TWEETS of the Week

@Jamie_Cost
"I would like to personally thank everyone for posting pictures of their dogs on insta & improving my day"

@Jessococonnell
"If someone finds all the motivation I've lost this semester pls return it to me sometime soon"

@legit_
"This morning I had a full country breakfast then took a three hour nap. Safe to say my days going well"

"Tweets of the Week" are taken from a public forum on Twitter. Tweets are opinions of the individual and do not represent the opinions of Sacred Heart University or The Spectrum News.

FRANK MARTIRE SPOKE TO THE SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IN THE FORUM OF THE FRANK AND MARISA MARTIRE BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION CENTER

BY VICTORIA MESCALL
Circulation Manager & Staff Reporter

On March 22 Frank Martire, Sacred Heart University alumnus and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke in the Dean’s Leadership Series for the Jack Welch College of Business.

The event titled, “A Conversation with Frank Martire,” took place in the Forum of the Frank and Marisa Martire Business and Communication Center and was moderated by Dr. John Chalykoff, Dean of the Welch College of Business (WCOB).

The room contained students and faculty from disciplines across the university. The crowd filled the floor seating, the third floor mezzanine and left standing room only in the back.

“We’re just thrilled to have Frank back,” said Chalykoff. “Every time we have him back he’s just so supportive of the college and I think what he says to the students is so meaningful. He spoke about ethics and integrity, and his life is a good textbook for policy because it’s real and he’s all genuine.”

Martire was born and raised in Bridgeport to a blue collar family, as he told the audience. He attended Notre Dame High School in the very building that is now the main academic building for Sacred Heart.

“When I came to Sacred Heart, I wasn’t hoping to get my name put on a building. I was hoping to get my name put on a diploma,” said Martire.

After graduating from Sacred Heart in 1969 with a degree in Economics, Martire began his career in business in the Technology Department at Connecticut National Bank. He said his experience led him into cyber security furthered his success in business.

“I’d like to say that success is all hard work, but you need a little bit of luck,” said Martire.

Some students who attended the presentation appreciated Martire’s advice for future success.

“I’d have to say that the conversation inspired me,” said freshman Mike Seaman, who is majoring in business. “When Mr. Martire said that we should cherish and enjoy these college years as well as work hard during them, it really hit me. He even said that he envies us college students because of it. That just really made me want to work even harder.”

When asked from members of the audience what his best business advice would be, Martire assured them that doing what is fair will always be most important.

“I liked that Mr. Martire said to do something that you truly love and are passionate about, and the money will follow,” said sophomore Jess Durray.

His experience with gaining success over time connected with students pursuing the same aspirations.

“It’s really great that the WCOB has so many networked connections to executives who are willing to speak to the students,” said senior economics and finance major Mary Ann Victoria. “It was especially exciting to hear that Martire graduated from Sacred Heart and grew up in this area, and I think it gave him an extra connection to the students.”

Due to his background in business, Martire had advice to offer current students about the challenges that may come up in the working world.

“One thing I didn’t say in the presentation was that the focus of business is not to be a great manager, but rather to be a great leader,” said Martire.

He added, "It’s all about leadership. A lot of people can manage people and direct them, but to lead people, that is very different. During my presentation I talked a lot about having good morals and ethics in business, but it relates to personal life too."

Martire said he will continue to be involved with Sacred Heart in the future. “Those ethics and morals I talked about earlier in the conversation, I got those here at Sacred Heart,” said Martire. "I am very indebted to this university, I think that there is a personal foundation that you get from your family. And when my wife Marisa and I get the opportunity to give back to our Sacred Heart family, we’re going to do it.”
New App Allows More Connectivity On Campus

BY ROBERTO ROJAS
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University recently released a new app known as SHU Connect. The app allows students to connect to each other and organizations within the Sacred Heart community.

"According to iTunes, SHU Connect "connects you to our campus, keeps you organized, and makes sure you never miss out."

For some faculty members, they see this becoming an app that will make students aware of what is happening on campus.

"I believe they were introduced this semester as a way for full-time, undergraduate students to connect with various involvement opportunities on campus," said Tara Helfrich, Assistant Director of Student Activities. "In the past, in order for students to participate in events on campus that are coordinated by the Office of Student Activities, such as Student Event Team events, students needed to just show their ID. And now, starting in the fall semester, students will be required to have their IDs swiped using the SHU Connect app."

Students can now be informed about other organizations they might have an interest in. "From academic events, club and organization programs, performing arts events, athletic events and so on and so forth, all Pioneers who have this app will be able to view those events, connect to other students getting involved, and be more in touch with the departments on our campus," said junior Cory Robinson, Vice President of Council of Clubs.

"I firmly believe that all it takes is one step to change your life on our campus, and this can happen through Student Activities and CCO now with just a click of a button."

SHU Connect can be downloaded free of charge via the app stores for Android and Apple devices.

"When I tried to download it, it didn't really look as interesting and appealing to me," said sophomore Ryan Kulish. "I strongly dislike it."

Despite students having access to other social media networks such as Facebook, Instagram, GroupMe and LinkedIn, this app is specifically for Sacred Heart students.

"Since the app is only for SHU students, it is easy access to events," said sophomore Trevor O'Brien.

Biology Department Prepares For Earth Day

BY BRENDAN CAPUANO
Staff Reporter

For the past three years, doctors, professors and students from the Sacred Heart University Biology Department have been working at the Stratford Point beach to restore its shoreline.

"On April 21 and April 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., students, faculty, and community members will, in a two-day effort, plant salt marsh grass to replenish the shoreline. 15,000 plants are going to be planted," said biology professor Dr. Jennifer Matte.

