Starting its construction this upcoming summer, a new ice hockey arena will be built at Sacred Heart University. This 60 million dollar project is scheduled to be completed in 2022 and it will be home for SHU's Division I men's and women's ice hockey teams, as well as the figure skating and club hockey teams.

"When you walk into a brand-new building that's going to have every new bell and whistle that you can imagine, and it's on your campus, all of a sudden you feel special. It's going to be just great for the student body," said Sacred Heart Athletic Director Bobby Valentine.

The 120,000 square foot facility will seat 3,000 people with room for an extra 1,000 available as standing room. It will also feature nine total locker rooms, a beer garden, a presidential suite, a sports medicine suite, and a strength and conditioning training facility that will include a puck shooting area, amongst others.

"Having your own arena that will provide room for approximately 4,000 people, puts you in a new class of competition," said Michael Kinney, senior Vice President of Finance. "When you enter the ice arena, besides just giving you a 'wow' type of feeling, it'll also bring excitement into the air for the fans and the players on the ice.

This facility will not only be used for hockey and ice skating, but it will also serve as a multi-functional place dedicated for different types of student activities.

"When you melt the ice down you could get 5,000 people in there easily for any type of university event like a concert or a convocation," said Kinney. "That was the original intent to begin with."

Even though the arena will feature food courts and space for many different student activities, it is not meant to be accessed and used on a 24 hour basis but rather, it will be an event-only kind of space that will add an extra drop of excitement to every convocation.

"This is one of the most exciting projects going-on on campus right now," said Marc Izzo, Executive Director of University Construction and Facilities. "It will bring a lot more to the students."

Junior Christina Villarino, a psychology major, said, "I am very excited about this new arena. We have a great hockey team here at Sacred Heart that deserves to have a place not only for them to play at but also for us, the students, to be able to go watch them here on campus. It will add a sense of home that I believe will not only make the team play better, but it will also bring excitement to the fans, creating an amazing atmosphere and giving the hockey team the importance they deserve.”

The facility will also serve the school from an economic perspective featuring the inclusion of rental suites where the different sport teams that come to play against Sacred Heart can stay, creating a convenient space that serves both schools.

There will also be skate rentals for public skating and a team store which will be available for fans.

"Collegiate experience is more than just going to classes," said John Petillo, president of the university. "The upper quad, the ice hockey arena, it all enhances the quality of student life here in Sacred Heart. This all adds to the mosaic of what it means to be part of a happy community."

PioneerVote, an essential movement on Sacred Heart University's campus, is now officially a club. PioneerVote is known for its success in bringing together the University's student body to vote against the "North End Proposal," which was the Bridgeport housing ordinance that aimed to limit the number of individuals residing in rental homes.

The overwhelming success of PioneerVote has created an awareness among students for how important their voices and votes can be.

Co-presidents Carlos Ruiz, Meridith Kennedy and Alessandra Leone have a mission of the club's new initiative.

"As we always say, 'No Vote, No Voice.' If you are unhappy or believe that your vote doesn't make a difference, you can't complain if the candidate of your choice is not the winner," said Ruiz.
BY CELIA ZEVON
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 31 faculty, staff, students and others from the Sacred Heart community gathered at West Campus to commemorate the opening of the IDEA Lab.

The IDEA Lab is a collaborative makerspace that is open to anyone in the Sacred Heart community for educational or personal use. Stefanie Poulos, Executive Assistant to the Provost/Office Manager, explains that the IDEA Lab's name stands for Innovate, Design, Engineer, and Apply.

The goal of the IDEA Lab is to allow individuals to generate an idea, create a process, and engineer around that concept, ultimately allowing for innovation as well as personal and academic growth.

Poulos explains that the IDEA lab promotes making and entrepreneurship by featuring machines and tools such as 3D printers, a laser cutting machine, a water-jet cutting machine and much more.

"We will offer training for our equipment, workshops to come and create with us, as well as OpenLabs to foster a community of makers. There will also be consultations for our faculty to help them integrate the IDEA Lab into their curriculums," said Poulos.

Linda E. McMahon was the featured guest speaker at the grand opening of the IDEA Lab. McMahon previously worked at Sacred Heart and continues to show her support through contributions such as Linda E. McMahon Commons.

In her speech, McMahon said, "The success of helping small businesses grow and the success there in of keeping our economy strong and growing is having our educational resources and our business communities come together." This lab not only promotes innovation but is an innovation. Students can be more prepared for future careers by being up-to-date with 21st century technical skills and critical thinking techniques.

Following McMahon's speech, President John Petillo and McMahon cut the grand opening ribbon together with the faculty involved in the process and the school's cheerleading team standing behind them in support.

Students, faculty, staff, and others were able to take a tour of the IDEA Lab led by students in the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology. A video was played showcasing the students and professor's excitement in this advancement for the school of computer science.

Sophomore and student in the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology Megan Murphy said, "I think that the IDEA Lab is great for students to not just learn about what they will do after Sacred Heart, but also to experience it. The hands-on experience is such an amazing opportunity for students."

At the event, Provost Rupendra Paliwal made an opening speech explaining that the concept for the IDEA Lab originated three years ago when the Board of Trustees realized that Sacred Heart needed a presence in engineering. Paliwal said that after getting everything arranged from the faculty to the curriculum, there was an apparent need for some form of a lab where people could use state-of-the-art technology and practice critical thinking skills so that students could carry that experience beyond the university and into the workforce.

