The trip gave a whole new meaning to "hands on learning."

"We got to experience the thrill of making music with our Irish friends, and in the process we came to understand something about them that would be impossible just by reading about them in a textbook or seeing a documentary on TV," said Johnston. "I am so proud of the band and what they accomplished for themselves and for the university."

The Sacred Heart band performed their first ever international tour in Ireland.
Gervais gets by at the Golden Globes

Kelly Taylor
Asst. News Editor

Third time’s a charm for British comedian Ricky Gervais. Gervais hosted the 69th annual Golden Globes Awards on Jan. 15. This was not Gervais’s first time hosting the award show. For the past three years he has taken the telecast to a controversial new level.

At last year’s show, A-list stars were slammed with harsh jokes and raunchy humor. The year, many of them came prepared for the worst when he took the stage for his opening monologue. Gervais opened the 2012 awards, at the Beverly Hilton hotel, with a series of sarcastic remarks aimed at obvious stars, Kim Kardashian, and Mel Gibson. He took some low blows at movie flops and NBC, which ironically is the network that hired him back.

“Tonight you get Britain’s biggest comedian, hosting the world’s second biggest award show on America’s third biggest network — no-no sorry, fourth,” Gervais said during his monologue.

Last year, the Hollywood Foreign Press, which hosts the Globes, was furious with Gervais’s crude humor and insulting jokes. However, controversy gets attention, a point Gervais didn’t let slip by.

“You, the Hollywood Foreign Press have warned me if I insult any of you, or any of them, or offend any viewers or cause any controversy what-so-ever, they will definitely invite me back next year as well,” he said.

Perhaps NBC’s plan to reduce the offensive remarks was to simply keep Gervais off the air as much as possible.

“Can it be considered ‘hosting’ when Ricky Gervais only appears every 30 minutes during the #goldenglobes?” tweeted VanityFair.

Gervais managed to squeeze in a couple of raunchy jokes while he was on-air, but it was nothing compared to what the hysteria leading up to the show predicted.

“I enjoyed last year’s show. This year I thought it was funny too. Everyone makes fun of everyone all the time. Celebrities need to learn to take things less personally. It’s only tough talk,” said junior Meaghan Duval.

Senior Marissa Gagliardo didn’t think this year’s watered down version was as entertaining as last year’s show.

“The show this year wasn’t anything I’ll remember,” she said. “Last year’s show left a lasting impression in my mind. This year, I already forgot about it,” she said.

However mundane Gervais seemed to be this year, junior Sarah Tully doesn’t think any of his humor was appropriate.

“I think what he says is inappropriate. I don’t think he should act the way he does. There is no need for him to lash out at celebrities to gain laughs,” she said.

Whatever the audience felt about his performance, Gervais made it clear it only mattered that he had fun.

Moments after the conclusions of the awards, Gervais took to his blog to comment on his performance.

“Phew! That’s over,” he wrote. “I had a blast actually.”

While the Golden Globes were full of winners and losers, all the celebrities seemed to have left un-scarred.

Steve Jobs: Most Fascinating Person of 2011

Venithda Sourignamath
Asst. A & E Editor

As television stations were getting into the holiday spirit by airing movies and shows like “A Christmas Story” and “The Grinch,” ABC News station had something different on their agenda. On Dec. 14, the network aired the annual special, “Barbara Walters Presents: 10 Most Fascinating People.”

The special looked back on Jobs life and his contributions to technology, the Kardashians, New York Yankee heartthrob Derek Jeter, and pop star Katy Perry.

Some viewers and critics were stunned at the choices made by Walters.

“After watching the special, some of the people chosen were definitely good choices,” senior Jennifer Porti said. “But the other choices made me scratch my head.

“Some of the winners, like Amanda Knox, could have been replaced with Tim Tebow or Jay-Z. Both were in the public eye a lot this past year.”

In Walters’ interviews with all the winners, she asked personal questions and made even bolder statements. One statement in particular had some critics disagreeing and caused some controversy.

“You don’t really act, you don’t sing, you don’t dance. You don’t have any, forgive me, real talent,” said Walters in her interview with the reality television star Katy Perry.

