Family Weekend Filled with Pioneer Pride

BY GEORGINA PALLADINO
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University celebrated its 23rd annual Family Weekend from Oct. 4-6. The weekend kicked off on Friday at 7 p.m. with registration and a wine and cheese party. Family Weekend enables for students, families and friends to come together. This year in particular was different because not only did the families get to participate in events, but also got to celebrate the university’s 50th anniversary.

Packages for the weekend started at $75 for family members, $60 for students and $40 for kids. All events, except bingo, were included in this package. However, individual tickets were sold for the main events if the families could not attend every event.

“Is this our third Family Weekend, we’re three-for-three. We enjoy it immensely,” said Carol Wilbur, mother of junior Jill Wilbur. On Saturday at 9:30 a.m., the nursing department held a family tea event for sophomore nursing majors. This gave students an informal meet and greet with the professors of the department. Another informative event that occurred was the coffee with Greek life, which took place in the Schine Auditorium at 10 a.m. This gave parents the opportunity to meet the leaders of their child’s fraternity or sorority.

At 11 a.m. the beach party tailgate for the football game began. There was food, music, games, face painting and giveaways before the start of the game. The band, the Driftwoods’ played sounds of the Beach Boys.

“I think this is the hype, the tailgate and then the game. This is kind of the pinnacle of a college fall weekend,” said Larry Wilbur, father of junior Jill Wilbur.

Zeta Tau Alpha was also there helping raise awareness for breast cancer through their “Think Pink Football Game.”

“We’re selling shirts, ribbons and bracelets. All of our proceeds go to the Breast Cancer Awareness and Education Foundation,” said junior Melissa Berwick.

By 1 p.m. the Pioneers took on the Wagner Seahawks for the NEC opener. Friends and families filled the stands cheering on the team. Although the Pioneers played hard, they lost to Wagner 23-20. This disappointing loss was the first loss of the season.

After the game, there was a chance for all to play bingo, with a variety of prizes, including college gear or gift cards to different restaurants and stores. The night ended with “The Doo Wop Project,” which was a performance by the lead cast of the Tony Award winning Broadway show “Jersey Boys.” This gave the audience a chance to get an inside scoop on the performers’ lives and a chance to see them sing live.

Sunday wrapped up the weekend with a mandatory general assembly meeting with the bishops of the Holy Spirit, followed by a continental breakfast with President John Petillo.

At 1 p.m. the university’s choir performed in the Edgerton Center. They sang a variety of different songs from the “Alma Mater” to “Hey Jude.” Also featured in the events was the introduction to the new women’s a cappella choir “The Blended Hends.”

“This is a great event,” said Paulette Corato, mother of freshman Mary Rose Corato. “Everything is run well and very enjoyable.”

What is the Government Shutdown?

BY MATTHEW VOGEL
Staff Reporter

On Oct. 1, the federal government shutdown for the first time in nearly two decades. The government was forced to partially shutdown when the legislative branch comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate, who make up Congress, could not reach an agreement on a spending bill.

“Under the Constitution, Congress must pass laws to spend money. If Congress can’t agree on a spending bill — or if, in the case of the Clinton-era shutdowns, the president vetoes it — the government does not have the legal authority to spend money,” according to USA Today.

Congress is still under pressure to come up with resolutions to resolve the current shutdown.

“I feel that the government is going down hill and it’s all over things that are stupid, and people need to work together to come up with resolutions on how to solve the existing government shutdowns,” said junior Andrew Chanthinth, a health science major at Sacred Heart.

The House of Representatives, with a Republican majority, has assembled a spending bill that would sustain sufficient spending levels, but does not provide the adequate financial support to implement the 2010 health care law, known as Obamacare. Primarily, Democrats support the health law. The Democratic Senate insists that the program be fully funded without having to make any policy changes.

Brokering a deal involving House Republicans, and a Democratic controlled Senate has not been an easy task. Many say that it has turned the recent government shutdown into a blame game.

According to the Associated Press, "The dispute over the shutdown deepened worries about a bigger problem: rambunctious Social Security in mid-October deadline for increasing the government's borrowing limit before it runs out of money to pay creditors. The U.S. Treasury warned on Thursday that failure to raise that debt ceiling could spark a new recession even worse than the one Americans are still recovering from.”