According to ctaudubon.org, Stratford Point was the home of Remington Arms Gun Club, a popular hunting and skeet range from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Due to the shooting, there is a large accumulation of lead shot in the ground which needed to be removed. When the lead was removed, they also took away all the plants that essentially held the shoreline together, and the beach began to erode.

"It's a really beautiful site that needs a lot of work to get back to where it was," said biology professor Jo-Marie Kasinak.

Though much of the lead was removed, since there was so much, it does keep re-surfacing as the beach erodes. As a response, Sacred Heart and other organizations have taken action to rebuild the shoreline.

"Now that we are having sediment accumulation, we can go ahead and plant these marsh grasses again, and now these reef balls are going to protect them and give them a chance to actually establish," said Kasinak. "You bring back the shoreline and reverse erosion."

"Earth Day is an annual celebration and day of awareness about the importance of environmental protection. It was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 and initiated by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson."

"On Earth Day, the whole idea is to get the community to understand we are losing our shorelines," said Mattei. "They are eroding away."

Kasinak described the importance of Earth Day as an educational opportunity.

"Being so coastal, we are seeing how important our counts are and how we are quickly losing these ecosystems because of climate change," said Kasinak. "Anything we can do to help slow those processes or reverse them is beneficial."

Mattei will be registering the event on earthday.org, which lists various Earth Day projects across the country.

"If we don't do something, we will lose all of these habitats and it will be pretty devastating for the Long Island Sound," said Mattei.

Members of the Sacred Heart Biology Club, the environmental club Green SHU and other Sacred Heart community members will be joined by students from Fairfield Prep School, Notre Dame High School, Fairfield Country Day schools, Friends of Short Beach, and a sea scouts scout troupe on Earth Day.

The Biology Department is making arrangements for transportation for students without cars.

To sign up to volunteer at the event visit http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/collegeofartssciences/academics-idepcarties/biology/earthday/.

Kasinak also said that there will be other opportunities to volunteer at the site in the future as well.

To donate to the Living Shorelines Earth Day project visit https://weareshared.sacredheart.edu/project/3963 to help reach their $10,000 goal.

What Does Social Justice Mean to You?

BY NICOLE CROTEAU
Staff Reporter

From March 27 to March 31, Sacred Heart University's Latino club, La Hispanidad, will host their second annual Social Justice Week in an effort to address social issues.

La Hispanidad created its first Social Justice Week last year and is sponsoring the event along with the Social Justice Council.

"The council is composed of representatives from Residential Life, the Global Leadership Class within the Jack Welch College of Business, Volunteer and Service Learning Programs and Campus Ministry."

"The mission of this week was to bring people together from diverse settings," said Christian Colon, Co-Copy Editor of The Spectrum and co-President of La Hispanidad.

"Anyone who has been affected by stereotypes, racism, feeling inferior because of their social class, feeling out of place because of who they are, etc., can join us this week to shed light on the issues."

On Monday, March 27 the council hosted events from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., including tables outside of Outtakes to support "Are You Autism Aware?" and "What does Social Justice Mean To You?"

"Residential life also held "Safe Zone Training," which focused on what people should realize that could potentially offend others in a college setting.

"We will have speakers and students sit in an informal type setting to share their stories," said Colon.

On Tuesday, March 28, Campus Ministry and Greek Life are sponsoring "Staff A Bus" where students are able to donate food and stuff a bus with canned goods in an effort to give back to a local shelter.

"This week puts politics aside and brings out the reality we are living in," said Colon. "People are afraid to be who they really are these days. They are afraid to embrace their religion, political stand point, language, or skin color. These are the social justice issues we want to address."

The Media Literacy Department and Digital Culture Graduate Program hosted a showing of documentary "13th" about mass incarceration in the U.S. "It delves into history to explore how we became the nation that leads the world into incarcerating our own citizens."

By Wednesday, March 29 at 4 p.m. students will be given the opportunity to speak with Patricia Talisse, a Care Coordinator at ACMH Mental Health Care and a former youth representative for the United Nations, in the Maritime Theatre.

Following this, Residential Life is offering an Oxfam Hunger Banquet in the University Commons at 5 p.m.

"Ending the night, there will be a vigil in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at 8 p.m. in support of the LGBTQ community."

Students in the Global Leadership class taught by Professor Grace Guo, Associate Professor for the College of Humanities, created events for the week that will count as projects.

The Global Leadership class will be sponsoring a cultural night alongside La Hispanidad on Thursday, March 30 at 6 p.m.

The final day for Social Justice Week will be Friday, March 30 starting with a social justice panel at 12:30 p.m., hosted by the anthropology and sociology department.
North Korea's Space Program

BY DANIELLE LAPIERRE Staff Reporter

Recently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has conducted a test of a new type of rocket engine that leader Kim Jong Un said will be a turning point in North Korea's space program. This comes despite the DPRK being under a long range missile tests ban by the United Nations. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) is a government-controlled media outlet in North Korea, quoted Kim Jong Un calling the test "a great event of historic significance."

"When you have a government like North Korea does, who consistently lies to its people, they do not need to actually go to space to convince and terrify everybody that they went to space," said Sacred Heart University sophomore Jacob Henny.

The KCNA continued to mention that the test was only for peaceful purposes and to "help consolidate the scientific and technological foundation to match the world-level satellite delivery capability in the field of outer space development."

Other students were concerned about the possibility of North Korea traveling space with the country's history of human rights violations and threats of nuclear warfare, as well as questioning North Korea's intent as reported by the KCNA.

"North Korea is always very volatile and constantly threatens anyone who disagrees with them or their leadership. So it really makes me nervous if they were to get anything up in space and could possibly increase their ability to follow through on some of their threats," said junior Taylor Tobin.

North Korea's plans for their space program over the next 10 years include launching Earth observation satellites as well as communications satellites, which would be the DPRK's first, as part of a five-year plan. They also claim that within the next ten years they are planning a moon launch as well.