Asst. A & E Editor

Senior Austin Taranto was in agreement with Walters.

“Well, I don’t really see why the Kardashians were on the list,” he said. “They don’t really do anything other than look pretty.”

Aside from the Kardashians, Walters interviewed others like Herman Cain and “Modern Family” stars Eric Stonestreet and Jesse Ferguson, until it was time to introduce the most fascinating person of 2011.

Walters announced that Steve Jobs was deemed the most fascinating person of 2011, but unfortunately couldn’t get an interview with Jobs before he passed away.

The special looked back on Jobs life and his contribution to technological history as the co-founder of Apple and creator of popular electronics like the iPod and iPad.

Now that the list has been revealed and the standard has been set yet again, people will have to really stand out and fascinate Walters for next year’s special.

“I think the show is a very interesting way to look back at the controversial year that celebrities have had,” said senior Amanda Smith. “Barbara Walters had such a variety of interviews with people, that it was hard not to watch who she thought were fascinating.”

‘American Idol’ still searching for a star

Lisa Manente
A&E Editor

In addition to his radio show, movie cameos, and countless E! Specials, Ryan Seacrest was back on his home turf when “American Idol,” season 11, premiered last Wednesday.

In the past I wasn’t a frequent viewer of the Idol audition episodes. The “bad auditions,” were redundant and annoying, and I figured if I wanted to listen to bad singers I could just record myself.

This year, like seasons past, the premiere was the same and the judges, Steven Tyler, Randy Jackson and JLO, regained their seats on the panel. However, one thing I noticed was very different. The majority of the aired auditions were decent.

It was a refreshing surprise to not have to fast forward through three quarters of unnecessary, not funny auditions. (Anyone remember the pants on the ground guy? Not funny.)

The first episode’s auditions came from Savannah, GA. As expected, most of the hopefuls were either southern belles or cowboys. Being a country music fan myself, I was excited to hear some soulful renditions of Faith Hill or Miranda Lambert girl power anthems.

Disappointingly, throughout the majority of the two hours, everything and everyone was just OK. I’ve come to the conclusion that the judges must hear something different than what comes out of the TV. Those who I thought sounded like they could only just carry a tune, the judges acted like were the next Mariah Carey.

Right as I thought I was going to cruise through this premiere unimpressed, out comes Phillip Phillips. His country boy demeanor and guitar skills caught my attention, but what made my mouth drop was his unique performance of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.”

Since I wasn’t completely turned off by any disastrous performances I did tune back in for night two on Thursday, and I’m glad I did.

Part II in Pittsburgh opened with a very misleading montage of the socially awkward, 22-year old, Heejun Han. Expecting him to be the next William Hung, I cautiously watched him begin to sing Michael Bolton’s “How Am I Supposed to Live Without You.” Boy was I wrong.

Han’s voice was actually one of the best I had heard thus far, and subsequently he went through. His audition was followed by an incredible version of the “Family Matters” theme song, a coryk, uniquely great “starving artist,” a wedding singer that brought all those Adam Sandler stereotypes to rest, and a planking young woman who blew away the judges (I’ll forget about the random planking part).

Thursday nights premier far over shadowed Wednesday night and left me with hope that this season of Idol may actually have some great singers (maybe).

TV Time gives “American Idol” 3 stars
Features

Pack the Pitt spreads ‘Pioneer Fever’

Students and family gather to support SHU basketball and show school spirit

Marisa Papa
Contributing Writer

Overflowing with school spirit and unity, Sacred Heart University students “Pack the Pitt” this past Saturday, Jan. 21 at the William H. Pitt Center. Despite the snow, the event was all it promised to be. The Pitt was packed.

Upon entering, students were handed either a red cup stuffed with a mesh Sacred Heart “Pioneer Fever” pinnie, a Pioneer t-shirt, or other giveaways. Raffle tickets were sold, entering those who attended a chance to win Wiz Khalifa tickets and a $2,500 Disney trip.