Many Republicans continue to plead for changes and are eager to delay the mandatory health law. However it has been widely reported that President Barack Obama, and scores of Democrats in Congress, are refusing to negotiate any changes to the health law as a way to reopen the government.

"Even after the House scaled back some of its demands, Democrats and the White House gave no ground and laid blame on Republicans for the imminent shutdown," according to The Wall Street Journal.

This is not the first time in history that the Federal government has closed down. "Since 1977, there have been 17 shutdowns," according to the Congressional Research Service.

"Since the shutdown many Federal workers have been forced to stay at home," said former Sacred Heart student Dylan McGregor, who transferred to Houstonian Community College this fall. "It has closed museums, and put scientific research on hold, which upsets me being that I take great pride in the scientific community and all of its achievements."

With some government employees forced to stay at home, many of the key personnel are still working to find a resolution to the current stalemate.

Senior Vishal Patel, a political science major suggests, "We are surviving, the whole government is not closed, it is just a slowdown and essential parts of the government are still functioning."

The current political impasse is bridging an even greater divide amongst the two parties. Coming up on a resolution on how to end the government shutdown has been challenging with the inadequate bipartisan relations.

President Barack Obama in a speech from the White House on Tuesday, Oct. 1 addressed the current stalemate that is causing the government to remain partially closed.

"As long as I am President, I will not give in to reckless demands by some in the Republican Party to deny affordable health insurance to millions of hard-working Americans," said President Obama.
BY SAM BUTLER
Ass't. Sports Editor

When you think of a renowned athlete, what do you think of? Big house, a couple cars, a big family or just flat-out successful? Normally you would not expect a former point guard for the Boston Celtics to have anything less than an unadulterated lifestyle. Here is where your stereotypes are wrong. This is the story of Chris Herren.

I looked at that one line of cocaine and I said "I will never do it again," said an 18-year-old Herren. "That one line would take me until I was 32-years-old."

Herren's drug abuse started during his freshman year at Boston College. Herren had just graduated from Durfee High School in Fall River, Mass. with over 2,000 points scored in his high school career. Being a top prospect, he was sent offers from successful basketball colleges from across America. Everyone wanted Herren. However, Herren chose to stay in his home state to play for Boston College in 1994.

Before starting his basketball career at Boston College, Herren began using marijuana and cocaine. Herren walked into the first drug test of his college career knowing he was going to test positive for cocaine, which he did.

"The next afternoon, I walked into the arena, to see my mom and dad sitting in the coaches office," said Herren. "When I walked in, they were both crying, as they were just told their 18-year-old boy who was featured in Sports Illustrated, scored 2,000 points and was an All-American, has cocaine in his system."

Herren would tell his parents and coach, "never again. During his first game, Herren ended up fracturing his wrist, ending his freshman season.

Since Herren could no longer play, he began partying and using more and more. However, Herren would end up failing two more random drug tests in the upcoming months.

"I don't care that you were player of the year three years in a row in this state, I care about Boston College, and it's bigger than you," said the Boston College athletic director. "You are no longer welcome on the campus of Boston College."

Herren would then have to pack his bags and head home because of his drug abuse.

Luckily for Herren, head coach Jerry Tarkanian of Fresno State University contacted Herren and said he "believed in second chances." Herren would then fly 3,000 miles West for a fresh start to his college basketball career at Fresno State. When Herren landed, Tarkanian brought members of the society that had dealt with drug abuse in the past to come and provide stories, showing Herren that you can live life without drugs and alcohol. Because of those people, Herren would have his best college season, averaging 18 points per game and being named All-Conference. He even started to speak to National Basketball Association scouts about possibly ending his college career early to play professionally. However, the scouts said that Herren "had the numbers, but not the history." They needed him to prove himself one more time.