"Also with a country who lies about the constant and horrible violations of human rights that they commit against their own people, why should we even believe their claims that they are doing all of this for peaceful reasons and without any malicious intent?" said Tobin.

Earlier this month, North Korea fired four ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan, which reportedly got as close as 120 miles to shorelines of Japan. "North Korea, in my opinion, does not care about space exploration whatsoever," said Henny. "I definitely think that this is a tactic for him [Kim Jong Un] to cause less international alarm with his nuclear program. If he tries to say ‘this is all just for space exploration’ there will still be an alarm, but less of it.”

The timing of the tests also coincided with the first visit to the northern part of Asia by the new Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson who is in that part of the world to discuss concerns about North Korea with the leaders of the countries surrounding the DPRK.

However, some students believed that while North Korea is a concern, we should wait and see what their next moves are. "I am a little concerned about North Korea's rocket tests, but I also don’t think we should focus all of our attention on events that may or may not happen based on guesses and assumptions," said junior Lauren McGilivray. "I think we should be cautious and keep an eye on North Korea, but we should continue to allow them to explore space until we have more evidence to believe that this research isn’t innocent.”

With the international community looking at North Korea and waiting to see what they will do, students are on their toes as well.

"We should definitely be concerned," said Henny. "But then again, we should always be concerned about North Korea."
Perspectives

Battle of the Diners: Andros or Galaxy

BY DANIEL DIGGINS
Staff Reporter

Do you like diner food? Do you like eating outside of campus for a change? Students at Sacred Heart University with general money can use their SHU card at many off campus dining areas. Two of those places are Galaxy Diner and Andros Diner. "Wherever I have general money, the first place I spend it at are Galaxy and Andros. I can't help it," said sophomore Tim Lowell.

Galaxy Diner is located at 4241 Main Street in Bridgeport, about two miles away from campus. Andros Diner is located at 651 Villa Avenue in Fairfield, and is about four miles away from campus. Some students throughout their four years at Sacred Heart have a preference of going to one diner as opposed to the other. However, it's not because of the food or service.

"I always go to Galaxy, simply because it's a lot closer to school than Andros is," said senior Justin Dalo.

Although Andros Diner is further from main campus, some students do not mind making the drive.

"I'll take Andros Diner over Galaxy any day. Their omelettes are to die for," said junior Anthony DiCicco. "I enjoyed the andros omelette and the spanish omelette the most."

Other students say it is the time of day that matters when deciding between which diner to eat at.

"If it's late Saturday or Sunday morning, I'm most likely going to Galaxy. If it's late on weekdays and I leave the library hungry, I'm going to Andros because I won't feel rushed there," said senior Kevin Creagh.

Andros Diner is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except Christmas day. Galaxy Diner is open on Sunday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. and open on Friday through Saturday 6 a.m. to 3 a.m.

"When I'm deciding where I want to eat, it really just comes down to who has the better food. Both diners have some things that are great, and some that are not so much," said sophomore Elena Wilson.

Some students will even opt to go to Galaxy for breakfast and lunch, but would go to Andros for dinner.

"Andros has so many options at night that are better than what Galaxy has to offer for dinner. The pasta and sand­wiches are always satisfying there," said Wilson.

Both diners have a variety of foods to choose from, such as breakfast, sandwiches, pasta, chicken dishes and soup and salad.

"Galaxy Diner is hands down the best diner in the area. There's no need to ever go to Andros," said senior Bill DiGiuseppe. "I'm not a fan of Andros diner anyways. I have loyalty to Galaxy, they're always so kind to me."

Some students simply loved that there are two diners around main campus.

"I just love having access to two diners that have convenient hours. What's better than that?" said Lowell.

Trump's Report Card

BY MEAGAN BONNER
Staff Reporter

Does the majority of the millennial generation believe that Trump's presidency is illegitimate?

The GenForward poll found that African-Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanics were a large majority of seeing Trump as illegitimate as well as 57 percent of young American adults. Does this poll reflect the views of the Sacred Heart community?

"No, I don't think Trump's presidency is illegitimate because the Electoral College is what we have been using for hundreds of years now and he won that," said junior Tom Dandrea. "Even though Hillary won by like two percent, it doesn't take away the legitimacy of his presidency," said graduate student Angela Harrison. "However, with all the banter about his ties to Russia and everything that has been featured on Hillary Clinton's feet about emails. I don't feel either were 'perfect' candidates for the job, given all of the circumstances. There is nothing more Americans who were not in favor of his stance in the election can do except for respect him and trust him and trust that he will not be a detriment to American people and their rights."

Eight in 10 young adults think he is doing poorly in terms of the policies he's put forward and seven in 10 have negative views of his presidential demeanor.

"Trump's presidency is illegitimate because he used fear and hate tactics in order to get elected," said senior Christina Foschini. "Despite him being elected using the United States electoral system, I personally do not believe someone who uses those tactics can be a legitimate leader."

"He might have done it with immature actions and words, causing people to question his character but that doesn't take away the legitimacy of his presidency," said sophomore Chrissie Wojciechowski.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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"Beware the Ides of March"

JESSICA LEWIS
ASST. COPY EDITOR

"Beware the Ides of March." Having a birthday that falls on March 15, this saying is something I have heard all my life. Historically, the warning refers to the day Julius Caesar was assassinated. William Shakespeare then dramatized this warning in his play he named “Julius Caesar.” In the play, the ominous warning was uttered to foreshadow his death. Given this past March’s weather, it looks like the students at Sacred Heart should have taken the eerie warning associated with the month more seriously.

This past March has brought a lot of unpredictable weather. By mid-March, most are eagerly anticipating a break from winter’s wrath. This year, the week of March 15 followed our school’s spring break. Instead of a warm welcome back to campus from pandine, students were hit with a frigid reminder that winter was not going down without a fight.