Both men and women’s basketball teams played against NEC rival, Central Connecticut State University. Students, family members, and friends came to support the Pioneers in two extraordinarily close games, both of which the Pioneers won.

The cheerleaders and band pumped up the crowd.

“This was the greatest turn out I have ever seen at a men’s or women’s basketball game,” said member of the Sacred Heart Band, Victoria Catherall.

The dance team performed to a medley of songs, including “Oh Baby, Give Me One More Chance,” by the Jackson 5 and “Divas,” by Beyoncé.

During halftime, students were grabbed from the crowd and asked to participate in a game of musical chairs and limbo contest. Two fans participated in a game called the “hot shot challenge.” In this race-against-the-clock game, two audience members had to go to a designated spot on their half of the court and make the maximum amount of baskets.

“Student Government has been working very hard to ensure that it will be a success,” said Vice President of Senate, Katie Gallagher.

Throughout the basketball game, the cheerleaders threw t-shirts to the fans. The spectators also participated in fun dances such as the YMCA.

“Student Government also made sure that there were other challenges and games in order for the audience to get even more involved and supportive of their teams.

“It was an awesome event because we were concerned with the snow that it wouldn’t really be ‘Pack the Pitt,’ said Mia James, student government president. ‘But the stands were packed for both games. Seeing that made me really proud of the student body for their spirit and pride.’

Reality rushes in for former SHU student

Alumna discusses life after college as she was hurled into ‘the real world’

Sofia Carolan
Asst. Features Editor

Whether you’re a senior with just a semester left or a freshman with your whole college career in front of you, graduation day may still seem an eternity away. It represents something different for everyone but for alumna Katie Murphy, her graduation day in 2008 became a reality check into the real world.

“As stereotypical as this may sound, I was terrified of graduating and becoming a ‘real person,’” said Murphy.

After graduation, Murphy felt she was not ready to cut ties with Fairfield, Conn. She applied for an Admissions Counselor position in the Sacred Heart Undergraduate Admissions Office.

Based in her home state of N.J., Murphy traveled for about one year to different high schools and college fairs to discuss her time at Sacred Heart, meeting with potential applicants, as well as conducting interviews and reading applications for the incoming freshman class.

Once the freshman class had been established and new recruits were introduced to the application process, Murphy began looking into her next career move.

“Through networking, I discovered InnerWorkings, a print promotional company based in Chicago with a branch office in NYC, and applied for their Account Coordinator position. After an intense process, I was offered the job,” she said.

After two years as an Account Coordinator at InnerWorkings Murphy has recently transitioned to the Human Resource department where she specializes in recruiting.

“It was at that moment that I realized that I had the knowledge base from all of my core classes, the experience from my three internships, and a large network of supporters with whom I had come in contact with while at SHU,” Murphy said. “I constantly worried that I did not have what it would take to succeed. That mindset changed incredibly fast the moment I began working in New York City.

In time, Murphy was able to work with promotional products, as well as help launch an eStore platform for other enterprise clients.

“During those two years, I realized that my heart was still in the recruiting world. Knowing that, I presented the idea to my boss that I would be able to act as the East Coast liaison for the Human Resource Department,” said Murphy.

With the company headquartered in Chicago, Murphy felt it would be beneficial for her office coworkers to have a direct contact for their human resources and recruiting concerns.

Since then, she’s been handling the posting, scanning, and interviewing process for open positions for InnerWorkings within the U.S.

She has dedicated much of her time after graduation really striving for what she wanted.

It is not uncommon that many undergraduates have not even thought about what their future holds after Sacred Heart. Murphy suggests that students enjoy every moment.

“I would tell future graduates this: Four years is never enough time to learn, experience, meet people and do new things, but that is all that you are given as an undergraduate,” she said. “In order to capitalize on that time, make it a point to have fun each and everyday while in the classroom or in the halls.”

After everything Murphy has been through she has always looked back to where her journey began—Sacred Heart.

“I could not be more thankful and appreciative for my four years on campus,” she said.
Residential Life: ready to rock n' roll

RA’s reunite early to welcome students back for the new year

Sofia Carolan
Asst. Features Editor

With the New Year just beginning Sacred Heart University's resident assistants were ready to get right back to campus on Friday, Jan. 13 to get prepared for the return of students.

