Horizons Program Celebrates It’s Fifth Year
Five years inspiring education and providing opportunities

BY DANIELLE CHILDERS
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University’s Horizons program celebrated its fifth year anniversary earlier this month, while also recognizing the success and positive future of the program.

“I can remember when Horizons was established here on campus. It was a small program, but it had big goals. Horizons has grown so much in five years and has had a huge effect on the children and staff,” said Dr. John J. Petillo, the President of Sacred Heart in an official university press release. “The program is part of the Sacred Heart family now.”

The Horizons program was initially a small summer program that worked with groups of first and second grade students, but has grown to include up to fifth grade students as well. This program is led by Executive Director Jeffery Rumpf and James Carl, the Dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, along with other esteemed colleagues.

“We currently work with the inner city students of Bridgeport to help overcome the achievement gap. This program is important because it addresses summer learning loss, a phenomenon where low-income children fall behind in reading and math skills in the summer,” said Meghan Amaya, a Sacred Heart alumna who is currently enrolled in the graduate Applied Psychology program.

The Horizons program started in neighboring Norwalk, Conn. during the 1960s to make a quality education available to children who may not have access to one.

“Now these programs are expanding across the Northeast in universities; Sacred Heart was the first university to host a Horizons program,” said Carl.

Upon Horizons’ fifth year anniversary at Sacred Heart, the program has grown to include over 100 students and is now recognized nationally.

“We started as a small program with 32 children and this year we will have over 100 children, and now our new program is looked at nationally as having many benefits of a model program,” said Rumpf.

This could not have been possible without the hard work of every person involved in the program.

“The Horizons staff is committed to inspire minds, transform lives and build community. At Horizons, college is not just a dream; it’s a realistic, attainable goal. We have grown so fast in only five years as we currently serve 85 families and are still growing,” said Amaya.

This program instills a philosophy that works around what kids need to be successful.

“We want the kids to know they can achieve their dreams and that they’ll be well prepared to be excellent college students. They’ll have the education and the character to do so,” said Rumpf in an official university press release.

Sacred Heart students have become involved with the program for many reasons, including the desire to help those who may not otherwise have the chance to receive a college education.

“This program changes lives. There is no more to it. It improves whatever difficulties they may have had during the school year. Kids might not receive the amount of attention they may need in their classrooms at school, but at Horizons they get that and more,” said sophomore Ruthie Phillips.

It is the goal of Horizons to foster educated and talented young people who will become positive contributing citizens of society.

The team responsible for its launch and growth are confident that communities will benefit in the long run from the initiatives of this program.

“We have the whole women’s basketball team supporting us, we have the choir this year getting involved with us, we have the religious studies club helping with our garden and we have pretty much the whole College of Education,” said Rumpf. Horizons will continue to work with children from the surrounding area, and will be having more events to commemorate the program’s fifth anniversary.

“We love having the kids around and seeing their smiles and determination. Our College of Education students provide tutoring, but we learn more than a thing or two from the children as well,” said Petillo. “We’re looking forward to participating in a number of celebratory events this year. There’s a lot to be proud of.”

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Death of Justice Scalia: What’s The Next Step?

BY PHILLIP ZELLER  
Staff Reporter

Although President Obama said he would nominate a replacement, the Republican candidates in the 2016 presidential race insist that the nomination of a new justice should be held until after the next president takes office.

"This issue shows just how unpredictable campaigns are," said Rose. "All of a sudden, an issue emerges that no one was anticipating, even though the candidates were already mentioning that the next president would have appointments."

The presidential candidates demanding that the decision be withheld until 2017 are supported by a Senate that includes a Republican majority, according to Kathleen Hennessey of the Associated Press.

"I can understand that it’s the Senate’s prerogative if they want to hold hearings," said Rose. "At the same time, it’s also the President’s prerogative to make a nomination."

On Friday, thousands gathered in Washington D.C. to pay their respects to Scalia, including President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

"Scalia influenced a generation of judges, lawyers, and students, and profoundly shaped the legal landscape," said Obama in a press release. President Obama was not present at Scalia’s funeral mass held on Saturday. Obama had stated earlier in the week he would not be in attendance.