Although Snowstorm Stella was an MVP for her hand in the cancellation of classes, she dumped a lot of unwanted responsibility onto Sacred Heart’s students. Now don’t get me wrong, like most students, my roommates and I love snow days as they usually consist of non-stop eating and watching movies all day, but deep down we are over the bitter cold weather.

I am tired of big winter coats, snow boots and wondering where my shoes are. Torevenday of a snow-covered campus, I have lost its charm and driving out my car has never had any appeal. Winter is officially over and warmer weather is on the brain. Spring has hit and the snow piles that have commandeered valuable parking spots on campus are very disheartening. With even less parking spaces available, finding a spot and getting to your classes on-time now seems like a spin-off of “The Hunger Games.”

Daylight savings time came and went but the cold weather still remains. I will happily lose an hour of sleep if it means retreating my ice melt for the season.

My roommates and I have an arsenal of Zyrtec, Claritin and Allegra, willing to welcome the sneezing and itchy eyes that springtime allergies bring if it means no more snow. Even the birds outside my window are ready for the weather to break. They have not skipped a beat this past week, unapologetically waking me up at the crack of dawn to let everyone know that they’re ready for spring.

Events like Spring Fest are right around the corner and my sandals, dresses and array of colorful sunglasses have found their way to the front of my closet. As we finish out the last week of March, reap the benefits of daylight savings time, and recover from an unpredictable month of weather, I can’t help but wonder what April will bring.

As for me, I’ll be dreaming of warmer days and looking forward to breaking out my sunscreen and swapping the ice scraper in my trunk for my beach chair.

The Meaning of Mononucleosis

ALEXANDRA PADALINO
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Social engagements are few and far between when you when you have mono. I get it, no one wants to catch the virus that puts them in bed for 60 days. It’s during that time span when you find out who matters. Those who care will call, text and FaceTime. Those who don’t, simply put, won’t.

Friendships aren’t built on seeing each other every day, but rather a foundation that’s unbreakable no matter the time or distance apart.

Naps became my best friend during this time. Remember all those naps you that refused to take as a child? Well luckily, they don’t expire. I cashed them all in and then some. Rest is the only cure for mono, listening to your body is vital in the recovery process.

Our way of pushing through fatigue and forgoing proper rest is not conducive to our body’s needs, putting our health at risk.

It’s not what you leave behind will still be there two months later and just a distant memory. Those who care will call, text and FaceTime. Those who don’t, simply put, won’t.

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Features

Tell Us Your Story: Claire Marrone

BY DANTE CABRAL
Staff Reporter

Claire Marrone is a professor at Sacred Heart University who specializes in anything that relates to French and Italian culture.

Marrone discovered her love for traveling when she wanted to study abroad back in college.

“I was already studying foreign languages and I really wanted to travel. I thought studying abroad would really enhance my education. It was really a turning point in my education and what lead me to the profession that I am in today,” said Marrone.

Marrone grew up in Brookline, Pa. “I come from a family of educators and I have always loved teaching. I studied abroad in France for the first time in college. I really fell in love with Europe and that enhanced my interest in other languages, cultures, and literatures,” said Marrone.

Marrone has had an interesting road as a professor. She started at Sacred Heart in 1992 after teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Summer Institute in Florence, Italy.

“When I taught abroad in Europe, I really got to know some of the university’s systems in the countries where I lived,” said Marrone. “That helped me learn how people were educated in those countries. It helped me bring some of those ideas back home so it was helpful in so many different ways.”

Writing is another activity that Marrone is very passionate about. She has done extensive research on topics such as women’s autobiographical writing, travel literature and various of the revolutionary periods in France and Italy.

Marrone has also written a book called “Female Journeys: Autobiographical Expressions by French and Italian Women.”

“The book is on women from France and Italy who have published their life stories. So this is some of the work that I did in graduate school. It’s research that I continue to choose to share them with, similar to Instagram and Snapchat’s story feature.”

“I was intrigued by the fact that they were looking for someone who taught more than one language. I remember there was a very welcoming community here. Particularly the professors in this department,” said Marrone.

Sacred Heart has been a place that Marrone has been very comfortable teaching at.

“There has been a lot of opportunity to develop new courses, to do interdisciplinary work, and Sacred Heart has changed a lot. That has lead to some new opportunities in teaching, and even offering classes in new and different disciplines like freshman seminar and CIT,” said Marrone.

“Writing is another activity that Marrone is very passionate about. She has done extensive research on topics such as women’s autobiographical writing, travel literature and various of the revolutionary periods in France and Italy.”

Facebook Introduces Its Newest Feature: Messenger Day

BY ANNA FINN
Staff Reporter

When Thursday, March 9, Facebook released its newest feature, Messenger Day.

According to Facebook.com, Messenger Day allows everyone they are friends with or just the people they choose to share them with, similar to Instagram and Snapchat’s story feature.

“I was updating all the apps on my phone the other day and I saw Messenger had a new feature so I started playing around with it,” said sophomore Max Tuttle. “I’m a huge Snapchat guy so I thought this new feature on Messenger was pretty stupid and a huge copy of Snapchat’s feature, Stories.”

According to Mashable Tech, after CEO Evan Spiegel’s decline to Facebook’s offer, Facebook planned to launch nearly uniform apps to Snapchat and strive to put it out of the market.

“I just heard about this new feature and I am pumped about it because I love Snapchat and this is basically just like it but through Facebook now,” said freshman Lizzie Smalls.

Users can share their posts while allowing them to view who’s seen their posts. After 24 hours the post will disappear.

“I rarely use the Messenger app for Facebook anymore. I didn’t even know this new feature existed and I don’t think I’d ever bother to use it or learn how to use it anyways,” said sophomore Madison Vuilleumier.