“We wanted to make sure everything was functional for the students when they came back,” said Chris Rader, Assistant Director of Residential Life.

As the Assistant Director of Residential Life, Rader helps Joel Quintong, the Residential Life Director, manage all the residential areas before students are set to come back on campus.

“The student staff came back and we went through training in terms of just refreshing mental health and programming in the halls and some emergency management things. Retraining on if ‘this happens’ then ‘this is how you react,’” said Rader.

The resident assistants understand the importance of returning to campus early.

“It’s a refresher course,” said junior resident assistant, Colin Tiedemann. “It’s basically like getting re-acclimated — come back early, get back into the college life.”

Many of the skills reviewed upon the staff’s early return became a revision from what they had learned during summer training.

“Winter training wasn’t as extensive as summer training so it was really just a refresher. We did a lot of staff bonding,” said sophomore Jessica Cerrato.

Resident assistants dedicate many hours of their time focusing on other students.

“I know from my experience personally, my RA wasn’t around much so I wanted to make sure that my freshman girls had someone there,” said Cerrato.

Resident assistants coordinate together to decide who is on duty at specific times.

“We have set weekdays, so the 11 people on the staff decide who gets each day,” said Tiedemann. “There are a lot of ups. The downs I guess would be the time commitment, but it’s a small price.”

“It’s not that it is tough, but there are a lot of people that come to you. There are RAs that have certain residents that need a lot more attention.”

Resident assistants have to deal with real life situations that they could be faced with when they are in the real world.

“It is tough because your friends are upperclassmen that don’t have the same responsibilities,” said Tiedemann. “You have to sacrifice sometimes.”

The Residential Life staff is back and into the rhythm of playing such a huge part in dorm life.

“My girls have been really good,” said Cerrato. “All things considered there have been a few bumps in the road, but I have no complaints.”

Residential life is ready for a new start with a new year and a new semester.

“I don’t think it’s an oppressive time commitment — they’re good, they’re excited, they’re a good group,” said Rader.

R.A. Chris Mastrocola works hard to prepare a new year for his residents.

Preventing winter woes

Mia Selvaggio
Contributing Writer

The thought of a long, cold winter may make some cringe or at the very least bound themselves indoors until spring has sprung. For others though, it is just the kind of snowy paradise they’ve been waiting for.

Sacred Heart University students are ready to hit the slopes and even the hills when they’ve been waiting for.

When it’s cold outside I do not want to be outside at all. I usually go to the movies on Tuesdays because tickets are discounted that night,” said junior Kelly King.

On the other hand, students enjoy watching movies in their dorms as well.

“During the winter I like to stay inside and watch movies with my roommates,” said freshman Alex DeLeonardo.

Many students enjoy shopping and staying close to campus.

“I love to go shopping and out to dinner with my friends. I try to stay as warm as possible,” said Orcutt.

Visiting the Westfield Trumbull Mall gives students something to do when they are trying to get out of their dorms or houses. The newly renovated mall has many different stores and a food court that offers a variety of choices.

As for when it snows, some students enjoy briefly reverting to childhood and playing outside with their friends.

“I love when it snows up here in Connecticut because I love to go sledding on the big hills over by J. Hill,” said senior Caroline Campo.

This is a sentiment echoed by others.

“It’s funny you should ask what I enjoy doing in the snow,” said junior Justin Brewer. “I’m about to go snow tubing and make snow angels right now.”

Brewer is not the only one who enjoys making snow angels.

“I love making snow angels on the library lawn,” said senior Katherine Formica.

Senior John Lopresti agrees, he usually builds snowmen, has snowball fights with his friends and makes snow angels. He also enjoys playing football in the snow.

Snow days are another thing that students take into account.

“I love the winter at SHU. Who doesn’t love waking up and hearing school’s cancelled?” said senior Kyle Porter.
Asst. Sports Editor

The Sacred Heart University men's basketball team needed late heroics from two key upperclassmen on Saturday to defeat in-state foe Central Connecticut State University, 62-61, at the William H. Pitt Center.

