The main focus of Healy’s speech was the concept of counter-speech, which he defined as push-back from one voicing their opinions. He spoke on the great difference between counter-speech and hate speech.

“Counter speech, if conducted in a civil manner, will help broaden debate and an understanding of contentious political issues,” said Rose. “The key, however, is civility, not the sort of ‘counter speech’ that has taken place at Middlebury College.

Middlebury College is another example similar to the events at Berkeley and Claremont, where a group of students shut down a speech by Dr. Charles Murray because many did not agree with his conservative views. Rose does not see this as an easy fix to problems such as these.

“I do not see an immediate solution in light of the current hyper-partisanship we are experiencing. Hate speech will likely be a characteristic of our politics for many years to come. That’s reality. Denormalizing one another is now inherent within our politics. Sad, but true,” he said.

According to Rose, if there is one thing students should take away from the event, it is what a privilege the right to free speech is.

“Free speech is one of the great virtues of our republic and one of the most valuable gifts from our Founding Fathers. Students should cherish this right,” he said.
Greek Life Participates in National Hazing Prevention Week

BY GRAHAM O'DWYER
Staff Reporter

Last week, brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart University's Greek organizations addressed the issue of hazing on college campuses by celebrating National Hazing Prevention Week. National Hazing Prevention Week has been incorporated into Sacred Heart's mission since 2013. Hazing is defined as any action which recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person, for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in an organization.

"Each year we work to get community members involved in raising awareness about how to prevent hazing at Sacred Heart through tabling efforts, speakers, and workshops," said Laura Arena, the Director of Greek Life. "Last week, brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart University's Greek organizations addressed the issue of hazing as their own. They are having members sign a pledge about hazing prevention on October 4. And every Greek life family member with alcohol or with things to perform hazing-related behaviors taking place," said Arena. Fraternity and sorority members are out to make sure hazing becomes a thing of the past. Near Outtakes, a poster board is displayed filled with the signatures of Greek life members pledging to put an end to hazing. Greek Life is also sponsoring an event where a guest speaker will come and talk about hazing prevention on October 4.

"Hazing has no place in the education of fraternity men because it does the exact opposite of teaching the proper values that all brothers should uphold," said Griffin Killian, junior and Delta Tau Delta member. Hazing can include, but is not limited to, acts of physical abuse, forcing a person to run personal errands for another, and forcing an individual or use drugs or consume alcohol.

"We all sign a non-hazing policy at the beginning of our membership because we are a sisterhood. We want all of our members to feel safe and comfortable," said junior Lauren Petrozzi, a member of Chi Omega. Since 1970, there has been at least one hazing-related death per year on college campuses across the country. About 82 percent of those deaths involve alcohol.

"Hazing is an awful thing. Hazing other men with alcohol or with things to hurt or embarrass them is a problem and is just cruel," said junior Kendall Clark, a brother of Omega Phi Kappa Fraternity. "We can be proactive by educating members of student groups on how to welcome their new members in a safe and positive way, and teach them to identify hazing practices and how to intervene if they see hazing-related behaviors taking place," said Arena.

Fraternity and sorority members are out to make sure hazing becomes a thing of the past. Near Outtakes, a poster board is displayed filled with the signatures of Greek life members pledging to put an end to hazing. Greek Life is also sponsoring an event where a guest speaker will come and talk about hazing prevention on October 4.
It's time to tuck away your tank tops and break out your warm clothing because the summer has come to an end. The calendar might say that this 2017 summer ends on September 22nd, but for me summer has always been defined by the start and end of the school year.

However, as I enter my senior year and my last true summer break comes to a close, I can't help but rejoice.

Summer is sweet and sunburn. It is shorts and chafing. And frankly, I could do without it.

As a child, I was oblivious to the pains of summer. It used to be a time when I went swimming and was freed from the agony of government-influenced education. As a kid, I thought that summer was when I could eat what I wanted to and take naps while my mom refused to turn off The Food Network.

It was not until I reached high school that my hormones taught me what it was like to sweat. I very quickly turned into the kid in gym class who would sweat profusely while stretching, and into the kid in gym class who would sweat profusely while stretching, and needed to say, summer and I no longer got along.