In his speech, Paliwal explains how he conducted research that led to the discovery of the IDEA Lab. "We took a road trip to Yale to look at their lab. They were very friendly and gave us the do's and don'ts of what they learned when making the lab. We came back and said, 'We can build something better,'" said Paliwal.

"This isn't the first makerspace at Sacred Heart. It all started with Professor Tolga Kaya who started a makerspace in his office in 2017. Paliwal explained that those involved used this experience as a guide and since then have introduced the Verizon iHub, a cyber security lab, a virtual reality lab, and now the IDEA Lab."

"Following Paliwal, President John Petillo addressed the crowd at the event. Petillo said, "This is another example that we are Pioneers, that we are willing to take risks and we are willing to travel that road with our students. It is really wonderful to see and encourage them to be cutting edge and to do things. This is just the beginning; I am convinced there will be other marvelous opportunities."

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in Memoriam: Elizabeth Neves Vivieros

On January 21, 2019 Sacred Heart University employee Elizabeth Neves Vivieros passed away suddenly at the age of 44.

"What happened is extremely tragic and she'll be missed by all the students and faculty," said freshman Luke Healy.

Elizabeth was known to most of the Sacred Heart community as Liz and was beloved by many. Many of the students and faculty interacted with Liz when they walked into the dining hall 63's. "She was always super kind to me whenever I walked into 63's. I could always see her smiling and talking with the students and her co-workers. If she ever did have a bad day, you would never be able to tell because she always seemed happy," said freshman Chloe Zorena.

Although many of the students interacted with her on an everyday basis even those that didn't know her that well had something nice to say.

"I didn't know her that much but I remember every time I would go into 63's she was always smiling," said senior Kelly Blando.

Liz did not have an impact on just the students. Her kindness and smile also had an impact on those she worked with.

"Although deeply saddened by the loss of one of our most valued and devoted employees, I am so overwhelmed from the outpour of support and kind words shared from all our students and campus community. Her ever positive attitude and true connection our guests is something that I will remember most," said Resident District Manager Mark Tannone.

Liz was an active member of the Sacred Heart Community but she was also an active member in the Bridgeport Community.

"Liz was actively involved in the Our Lady of Fatima Church and was very involved both as a parishioner and being involved in youth groups. The passing of Liz is one of great sadness that weighs on the Sacred Heart community. She will be missed by everyone and causes those to reflect back on the impact she had on them as well as those around her."

"Liz was an incredible person! She was very easy to talk to and I enjoyed having conversations with her every time I walked into 63's. Her presence provided a powerful impact on students at sacred heart and we all miss having her around" said senior Chris Coote.
The Sacred Heart Spectrum

Audrey’s Corner

BY ERICA CONDON
Managing Editor

On Dec. 4, John Trautwein came to Sacred Heart University to speak about his non-profit foundation, Will to Live. The foundation is dedicated to his son, Will Trautwein, who was a victim of suicide.

On the website will-to-live.org, their mission is stated as, “We are dedicated to preventing teen suicide by improving the lives and the 'will to live' of teenagers everywhere through education about mental health and encouraging them to recognize the love and hope that exists in each other.”

Trautwein spoke energetically and interactively to a room full of Sacred Heart students, athletes, and faculty, educating them about teenage suicide and mental health through his personal story of loss.

The vision of the Will to Live foundation is stated on their website, “to be a positive and motivational resource for teens, young adults, and their families, in the global fight against teen suicide, depression and the stigma surrounding mental illness in our communities.”

Will was a loving brother to three siblings, an aspiring musician, a lacrosse player, and a humble teammate. Trautwein also said that Will was a loving friend to everyone and they never expected him to be suffering.

Throughout his speech, Trautwein expressed the importance of being kind and looking out for everyone because like his son Will, even the people you least expect could be struggling internally.

“This initiative is to recognize and support the ‘teammates’ in our lives, whether they are friends, family members, classmates, co-workers or actual teammates. Throughout his speech, Trautwein expressed the importance of being kind and looking out for everyone.”

The kids of the Will To Live Foundation prove to us everyday, that the greatest source of HOPE in our lives, is the LOVE of a Friend. So drop a “Love ya man” on someone today – you’ll feel better,” said Trautwein.

You can visit will-to-live.org for more information and to get involved in the foundation.

The Importance of a Smile

by Jill Amari

A smile is a gift that anyone can give and get for free.

A smile is a universal language.

A smile makes you radiate with warmth, grace, and beauty.

A smile lights up the world.

A smile makes one bad day become a thousand wonderful ones.

A smile is a sign of peace.

A smile is a magical result of seeing people you love.

A smile is encouraging.

A smile is calming.

A smile is comforting in both the happiest and saddest of times.

A smile is a gift. I smile because it makes other people smile, and that is the greatest gift of all.
Sacred Heart University launched a new design for their website on Jan. 15 focusing on accessibility and a user-friendly design.

Nancy Boudreau, Executive Director of Web Content Management said, "It had been seven years since the last website redesign, so the site looked dated and didn't capture the vibrancy and spirit of who Sacred Heart is today. The site not only had to look great, but it also had to be easy to navigate, and include a responsive design so it works well on a smart phone, tablet or laptop, and be accessible for users with disabilities."