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Gibson's game-winner followed a crucial steal by senior forward Stan Dulaire, who logged 24 minutes off the bench.

The Northeast Conference matchup, featuring the top four scorers in the conference, played out like a heavyweight fight, with 13 ties and 13 lead-changes.

The Central Connecticut Blue Devils (9-9, 6-2 NEC) started the game cold, only scoring two points in the first four minutes. But freshman guard Kyle Vinales, the NEC's third-leading scorer, got hot, sinking three 3-pointers en route to 16 first half points and 20 for the game.

The Northeast Conference leading scorer, hit a fade-away jumper with 6.7 seconds left on the clock to win the game for Sacred Heart.

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GAME OF THE WEEK
Sacred Heart Men’s Basketball
vs.
Wagner University (#2 in NEC)

Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m. William H. Pitt Center

PIONEERS SQUEEZE PAST BLUE DEVILS

Emily Pepe
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart women’s basketball team continued their dominance in front of a crowd of 676 with a win over Central Connecticut State Blue Devils, 63-57.

The Pioneers increased their conference record to 7-0 and overall 14-4 overall (Sacred Heart did fall to Quinnipiac 71-34 Monday night for their first conference loss), as the Pioneers redeemed themselves as the Blue Devils knocked them out of the conference tournament last season.

"Every win is a huge win, especially with our record," said junior Morgan Merriman, who finished with ten points and three assists. "We definitely have a target on our backs, everyone wants to beat that team."

For most of the first half both teams fought for the lead giving back and forth, but with 3:56 left in the first quarter, sophomore Blair Koniszewski made a three pointer, giving the Pioneers a 29-21 lead.

"The first half of the game was very competitive," said Merriman.

The Pioneers got five more points with contributions from freshman Gabrielle Washington, sophomore Erica Norman, and senior Kris Lovino.

At the end of the first half the Pioneers maintained a ten point lead. Norman finished the game with 14 points, four rebounds, four assists and four steals.

In the second half the Pioneers fought to maintain their lead for the first ten minutes of the second half while trying to also contain an aggressive Blue Devil offensive.

"Our conference is very competitive; the team that wins is often just the team that shows up ready, focused and with the most energy," said Merriman.

On this night, it was the Pioneers who showed up ready to play.

The Blue Devils were able to cut a four point deficit behind junior Kristen Daumen, who helped lead a 7-0 run for the Blue Devils giving them a slight lead over the Pioneers.

The Pioneers were able to gain control and regain the lead with 1:45 left in the game when Merriman made a key layup, making it 59-57.

They were able to secure the win when Central's Kyley Watras missed a layup and senior Callan Taylor came up with the big defensive board.

"Callan grabbed an important rebound down the stretch and Morgan Merriman made a couple of really big layups that really helped us out," said head coach Ed Swanson to the Pioneer athletic website.

Taylor and Washington closed the game out when they each made both of their free throws, making the final score 63-57.

The Pioneers take on Mount St. Mary’s on Saturday Jan. 28 at 1 p.m.

NY GIANTS: NFC CHAMPS

Dan Orzel
Asst. Sports Editor

It was déjà vu all over again as the New York Giants rode the right foot of Lawrence Tyynes to the Super Bowl with a 20-17 overtime victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Sunday's NFC Championship Game.

Just as he had done in 2008 against the Green Bay Packers, Tyynes propelled his squad to the yearly spectacle with a sudden death field goal on the road.

And, just like in 2008, the Giants will have a date with the New England Patriots.

Tyynes' 31-yard game-winner was set up when Giants rookie Jacquian Williams stripped 49ers return man Kyle Williams, filling in for the injured Ted Ginn Jr., on a punt return.

Devin Thomas recovered the ball for the Giants, his second special teams fumble recovery of the day, and, after three runs netting 18 yards by Giants running back Ahmad Bradshaw, quarterback Eli Manning took a knee in the center of the field, perfectly framing Tyynes' boot 7:54 into the extra frame.