So while I dread my baptism into adulthood and post-graduate life, I am excited to redefine my summers. With adulthood and post-graduate life, I am

Despite this, I am still grateful for the opportunities that summer provides. I can afford to travel, I can focus on my passions, and I have more time to explore.

This combined with my summer love for sports makes me appreciate the season even more.

Therefore, as I prepare to say goodbye to summer, I am filled with mixed emotions. While I am excited for the fall season and all it brings, I am also sad to see summer go. It's a bittersweet goodbye.

The end of summer marks the end of my single status. I will be leaving college soon, and I am excited to embark on a new chapter of my life. However, I also feel a sense of loss as I say goodbye to the carefree and relaxed atmosphere of summer.

In conclusion, summer is a time of change and transition. While I may miss the warm weather and endless days, I am ready to embrace the new opportunities that the fall season brings.

POET'S CORNER

The chair
by Graduate student Gordon Hill

He's the first one into the office everyday, yet he has no reason to be early. But he goes in early anyway because the 30 minutes of complete silence is peaceful to him.

He goes in optimistic as if today will be different than the last ten years. He has a love/hate relationship with his chair. He loves it because its comfortable and he can spin around in it. He hates it because everyday he sees it, he knows he gave up on himself and his dreams.

At times he stares at a blank computer screen just so he can see his reflection in the glass.

You'd think when 5:00pm rolled around he'd be happy to leave but he's not. If anything he's even more upset because he knows tomorrow morning he'll be right back in that chair.

As he sits in traffic, he sees all the others. He once wasn't like them, but now he can't tell the difference. I guess after all these years it becomes a blur.

Every so often his favorite NFL team plays on Monday Night Football and they give him a sense of hope for a couple hours.

But...

At the end of the day, he knows he's coming back to that chair.
With the new iPhones, your face is now your phone password. Face recognition can be used to pay others, and a sensor will adapt to users' physical changes in appearance over time, like growing or shaving a beard or even wearing sunglasses.

"That's kind of creepy. Technology is getting insane," says McDonald. "But the wireless charging is kind of cool since I always forget my charger, and I wouldn’t have to bring it anywhere anymore."

According to Apple, the Face ID is supported by the ‘TrueDepth’ camera and analyzes more than 30,000 invisible dots to generate a defined figure of your face. You can also produce selfies with clear faces and blurred backgrounds.

"That's definitely new compared to every other phone, but I do find it weird. It could cause many problems," said senior Chris DeCicco. "Imagine you're sleeping and someone just scans your face and can access your entire phone. Definitely weird."

The cost of these new iPhones is playing a big part in some students' motivation towards purchasing the devices. The iPhone 8 is starting at $699 and the iPhone X at $999.

"That's absurd and I would never buy it for that price," said McDonald. "I would wait until it gets old and then buy it for cheaper."

For some college students who feel that their budget is already bad enough, they believe the new iPhone is probably not worth the price.

"I 100% think this iPhone is too costly," said DeCicco. "Most people are not going to be able to afford it."

Apple comes out with new products every year and is always coming out with new ways to get consumers excited about them.

"They should just stick with one new iPhone every few years," said DeCicco.

"Animoji" that lets users animate emoji characters with voice and facial recognition, and much more. The iPhone X at $999.

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Editorials

Hometown and College Friends

HEATHER KELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

As a senior nearing the end of my time at Sacred Heart, high school feels like it happened a lifetime ago. But the friendships I’ve made over the past eight years in both of these places are some of the most cherished things in my life. I’m from Delaware. Coming to Sacred Heart—a college five hours away from home—was definitely nerve-racking, but what never made me think twice about the distance was my core group of friends from high school. My closest friends were dedicated to keeping in touch and making the distance between us seem so little. We wanted to keep our relationships strong, and I found comfort in that while I was away.

Some of my friends entered my life as early as elementary school near the beginning of my education. Over the years, through the comings and goings of friends up until the end of high school, we all developed as people. The experiences we shared together helped shape us into who we are today, and formed the genuine love we have for one another no matter the circumstances or physical distance separating us.

I can’t pretend that I was never homesick, as a freshman, but looking back on the times when I missed my friends and family is really comforting. That might not sound normal, but knowing that I had something in my life worth missing brought peace to my mind.