Students were made aware of the new changes via email as soon as the new website was launched.

"I like that they're using more pictures, it was the first thing I noticed. I like how it's split into undergraduate and graduate sections so that when kids are looking at the website, they can tell what Sacred Heart has to offer," said junior Zak Kakos.

As a student athlete, Kakos also comments on the effectiveness of the site for him.

"It's easier to get to the athletics page. In the old website, the athletics page felt hidden," said Kakos.

The web design team wanted to create a new slide-out menu with easy-to-find categories. These included resources for students, parents, veterans, alumni, community and employees.

"The entire project took over a year to complete," says Boudreau.

Within Sacred Heart, 42 members from all areas of the university, along with the Web Redesign Committee, students, faculty and staff focus groups made the new site possible. Students say that they mostly use the site to access the school's calendar, library, student accounts, athletics page and Blackboard.

"I use the website every day, I do it to get to Blackboard. I also look at the athletic page, for my schedule and other sports' schedules," said student Freshmen Kailee Welch.

However, multiple students expressed their frustration with accessing some links on the new website.

"I had to press 3 different things to find where I needed to go, and that link didn't work. I was looking up the schedule for fitness classes, and it brought me to the employee fitness schedule," said junior Ally Criscuolo.

However, some students find the new site more modern than the previous one.

"I think its style is modern and slick, its artistic and futuristic, but the things that they implemented from the old website are blurry," said Criscuolo.

Another student also comments on issues she ran into while navigating through the website when it first launched.

As students arrived back to classes from winter break, new paintings were hanging through the halls of the Frank and Marisa Martire Center for the Liberal Arts.

The new paintings are abstract representations of influential figures that have framed the course of history. Their colorful presence and exaggerated features have caught many student's eyes while also bringing a new life to these significant figures.

"It's electric and challenging," said English and CIT professor Emily Bryan. Professor Bryan took one of her classes around the Martire building to look at the collection of paintings.

"At first I was a bit startled by the new paintings. However, I did notice them right when I walked in on the first day," said sophomore Ellen Micallef. "At first they scared me a bit. But after taking the time to look at each individual painting, I realized the significance of the person it was about."

Many students have different comments and questions regarding the new paintings.

"I first noticed the paintings because they were colorful and abstract," said junior Gabrielle Fenzi. "Although they caught my eye, I do not know why they are here or where they came from."

Although the new paintings caused confusion for some students, the 35 portraits scattered throughout the building are part of a collection called "The Great Minds Collection."

The portraits were created by an artist named Robin Morris, who was commissioned to begin the project by a man named Dick Resnick.

According to "The Great Minds Collection" commentary, "The concept for this project was directly influenced by the required core course, 'Philosophy and Religion,'" said Resnick. "The class opened my eyes to the extraordinary history of human thought that has shaped our existence."

As an artist, Morris claims that she has always been inspired by the human mind and was thrilled to work on "The Great Minds Collection."

"As I portrayed each individual, I came to know them, their values, accomplishments, trials and triumphs," said Morris through accounts in the commentary. "The contradiction that I enjoy most about my work is reality and imagination with a touch of humor."

Bryan feels that these new paintings will serve a greater purpose for the SHU community.

"I like them especially because I think they invite you to think about who these people were and of course that the text of the paintings invited you to think about their contribution to the arts, politics, history, civil rights, presidency and the list goes on," said Bryan.

"I tried accessing Blackboard and it didn't pop up. Also, when I tried the bookstore link to go to the online store it wouldn't work," said Welch.

Boudreau explains that the site is never really finished and is constantly evolving.

The team welcomes any feedback and suggestions which can be sent to sitefeedback@sacredheart.edu.
Editorial

Adopt, Don’t Shop

BY KEELY MCCARTHY
COPY EDITOR

If you’re looking to own a pet, it’s best to adopt compared to buying a pet from an online seller or pet store. According to the ASPCA, an estimated 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S shelters every year. Additionally, 1.5 million of those 6.5 million shelter pets are euthanized annually. Adoption benefits include: decreasing the homeless animal population, creating more space in animal shelters and in rescue organizations, and reducing puppy mills. Puppy mills are factory-style breeding facilities with an interest in gaining profit over focusing on proper animal care. Puppies from pet shops are most often bred in puppy mills, creating a higher risk of disease and risk of some cancers in those breeds.

One reason as to why most animal lovers seek to buy as opposed to adopt, has to do with an assumption on the pet’s personality. A common misconception on shelter pets is that they have more behavioral problems than pets sold from breeders. However, that is not the case! Shelter pets are homeless pets, and some are only shelter pets because their owners have passed away, and family members cannot take in their deceased loved one’s pets.

Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is also less costly than buying from a breeder. The adoption fee, if there is one, in most cases includes: the cost of micro chipping your pet, neutering or spaying, and one-month free pet health insurance. Sometimes pets from breeders can be more susceptible to genetic breeding abnormalities or are more prone to certain cancers.

My neighbor, Heidi Staniszewski, has adopted three senior aged dogs from shelters. From her perspective on adopting senior aged dogs in shelters, Staniszewski says, “I love senior dogs. I’ve been fortunate that all three of my senior aged dogs were so loving and had little to no transition period. It’s like the second I brought them home, they knew they were home. I cannot understand why people buy when there are so many great dogs that need homes.”