"He will no doubt be remembered as one of the most consequential judges and thinkers to serve on the Supreme Court," said Obama. "Justice Scalia dedicated his life to the cornerstone of our democracy, the rule of law."
Perspectives

Discussing Daytona

PoET’S CORNER
Both poems written by Professor Richard B. Stirling

"Simple Story"  
the star came back  
sat on my bed post,  
said she was lost  
so I fed her,  
drew her a map,  
the universe  
unraveling  
in my palm,  
- destiny  
borne away, smiling  
but she came back,  
don’t believe me?  
- I know  
but that’s okay,  
you’re not the only one  
afraid of the dark

"Next Time"  
Next time  
I’ll do it,  
next time  
you’ll see,  
next time  
I’ll be,  
banish  
the periods  
from my heart,  
the commas,  
the colons,  
all the false starts;  
next time  
I’ll do it,  
next time  
you’ll see,  
next time  
I’ll be,  
a verb I will be

MelANIE...

Between the months of February and November, American television is replete with flashy cars and concrete circles.
I’m talking about NASCAR.
Now, to say I was picked last in high school gym class would be an overgeneralization. In reality, my teacher had to pass me from team to team so that no one got stuck with me for too long. But what I have against racing is not a personal vendetta.
First, I’d like you to note that the NASCAR season is long enough for me to literally grow a small human inside of me. There are so many other things this world can focus on for nine months that don’t involve driving around and around in circles, which seems to me like a modern-day Sisyphus phenomenon.
Despite the monotony of racecar driving, thousands of fans glue themselves to their television sets to see which driver can make it to the checkered finish line first.
So what is it about this sport that gets people to fill up the stands and scream like maniacs as their favorite driver pulls out ahead of the guy who was in the lead for 198 laps?
 Maybe it’s the flash - all the cars painted with bright colors whizzing by. Maybe it’s the announcer’s excited voice as he recaps what’s happening in record time.

Anthony...

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HE SAID

Discussing Daytona

One of the biggest debates amongst sports fans is whether or not NASCAR is a “real sport.” It’s a topic that puts Daytonabelievers into an eye rolling coma and diehard fans into a frozen defense of their favorite pastime. It also happens to be the dawn of the NASCAR season at present.
so Melanie and I figured this would be a good time to address its place in the sports world.

MelANIE...

I, myself, don’t care much for NASCAR, but I get it. I get how people could be fans of it. And, as much as one wouldn’t be likely to ever catch me at a NASCAR rally, I will defend it as a true sport.

From a casual viewer’s perspective, it doesn’t seem like anything too intricate. It might look like a bunch of cars driving in circles for hundreds of laps. In reality, though, it really is so much more. Cars flying at 300+ miles per hour; drivers weaving in and out of each other in pursuit of a better finish; pit crews scrambling to change parts and tires. It’s mayhem, and one would be remiss to say it isn’t hard to do too.

Unfortunately for NASCAR fans, they still get a lot of heat for liking their sport. Unfortunately for NASCAR fans, they still get a lot of heat for liking their sport. It is, however, a real sport, and it does bring the good NASCAR does for sports culture.
For one, it gives Northeastemers something to hate on. Sports fans around here love few things more than whining about NASCAR stories on SportsCenter. It’s just so easy to be negative about. We don’t live near Talladega, so let me see some more Mets highlights, you ESPN producers.
Another reason why NASCAR is good for American culture is because it translates the American passion for driving into a high-speed chase that encourages the aggressive maneuvering of vehicles.

With all the road rage pent up within us, a lot of which has to get bottled up for legal reasons, watching NASCAR could be a nice, fantastical outlet for someone who wishes one could ram into the back of the person that cut them off on the I-95. NASCAR, you may recall, also gave us Ricky Bobby, the beloved racecar-driving character played by Will Ferrell in the cult classic “Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby.” That alone could account for the validity of the business as an important one.

Despite the good it does, I definitely get why NASCAR gets the hate it does. Watching cars going around a track for hours doesn’t sound quite as exciting as even the conversion of a graveyard to an out in baseball.

It is, however, a real sport, and it does have a place in the hearts of many Americans, so I respect it. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR POETRY IN PRINT?

Submit all works to our Perspectives editor
Melanie Vollono, at vollonom@mail.sacredheart.edu

Please include titles of pieces, your full name, and class year or title/position.
Pimp My Ride
Adjustments made to the shuttle system

BY NATALIE LARINO
Staff Reporter

At Sacred Heart University, the student shuttle service provides students with a mode of transportation. This service includes eight different routes and to and from various locations in the Bridgeport/Fairfield area including but not limited to: Sacred Heart student housing, Cambridge and Oakview campuses, and main campus. Recently, the Student Union has made some route adjustments for the shuttles.

According to Mike Moylan, Director of Student Union, safety was the main concern in making these adjustments. One specific route adjustment was made to the highly used Park Avenue shuttle, which goes to and from certain Sacred Heart University housing to Main Campus and the Mhire Business & Communications Center.