But I can’t just write about hometown friends without mentioning the girls I’ve been by my side since the beginning. We call ourselves S.S.I.A.S.H (pronounced “slash”). I’ll admit that it’s not a very original name because it really just combines our first initials, but we own it. Even if I am sometimes terrible at replying to our constantly-updated group chat, I have faith that they know I am always with them in spirit even if we don’t talk every day.

Before college, it was so easy to take my cherished friendships for granted because of the ample opportunities my friends and I had to see each other. I am still learning that high school and college don’t revolve around academics, but rather around the friendships that end up becoming more than just someone you recognize in the hallway.

As a freshman, I was scared that I would never make the same kind of friends that I had back home. I didn’t want to feel like I was starting from scratch, replacing every facet of the idea of replacing my hometown friends was impossible.

Why Has Summer Not Left The Building?

JORDAN NORKUS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Yo summer, I’m really happy for you. I’mma let you finish, but fall is the best season of all time.

If you’re a loyal Spectrum fan and read every section, get ready for some déjà vu. I’ve got a bone to pick with summer and I refuse to stay silent any longer.

Sacred Heart just had Fall Fest, leaves are starting to change colors down the Merritt Parkway, sorority girls are pumpkin picking, and pumpkin-flavored everything is everywhere.

So let me know why it has been 90 degrees outside and I’m sweating more than the Atlanta Falcons when they blew a 28-3 lead over the New England Patriots. For those of you who don’t already know, Friday, Sept. 22 was the Autumn Equinox of 2017—a.k.a. Harvest Home, a.k.a. Mahon, a.k.a. the Feast of the Ingathering, a.k.a. Alban-Elfed, a.k.a. the first day of fall and what should have been the end of the summer.

I should be whipping out my flannels and getting seriously spooky for October, yet here I am figuring out how to get my landlord to add a pool to the lease.

No one likes when things linger longer than they should. Summer weather during the fall season is like a cold that won’t go away or a class lecture that’ll never end. You know when you have friends over, it’s getting late and you’re ready for bed, but there’s that one guy who’s having too great of a time to leave? Summer is definitely that guy.

There’s an underlying lesson we can all take away from this: there comes a point when it’s time to move on. Don’t be “that guy.” Whether you’re constantly thinking about your ex, something you wanted but didn’t get, or the money you probably shouldn’t have spent on pizza a night ago, just get over it.

Moving on opens the door to bigger and better things.

In conclusion, there’s only room for one season at a time—and summer’s time is up. As boy band sensation NSYNC would say: “bye bye bye.”
Features

Tell Us Your Story: Trent Thompson

BY NICOLE D'ANDREA
Staff Writer

Trent Thompson, a senior at Sacred Heart University, from Kailua, Hawaii, has had a year with many highs and lows.

Thompson is currently in remission from Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, a type of cancer.

Although, the idea of being diagnosed with cancer may seem completely negative, he claims that this past year has actually had positive effects on his life.

His journey has been an enlightening learning experience for him and it has been something that has helped to change his perspective on even the simplest things.

"Knowing about cancer treatments and all of these health things, when we are young we do not think about this kind of stuff, unless we are forced to," said Thompson. "Something as simple as having white blood cells, and not having to wear a mask are things we take for granted."

Learning about what he was going through was something that Thompson was interested in, not only to be able to inform himself, but in order to help inform others.

When he found out about his diagnosis he had to go back to Hawaii in order to receive treatment. He clearly remembers when his dad came to pick him up to pack up his things.

"College life and living at Sacred Heart versus living in Hawaii are two different atmospheres," said Thompson.

Thompson’s friends ended up playing an important role in his life and in his recovery. Being far away in distance from his closest friends was starting to take a toll on him mentally.

The mental strains of his journey have had far more effect than the physical have.

"The fear of missing out is real. Being removed from college for eight months including the summer was psychologically difficult for me," said Thompson.

However, when he returned to Sacred Heart this fall, it was evident that his life here did not stop when he left. A major positive in the past year for Thompson is being a Resident Success Assistant (RSA).

"This is actually my third year at Roncalli Hall," said Thompson. "Res Life has been great. It is something I wanted to do to stay on campus and be involved, and I did not expect to make so many friends through it. Some of these people are now my best friends."

When Thompson learned that he had to leave school, his fellow Res Life members were supportive and helped him move out.