My personal experience with adopting a dog over buying a dog from a breeder, was when my family got a Golden Retriever puppy named Lovey from a breeder in Rhode Island when I was six. Our beloved Golden Retriever only lived to be seven-years-old until she died of cancer, common for her breed. In the summer of 2018, my family adopted a Pit Bull/Black Lab mix puppy named Ever from the Potter League Animal Shelter in Middletown, R.I.

My family’s dog, Ever, is by far the best dog! She transitioned very well into my home and has no behavioral issues whatsoever, contrary to the Pit Bull mix stereotype. Ever is housebroken, walks well on a leash, and is as sweet as ever. (Fun intended!)

My Friend Sean

BY CHRIS DOLAN
CIRCULATION MANAGER

I first met Sean when I was in the sixth grade, at the time I did not know him that well but due to needing a seat I sat with him. Throughout the whole bus ride we had a very fun conversation and when I got home I called him up to hang out. The first time we hung out Sean played a video game and there was no conversation, but I didn’t give up. Before this moment I did not interact with Sean that much because he has Down syndrome and Down syndrome can affect those who have it in many ways, but for Sean it made him less sociable.

When we hung out again I told Sean we should make a video and we called it “The Sean and Chris Show.” The idea of the show was that we would act like good balls on camera. After “The Sean and Chris Show” was created, our friendship took off. The more time we spent together and the more videos we made, the closer Sean and I became as friends.

Since then our love of movie-making has taken off. Each time we see each other we make a new movie with Sean as the actor and me behind the camera. Sean thrives in the spotlight and loves to talk about his fans and how popular his YouTube channel is.

As I have made films with Sean, it has helped me find a passion for film-making as there are no deadlines. Instead, it is two guys making silly films and just having fun.

As I look back at it now, I can’t imagine Sean and I not being friends... but it took us awhile to really find common ground. While making movies did help our friendship become stronger, we also found that we liked many of the same television shows, such as “Scoby Dooby” and “Kim Possible.” This was nice because when we got bored of something we could turn on one of those shows.

One of the best things about Sean is that he can always cheer you up. If he sees that you are sad, he will go out of his way to make you feel better, whether it is just listening or making a funny joke or pull a funny face.

Sean has made an impact on me and through our friendship I have started to feel like his home is a second home. His parents always make me feel wanted by respecting my opinions and thoughts. There have been times when Sean was being stubborn and his mom and dad would joke that he could be “their new son” – it was all in good fun though.

The day I knew Sean was my best friend was when my brothers treated him like one of them. Whenever he would come over they would always treat him the same way they did me and they would engage him with Nerf gun fights and other activities. When I saw how well he fit in with my family it was nice.

The friendship I have with Sean is proof that a long-distance friendships can work. When I moved in eighth grade I was devastated because I believed that our friendship would be over and that we would never see each other again, however, I was wrong. During the time I was in Virginia we hung out plenty of times and because we did not see each other every single day, the times we did see each other became more fun. When Sean and I met I honestly did not believe that we would hang out all that much, but I was very wrong. Today I could not picture myself and my life without Sean as my best friend and my brother.

The editorial page is an open forum. Editorials are the opinions of the individual editors and do not represent the opinions of the whole editorial board. Letters to the editor are encouraged and are due by Sunday at noon for consideration for each Wednesday’s issue. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation, and length.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words and should be emailed to spectrum@qaecatholic.edu. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers cited in this forum.
Features

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

BY LIZ KALFAYAN
Staff Reporter

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was recognized on the Sacred Heart campus in the Edgerton Theater on Jan. 29 with a presentation given by Dr. Steve Perry on King's life as well as what it means to be a black individual.

Perry is the founder and head of Capital Prep schools and has been working in education for 30 years. He is also an advocate for individuals who are striving to achieve academic excellence.

Since the opening of the Capital Prep schools, they have sent 100% of their students to a 4-year college or university. Past students are now attending universities such as Stanford University and University of Pennsylvania.

Perry got into this field of work because he is passionate about creating equity for everyone. "I’m not interested in making you comfortable, it’s to inform you," said Perry.

Perry focused on equity because everyone is a human being and deserves to be treated as such.

"A person is a person," said Perry. "A person shouldn’t determine someone else's personhood."

Some students in attendance at the presentation were very moved by Dr. Perry's talk.

Sophomore Grace Hanrahan said, "It was very eye-opening."

Hanrahan said she also believes that Dr. King has been a huge inspiration for her in that he was not ever afraid. She also believes that students now should be more progressive.

Sophomore Ellie Micallef also attended the event because the sophomore class of Student Government decided to attend the presentation instead of having a class meeting that day.

"I took a step back and realized things need to be changed," said Micallef.

Many students seemed to realize that anyone can make a difference no matter who you are.

"It’s important to stand your ground," said Micallef.

"You are not too young to fight for equity," said Perry. "See them as you see yourself. A regular human being. Somebody who just wants to live."

According to Perry, King was an individual who stood up for the rights of those who were too afraid to stand up for themselves. He wanted people to be judged on the content of their character and not for what they look like. King especially wanted his kids to be judged as kids and not by the color of their skin.

Junior Renice Desrosins presented some of her poetry at the event.

"He was pushing the idea of not making people feel comfortable," said Desrosins. "We don’t spend enough time talking about it in school."