“The Park Avenue route was going down Marilyn Street, and we were finding that there was too much congestion and traffic through the residential neighborhoods, especially when school let out and coming up Eckert Street,” said Moylan. “We didn’t change the direction of the Park Avenue shuttle, instead of picking up at Pioneer Gardens; we pick up a little bit down the Hillview Superette and Goodfellas Pizza at the city bus stop.”

Some students are grateful for the shuttle services and find that they can avoid confusion by downloading the app, “RideSys-tems.”

“The shuttle app is a godsend, especially when I first transferred to Sacred Heart and had no idea how the shuttles worked,” said sophomore Caroline Peck. “It’s especially useful for those who don’t have cars on campus and have to rely on the shuttles to get to places around Sacred Heart.”

Still, some think the changes are unnecessary and time consuming.

“My experience is sometimes stressful and time consuming, especially having late night RHD’s when not many shuttles are running,” said junior Ava Heler.

Despite some negativity from students, the Student Union has made changes to the shuttles to ensure safety among students.

“It wasn’t becoming safe anymore so we tried to come up with another way to pick up students [while] not adding more time to the route so we still met everybody’s needs,” said Moylan. However, some students still feel frustrated with their overall experience with Sacred Heart transportation.

“The shuttles help me get to class and back home but the overall experience is pretty negative. It’s hard to track where the Park Ave. shuttle is with the new route,” said senior Alexandra King.

Many students feel there needs to be improvements to the shuttle service.

“When living in Taft, the shuttle drive is pretty inconvenient. It’d be better if the Taft and Taft routes were separate shuttle routes so the ride would be quicker,” said junior Carlos Kenner.

Space and speed with the shuttles are some of the other concerns students have.

“Sometimes I think they drive too fast, and maybe they should be more conscious of space because many students aren’t able to get on the shuttles because they’re too filled, especially in the morning,” said Moylan.

According to Moylan, student feedback from the shuttle changes has been mixed.

“Feedback is coming in and we’re listening to it and evaluating it,” said Moylan. “We are always looking for suggestions and always looking for ways to improve the routes and to try meet the needs of the students better.”

Expanding Theater Opportunities

BY GIANNNAIANNONI
Staff Reporter

Are you a performing arts student looking to immerse yourself in the professional world of theater as a career? Sacred Heart University’s theater program has been expanding recently to allow students to do just that.

Through workshops taught by Broadway professional Jonathan Stahl, as well as an upcoming theater trip to Chicago, Ill., students are now being given the opportunity to obtain specialized skill sets within all aspects of theater. Though the workshop attendance has been small, their reputation is growing through positive feedback by the students.

“From what I hear, they are very beneficial and people are learning a lot from them. We are a rapidly growing program at Sacred Heart University, and this is just another way that our members have an opportunity to learn more about the art,” said junior theater member Nicholas Patino.

Sophomore Alyson Gannon is a theater member who has attended the workshops, and has her own opinion of them from her experience.

“I think that they are extremely beneficial, and give us kind of a little bit of a view as to how the real world works when it comes to workshops and dance auditions in the city. I think it gives us a different perspective outside of Sacred Heart University,” said Gannon.

In addition to these workshops, the theater program will also be taking 10 students on a trip to Chicago, where they will be looking at all the different aspects of theater. They will be able to see a show in its first stages before it gains Broadway popularity, as well as get personal instruction from professionals in the field.

These trips can potentially offer an alternative kind of education to those interested in pursuing the arts, through witnessing professional productions and experiencing the inner workings of shows rather than just reading about them.

“I think it is a great thing that the trip is being offered. In my mind, there are only so many things you can learn in a classroom, and sometimes stepping outside the classroom and immersing yourself in an idea or culture is really the best way to learn,” said Patino.

Ultimately, many students feel that these experiences give back in greater ways than just skills for a career.

“I think these trips are really great for people to learn and build upon. Because of course made us really close, my roommates who went on a theater trip with me are one of my best friends now,” said Jablonski.

Between forming friendships and gaining professional opportunities, the theater program seems to be expanding in a positive light, allowing Sacred Heart University to put a larger emphasis on the arts.
Communication: noun. (1) The imparting or exchanging of information or news. (2) The means of connection between people and places. Also known as, almost everything in the world around us.

It takes a special person to be a communications major. One must possess various skills in order to be successful in this field. An individual must have a keen eye for designs and creativity, be able to juggle the demands of many extracurricular activities, and understand the importance of deadlines.