When he was ready to come back, they were here for him, waiting with open arms. He felt as though his job was waiting for him and he was ready to go back and be involved the way that he was before, to finally be back with some of his closest friends.

Through it all, Thompson sees this experience as very influential on his current outlook on life.

"I definitely have a new outlook on life and it is very clear to me how short and how unpredictable life can be," said Thompson.

Food Review: Wings Over Fairfield

BY CHRISTINA DIMAURO
Features Editor

Wings Over Fairfield, a popular chicken wing franchise recently opened in Fairfield, Connecticut, this August.

The fast-food chain is located on Black Rock Turnpike and they provide eat-in, takeout and delivery.

If the name doesn’t speak for itself, the restaurant specializes in chicken wings.

Wings Over Fairfield boasts 23 different flavors of sauces, including 5 different types of buffalo sauces.

The place isn’t very big and reminds me of a Chinese takeout place, but still offers tables for sitting. Pictures of chicken wings are also hung on the walls, completing the chicken-wing atmosphere.

My friends and I ended up going on a Tuesday night and it wasn’t very busy. None of us had been there before so we ended up talking to the workers to see what flavors and wings they recommended for us.

The staff was very nice and had a lot of things to say about the wings and all the different flavors. They were more than willing to answer any of our questions and let us test out any of the flavored sauces before ordering.

There is a lot offered on the menu but I found that ordering a combo pack would be the best deal for the amount of food I was going to get.

Wings Over Fairfield prices their boneless wings by weight and not by each separate piece, so a DC-3 is a half-pound of wings, and the largest, The Zappelini, is 6 pounds of wings.

I also was surprised by the variety offered on the menu. Aside from chicken wings they also offer ribs, sandwiches and salads. They also offer an assortment of milkshake flavors.

I ended up ordering the Hang Glider, which is an order of DC-3 wings, regular French fries and a can of soda, and it only cost $9.99.

My friends and I all ended up getting different flavors so we could try each other’s. I went with Honey Bar-B-Que, and my friends got Garlic Parmesan and "Jet Fuel." "Jet Fuel" is a number four on the buffalo style sauces, there is only one sauce hotter than that one, “Afterburner”.

After we ordered, my friends and I sat down at one of the tables. We were the only ones who were sitting down the entire time we were there. Everyone else coming through the door must have ordered online or over the phone because they were coming to pick-up and then leaving.

After about a 10-minute wait the waiter that took our order brought out three meals. The wings and fries were already in to-go boxes, but we were going to eat at the restaurant.

It was a messy dinner, but it was delicious. The boneless wings were full of flavor and I really liked the Honey Bar-B-Que sauce. I got to try a piece of the Garlic Parmesan as well and those had a good quality taste. However, I don’t really care for buffalo, so I didn’t try “Jet Fuel,” but it smelled hot. My friend really enjoyed them.

I ended up leaving with some food leftover. The combo meal was the best idea for the amount of hunger I had.

Overall, I would recommend these wings to anyone in the area. My friends and I enjoyed our entire experience. We already agreed we are going to go back and try different sauces next time, maybe next time we’ll have them delivered.
Hispanic Heritage Month Begins at Sacred Heart

By Diana Lent
Staff Writer

La Hispanidad, the Spanish and Latino heritage club at Sacred Heart University has planned events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. La Hispanidad is one of Sacred Heart’s oldest clubs that celebrates diversity. For years they have taken pride in celebrating their culture.

"Sacred Heart is a place good place that is open for diversity. And by doing these events and promoting this month, we want to show people that there are a lot of positive things about our culture," said Senior Manuela Contreras, the Co-President of La Hispanidad.

The club’s first meeting was Thursday Sept. 14. The club usually meets at 8 p.m. in University Commons.

The first meeting of the year included food, drinks, and salsa dancing lessons taught by Contreras as well as sophomore and Co-President Dafine Franco.

Before Franco came to Sacred Heart, she was previously the leader of her High School’s Spanish Club. She has been very enthusiastic about her background and has been interested in her culture since she was very young.

"My mom was born in Peru and my dad was born in Colombia. My mom is also a Spanish teacher so that inspired me to learn more about my background," said Franco.

The club has events planned that will bring recognition to Hispanic Heritage Month. For example, they have scheduled a viewing party in Bergoglio Hall’s gaming room to watch a soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. This event is open to all Sacred Heart students, even if they are not involved in La Hispanidad.