Perry really tried to emphasize the fact that what he was presenting was not meant to make people feel comfortable and he really wanted to take people out of their comfort zone. He believes that it is when individuals are uncomfortable that change is made.

Dr. Emily Bryan, a professor in the Department of Languages and Literature as well as Catholic Studies, took her Catholic Intellectual Traditions class to the event.

Dr. Bryan said, "The speaker was very provocative and pointed out things we should all think about."

In Dr. Perry's presentation he mentioned many statistics about the black and Latino community in Connecticut. Out of the 169 cities and towns in Connecticut 51% of inmates come from three cities; Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven.

It was emphasized that the Sacred Heart campus is right across the street from one of the lowest performing cities in the state academically and has some of the most individuals in jail.

As for the youth in Connecticut, 39% of the youth are black or Latino. 78% of youthful offenders are also black or Latino.

"Fight for justice, not just us," said Perry.

IFC Recruitment

BY SAM LODATO
Staff Reporter

Each semester the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at Sacred Heart University hosts recruitment for each fraternity on campus. The event began with the IFC Around the World Fraternity Fair that was held on Jan. 26 where potential new members had the opportunity to meet all organizations and the IFC board.

In order to participate in recruitment, you must register for free on charge online on Campus Director and have a cumulative average GPA of at least 2.5.

"Each fraternity will be having two of their own recruiting events that they organize and market by themselves; one this week and one next week. The events include everything from video game nights to backyard games. The overall goal of these events is to get interaction between active members of the fraternities and potential new members," said Erica Menozzi, IFC Recruitment Coordination Manager.

"Fraternities are looking to recruit new members who not only portray their core values, but also show potential leadership skills. All fraternities look for men who display strong academic, social and brotherly characteristics. Fraternities are also looking for men who contribute in their local community, such as Sacred Heart, through community service," said Marco Laguna, IFC President.

Greeks Life Director Nick Frias overviews roughly one-third of the student body that are involved in Greek Life on campus.

Frias advises that potential new members should keep an open mind and ask intentional questions about their philanthropy and leadership opportunities.

"The greatest part about doing this job is that I genuinely get fulfillment out of seeing all of these students be happy and be successful," said Frias. "When an organization is happy and successful, then I feel happy and successful with my job because I aided them in helping accomplish their goal."

Each fraternity on campus works to help promote awareness for their philanthropy while volunteering in the local community. Many students have had very positive experiences within their chapters and encourage other students to join Greek Life.

"I wanted to make the most of my short time here at SHU and I knew the best way to do that was to surround myself with a group of people that shared my beliefs and interests," said senior Mike Azzariti, a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

Azzariti said that joining Pi Kappa Phi was one of the best decisions he has made.

"We motivate each other to be the best, whether it be in the classroom, on an athletic field, or in the community," said Azzariti.

For their philanthropy, they are so glad it was able to join the fraternity my sophomore year and begin building bonds with my brothers that I know will last a lifetime."

Junior Matt St. Jean, a member of Kappa Sigma, said that joining the fraternity made his transition into Sacred Heart much easier.

"I had a great friend from high school that was in Kappa Sigma and he influenced my decision to join a fraternity. I ultimately joined as a way to quickly make a group of friends who I now call my brothers. It made the transferring process easy. It is a great way to get involved on campus with all the events that are always going on," said St. Jean.

Bid Day Information will be announced on Friday, Feb. 7 through Campus Director where the students can either choose to accept or decline a bid.

"This community is unique, you are a part of something that not everyone gets to be a part of, and I think that we need to continue to strive for the excellence that comes with being a member of a fraternity or sorority. It's a great way to leave this University a better place than they found it," said Frias.

Beta Theta Pi

Spring Rush 2020

Beta Backyard Bash
Jan 30th
2-4 PM
UC Auditorium

Preference Night
Feb 5th
5-7 PM

THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF SPRING RECRUITMENT. EACH FRATERNITY WILL HAVE TWO RECRUITMENT EVENTS OF THEIR OWN THAT THEY CAN PUT TOGETHER AND PROMOTE INDIVIDUALLY. ON FEB. 5TH, FRATERNITY BETA THETA PI IS HOLDING A PREFERENCE NIGHT. ON JAN. 30, THEY HELD AN EVENT IN THE UC AUDITORIUM.
Free Language Assessments

BY ANNIE MAY
Contributing Writer

Since 2016, Sacred Heart University's Speech-Pathology graduate program has offered free speech and language assessments to children ages 2 through 12.

The assessments consist of two graduate students working together in addition to a clinical supervisor. Although parents can accompany younger children into the testing, depending on the child's age, they sometimes remain outside of the room.

Undergraduate students in the Speech Pathology program observe and do about 25 hours of observations in preparation for hands-on client work at the graduate level.

Taryn Rogers, Director of Clinical Education and Clinical Assistant Professor, said that the goals of this program are not only to give real-life experience to Sacred Heart's graduate students, but also provide a free service to the local community.

"We are able to provide a service to the community that is of no cost and give parents information about their child's communication development," said Rogers. What initially started as a small program has grown tremendously and there is now a consistent wait-list.

Due to the rise in interest and limited availability, the program now does little advertising. The program is offered weekly throughout the semester as well as a special program over the summer.