It really frustrates me when people in universities look down on communication majors because they’re some of the most dedicated, hardworking, and knowledgeable people that I know. The thing about this industry is, unlike other majors, it isn’t acceptable to simply take your classes, earn your diploma, and call it a day. To even be taken seriously in this field, your resume must have an array of media-related activities to display your dedication and experience. From newspapers, magazines, and PR to radio, TV production, and photography, is there anything we can’t do?

People tend to misinterpret how in-depth the work we perform actually is, due to the fact that we don’t usually take tests, therefore we don’t study. These individuals are sadly mistaken because instead of tests we have projects to attend to which take patience and the demand for one to be very meticu­lous. We also write articles on very important stories that occur in the world around us. This forces us to be up to date on all current headline stories.

When people stop and think about what’s truly important in life, it’s possible that the first few things that come to mind are the typical few—family, friends, health, and maybe an education. If you asked me the same question, I’d probably say a similar list of things, except I have a bit of a different outlook on what’s important because of what I’ve decided to do with my life.

For most of my life, I’ve been fascinated with the written word. I’ve seen words change people and create memories that other things in life could never do. I’ve witnessed the connection people have made with each other over something they both read and could relate to, which is something that is hard to come by these days.

When I was younger, I used to make my own “books” that were stapled together at the corners and written in crayon, but I was so incredibly proud of them. Sometimes, I’d even include the author’s biography that you’d find on the back sleeve of a real book, just to make it feel authentic.

Or I’d sometimes find myself walking around my house or in the yard just creating stories in my head, hoping that I’d remem­ber what I was thinking for long enough so I could write it down later.

Today, I’m still writing, but for a different purpose than I did when I was in elementary school. I’m writing now because of the effect writing has on other people.

Personally, I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to write for both The Spectrum and The Odyssey Online, which have given me so many chances to touch people with the written word. I’ve been honored to have been told that my writing was im­portant to someone, and those are words that I will never forget. Those are the words that remind me why I do what I do.

One of the most special days of my life was when an article I wrote was shared over 100,000 times. Just knowing that I was able to connect and express my ideas to that many people is something that will always be in the back of my mind. The idea that thousands of strangers were reading what I was writing and felt so strongly about it still humbles me to this day.

Every time something of mine is published, I feel the same exhilaration I did when I was younger, stapling my thoughts together as if I was shipping them off to the biggest publication company in the world. Usually when people ask me what my major is I get the follow up question, “well, what do you want to do with that?” and I respond with the typical, “I don’t know,” because in reality, I really don’t know. All I know is that I’m on the path I’m sup­posed to be on. It’s perfectly okay not to know what you want to do with your life, as long as you’re doing something you’re proud of.

I’d like to believe that I’m doing the right thing by writing, and I hope that every person who reads something that I write will feel something special.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing," and I think about that quote a lot while I’m sitting here writing something like this. I know that getting everything out of my head and onto a piece of paper is something I’m meant to do, and as of right now, that’s good enough for me.
What's a Caucus, Anyway?

Dr. Rose launches a new podcast to discuss and analyze the current presidential election

BY JENNA BILLINGS
PR & Circulation Manager

Feel the Bern! Ready for Hillary! Make America Great Again!

Though all of these exclamations seem to be frequenting conversation and social media posts more than ever before, students who are not currently enrolled in a political science class are not typically well versed on the steps of the nominating process, or educated on the implications of the upcoming election.

Fortunately, Sacred Heart University's own virtual learning commons, "SHU Square," now offers a unique source of outside-the-classroom education about this very current topic, with podcasts by the Chair of the Department of Government, Politics, and Global Studies, Dr. Gary Rose.

"The goal of this audio podcast is to analyze the 2016 presidential election, and to provide a starting point for discussion in the classroom," said Rose in his first podcast. "By sharing our podcasts with the general public, we are hoping to engage you in a thought-provoking conversation regarding the election as it unfolds."

The podcasts will be posted on a weekly basis, and students who have or create a SoundCloud account, and then follow the podcast series, will be notified after the release of a new podcast. Rose hopes to incorporate other perspectives as well in order to enhance the conversation.

"I'll be covering the two presidential nominating contests, with an emphasis on describing and analyzing the caucus and primary results. We're hoping to have some of the students from my presidential elections class share their views on the podcasts," said Rose. "We want to have student perspectives with regards to the various candidates and the highly contentious nominating contest. That's likely to occur fairly soon."

The initiative was headed by SHU Square Faculty Coordinator Dr. Pilar Munday, as well as Director of Digital Learning Jaya Kannan, who both saw a need for the project because of the apathy that exists among students regarding politics.