Contreras is enthusiastic about Latino heritage and she is trying to bring awareness to all the positives about different cultures.

"I was born in Columbia. Because I am an immigrant, I am affected when I see the picture that the media paints of us," said Contreras. "I want to show people that there are a lot of positive things that
Arts & Entertainment

The Theatre Arts Program Brings Shakespeare to the Little Theatre Stage

BY ARIANA COLASUONNO
Staff Reporter

The Theatre Arts Program Brings Shakespeare to the Little Theatre Stage

"Theatre of Errors" to the Little Theatre stage starting on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. Directed by John Flaherty, "Comedy of Errors" is about a family who has been separated for 25 years, and a merchant's son who is on a quest to find his long lost twin. By a twist of fate, the two brothers end up in the same town and are constantly mistaken for each other which is where the title "Comedy of Errors" comes from. "Our director is hilarious, the way he connects Shakespeare to the real world has us in stitches," said junior cast member Steve Musitano. "He has a way about him that just flows and makes it easy to understand."

By the end of the show, the characters realize how everything was a big misunderstanding and it all ties together.

"What I like most about the show is the message behind it: your family will do anything for you," said junior cast member and assistant producer of the production Kevin Carlson. Similar to how Flaherty's production of "The Tempest" was set in the 1920s, this production of "Comedy of Errors" will also have a modern take on the story.

"What I like most is the fact that it is set in the 1990s and we are using a more modern twist to tell the story," said senior cast member Patrick Robinson. "I believe that Shakespeare will be easier to understand when it is up close and personal and hopefully it will be a fun experience for the audience."

Since the show is full of comedy, slapstick and mistaken identity, cast and crew members said the audience should expect to laugh throughout the course of the play. "The audience should expect a lot of laughter and a surprising, stylistic twist on a normally classic Shakespeare show," said sophomore cast member Grace Falvey. "For some members of the cast, extra focus and research of Shakespeare's style were necessary for the development of their characters.

"One of the biggest challenges I faced was learning Shakespeare. It's a different world. How they talk, act— it's all new to me," said Musitano. "This is my first play with SHU, so it's been a little tough getting my character right."

This is the first Shakespeare production that the Theatre Arts Program has put up in the Little Theatre. With 15 cast members involved, the cast and crew had to figure out how to make the smaller space work.

"I think performing with such a big cast in the Little Theatre is a challenge. There are a couple of scenes where everyone is on stage at the same time, so maneuvering during those scenes can be tough," said Falvey. "However, I think it's a great place to perform this kind of Shakespeare show. With the intimate setting, the audience is able to draw into the story quickly and feel like they are a part of the action in Syracuse."

As the rehearsal process comes to a close, the cast and crew found their "Comedy of Errors" experience to be one they'll never forget.

"I love working with everyone on this cast, from the crew to the actors. Everyone connects and we have a great time," said Musitano. "The experience has been amazing."

"Comedy of Errors" opens on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre. Additional performances will be held Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 and Oct. 12 through Oct. 15. Thursday, Friday and Saturday night showings begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m.
“American Vandal”
Netfli’s Latest Mocumentary

BY ANTHONY DEL VECCHIO
Staff Reporter

Netflix always has a variety of comedy shows and true crime documentaries in their library. What if fans didn’t want to choose between one or the other? The answer comes in the form of a new original series “American Vandal,” which premiered for streaming on Sept. 15, 2017.

“American Vandal” is filmed as a mockumentary or fake documentary with a comical spin, something Netflix has never done before.

“There’s too much bad and stupid comedy out there, with cheesy jokes and/or boring references and in the beginning, it kind of felt like that,” said junior Brian Longyear. “Once the episode gets about halfway, the story really starts to form; you just look like you’re watching something real, but the jokes and the crime itself, weren’t anything special,” said junior Nicolas Valentin. “I mean it was alright, there just came a point when I realized that I could be watching a real documentary, about something interesting, instead of just some stupid story.”

“It looked really good, directing wise; the show just looks like you’re watching something real, with them, in that kind of documentary shows like ‘Making A Murderer,’” said sophomore Andrew Kolar. “This was a huge accomplishment for our program and the members themselves.”