"We always interview the parents at the beginning and then we always bring them in at the end of the test to go over the results and everything with them," said Rogers.

When a parent brings their child in for the speech and language assessments, they leave with a report of where their child is at, as well as community referrals for further assistance.

Emily Shea, a Speech Language Pathology graduate student, has had the opportunity to help with these assessments.

"As a first year SLP student, we are assigned to help with the speech and language assessments, and we receive clinical hours for doing so," said Shea.

Children as young as two years old are eligible for a free speech and language assessment.

"They [parents] might not have concerns at that moment, but we can let them know what milestones their children are and aren't meeting," said Rogers.

Rogers explained the importance of hands-on experience for Sacred Heart's graduate students, explaining that one of the best things about this program is that the students are able to be in a controlled environment, yet gain real experience.

"I absolutely love the clinical experience that this program has helped me with. It's a great opportunity to demonstrate what is learned in the classroom in a clinical setting," said Shea.

It gives the students great clinical experience, such as how to talk to parents, how to talk to kids, how to give parents information that might be a little more sensitive," said Rogers. "They are able to practice those skills before they go into their clinical externships in schools or private practices."

In a clinical setting, such as the speech and language assessments, it is valuable to have clinical supervisors with the graduate students.

"The clinical supervisors know we are just starting out in the field and they are always willing to help us with anything we need," said Shea. "Whether it's advice on an intervention technique or a question on an assessment."

The free speech and language assessments are offered each semester.
The Sundance Film Festival is a worldwide event and the biggest Film Festival in America, showing and launching hundreds of films since 1985. A place where aspiring storytellers and artists are looking for new voices and perspectives. This annual festival includes it all, from short films to documentary features to emerging media of all kinds. The Sundance Film Festival will be taking place this year in Salt Lake City from Jan. 23 to Feb. 2. The Sundance Film Festival showed one hundred and eighteen feature-length films, from twenty-seven countries and forty-four first-time feature filmmakers. These films were selected from a record high of 15,100 submissions. Flying out from all different airports, eleven Film and Television graduate students from Sacred Heart University took their first trip to the Sundance Film Festival. University students got the opportunity to be official volunteers at the festival to help things run smoothly. Volunteering gets you film vouchers, one for every four hours worked and seeing films as they are working. This allowed our graduate film students to be “in the thick of things” as official Film Festival volunteers,” said Prof. Sara Ross, Director of Film and Television Graduate Program. Taking this trip helped the FTMA students become inspired by their environment. Each student met new people, went to films and expanded their visions. From standing between the paparazzi and seeing Taylor Swift at the premiere of “Miss Americana” to going to big premier parties, the FTMA graduate students did it all. FTMA students learned a great deal. They were already “writing new films the first night here,” said FTMA professor Todd Barnes. FTMA graduate student Alii O’Brien said, “It was a lot of fun, and I’m really lucky to go and experience this with friends in my program and watch and learn what we love to do together.” A short film called “He’s the One” was shown at the festival. “He’s the One” is a dark comedy about a girl who meets a guy and falls head over heels with that one person she’s supposed to hate. “He’s the One” was O’Brien’s favorite short film, leaving her with a touched feeling on a personal level. Being able to meet and express this to the director after viewing was an opportunity in itself. There were lots of takeaways to learn from going and checking out the competition. O’Brien’s goal is to enter one of her works at the festival next time she goes. O’Brien said, “The Sundance Film Festival was really motivating, making me want to change and make cuts to my movies. Learning that diversity is everything, you need a lot of different people’s perspectives to make a good movie.” This trip brings Sacred Heart to a national profile. Goers handed out business cards and flyers all over town and got the opportunity to talk to programmers and other filmmakers. Prof. Barnes said, “Our students are seeing what is possible, that they have the tools to compete on a national level.”
Aaron Hernandez Netflix Documentary

BY JACKIE O’ROURKE
A&E Editor

On Jan. 15, the new documentary "Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Hernandez" premiered on Netflix. Aaron Hernandez was a convicted murderer and former tight end for the New England Patriots. The documentary is a limited series consisting of three episodes that are each about one hour long.

The series features footage from Hernandez’s court hearings and audio from various phone calls Hernandez made to loved ones while in prison.

“I think it’s so powerful, and at least to me it is something that’s hard to deal with but also beautiful in the same aspects, as conflicting that is, because there’s limited experiences where you hear that. To hear his voice throughout it was like he was alive,” said Aaron Hernandez’s brother, Jonathan, in a recent interview on "The Dr. Oz Show."

Hernandez was found guilty of first-degree murder in 2015 and sentenced to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole at the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster, Mass., for the murder of Odin Lloyd. Hernandez was found dead in his cell at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center just days after he was acquitted of the double homicide in 2017. The death was later ruled as suicide.

"Overall, with the murders and his own suicide, I feel that Hernandez should have been given more help,” said junior Mariah Concannon.

According to AP, "The three-part documentary examines the meteoric but troubled — and glorious — career of the late New England Patriots tight end."

"Coming from a societal perspective, had Hernandez chosen to become more open and willing to receive help, he may have been able to become linked to appropriate resources," said Concannon.

Aaron Hernandez previously played tight end for the University of Florida before being drafted by the Patriots in 2010. Aaron Hernandez’s NFL career ended when he was arrested and convicted for the murder of Odin Lloyd in 2013. During the Lloyd murder trial, Hernandez was also indicted for the 2012 double homicide of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado.