According to Fortune Magazine in 2013, Snapchat’s numbers got to about two-thirds of Facebook’s figure. So Facebook offered Snapchat a $3 billion cash buy that Spiegel declined.

“I think creating Messenger Day is very clever, I like playing around and using different types of social media. Facebook is like Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat all in one, which I think is kind of cool,” said freshman Kerri Metzler.

In accordance with Fortune Magazine, before Messenger Day, the Facebook-owned Instagram commenced its new feature called Stories, which lets users share a collection of photos, and videos that disappear after 24 hours.

“Facebook should have never come out with this new Messenger Day feature. It’s pointless because to me, Facebook and Snapchat have two completely different uses to me,” said sophomore Tracy Ano. “I have Snapchat to post my photos and videos that I want to disappear after 24 hours and Facebook to post them to keep up forever. I don’t think I’ll ever catch myself using Messenger Day.”

Facebook differentiates their new Messenger Day feature from Snapchat’s Stories feature by insisting the app is “about today, not yesterday or tomorrow.”

“I don’t plan to use Facebook’s Messenger Day app. It has a low quality camera, the add effects aren’t even that cool, and it is completely identical to Snapchat, but Snapchat is better,” said sophomore Bridget Adams.
Goodbye to Buzz the Bee for Now

BY PETER CIOCCA
Staff Reporter

General Mills has decided to take Honey Nut Cheerio's mascot, Buzz the Bee, off their cereal boxes to help raise awareness about the decline of global bee population.

According to sos-bees.org, there has been a 40 percent loss of the commercial honeybees in the United States since 2006. According to the Cheerios website, 44 percent of the bee colonies in the U.S. collapsed in 2016 and 1 in 3 bites of the food we eat is made possible by bees, as well as other pollinators.

"I don't like bees but I do realize the importance of their existence to our society and their effects on agriculture and plant life. A decrease in bees will only hurt us as a civilization," said senior Chris DiProfio.

Cheerios launched the campaign called #BringBackTheBee to send 100 million free packets of wildflower seeds, reported CNN. The company encourages people to plant the seeds and post on social media sites of what springs from the ground.

"I believe this is a good way to get peoples attention and raise awareness due to the impact the Honey Nut Cheerios bee portrays and the familiarity of it," said junior Mike Lotito. "By not having the bee on the box, people will notice, which is exactly what the campaign is for."

According to sos-bees.org, bees are a huge part of our ecosystem and that humans need them to survive due to their means of producing honey, as well as being key to food production.

"I like the idea and thought behind General Mill's plan but I just don't think the campaign will be effective. Kids or adults will most likely not even notice the absence of the bee or even know the reasoning or situation that is going on," said DiProfio.

The overall message of the campaign is to help raise the awareness about an issue that people might not be fully aware about.

"If people can associate the bee to the Honey Nut Cheerios box, it could potentially create a stronger effort to help out the population of bees to save the ecosystem," said junior Steven Tartaglia.

The sos-bees.org website said the major factors that took part in the global decline of bees were due to industrial agriculture, parasites, and climate change.

"I personally dislike bees so it wouldn't be much of a problem to me. I know bees are essential to human nature and produce honey but personally, it doesn't affect me," said junior Anthony DiCicco.

According to the Cheerios website, 44 percent of the bee colonies in the U.S. collapsed in 2016 and 1 in 3 bites of the food we eat is made possible by bees, as well as other pollinators.

"There should be an increased effort to preserve the population of bees to the best of our ability for the well-being of the environment," said Tartaglia. "It would be a good idea to continue to do the #BringBackTheBee campaign and take the bee off the box for the time being to raise awareness on the issue and gain notoriety."

Habitat for Humanity Sleeps Out for the Homeless

BY TESSA KIELBASA
Staff Reporter

Habitat for Humanity’s Habitat Sleeps Out event was held on March 29, 2017, on 63's Patio and ran through the night to symbolize the struggles homeless people encounter every day.

"It was created on the idea that homeless people have to sleep outside every night, so we can give up one night of college fun to reflect on that idea," said senior secretary Sam Haug.

This was the first year Habitat for Humanity held the event during the spring semester. In the past it had been held in October, but holding the event in March gave the members time to thoroughly plan out details.

According to Haug, Sleep Out is the clubs most successful event. People who attended the function had the chance to play games and even meet a family who had their house built by Habitat for Humanity.

The Sacred Heart band, choir, and dance team performed at the event. Students also had the opportunity to play corn hole, Kan Jam and participate in a scavenger hunt.

"We take cardboard boxes and build houses out of them and stay up all night in solidarity with the homeless," said senior co-fundraising chair Theresa Fletcher.

The club was able to get food donated from Chipotle, as well as Donut Crazy. Those who attended the event had the chance to enjoy the food after the $2 admission fee.

"The money the club raises goes to Habitat for Humanity’s local chapter of Coastal Fairfield County. According to the club’s Vice President, Danielle Dy, the organization has made Sleep Out a Pioneer Pride event. That means it is an opportunity for students to show their love for Sacred Heart as well as earning free prizes. They hoped this change would make the event even more successful than past years."

"My goal for Sleep Out would be to raise campus awareness and get different people involved. We are going to stay out till three in the morning," said senior president Jacqueline Galeno.

The 63’s patio was decorated with balloons, streamers and banners that matched the club’s colors of blue and green. Music was also blaring out of a speaker to help keep the mood upbeat according to Galeno.

The Sacred Heart Habitat club has an active membership of 150 and was founded in 1994. Throughout the years, Sacred Heart students have been helping the homeless by attending service trips all over the country.

This year, the club held four trips to California, Michigan, Iowa and North Carolina. 65 students traveled this year according to the club’s advisor Professor Ron Hammel.