Herren began his junior year by getting called into coach Tarkanian's office. Tarkanian told Herren that in the upcoming months, they were going to put him into the NBA Draft. He would be projected as a 15 to 26 pick overall and he would be making between $1.5 and $1.9 million per year. To a 21-year-old junior in college, Herren heard his dream come true. However, Herren had one more obligation before leaving Fresno State - not failing another drug test. Three months later, Herren would then let his whole NBA dream fly out the window because of one night filled with excessive drinking, smoking and cocaine use. The next morning, Herren was asked to take his final drug test, which he failed. That night, Fresno State held a press conference forcing Herren to broadcast over national television that he had a problem with using narcotics.

During his senior season, Herren was still fortunate enough to be admitted into the NBA Draft. The Denver Nuggets picked Herren with the third pick of the second round. When Herren walked into the Nuggets locker room, he was approached by veterans Chauncey Billups, Nick Van Exel and Antonio McDyess.

"We know your story," they told him. These three men would use their success and leadership to eventually help Herren that his childish ways are no longer acceptable - he was in the big leagues now. As for Herren, he had a successful rookie NBA season because of those three men.

Once his rookie season had ended, he returned home for a couple of months and threw a party with some of his friends. At this party, Herren began taking oxycodeone pills purchased from one of his high school friends.

"I had no idea that $20 was going to turn into $5,000 a month, and that a 40 milligram pill would turn into 1,600 milligrams a day."

Herren was then ready to begin his second season with the Nuggets while highly addicted to oxycodone. Herren tried to quit, but went through severe withdrawal during his first week of training. Later that week, Herren received a call from head coach Rick Pitino of the Boston Celtics.

Christopher, it is my honor to tell you that you are the newest member of the Boston Celtics, we have just traded for you," Pitino said.

Being a Celtic had been Herren's dream ever since he was 4. He would play basketball in his driveway and pretend to be an All-Star Celtic player. However, this would only begin his nightmare.

"I could care less about the Boston Celtics. All I cared about were those pills that would end my sickness," said Herren.

Herren's dream came true on Oct. 16, 2000 when he became the starting point guard for the Boston Celtics. But, with those withdrawal symptoms kicking in, he needed his fix.

When a "6-2 guard from Fall River, Massachussetts" was announced over the loud speaker for Herren's first Celtic home game, the dream had come to fruition. "I had worked my whole life for those words," said Herren.

Three weeks later, Herren ended up receiving a devastating shoulder injury due to Shaquille O'Neal landing on top of him, ending his season. Herren was offered a hefty offer from the best team in Europe to play over seas. During his time over seas, Herren found out about a new drug that he had never experienced before: heroin.

"I'm so sick from these pills, I need some heroin," said Herren to an Italian drug dealer.

"If you're so sick," said the drug dealer, "roll up your sleeve."

That day Herren ended up walking away with 15 bags full of heroin. On that day, Herren became an intravenous drug addict.

Shortly after, Herren walked away from his contract with the European team and headed home to worsen his heroin addiction. Every single day Herren drove over to Dunkin' Donuts to shoot up in his car. One day, Herren felt a different reaction to his high, a feeling of police officers smashing his face into their car hood and placing handcuffs on him.

When Herren asked what the problem was, the officer responded, "Christopher, are you serious? Look at your arm." Herren looked at his blood-obsured arm to find out that he had overdosed on heroin.

After months and months of consistent drug usage, sleep deprivation and paranoia, with a former college friend, Herren received a voice mail from his wife saying that he needed to pick up his family from the airport, the kids "can't wait to see their daddy."
In an effort to enliven teaching and learning, The College of Arts and Sciences at Sacred Heart University have created an online learning community called SHU Square. SHU Square is designed for first year seminar students and their faculty to share work, ideas and resources with one another.

"It is a place where our students will be able to find their own creative and intellectual voices," said Seanus Casey, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Casey explained that the idea of SHU Square came from the realization that students already communicate online.

"We thought, why not meet them halfway and develop an online forum that would complement the First-Year Seminar?" said Casey.

What draws most users, especially teachers into using SHU Square is that this site is not just an online forum providing a more technologically savvy way to hand in school work. Instead, it is rather a way to "interlock intellectual happenings across network disciplinary boundaries," said assistant professor of English, Anita August.

Sophomore Melanie Richmond was introduced to SHU Square in the Fall of 2012 while in her first-year seminar class American Sports Stories. Richmond shared her experience with SHU Square explaining that it is a way to continue learning even after the class ends.