"It was bone chilling that he supposedly killed two people and killed himself before trial, he was given a contract from the Patriots and he still killed two people," said sophomore Will Pesek.

The documentary touches on the discovery that Aaron had an advanced case of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, also known as CTE. CTE is a degenerative disease in the brain linked to head trauma. Senior psychology student Jessica Wenz said, "I liked it a lot. I think that it showed who he was below the surface of the media. I liked the part of the last episode where it really went into his brain trauma, so that the doctors can try to prevent it next time. I thought that was really cool."

CTE has become a major concern for players currently and formerly in the NFL.

"I was worried for Hernandez and worried for people who play football because people’s characters and personalities can change," said second-year graduate student Steven Wasserman.

AP states that, "The disease, which can be diagnosed only after death, has been found in more than 100 former NFL players and in dozens more athletes and members of the military who have been exposed to repetitive head trauma. The disease can lead to memory loss, depression and suicide."

The new Netflix documentary is not the only recount of Hernandez’s life. According to AP, "Hernandez’s story has already inspired a documentary aired on Oxygen, a ‘48 Hours’ special and books by bestselling author James Patterson and Hernandez’s defense lawyer, Jose Baez."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

NETFLIX'S NEW DOCUMENTARY ON AARON HERNANDEZ PERMIERED ON JAN. 15.
Kobe Bryant Dies in Helicopter Accident

BY MIKENZIE CARBONE
Assistant Sports Editor

Kobe Bryant, a former National Basketball Association (NBA) player, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant, and seven others, passed away in a helicopter accident on Jan. 26. Kobe and the eight other passengers were traveling to attend a basketball tournament when the helicopter crashed in Calabasas, Calif., due to a dense morning fog.

According to the Associated Press, the helicopter went down about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Kobe, Gianna, and the seven other passengers were presumed dead at the scene of the accident when the helicopter burst into flames after crashing on a steep hillside.

Kobe was a renowned basketball star, and played the 20 years of his NBA career with the Los Angeles Lakers before retiring in 2016. Following his retirement, Kobe established a sports academy called “Mamba Sports Academy.”

Mamba Sports Academy got its name from Kobe’s own nickname, “Mamba.” According to the Mamba Sports Academy website, the program “enlists diverse experts to support youth, amateur, and elite athletes with a Full-Circle training approach including body, performance, mental, and mind training.”

The academy was known for its mentality that athletes lived their lives by. “Mamba Mentality isn’t about seeking anything for granted. Kobe and the other eight passengers were just their way to a competitive basketball, you still are hurt by the news of losing someone who built a legacy and mentality for so many people,” said senior Connor O’Neill. “You could tell Kobe and his daughter were so close and she exemplified so many resemblances to him. It’s just hard to put into words how it feels.”

The news affected many people, from people that respected his legacy to super-fans who adored and admired Kobe their entire lives. “I’m a huge basketball fan and I was shocked. After seeing all the interviews from Doc Rivers, Jay Williams and others, I really did start to tear up,” said junior Jacob Denton. “Kobe meant the world to so many other role models. His daughter’s death was also extremely tragic.”

Outpourings of love and gratitude have filled the air over the past few days. Support has been spread to the victims’ families who will forever be affected. “I was shocked because it was such a sudden tragedy that happened, especially with his young daughter on the plane and all the other passengers who also have spouses and children whose worlds were turned upside down,” said junior Bianca Abel. “The tragedy showed me to not take anything for granted. Kobe and the other eight passengers were just their way to a basketball game, something they loved to coach and play every day.”

Hockey Team Wins Inaugural Connecticut Ice Tournament

For the first time in program history, the Sacred Heart Men’s Ice Hockey team claimed a championship title at the inaugural Connecticut Ice Tournament at Webster Bank Arena over the weekend of Jan. 25-26. Sacred Heart claimed the title after defeating Quinnipiac University 4-1 in the championship game.

The Connecticut Ice Tournament is similar to the Beanpot tournament that is held in Boston, which includes four teams that compete for a title over the course of one weekend. Four teams were a part of the Connecticut Ice Tournament: Yale University, University of Connecticut, Sacred Heart and Quinnipiac.

Head coach CJ Marottolo gave insight into the potential that the CT Ice Tournament has after being broadcasted by SportsNet New York (SNY).

“The Beanpot obviously has been around a lot longer and has so much history, but I truly believe that the CT Ice Festival that SNY organized has tremendous potential,” said Marottolo.

The crowd played a huge role in the Pioneers win against Quinnipiac Sunday night. Marottolo believed that it motivated his team.

“A few of our players said they had chills as they skated out onto the ice and saw a sea of red,” said Marottolo. “The fans this weekend were the difference in us winning and losing! They provided great energy for our team. We would not have won it without them. All of the fans should take part of this champions home with them as well.”

Senior Jason Cotton was crowned Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament. Over the two games, Cotton scored two goals and assisted on two others.

Marottolo also commented on how the team could build upon the success from CT Ice Tournament.

“As our team pushes towards the goal of winning an Atlantic Hockey championship, our group can definitely draw on the experiences from this event,” stated Marottolo.