The division is broken down into three classes: A Class, Open Class, and World Class. Due to the Guard’s years of success at the competition and being a finalist in the A Class for three seasons in a row, the have been promoted to Open Class.

“My main goal is to go to States," said Anthony Del Vecchio. “The best part about the band is all the friendships and memories you make,” said Kolar. “Being in the Open Class presents an exciting challenge for the design and instructional staff because we are judged against better competition and are also judged by higher standards," said Kolar. "This year, the team must get together all of the equipment for their routine. This includes: flags, rifles, sabers and the floor they use for performances."

“We’re a bunch of goofballs.”

The Winter Guard asks for support by coming to Sacred Heart’s home football games and by voting for them in the contest. They look forward to another great year, where they can continue to grow.

“Seventh place at Worlds was a huge accomplishment for our program and the members themselves. It shows a dedication to their craft and a level of excellence that we hope to continue to build upon,” said Kolar. “We have an awesome group of students this year and I’m very excited to see what our first year in Open Class brings us.”
Men's Volleyball Earns AVCA Team Academic Honor Roll

BY MELANIE DASILVA
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart men's volleyball team was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Honor Roll for the 2016-2017 school year. This was also the second consecutive year that the Pioneers received recognition for their dedication to their studies.

The AVCA Team Academic Award is given out yearly to volleyball teams that maintain a 3.30 GPA as a collective team.

"The second year we get it, to me, wasn't so much of a surprise," said head coach Gregory Walker. "We monitor their academics pretty well so we knew we were on track to getting it." According to Sacred Heart Athletics Communications, the 19 players on the roster last year together earned a 3.465 GPA during the entire academic year.

The Pioneers had the third highest GPA out of all men's teams during the fall and the spring semesters. There is a strong focus emphasized by the coaches on time management to get both work on and off the court for players. It shows not only proper discipline, but as a result it also helps with the team's culture.

"Greg gives us a lot of time to do work outside of volleyball," said senior Joshua Ayzenberg. "He knows class comes first and he stresses that every single day.

Walker makes it clear to his players that school is a priority that has to come before volleyball, and that makes them strive to excel in the classroom. He's always coming to us, asking what can be done to make a situation better. 'I'll get you a tutor, we can figure it out," said senior Taylor Bloomquist. "They are always with us each step of the way.' Not only did Walker help his players perform well in the classroom with their grades, he also helped his team become successful on the court. According to Sacred Heart Communications, the Sacred Heart Men's Volleyball team had one of their best seasons in history. With an overall record of 15-11 they earned the third seed in the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (EIVA) Tournament.

"That discipline that they had on the court was visible in the classroom with how hard they were working," said Walker. "Especially with us making post season, that meant they had to do a lot of their homework towards the end of the semester, and also prepare for finals. They had to take care of all of that stuff before we hit the road."

It is a team policy of Walker's that his players must finish all of their work before they leave. They do not want to ask their professors if their players can have extra time to get their work done.

Walker is adding around seven members to the team for the 2017-2018 season, including both freshmen and transfers. While going through the recruitment process, Walker lets them know how important it is to excel in the classroom. He also looks at how hard his future players work in high school because he knows that their hard work will carry over to college.

"If you put in the time, then you'll be fine," said Bloomquist. "Pretty much just don't be lazy."

The seniors understand that they are really going to have to stress to new team members how important academics is to their team culture.

"We just have to focus on the fact that they can ask us questions and learn from us, because we have been here for a couple of years and we understand what it takes to do well both athletically and academically," said Ayzenberg. "If you have a really busy schedule, make a calendar, set a to do list, and prioritize."

Mike Morrison has been named the new Director of Athletic Development. The purpose of this position is to raise money in order to support Sacred Heart University's Division I athletics.

"Sacred Heart is an incredible institution that is on the rise. To be a part of something that is transformational I wanted to be a part of it during this time," said Morrison. "It's been such a welcoming community and I'm excited to learn more about the Sacred Heart experience and culture."

Before coming to Sacred Heart, Morrison worked in a variety of different roles from 2002 to 2006 with athletics for Boston College, the University of New Mexico, Rhode Island College, and the University of Connecticut (UCONN).

Morrison spent the past 11 years working for the UCONN, where he completed his undergraduate degree in 2000 and his Master's degree in 2002. In his time there, he served as the Associate Director of Athletic Development, where he focused on bringing funds into their men's and women's soccer, baseball, and softball programs.