"You get viewpoints that you wouldn’t hear in class," said Richmond.

Carey wants to provide first-year students with a place where their voices matter. Freshman Maria Costano has been introduced to SHU Square for the first time this fall.

"This site is very different than anything I have used in high school. It is easier to communicate with other students when I get home to my dorm rather than when I am sitting in class. I have more time to think about what I want to say," said Costano.

The feedback from professors regarding SHU Square is just as important as the students’ feedback. When creating a new forum such as SHU Square it is important that both professors and students feel that this way of communicating is beneficial. Dr. Cara Erdheim, freshman seminar and English professor feels that SHU Square has had an extremely positive impact on students.

"Students tend to participate in class more when we speak about discussions on SHU Square," said Erdheim.

Freshman Matt Monahan agrees with Erdheim’s statement regarding more class participation.

"I definitely found myself participating more in class because I do not feel like I am being lectured. Instead, I have the blogs right in front of me so I can know what is going on as opposed to just having to listen and understand through the teacher," said Monahan.

Although this new means of communication has only been in the Sacred Heart community for a little over a year, it has had extremely positive feedback thus far. It has given teachers an easier way to grade assignments and communicate with their students, while it has given students a new way to complete and share assignments.

By seeing that online communication systems are a successful addition to the Sacred Heart community, this can potentially open up a whole new world in the assignment systems for future students.

"I have always stood by the theory, one good thing about music is when it hits you, you feel no pain. Unfortunately, I’ve recently found a flaw in the theory. I listened to ASAP Rocky’s newest album and sudden jolts of pain shot through my ears. Please, ASAD, just tell me more about your problems.

So I guess current day rap isn’t music (minus Jay-Z and Lil Wayne), but it is a form of poetry. Any Poetry with words such as "pop dat" or "slap dat" is by definition one of the worst forms of poetry in existence. I beg for an answer to the question: where has my old school rap gone?"

It seems that Kanye West should have graduated after his album Graduation. When I listen to him credit for trying to stay relevant with his recent beef with Jimmy Kimmel, but I’ll take Kimmel in that beef any day.

Eminem has come out of retirement more times than Brett Favre, and each time has been a failure. Ludacris took his song Rollout too literally. And Lil Wayne...well, he was never good. I’m anxiously awaiting the birth of Jay-Z and Beyonce’s kid to bring back the Rap industry.

So where do we go from here? Hate all you want, but with the disappearance of rap, country music will begin taking over the radio in a few years. It was refreshing to turn on the radio last summer and hear Crisie instead of 2Chainz. Don’t be afraid of a transition, it’s for the better.

You can’t possibly dislike lyrics such as, “Not a worry in the world, a cold beer in my hand, life is good today.” If those country lyrics don’t put you in a good mood, then there is a strong possibility that you also don’t like Christmas, yellow lab puppies, and family portraits.

Country music is patriotic, deep, and relaxing. To hate on country music is to hate on America itself. It’s time to trade drugs, guns and violence for trucks, beer, corn, and nationalistic.
Students and Homesickness

BY KAITLYN VOSWINIKEL
Staff Reporter

With the leaves changing colors and the weather getting colder, students are becoming aware that they have been "roughing it" with dorm living at school for a little over a month. Students on campus are torn between the freedoms of college and the comfort of their homes.

Many are not afraid to admit their nostalgia.

"I miss my family, my comfy bed as well as the delicious food," said sophomore Amanda Moinayar. "Classes are getting harder and midterms are approaching, making me want to go home even more." Syllabus week is a month in the past, and the stresses of class are starting to sink in for many. Students find that midterms increase stress levels making them yearn for home. Home represents a place of relaxation and a safe haven.

"Midterms are extremely stressful, especially because I don't have my queen size bed to study in, I also miss my boyfriend," said sophomore Alissa Tani. "On weekends we will make cookies to remind us of home."

Sacred Heart also offers a variety of activities to keep students busy on the weekends including sporting events, out door movies, or even taking a day trip off campus. Participating in these activities can help keep students from thinking of home, while giving them opportunities to meet new people.