"It’s a really great giving back to the community. It’s a life changing experience where you grow from day one to where I am three years later," said Dy.

Different Habitat for Humanity chapters at other universities have similar events all over the country.

"Habitat is family," said Fletcher.
The Irish Dance Ensemble Features
The Claddagh Dancers

BY LAUREN FINAN
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University’s Irish Dance Ensemble presented The Claddagh Dancers on Wednesday, March 22 in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts.

There were a total of 16 dance numbers in the event. The music was a combination of traditional Irish songs as well as songs by contemporary artists, such as Andy Grammer, Sia and Avicii.

“The show consisted of figure dancing, solo dancing for Irish Dance competitions, Highland Dancing, and a few Irish songs,” said freshman Hannah Wilson.

After being postponed due to a snowstorm, the event had a large turnout of family, friends, students and faculty members.

Freshman Nora Stevens started the show by singing the Irish National Anthem, “Amhrán na bhFiann,” otherwise known as “The Soldier’s Song.”

“My favorite parts of the show would have had to be when they danced to more of today’s music. The girls looked like they were having so much fun and it was very high energy,” said senior Kimberly Amoia.

Instructed by Pioneer Gardens and Oakwood Commons Residence Hall Director Allison Wetterauw, the 18 dancers in the ensemble practiced weekly in order to perfect their routines.

“We normally have our regular practices for three hours every week where we practice a lot of the dances we performed in the show, so our dress rehearsal was only a couple hours,” said freshman Erin Shields. “In addition to this, we were able to basically have another shorter practice the day of the show to prepare.”

The ensemble’s traditional costumes were worn for the dance numbers that were performed to traditional Irish music, while the contemporary costumes were paired with the modern-day music.

“Both their traditional costumes and more modern costumes were beautiful,” said sophomore Alexa Vitulli. “I especially loved the dresses that had all of the rhinestones on them.”

The traditional costumes were embroidered with colorful rhinestones and paired with black tights. The contemporary costumes consisted of red and black dresses and the girls wore green Sacred Heart St. Patrick’s Day shirts for the last number.

“I loved the red dresses, they were very vibrant,” said Vitulli. “I also loved all the unique dresses that some of the girls wore in the smaller numbers.”

The choreography for one of their dances, “Better When I’m Dancing,” won third place in the “Fun Number” category at Villanova University’s Intercollegiate Irish Dance Festival. Judging was based off of group synchronization, execution of dancing, creativity in the piece, and the judges’ enjoyment of the piece.

At intermission, Stevens sang an Irish ballad called “Danny Boy.”

The dance number, “St. Patrick’s Day Traditional Set,” had the audience clapping while the performers were dancing. This dance was a very traditional number.

Because of the ensemble’s prior performances, the audience anticipated a wonderful show.

“I know that the Irish Step Dancers are amazing so if I had any expectations, I expected them to be amazing,” said Amoia.

After providing the audience with entertainment through a variety of cultural costumes, music and dancing, and traditional Irish songs, the event was a success.

“I thought that the show was great,” said Amoia. “They had a great mix of traditional and modern [songs] which made it really fun to watch.”

Band Program Shows Their Colors for Pioneer Blast

BY PETER MCCUE
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, March 25 Sacred Heart University’s Band Program held their latest concert in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts: Pioneer Blast.

Conducted by Director of Bands Keith Johnstone, over 100 Pep Band members performed in the event.

The Pep Band plays at home games for the basketball and hockey teams and travels with the teams for conference and national playoffs.

The concert consisted of popular pieces they’ve performed throughout the school year featuring music by Aerosmith, Ozzy Osbourne, Metallica, Green Day, Dropkick Murphys and more.

The music was very incredible and breathtaking. I have never been to a band concert at Sacred Heart before, but the band was really good,” said junior Alexander Di Paola. “My favorite song the band played was “Crazy Train.” It is one of my favorite songs.

“In some of the pieces, music wasn’t made with traditional instruments. Band members used everyday objects like trash cans, brooms and basketballs.

“It shows how music can be anything you want it to be and strays away from a typical band,” said freshman Kelly Aarons.

A drumline is a section of percussion instruments usually played as part of a musical marching ensemble.

“My favorite song that we played was the piece with the trash cans,” said sophomore Heartbeat percussion group member Nicole Bettinelli. “It is known as the most popular piece that we play, for sure, and the audience always loves it.”

Some of the songs that were played were “Sweet Caroline” by Neil Diamond, “Hey Baby!” by Bruce Channel and “Gimme Some Lovin’” by The Spencer Davis Group.

Some of the numbers incorporated dance moves into the performance.

“My favorite song is ‘Gimme Some Lovin’ because everyone else hates it,” said senior band member Edward Capema. “It is fun for me to play since it’s fast paced and I have it memorized.”

Prior to the event, the Pep Band met for two and a half hours a week to put together and run through the pieces.

“We have practiced this music for a while, so we have had the music prepared and ready,” said freshman band member Jonathan Schores.

The Band Program’s next event is the Instrumental Chamber Ensembles’ concert on Sunday, April 23 at 3 p.m.
Sacred Heart’s Department of English Presents the Annual Literary Spotlight

BY CINDY SANAWONG
Staff Reporter

Held in the Art and Design Gallery, Sacred Heart University’s Department of English hosted their annual Literary Spotlight on Thursday, March 23.

The Literary Spotlight is an annual event that showcases writers in the earlier stages of their careers. The event included guest writers Michael Jennings, David McLoghlin and Julie Shigekuni. They all read passages from their latest works and excerpts from their upcoming releases.

“I really enjoyed the authors who attended,” said junior Hunter Hatlee. “I found the poetry to be deep and personal. This was a very honest portrayal of each person’s life and I really appreciated that.”