On a rainy night in San Francisco's Candlestick Park, it was the home team that struck first. Midway into the first quarter, 49ers quarterback Alex Smith connected with tight end Vernon Davis, who beat Giants safety Antrel Rolle down the sideline for a 73-yard touchdown.

The Giants would tie the game in the second quarter when Manning, who finished 32 of 58 for 316 yards, hit tight end Bear Pascoe in the end zone from six yards out.

New York, who beating the defending Super Bowl Champion Packers last week in Green Bay with the help of a first half-ending touchdown on a hail mary, would score this week with two seconds remaining in the half when Tyynes converted a field goal from 31 yards out.

San Francisco took a 14-10 lead in the third quarter as Smith found Davis in the corner for a touchdown. Smith finished the game 12 of 26 for 196 yards and two touchdowns, both to Davis, who caught three passes for 112 yards.

After five punts and limited offense, Kyle Williams made his first miscue of the night.

On a 49-yard punt from Giants punter Steve Weatherford, the ball gently grazed Williams' knee as he attempted to avoid it. Thomas picked it up for New York at the 49er 29-yard line.

On the ensuing possession, Manning threaded a pass into the hands of wide receiver Mario Manningham for a touchdown and a 17-14 lead after the Tyynes extra point.

San Francisco veteran kicker David Akers tied the game eight plays later.

New York won the coin toss in overtime and elected to receive. After punts by both teams, the game began sudden death, per new overtime rules.

It was on the third punt of overtime that Jacquian Williams swung his right hand into the right arm of Williams as he cradled the ball, knocking it loose. Thomas dove for the loose ball as his teammates celebrated another special teams turnover.

It was the second turnover of the game for the 49ers, who only turned the ball over 10 times in the regular season. Giants receiver Victor Cruz caught 10 passes for 142 yards.

Super Bowl XLVI is Sunday, February 5 in Indianapolis.

PATRIOTS SET UP REMATCH WITH NY GIANTS

Dan Orzel
Asst. Sports Editor

The New England Patriots punched their ticket to Super Bowl XLVI with a 23-20 victory over the Baltimore Ravens at a cold Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts on Sunday night.

Baltimore kicker Billy Cundiff missed a 32-yard field goal with 11 seconds left failing to send the game into overtime.

The hook came following New England defensive back Sterling Moore stripping Raven receiver Lee Evans in the end zone.

Evans appeared to have made the catch, but Moore reached in and broke it up, preventing the Ravens from taking with lead.

The teams traded field goals in the first half before Patriot running back BenJarvus Green-Ellis, completed a 72-yard drive by busting into the end zone for the score.

New England kicker Stephen Gostowski completed the extra point for a 10-3 lead. Baltimore answered back when quarterback Joe Flacco, who finished 22 of 36 for 306 yards and two touchdowns, found tight end Dennis Pitta from six yards out for the score.

Only three minutes later, Gostowski nailed a 35-yard field goal, giving the Patriots a 13-10 halftime lead.

Gostowski would make it 16-16 with a 24-yard field goal in the third quarter, but Flacco would hit receptor Torrey Smith from 29-yards out for a touchdown.

Cundiff would then boot another field goal. The Ravens took a 20-16 advantage into the fourth quarter.

That set the stage for New England quarterback Tom Brady, who is heading to his fifth Super Bowl in 10 years as a starter.

Brady capped a 64-yard drive with a leaping QB sneak over the Baltimore defensive front, doing a near back flip into pay dirt, putting his club ahead for good as the Patriot defense would hold.

Super Bowl XLVI is Sunday, February 5 in Indianapolis.
PARING FOR THE GAME.

Preparing for the game. A live shot on-set at the ballpark, or a pre-game show, one of us from the NHL Broadcast staff was there to support in case anything was needed.

Also, anytime one of the networks did a live shot on-set at the ballpark, or a pre-game show, one of us from the NHL Broadcast staff was there to support in case anything was needed.