"Our goal is to strengthen student learning in a multi-modal way," said Kannan. "Though much of learning happens from textbooks and in-class materials, we wanted to give students alternate avenues to educate themselves about this particular topic."

The Office of Digital Learning, as well as Rose, are also hoping for student engagement and response from audiences beyond political science students, and even outside Sacred Heart University. The page is a public forum, so virtually anyone can view the podcasts, and anyone with a SoundCloud account can share them or comment.

There's an old axiom that "knowledge is power." So I'm hoping that my podcasts serve to not only educate students but also to empower them as responsible citizens," said Rose. "I truly hope that students feel motivated to participate in one form or another in this incredibly exciting contest. Hopefully my podcasts will serve as a catalyst for student involvement. The feedback thus far has been very enthusiastic and promising."

To learn more, log on to https://soundcloud.com/shu-square-podcasts, where the podcasts can be accessed in full, and follow both the podcast series and the SHU Square Twitter @shusquare.

Celebrate and Support Men's Rugby at Ruggerfest

BY CAITLIN MORRISSEY
Staff Reporter

Are you 21 or older and looking for some fun that includes beer, live music, food and raffles? If the answer is yes, then the Sacred Heart University men's rugby football club Ruggerfest is one event every rugby enthusiast should definitely make a point to attend.

The event was first established in 1992 and now consists of 31 players on its roster, ranging from freshmen to seniors. According to the men's club rugby website, "We work hard, we play hard. Ruggerfest 2016 is the perfect opportunity to play hard."

"The X-Men Rugby Football Club's current record of six wins and three losses has propelled the team into first place in the Tri-State Conference, Northern Division. The X-Men RFC are led by their head coach, Ray Peterson, along with the help of Assistant Coach Sal Tondi. X-Men RFC, who are currently undefeated at home, hold their home games at Morehouse Field.

The team sponsors the annual Ruggerfest as an opportunity to raise money for their expenses. "Ruggerfest is a beer tasting event held as a fundraiser for the Men's Rugby team," said Denise Tiberio, Associate Dean of Students. "Ruggerfest features multiple types of beer to sample as well as live music, food and raffles."

Junior Christopher Coyne, president of X-Men RFC, believes this is their most successful fundraiser, and definitely their most anticipated. "Last year we used the money to help players offset the cost of going to Ireland to play rugby, which is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Coyne.

Last year, while touring Ireland during spring break, the team had the chance to compete in two international matches. This year, according to Coyne, the team will use the money raised through the event to offset the cost of their spring season, and to kick off the fundraising for a possible trip next year.

"Ruggerfest is open for anyone to attend, 21 and up of course, and generally family, friends, alumni and staff make up most of those in attendance," said Coyne. "Anyone who is interested in supporting X-Men RFC and attending the 2016 "Ruggerfest" can purchase tickets from the X-Men RFC website at a cost of $40.00 per person. Tickets for this year's event can also be purchased from any X-Men RFC player, as well as from Denise Tiberio, her office is located upstairs to the right in Hawley Lounge."

For those interesting in learning more about the X-Men RFC, or about the team's game schedule, information can be found at: http://www.sacredheartpioneers.com/club/Rugby.
Students Take Advantage of Work-Study Opportunities

BY MICHAEL MENACHE
Staff Reporter

As a college student, money is not always easy to come by, and neither are jobs. Sacred Heart provides work-study opportunities that help students earn financial aid money while gaining exposure to a wide range of professions within the university.

Sacred Heart staff member Susan J. Esposito is the systems and work-study coordinator for the program. Esposito makes sure that all work applications are correctly filled out and are on file. If there is an issue, Esposito makes sure that the problem is solved, and gets students prepared for their upcoming work experience.

"There are I-9 forms, and W-4 forms you have to fill out before you can even apply for work-study, but when it’s done we try to help students find what they’re looking for," said Esposito.

The work-study program at Sacred Heart makes sure that students have a variety of jobs to apply for.

"If you go onto the financial aid website, you can find an abundance of jobs. We feel that having so many opportunities will allow students to find a field they’re looking for," said Esposito.

Although this program is considered financial aid, the work-study staff believes that the benefits to the students extend far beyond that.

"Yes we pay them for their services, but we like to think that they’re getting more than just money. We want to provide an experience for students here, and we want to teach responsibility," said Esposito.

The work-study staff take their job seriously and expect the students they work with to do the same. Responsibility is key and the staff expects everyone to take this opportunity seriously.

"We give them a verbal and written warning before we take extreme measures, however during my 15 years with this program I rarely had to take those actions," said Esposito.