The Pioneers faced off against Yale and Quinnipiac, both teams that are not in their conference. This pushed Sacred Heart to overcome the challenges that they faced in both games.

“To win a championship, teams must face adversity and learn to deal with momentous swings within the game, which we were faced with on Sunday night versus Quinnipiac in the championship game,” said Marottolo.

A moment of winning a championship is something that Marottolo says his team has prepared for throughout the course of the season.

“Being prepared for this moment comes in many different ways. Our team prepares all week by practicing hard on the ice and in the weight room, by watching videos of themselves and our opponents, and lastly by believing and trusting each other,” said Marottolo.

Following their successful weekend, the Pioneers were ranked twentieth in the country according to the United States College Hockey Online rankings. The Pioneers followed up their Connecticut Ice championship with a pair of wins against Atlantic Hockey foe, Air Force. The team continues conference play on Feb. 11 on the road against American International.
Women’s Basketball Mid-Season Update

BY KATIE HOWERTER & DAN GARDELLA  
Staff Reporter & Sports Editor

The Sacred Heart Women’s Basketball team is in the middle of their conference schedule. Through the first nine games of Northeast Conference (NEC) play, the team has a 5-4 record, with their latest decision being a one-point loss to St. Francis Brooklyn on Feb. 1.

The biggest battle that the Pioneers have faced has been off the court. At times, head coach Jessica Mannetti has had a very light bench to work with. However, she motivates her team through positive affirmations, which is crucial in the middle of the season.

"It is very difficult to find motivation to keep moving forward," said Mannetti. The teammates depend on each other to work hard and succeed throughout the season."

While players may be injured and cannot contribute to the success of the team on the court, junior Jayla Davis says that there is still an importance to motivate the rest of the team.

"Our dynamic is still the same, the injured players bring the same amount of energy and more as the players who are playing," said Davis.

This season has been very different compared to just last year. Entering this season, Mannetti lost four seniors, who were staples to the program’s success. While there are still upperclassmen leaders, there is more of an emphasis on teaching the several newcomers to Sacred Heart what the program’s values and beliefs are.

"Leadership matters," said Mannetti. "Upperclassmen really play a role in the success of the team by helping and motivating the rest of the team."

For Davis, she tries to set an example for the newcomers in a similar way that former upperclassmen did for her when she was a newcomer.

Through the grind of conference play, Mannetti reiterates to her team to "stay and survive the course," explaining that it is a long season with ups and downs. However, it is important to remain focused on the task at hand.

So far this season, the team has been led by junior Adrienne Hagood. The junior is averaging a team-high 17.2 points per game, which is a six-point increase from her totals last season. The team’s second leading scorer, Nikki Johnson, returned from injury in the team’s loss against St. Francis Brooklyn. The redshirt junior had missed the previous 11 games due to injury.

"I feel that I need to set an example by playing hard and always giving them advice. I realized that I was in the same position as them a couple years ago, and I had juniors and seniors helping me," said Davis.

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Men’s Basketball Mid-Season Update

BY JOSEPH SCIACCALEPORE  
Staff Reporter

The Pioneers continue a three-game homestand on Feb. 8, when they take on Robert Morris. The Colonials are first in the conference and defeated Sacred Heart 73-43 on Jan. 20.

"These guys are super motivated," said Latina. "Now it’s all about improvement, so we have to get the most out of our practices and improve together as a team."

The Pioneers set a goal at the beginning of the season to finish near the top of the conference. Junior E.J. Anosike knows how important ending the season on a good note will help the team meet their expectations.

"Going into these last few games, I feel like preparation is a big factor," said Anosike. "We have to be the more disciplined team and push ourselves to the limit to make sure we meet our goals from the beginning of the season."

Anosike, who is averaging a double-double this season, highlighted how strength and conditioning sessions and a strict diet in the offseason led to his improvement this season.

"I knew that I would be stepping into a bigger role this season, and I knew that I would need to work hard in the off-season in order to be a leader on the team," said Anosike. "I have to carry myself a certain way because I know that whatever the team does is going to be a reflection of me."

Along with Anosike, seniors Jarrel Spellman and Kimmie LaRose know that improvement on both sides of the game will help the team be more successful just in time for the playoffs.

"Communicating on defense is one of our weak points right now, so talking effectively during the entire possession will be a major key for our success," said Spellman, who is averaging a team-leading 2.5 blocks a game.

"A big key for us is doing the right things, being fundamentally sound, setting good screens, cutting hard, moving the ball around more," said LaRose. "When the team is holding everyone accountable and playing as one, the sky’s the limit when we do that."

Amid the success the Pioneers have had this season, they endured a loss within their starting lineup. Sophomore point guard Cameron Parker, who averaged more than seven assists per game, broke his left ankle, which will sideline him for two months. Latina realizes that with the loss, it will be a team effort to replace Parker’s impact.

"We certainly relied on him offensively a lot and certain guys are going to have to elevate their level of play," said Latina. "We still have to be a high assist team but a little bit more by committee now."

With the five of the last eight games being played at home, Latina knows that playing good at home has its rewards.

"Even though home court advantage does not guarantee anything, the more home games you win, the better chance you are at hosting home games in the playoffs."

The Pioneers host St. Francis University on Feb. 6 with the hopes of extending their winning streak to five games.
The Ryan Matura Library, in collaboration with the Office of Global Affairs and Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum Program, presents

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