THE 2012 BRIDGESTONE NHL WINTER CLASSIC BETWEEN THE PHILADELPHIA FLYERS AND THE NEW YORK RANGERS WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A SPECTACULAR EVENT. AN NHL HOCKEY GAME ON AN OUTDOOR RINK THAT BRINGS THE PLAYERS BACK TO THEIR CHILDHOOD DAYS OF PLAYING ON FROZEN PONDS, PURELY FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME.

This year, I was fortunate enough to be a part of this year's NHL Winter Classic and this is a personal account of the week we spent at Citizen's Bank Park preparing for the game.

The 2012 Bridgestone NHL Winter Classic between the Philadelphia Flyers and the New York Rangers was nothing less than a spectacular event—and this is a personal account of the week we spent at Citizen's Bank Park preparing for the game.

The NHL 'ice guru', Dan Craig, was charged with the monumental task of ensuring the ice would be in perfect condition for each of the games. He did a great job making sure everyone from his crew did exactly what needed to be done in order to keep it in perfect condition. A last minute assessment of the ice condition prompted a 2-hour time change in the broadcast schedule. There was such a concern with the temperature and the sun glare that the game time was changed from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Needless to say, this put the broadcast world for many years now on its ear. For the Flyers it was less than a spectacular event—an NHL Winter Classic game. For the Rangers it was something so much more.

As you can imagine, participating in something that chronicled the rivalry between the Flyers and the Rangers, in such a unique way.

From the beginning of the puck drop to the snow on the ground at the end of the game, this game had a unique energy.

"Just being part of something so special was enough to make me cry, I guess that says it all," said Coates.

From my perspective I couldn't agree more.

The shot by Flyers assistant captain, Danny Briere, was denied by Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist, arguably the best goaltender in the league at this time.

As you can imagine, participating in something that chronicled the rivalry between the Flyers and the Rangers, in such a unique way.

I have been around hockey and the broadcasting world for many years now because of my dad, but I never realized how much of a role the NHL staff plays in preparing for the Winter Classic. Every little detail matters in order to make the event run as smoothly as possible.

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LACK OF STUDENTS AT GAMES FELT BY ATHLETES AND ADMINISTRATION

...CONTINUED from page 1.

To put this in perspective, Quinnipiac University, located only about 20 minutes from Sacred Heart, nearly quadruples the attendance at their home games as they average 1,863 fans per game to lead the Northeast Conference.

"It is disappointing when not a lot of students show up to our games," said captain Nick Greenbacker. "Everybody likes to play in front of big crowds with a lot of noise. A lot of schools like Monmouth and Quinnipiac have been able to increase attendance with the help of new, state of the art facilities.

A school such as Monmouth who has about 500 fewer undergraduate students than Sacred Heart can bring in almost triple the number of fans to their home games. They average 1,528 fans per home game.

"Having a lot of students come to our games definitely pumps us up and makes us want to win even more," said red-shirt junior forward Femi Akinpetide. "It can make the difference between winning and losing.

Five out of the 12 schools in the conference average over 1,000 fans per game, including some other two schools in Connecticut, Quinnipiac and Central Connecticut State.

The only other school coming close to Sacred Heart is Long Island University of Brooklyn as they average 698 fans per game to rank eleventh.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Just like men's basketball, the Northeast Conference has 12 schools with women's basketball programs. Also like the men, the Sacred Heart women rank at the bottom of the league in terms of home attendance.

"I don't know if I would say it is frustrating," but it is a little disheartening, especially when both the men and women have strong teams that have historically done well," said junior forward Morgan Merriman.

The Lady Flames rank 11 out of the 12 teams in the conference averaging 286 fans per home game, despite the fact that the team is in first place in the conference.

"It can be frustrating at times when you look into the stands and see a lot of empty seats, especially when we are a team that consistently has one of the best records in the conference," said captain Callan Taylor.

Sacred Heart nearly doubles the undergraduate enrollment of St. Francis (PA) as they only have 1,832 undergrads, but yet St. Francis ranks second in the conference with 688 fans per home game.

"I usually feel jealous when I see other schools with big student sections, because they really do create a special atmosphere and feeling of support to that home team," Taylor said. "It can really make a difference during a game."