"I've had the opportunity to run the spectrum in terms of athletic programs, so I know what the needs are," said Morrison. "If you are able to raise money through telling a story and getting people excited, it is a transferrable skill set from one institution to the next. I'm just excited to do it here."

Through Sacred Heart Athletic Communications, Morrison will be working closely with Brad Hurbut, Deputy Director of Athletics, Nicholas Wormley, Executive Director of University Advancement, and Chris O'Connor, Senior Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs.

"Our offices are about six feet apart so we will be working very closely together," said O'Connor. "We will work in conjunction on corporate partnerships and creating packages for companies and donors that support Sacred Heart athletics."

Morrison was named to this position on Sept. 11. Though only being with Sacred Heart for a little over two weeks, he has full support from his colleagues.

"He has a tremendous track record of success in development at the highest level of Division I athletics. Mike will play a major role in continuing our department's impressive fundraising growth," said Hurbut, in a press release from Sacred Heart athletics. The job does come with its challenges, but Morrison believes he is well prepared for whatever tasks he will have to face.

"I think the challenging part will be the patience aspect," said Morrison. "When you come into a new role, you immediately want to hit the ground running, but it's really important to understand the culture, what the mission is, and what we're building towards before I can get people excited to want to give back."

There are no plans currently in progress that Morrison could report on. "This position is important. Everyone is trying to be smart financially. This job allows the university to make the advancements that they are," said O'Connor. "You've seen the success that we've had already with athletics and we believe that Mike will help us keep making those changes and improvements."
Field Hockey Looks Ahead to Conference Schedule

BY RYAN SANUDO
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart University field hockey team has wrapped up the majority of its non-conference schedule and will begin Northeast Conference (NEC) play on Sept. 29 at Monmouth University.

After losing three games in a row, Sacred Heart beat Towson University 4-1 at Johnson Field, the Pioneers home facility in New Haven. Head coach Sidney Van Der Merwe’s approach to stopping his team’s losing streak started with possession. Sacred Heart did not allow one shot on goal in the first period.

“We were working for a week on our tipping and natural corners. That was the key of the game,” said Van Der Merwe. “Now when it comes to conference, our veterans know how to practice, which can let the pieces come together.”

Last year, the team failed to win a game before conference play. Sacred Heart already has three wins under their belt as they prepare for their first conference game against Monmouth. Senior midfielder Nichole Tolli is optimistic with the difference a year has made.

“Our scoring is something that we have changed compared to last year,” said Tolli. “Last year we had a total of maybe four goals. This year we’ve already doubled, maybe tripled it. I think that’s a big positive in what we’re improving on.”

On the other hand, the team still has to work on the little things in order to win consistently.

“Our communication and movement on the field needs work,” said Tolli. “I think we’ve improved way more than last year in those departments. But I think it’s definitely something that we can step up more.”

The 2017 team features seven freshmen: Emily Alexis, Lucinda Cahill, Kayla-Bedel Franklin, Bridget LaRiccia, Hailey Power, Alyssa Stevens and Liz Tosto. They all come from different places ranging from Connecticut, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and even Australia.

Junior goalie Emily Degennaro praised the freshman class and their commitment to the team so far.

“They have the most intensity I’ve ever seen a class come in with,” said Degennaro. “They have so much fire and grit. They want to go out there. They want to win. They want to do whatever they can to help even if it’s on the sideline.”

The Pioneers have a busy schedule in October ahead of them. Two key games in a row that have Sacred Heart eyeing for revenge are at Bryant and Rider, opponents they lost to last year.

"Rider is a very good team. They are very fast. Bryant is good as well. In terms of matching I think our team has improved already in terms of how our season has already gone, said Van Der Merwe. “We just have to be smart and play our game.”

Sacred Heart is hoping to improve in conference play, as they went 1-15 in the conference last year. Van Der Merwe is in his second year as head coach and can see his team’s maturity right off the bat.

“We’re working on what we’ve improved on throughout the season and will put that to conference games. It’s that simple.”

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Date: Wednesday October 4th, 2017, 7-8:30pm EST
The Sacred Heart women's volleyball team opened Northeast Conference action with a 3-1 (21-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-14) victory over the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights on Friday night.