Jennings is an author of 10 books and is the winner of the 2016 Central New York Book Award for poetry. Published in 2016, his latest poetry book, “Crossings: a Record of Travel,” is a series of five poems. In a shortened version of the book, he focused on landscape because he thought it was more interesting for his readers.

The passage that Jennings read was a contemporary poem about a landscape in Texas, called “Texas and the West.” Since he moved from Texas when he was young, he used his imaginary and creative writing process to successfully portray the recollections of his childhood experiences.

McLoghlin teaches at New York University and is an author of two award-winning books of poetry. Similar to Jennings, McLoghlin also wrote a landscape poem about his past experiences. In his book of poems that was published in 2012, “Waiting for Saint Brendan,” he talks about the landscape of Mount Brendon, located on the Dingle Peninsula of Northern Ireland.

McLoghlin was a native to Ireland, but relocated during his childhood to Brussels and New England. He wrote about emigration and a search of belonging, betrayal and abuse, the imagined private lives of the Saints, and the geometries of loss and love on the New York subway.

“The poets, Michael and David, were really powerful,” said Gerald Reid, Director of the Center for Irish Cultural Studies and sociology professor.

Shigekuni is an American novelist who’s written four novels and won an American Japanese Award for Excellence in Literature. She is also a professor at the University of New Mexico.

She read some passages from her latest book, “In Plain View,” which was published in 2016. The book is a literary thriller and focuses on a love triangle.

“The central character is Daidai Suzuki, an Asian American professor of Asian studies, who lives with his wife in Southern California,” said Shigekuni. “The love triangle begins when a student comes from Japan, then she forms a relationship with her professor.”

The English Department hopes that by having writers come in and read passages from their latest works, they can inspire up-and-coming writers.

“The topics and imagery were intriguing and fascinating,” said Hardwick. “This was a great event.”

ARTIST CORNER

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANTAL BENAVIDEZ

visions,
Salomon Hired as Supervisor of Varsity Athletic Facilities Operations

BY RYAN TOUEY Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University Athletic Department hired David Salomon as the Supervisor of Varsity Athletic Facilities Operations. The announcement was made on Monday, March 6.

Salomon’s position involves daily operations to ensure the preservation of Sacred Heart’s athletic facilities. Such actions include setting up for different sporting events and eliminating all potential hazards that may occur in any of the facilities.

“My expectations are to make sure that our facilities are looked at as the top facilities,” said Salomon. “Our goal is to try to give our fans and our guests a VIP experience every time they come to an event here at Sacred Heart.”

One of Salomon’s coworkers is Alex Barton who is a Graduate Assistant for Athletic Facilities. Barton has been working at Sacred Heart for a year and a half.

“We’ve been doing a lot of projects, cleaning up a lot of things, keeping ourselves organized and staying on top of our schedules,” said Barton. “It’s been good so far.”

In his first two weeks on the job, Salomon worked the Northeast Conference Women’s Basketball Semifinal game against Bryant University. That event was held on Wednesday, March 8 at the Pitt Center.

On Saturday, March 18 he worked at Campus Field for the men’s lacrosse game against Robert Morris University and the women’s lacrosse game against University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

“We threw a lot at him and he’s hit the ground running,” said Chris O’Connor, Sacred Heart Senior Associate Director of Athletics. “It’s been an adventurous two weeks and the snow and cold added a wrinkle to it.”

Sacred Heart is not Salomon’s first college where he has worked in supervising athletic facilities. Salomon was hired as the Athletic Facilities and Event Coordinator at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. That came five years after he had graduated from St. John’s University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in sports management.

At Hofstra, Salomon looked after the university’s athletic facilities and worked day-to-day operations for their sporting events. He also continued his education there and earned his master’s degree in public relations last year.

It was through a former colleague of his at Hofstra that LeBlanc and told him that Sacred Heart was looking for somebody to hire as Supervisor of Athletic Facilities.

“Salomon became aware of the opportunity at Sacred Heart. The colleague’s was Frantzer LeBlanc, who currently works as the Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities at the University of Delaware,” LeBlanc is friends with Christopher Velez, who is Sacred Heart’s Head Equipment Manager. Velez reached out to LeBlanc and told him that Sacred Heart was looking for somebody to hire as Supervisor of Athletic Facilities.

“Salomon’s ability to network was what got him the job. Networking was the most valuable thing he learned in college. You want to make a name for yourself so that when an opportunity presents itself, you’re the first person that someone thinks of,” said Salomon.

Pioneer Dance Team Prepares for Nationals
Girls to travel to Daytona Beach, Florida

BY MARK MORALES Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University Division I (DI) Dance team is preparing for their Nationals competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. The National competition will take place April 6 and will conclude on April 8.

The dance team will be performing two different dances. The first dance will consist of jazz, pom and hip-hop styles. The second dance will consist of only hip-hop.

Not only do the women practice routines for Nationals, but they also have been working all year long learning different types of routines so they can perform at the Division I football and basketball games.

The team consists of about 50 women. From that 50, only 22 women are selected by separate tryouts to compete in Daytona Beach.

Dating back to 2014, the dance team has shown signs of improvement each year they entered.

Last year, the dance team placed fifth in the nation as well as fifth in hip-hop.

“This year, the dance team is looking to improve again and continue their growth as a team.”

“We have everything we need to place really high,” said senior Michelle Perrotta. “It’s really depending on us. If we want it and show it then we’re going to place high.”

The dance team has been working tremendously in an effort to make it to finals and avoid the Challenge Cup down at Daytona Beach this year. The Challenge Cup is another way to get into finals if you are not selected to go straight to finals.

The women practice about four to five times a week for anywhere from three to four hours at a time to prepare for competition. They also spent their spring break at Sacred Heart preparing and practice throughout all hours of the day for Nationals.