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?
Lack of student attendance is partly attributed to student schedules.

There are numerous night classes offered for upperclassmen that prohibit them from attending some home games.

"There are too many night classes and part-time jobs that take away from students going to games, although typically freshmen don't have night classes or part-time jobs, so there really is no excuse for them," said Lucy Cox, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Academic Advising.

Dean Wielk added that the freshmen that do attend games see the lack of upperclassmen and therefore might be less likely to come back.

"Freshmen go to the games, but then they see no upperclassmen there," Wielk said. "Generally freshmen want to be where the upperclassmen are and if they see the upperclassmen aren't going to the games then that makes them less likely to go back."

Student Government and Greek Life put on events to draw people to games that otherwise would most likely not attend, but those students are only likely to go to that one game and not make any return trips.

"We need to come up with better give-aways and have more of a presence in the main building and the cafeteria," said Bill Peterson, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Communications. "We need to be engaging to students that are not athletes and get them to come to more games.

This past Thursday, there were over 1,000 fans at the men's basketball game against Quinnipiac for Greek Life night, but in past years these students just go to that one game a year.

"Why can't the crowd from Thursday come back to other games?" Dean Wielk said. "It was an exciting game. Five points was the biggest spread for the entire game. It was a very exciting game."

President John Petillo said "The athletes are our students. They are part of our University community and I believe all and each of us have an obligation to support one another if we hold community values."

"My reason for attending various athletic games is quite simple," President Petillo said. "The athletes are our students. They are part of our University community and I believe all and each of us have an obligation to support one another if we hold community values."

SOLUTIONS TO FIX THE ISSUES
The athletic department realizes that there is an issue with the lack of student attendance at home games.

To address this, Cox started the Heart Attack Club, which is a group of students who attend Sacred Heart home games and have their own cheering section. A lot of thought went into the formation of the club.

"Since 2007 student attendance at games has dropped, so we decided to ask the students what they want through in-house survey's from SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Council) reps and also through focus groups with non student-athletes," Cox said. "Through this it was determined that students wanted two things, a student-section and give-a-ways."

"I decided that a spirit group with non student-athletes, SAAC, and student government would be the best thing. It was a grassroots effort. We have heart-beats and pace-makers. The pace-makers are the dorm leaders, while the heart-beats are the floor leaders. Their job is to encourage everyone to go to the games and be apart of heart-attack We also created a Facebook group which has been successful."

As a whole, the club has improved attendance at games, but only by a small margin.

"Things have gotten better, but overall I think it is still terrible," Cox said. "I am optimistic that things will continue to get better. It really is fun to go to games. They are only an hour and a half and they are a great way to meet new people." It is not just the Heart Attack club that is trying to drive student attendance at games. The coaches themselves have been trying to do their part as well.

"You do have to create the coach-es," Dean Wielk said. "Assistant coach [Anthony] Latina (men's basketball) was outside of the cafeteria handing out flyers last week.

"A few weeks back Big Red was going table-to-table in the cafeteria handing out flyers trying to encourage students to go to the women's basketball game. Coach [Ed] Swanson (women's basketball) was Big Red: He took the time out his day to do that and try and get the students behind his team."

There is no question that there are plenty of sports fans on campus who watch college sports on television all the time.

"You watch games on TV, whether it is Duke or even the MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) and those schools have student-sections that are engaged in the games with signs and chants, it makes for a great atmosphere," Peterson said.

There really is no reason why this cannot happen at Sacred Heart.

"Student attendance so far has been better," Petillo said. "Nonetheless there's a long way to go. It can be done if our students come to a better understanding of their part of being in the University community. Their presence is a tremendous support and affirmation for our athletes."

Statistics from the Northeast Conference website were used in this article.

The stands at the William H. Pitt Center are near empty at a recent women's basketball game.

The Spectrum/Sean Elliott

Women's basketball coach Ed Swanson dresses up as Big Red to help boost student attendance at his team's games.
The Pioneers defeated conference rival Central Connecticut at their annual “Pack the Pitt” event.