"Walking around downtown Fairfield always seems to take my mind off home," said Junior Kelley Keenan. "The atmosphere in the little town always brings a smile to my face."

However some students are finding they were more homesick towards the beginning of the year and are now starting to get over it.

"I was really homesick in the beginning of the year," said freshman Alyssa Pearce. "But being so busy with lacrosse and school work I barely have time to think about home."

Students who can't visit home often find comfort by checking in with their family members by other means.

"I'm not home sick because I talk to my parents everyday," said sophomore Kristina Pike. "I include my parents in my life even though I can't see them everyday."

Other students find comfort in facetime their parents. "I facetime my mom at least once a week," said Rachel Claroni. "It's nice to see her even though I can't go home."

Students on campus who are not homesick seem to all have busy schedules. The busier a student is the less time he or she has to think about home. "I miss home but staying busy and being involved definitely keeps my mind off my family," said freshman Sam Carpinello.

Being apart of a sports team, sorority or club is a great way to stay busy and make new friends.

"I am not homesick, because I really like school and enjoy being a part of my sorority," said sophomore Jennifer Bauch. "School to me feels like a second home."

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I Support Miley Cyrus

AMY NUNES
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

I am a well-read, educated female who speaks from her own mind and I can firmly state that 100% support Miley Cyrus. Please, before you start developing a raid against me, hear me out.

Disclaimer: I do not deny any circumstances believe Miley Cyrus to be talented. I don’t see her as a valuable member of our society nor a person who I would seek out to have an intellectual conversation. (To be fair, neither does she.) I do however believe that she is playing out her career very strategically and smartly. In a world that is run off of human perception and “power moves,” Miley could not be more of an example.

Miley is playing the game exceptionally well. As a young woman, she has every right to hypersexualize herself if she wants to. If you can’t give her that, than you are just being naive. Don’t get me wrong, I would never condone myself like her or condone any other human to do so, but I nevertheless support her act. I see where she is coming from. ‘Miley Cyrus’ is a cheap costume that sells records. It’s the music equivalent of dressing up like Batman for Halloween. Isn’t that what most of the pop music industry has become anyway? The top 40 is swimming with songs that objectify women and offend the masses. It’s a damn shame but it’s true. People want to listen to be a part of that negative category and push the envelope. Miley Cyrus is the epitome of “pushing the envelope.”

Do I think she is talented? No. Does she entertain? Of Course. Do I think Kurt Cobain and John Lennon are rolling over in their graves right now with the sheer thought of her? Also, yes. We are judging Miley by the wrong standards. “If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” I am not calling Miley a genius--she is far from-- but I wouldn’t categorize her under the “good music” category.

She is a performer. She isn’t trying to be The Beatles or Etta James or Whit- ney Houston so why are we judging her by those standards? Miley isn’t trying to make some thing that entices the senses and speaks to the soul. By no means is her hit “Wrecking Ball” a representation of the univer sality and depth of human nature. Nor is that her intention. It is a disservice to ourselves as well the industry to hold her to such standards. It is a waste of time.

Miley reached a world-class level of idiocy with her performance at the VMAs. I personally thought it was a jaw-dropping display of idiocy. I expect nothing less from her though. Her per formance was offensive and reckless but it was intentional. It got me to log onto YouTube and watch it again. She wanted the people to talk, and boy did they talk.

She was under a persons selling a product. Miley was doing her job as an entertainer in theielmee. She is giving a gossipy audience the excuse to gossip. We create something that electricity our anger. Miley gives us that, places it right in front of our face and waves it around with a giant foam finger. She is essentially giving the people exactly what they want.

So, do I think all of pop culture does a complete disservice to human na- ture as a whole? Totally. 100%. I always think and I am not alone. The pop culture today is often as expected. With that said, if you are so appalled by the way Miley is acting, don’t subject yourself to MTV and all other outlets of her. Quit engaging and worry about what actually matters. There are bigger issues we should be focusing on and no publicity stunt can remove and the world in “disarray.” How many young adults can explain the Government shut down? Or form a substantial case on the debate on taxes or oil? Yeah, that’s what I thought.