The students who apply for work-study jobs understand that they’re given a rare opportunity to both earn money to go toward their education and experience the requirements of a professional job. Freshman Nick Barrett didn’t wait long to take advantage of what this program had to offer.

As a freshman coming into college, he decided to apply for a work-study job.

"It’s nice to have something to do where I can make some extra money to put towards my tuition and bank account," said Barrett.

Barrett has now been working for the program for a year, and wishes to continue with it going forward.

"I stay busy when working because no matter what they always have a job for me to do. Whether it’s filing, taking notes, or getting coffee I never mind because I know I am going to benefit at the end of the day," said Barrett.

Barrett enjoys his current work study job. However, by next semester he hopes to find something that differs from it so that he can experience a few fields before he makes a decision on his career path.

"I have all the time in the world before I decide on what I want to do with the rest of my life. At the same time I realize that I still have to prepare for what’s coming. That’s why I hope I have the privilege of working as many work-study jobs as I possibly can," said Barrett.

If you’re interested in the Sacred Heart work-study program, it will be accepting applicants for the fall 2016 semester in August and September.
Deadpool: Marvel's Newest
"Hero"
Warning: contains spoilers

BY HALEY TANELLA
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

If you know me, you know I am a huge fan of superheroes, and more specifically superhero movies. When a new superhero movie is released in theaters, you know I'll be there shortly after its release.

This month, Marvel released their most-recent film in the superhero world, "Deadpool." Not only was it filled with action and excitement, but it was also a very graphic and gory film. The film was released on February 12, and I was very excited to see it.

The film follows Deadpool's struggle to find and kill Francis for turning him into, in his own words, "a pepperoni flatbread."

As I had previously heard, the film was raunchy and hysterical. The raunchy references and extremely gory graphics really set "Deadpool" apart from other superhero films I have seen in the past. Besides the dirty and deliberately gory aspects of the film, it was filled with a ton of action, exciting and suspenseful scenes, and an interesting story that bounced back and forth from past to present through the duration of the few hours.

Another part of "Deadpool" that I thoroughly enjoyed was the breaking of the fourth wall, or acknowledgement of the audience. Throughout the film, Wade Wilson/Deadpool acknowledged the audience by asking questions and physically moving the camera across the scene. It was a great way to keep viewers engaged in the story as well as add a personal touch, as if the audience was present in those scenes.

Another part of "Deadpool" that I thoroughly enjoyed was the breaking of the fourth wall, or acknowledgement of the audience. Throughout the film, Wade Wilson/Deadpool acknowledged the audience by asking questions and physically moving the camera across the scene. It was a great way to keep viewers engaged in the story as well as add a personal touch, as if the audience was present in those scenes.

Similarly to other Marvel films, "Deadpool" featured a cameo from the original comic creator Stan Lee, who was featured as a DJ in a strip club. For comic book followers, such as myself, the cameo was clever and witty, and was a nice surprise to see the original artist still involved in his work, even years after its creation.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoy the film and encourage everyone to see it. Just, don't bring your eight-year-old cousin.
Performing Arts Showcase

Current students will share their talents with prospective Pioneers

BY JULIANNA MAURIELLO
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, Feb. 28, Sacred Heart University's Performing Arts department will host its annual "Elements" Spring Showcase. The event will showcase each of the four areas of the department: theater, choir, band, and dance.

Though this event is open to anyone, the focus is on the incoming freshman class. The showcase is held year after year in hopes to recruit prospective students. Letters are sent to the homes of potential Pioneers as an invitation to this event.

"We are hoping to see over 100 families of prospective students on Performing Arts Day," said Alison Roach, Assistant Director of Performing Arts. "The goal of this event is to make a lasting impression so they will ultimately come join us."

The band program's percussion ensemble is just one of the many groups performing during the upcoming showcase. Through their music, the band hopes to show prospective students the hard work that it takes to make music.

Each of the smaller band ensembles, through their performances, will show how important they are to the band program's success.

"All of the pieces performed will show the melodic, technical, fun, and avant-garde qualities that music has to offer," said senior Michael Guadioso, Band Council President. "One of the biggest and integral parts of the band is our function as a family unit."

The current students at Sacred Heart agree that performing arts is more than just a hobby, it is a home.

"We have such a close bond between all the guys in SHUpermen, it's more like a brotherhood," said senior Anthony Tartaglia, SHUpermen choir member.

"24 Hours of Lovin'" from this spring's show "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" will be one of the select numbers performed during the Performing Arts Showcase.

Though theater is an art, it does not always come easy.