“Our goal is always to make it to finals,” said senior Anna Squeicicamari. The women have faced several challenges over the course of the season, some of the most difficult challenges have been health.

“It’s hard to stay focused when so many people are missing practice due to injury,” said Perrotta.

The women continued to explain that they have been plagued by the injury bug in a way.

“We had a couple of setbacks, a couple of people have gotten hurt. We had a couple of concussions,” said senior Chelsea Li. "Injuries and illnesses have set us back this year.”

Even though the dance team has suffered injuries over the course of the season, the women still remain very confident and ready to perform.

“We have a really talented team this year, we are very determined,” said Li.
“SHU Sports Report” Allows Students to Broadcast Pioneer Athletics

BY JACK SULLIVAN
Staff Reporter

There are many ways to find out about what is happening in the sports community at Sacred Heart University. The “SHU Sports Report” is one of those ways to keep up with the latest sports news on campus.

“SHU Sports Report” is a weekly produced show filmed in one of Sacred Heart’s studios. It takes place every Wednesday from around 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The show is taped and posted via YouTube on the Sacred Heart Athletics website on Thursday afternoons. Coverage includes all news from the Sacred Heart teams currently in season. It is posted weekly to sacredheartpioneers.com under “SHU Sports Network.”

“I love the material that the show covers because I think it is something we definitely need on campus,” said senior anchor Eugene Gonnello.

The show consists of segments known as the Update Corner and the Coach’s Corner. They bring in a coach from a team each week to talk about the team’s season and the sport.

Current Sacred Heart students and alumni work on the show to grow and learn how to be in the sports broadcast environment and expand their knowledge for their future careers.

“It gives many of the opportunity to gain hands-on experience each week because that is something whether you are on-camera or behind the scenes, that can really move you forward in your search for a career,” said Gonnello.

With the many different aspects that come into play in sports broadcasting, the show offers opportunities to people in multiple fields of broadcasting.

“I was initially attracted to the show because of the hands on experience that I could gain from working on the show,” said junior Alexandra Padalino, who is also Co-Sports Editor of The Spectrum. “My career goal is to be a sports broadcaster and this offered me the opportunity to get repetitions on air as well as learn the production end of broadcasting.”

There are members of the show who are involved in many aspects so that they can help improve the show and their skills for future careers. This includes newcomers being taught the details and positions by those who are more experienced.

“I’m jack of all trades,” said Coordinating Producer Alexander Bousquet. “Although I am the coordinating producer for the show, I also direct, technical direct, write, produce and coordinate the scripts.”

Bousquet has been around the show for a number a years and loves what the show is all about.

“I took an athletic communications assistant position and that put me in charge of most aspects of the show. I went to college and have many years of experience in video production so this is part of what I love and part of my career,” said Bousquet.

The show is a way to allow students to stay updated on the varsity sports on campus. Not only does it help the student body and others find out information, it exposes the hard work of all the show members.

“We have had multiple students get internships and jobs with the experience that they have gained from this show, which is the ultimate goal. It allows students to gain knowledge and experience in the field and bring it over to internships and jobs,” said Bousquet.

Sacred Heart Athletics and “SHU Sports Report” are working hard to help make Sacred Heart athletic news available to students and alumni in a variety of ways.

“I wish more people knew about the show in general,” said Gonnello. “We do a lot of good stuff on the school and it is cool, if you are a student-athlete, to hear your name called each week on the program and hear about you and your team’s accomplishments.”

Baseball Team Hoping for Big Turnaround in Conference Play

BY KENDALL CLARK
Staff Reporter

Nick Giaquinto, head coach of the Sacred Heart University baseball team, said that his biggest goal is to win the NEC (Northeast Conference). So far, the team is 7-14 overall.

“Well it’s going, we started off well. A lot of the guys seemed like they were comfortable. Had some quality at-bats and quality pitching performances. However, for the past few weekends we’ve been struggling. I’m confident that the guys will be looking forward to putting in the extra work to get better,” said Giaquinto.

Giaquinto realizes that an extraordinary amount of work will need to be put in to get the team to reach their potential this year.

“It would be consistency in all areas. I think early on we had a little more consistency on the mound and defensively and more at the plate. That’s what we’re looking for,” said Giaquinto.

All of the teams that the Sacred Heart baseball team has played are out of conference opponents. Meaning that it’s essentially a fresh start for them.

The men’s baseball team will open up a three game series this weekend against Central Connecticut State.

“It’s so early though. No matter what happens, it would impact the rest of the season,” said Giaquinto.

He furthermore talked about the bitter sweetness of what it would be to win a NEC conference championship in his last year of coaching.

“Being able to send G [Giaquinto] out with one more season would be a very cool feeling,” said senior Keith Klebart. “We’ve showed some positive things. We beat the fifteenth ranked school in the country in Florida Gulf Coast. We’ve struggled for the last few games, but we have a lot of potential.”

Although it’s a very positional sport, there is a huge emphasis on team development.

“You know it’s just what coach said. We just got to execute better. We have to hit better. We have to pitch better. It’s just about being clutch. If we can do the small things and just execute. We’ll be good,” said Klebart.

Although the mentality is to win, it’s all about having fun.

“I’m looking forward to each and every game. Personally speaking I only have a finite amount left, so I want to enjoy them while they last as best I can. Hopefully we as a team can come together and win games over this stretch and put together a quality run at this conference,” said senior captain Jake Friar.

Everyone is motivated to win, improve and get better. Four of the next five opponents are in conference so the team is excited to get better.

“It’s all about winning at this point, we just have to consistently improve. It’s all about bringing home the gold,” said Giaquinto.
THE DANCE TEAM PREPARES FOR THEIR NATIONAL COMPETITION IN DAYTONA