"Although it takes hard work, dedication, and determination to be successful in this program, at the end of the day you will never regret being a part of the TAP family," said sophomore Stachakay Silvera, lead in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

Support and guidance for the TAP family comes from Grammy and Tony nominee, Gerald Goehring, the head director of Theater Arts and the entirety of the Performing Arts Program.

Various dance groups from within the dance program will perform at the upcoming showcase, one of them being the Hip-Hop Crew. The hip-hop crew's selection for the showcase is "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." said sophomore Rosalita Cormier, member of the dance program.

"Our main focuses are contemporary, jazz, and ballet," said sophomore Rosalita Cormier, member of the dance program.

The number will be performed by the cast of the show, which includes members from the theater arts program, also known as "TAP," along with members from the dance program.

"At the collegiate level, the songs are more demanding, which means we work 10 times harder. At the same time, we sing for a purpose, such as our rendition of 'Prayer of the Children' that we released on social media in light of the attacks in Paris," said Tartaglia.

"Both the instructors and directors look forward to the students' upcoming trip to Italy this spring. The men's ensemble, SHUpermen, will be one of the few choirs in attendance at the showcase.

"Our main focuses are contemporary, jazz, and ballet," said sophomore Rosalita Cormier, member of the dance program.

"The company rehearses three times a week with professional instructors. I love being in the dance company because it has continued to push me to become a better dancer."

A variety of musical selections are to be expected at the showcase.

In addition to discussing each aspect of performing arts, the directors will share about performances on and off campus including the band's recent tour of Ireland and the choir's upcoming trip to Italy this spring.

"Both the instructors and directors look forward to meeting with prospective students who are in the process of deciding where they will be attending college," said Roach.

Eight ensembles make up our choir program at Sacred Heart. These eight include gender-blended choirs, women's only, men's only, a quartet, and a select chamber choir.

"All of the pieces performed will show the melodic, technical, fun, and avant-garde qualities that music has to offer," said senior Anthony Tartaglia, SHUpermen choir member.

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One-on-One with Cane Broome
Sacred Heart University Men's Basketball

Who is the current leading scorer for the Sacred Heart University Men's basketball team? Sophomore guard, Cane Broome.

Q: Who was your inspiration to play basketball?
A: I got into basketball because of my dad. He played school team and I used to go. I couldn't play because I was older—around fifth to sixth grade—I started really liking it. I used to go to tournaments really for no reason and just make them happy.

Q: What are your long-term basketball goals?
A: I want to go pro. I feel like every employer should want to go pro, whether you're good or not. Everybody should try because so much time is put into it, so you should try and get something back out of it. Everyone dreams of playing in the NBA, but if I don't I will try to go overseas and play.

Q: How did it make you feel when you hit that 1,000 point mark at the foul line? What was going through your head?
A: It felt good because my teammates wanted me to get it done today and some of the football players and the rest of the school wanted me to get it so it felt pretty good.

Q: You average about 22 points a game, what type of pressure does that put on you for each game to maintain that number or to surpass it?
A: It's not really pressure. It's fun because it's an accomplishment. I don't get it, it's whatever, but my teammates find me. I just try to move around and get easy points. It feels good to be one of the leading scorers in the country.

Broome knows how to maneuver around the court in order to get points scored, not just for his record, but to bring Sacred Heart to 10-6 in the NEC rankings, currently tied for second place. Broome is the fortieth Pioneer to hit 1,000 points in the history of Sacred Heart basketball.

Maturity a Key for Fifth Year Athletes

By Alex Padalino

Sacred Heart University offers 15 of the 24 nationwide National Collegiate Athletic Association sports that over 460,000 students take part in every year across the country. A portion of student-athletes at Sacred Heart are fifth year competitors. After sitting out a year, these athletes are allowed to extend their college careers for one final season, totaling four years of playing eligibility.

R.J. Noel, Sacred Heart University's fifth year quarterback is one of many who have benefited from the fifth year option.

"I believe all athletes should have four years of eligibility to play sports," said Noel. According to the NCAA, "If you play at a Division I school, you have five-calendar years in which to play four seasons of competition. Your five-year clock starts when you enroll as a full-time student at any college."

The process of sitting out for one year it is known as "red-shirting." An athlete can redshirt at any point during his or her college career. More often than not an athlete will decide to redshirt going into his or her freshman or senior year.

"My coaches and I mutually agreed on my red shirt. It would have been very difficult for me to play as a freshman and at the time it was important for me to learn how the game is played at a Division I level," said Noel.

There are many reasons as to why student athletes would extend their athletic collegiate careers. Some are injured and forced to miss an entire season of play. Others, like fifth year redshirt senior pitcher James Cooksey, who graduated in 2015, take an extra year to hone his or her skills before taking part in competition.

"I believe the biggest advantage for me personally becoming a fifth year athlete is the fact that I still get to further my education, while also being able to make an impact for my team during the season," said Cooksey.

If an athlete does decide, along with his or her coach, that the best thing for them to do is extend their career for a fifth year, the student must continue his or her education by either finishing their undergraduate work or by beginning a master's program.

Each student is required to complete 12 credits per semester or comply with their institutions graduate program requirements as per NCAA rules. "I have applied to the master's program while taking my fifth year at Sacred Heart. I will graduate this May and get my undergraduate degree," said Noel.

For most players, a red-shirt season gives them time to learn what is expected of them both on and off the field.

"My freshman year I did not know what to expect coming and playing football at a high level so my red shirt year helped me a lot. I hated sitting on the sideline but it was the best thing for me to do at the time," said Noel.

A key factor in the decision making process is the character of the athlete. A fifth year athlete's ability to be self-motivated for an additional year is an important part of on-the-field success.

"My teammates and coaches keep me motivated. They have seen what I have done in the past and they expect me to improve in all aspects," said Noel.

Athletes in their fifth year of eligibility is completed, he or she is no longer eligible to play sports at the collegiate level. There is no exception to this rule, even if the student continues attending his or her university in order to complete a degree.

"Even though it would be cool to stay in college and play a sport as long as we like, we eventually have to grow up and move on in our lives," said Cooksey.

Coaches' Take

Men's Head Basketball Coach, Anthony Latina

Q: Two words. Cane Broome. How does it feel as a head coach to have a sophomore on your team that hit 1,000 point mark?
A: Well I don't know if that's ever happened in our Division 1 history, but he's a special player. He makes me look a lot smarter than I really am. He's put himself in a great position in the league, we've put ourselves in good position so were glad he's with us and not with another team.
Pioneers Have High Hopes For Championship Season

BY ANDREW ROACH
Staff Reporter

Regardless of all the snow storms recently, spring sports teams are preparing to kick off their season. This includes the reigning Northeast Conference champion Sacred Heart University baseball team.

After a successful 2015 season, the Pioneers are looking to outdo their success from last season in 2016.

“We didn’t finish in the NCAA tournament how we wanted, but it’s a new year and we have new goals ahead of us,” said head coach Nick Giaquinto.

Giaquinto is entering his twenty-seventh season coaching at Sacred Heart, where he is looking to win his fifth NEC title.

The players feel like the offseason was more competitive than in recent years, which will help them avoid a championship hangover.

“We work pretty hard at our individual craft day in and day out,” said junior shortstop Zack Short. “Everyone’s working harder, hitting extra, lifting extra, running extra, and constantly competing.”

Short starts at shortstop and is one of many decorated players the team has. Last season he earned American Baseball Coaches Association (ABC/A) Rawlings Northeast All-Region First Team honors.

Their ability to stay focused this upcoming season will be key to their pursuit in seeking their fourth NEC title in six years.

“Coach Giaquinto has made it clear from the day we came back in the fall that last season is in the past,” said senior first baseman Victor Sorrento. “The goal since day one of the fall has been to make the conference tournament because if we don’t get into the conference tournament, there’s no hope for another championship run.”

Baseball’s Strength and Conditioning Coach, Sam Refifsin, has looked to make bigger improvements this season.

“Baseball’s Strength and Conditioning Coach, Sam Refifsin, has looked to make bigger improvements this season.”

“Reduce injury, keeping great athletes on the field and helping them to perform at a high level consistently,” said Refifsin. “It’s important that I continuously challenge them daily and raise their standards during the off season. It’s my job to have them buy into a high standard mindset in and outside of athletics.”

The Pioneers will have their first action of the season against the Lumberjacks of North Carolina State University baseball team.

“Baseball’s Strength and Conditioning Coach, Sam Refifsin, has looked to make bigger improvements this season.”

“Our expectation for this upcoming season is to get a ring,” said Deissler. “They’re a great group of athletes and a great group of students.”

A freshman to watch out for will be pitcher Hailey D’Addario. “She is doing well in preseaon right now, so we hope for big things from her,” said London.

Fillmore is also looking for big things out of the newcomer D’Addario.

“If I had to pick a newcomer who will be a help to us, I would have to say freshman
Sports

CANE BROOME SHOOTING ONE OF HIS FAMOUS 1,000 RECORD POINTS