Nicholas Tersigni Memorial Foundation
Why Prader-Willi Syndrome Should be Discussed

CAITLIN FEENEY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday, Oct. 5, hundreds gathered in Brewster, NY at Tilly Foster Farm to remember a sweet young boy Nicholas Tersigni who passed in a tragic drowning accident back in June 2009. The 3-year-old from New Fairfield, CT had a disorder called “Prader-Willi Syndrome.”

According to the Prader-Willi Association, “PWS is the most common known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity in children. Although the cause is complex it results from an abnormality of the 15th chromosome. It typically causes low muscle tone, short stature, incomplete sexual development, and a chronic feeling of hunger that, coupled with slow meta- bolic rate can lead to excessive eating and life-threatening obesity. It occurs in males and females equally and in all races. Prevalence estimates have ranged from 1 in 6,000 to 1 in 25,000 with the most likely figure being 1 in 15,000.”

The 3rd annual festival had plenty of rides, games, food, music and fun for children of all ages. Sacred Heart University’s Kappa Phi Sorority attended the fes- tival. The event is important to the sisters of Kappa Phi because the Tersigni family is close friends with President Andres Carillo’s family. “I just want to thank ev- eryone who was there today. It is an amaz- ing cause and the Tersigni family and my family are especially grateful that you are all here to remember a very special boy,” said Carillo.

Currently, there is no cure for PWS. The more people are informed of this disease, hopefully the more research can be done to find a cure. There are not many treatment options for PWS.

In multiple studies, it has been observed that patients will research all forms of treatments available. In June of 2000, HHG was officially approved by the Federal Drug Administration for the use in patients with Prader-Willi Syndrome.”

There are two recognized stages of PWS. According to the Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, “Stage I includes infants that are hypoxic or ‘foppies’ with very low muscle tone. Weak cry and a poor reflex are typical. Babies with PWS, usually are unable to breastfeed and fre- quently require tube feeding. Stage 2 most commonly begins between ages 2 and 6 years old. Individuals with PWS lack nor- mal growth and develop abnormal muscles. They usually are not able to control their food intake and will overeat if not closely monitored. Other issues may include speech apraxia/ dysarthria, short stature, hypothyroidism, flat, also, sleep disturbances with ex- ceptive daytime sleepiness, skin picking behavior, high pain threshold, and steril- ity. Behavioral difficulties may include obsessive-compulsive disorder and diffi- culty controlling emotions.”

Nicholas Tersigni was one of the many affected by Prader-Willi Syn- drome. He was never supposed to walk, talk, or see, but fortunately, he was doing all of that before his death. He was grow- ing strong and was beginning to beat the disease. He got strong enough and pushed open the door and walked to a pond in the back yard of his grandparent’s house where the drowning accident occurred.

The Tersigni family was grateful to have so many show up to the festival and support them. At the beginning of the festival, balloons were let go to honor and remember Nicholas. I am grateful to have learned all about this disease and I can only hope that one day a cure will be found.

I want to encourage others to learn about Prader-Willi Syndrome since it is not a well-publicized illness. To learn more go to: http://www.pwsusa.org/ and to make a difference and donate to the Nicholas Tersigni Memorial Foundation go to: http://www.nicholas-foundation.org. | 5 | The Sacred Heart Spectrum | October 9, 2013 |
**Features**

**Education Club Putting on a Book Drive**

The Education Club is looking for books to donate to Bridgeport Schools

**BY NATASHA KLINOFF**
Asst. Features Editor

This semester, Sacred Heart University’s Education Club is starting a community-wide book drive. Through the book drive, Sacred Heart will supply the Discovery Magnet or Bryant Elementary School in Bridgeport with books.

The Education Club works to provide students with hands-on opportunities on and off campus. The club’s focus is catering to elementary and secondary education.

“In the club, everyone has a say in what we are planning and has the opportunity to form a committee or become a captain of an event that they feel passionate about,” said senior Kimberly Woodruff, president of the Education Club.

In the past, the club has hosted two events at the John Winthrop Elementary School, a Spring Event and October Harvest. This year, they are moving their efforts to Discover Magnet.

“The club came up with the idea for the book drive through some brainstorming about wanting to give back to a school in Bridgeport,” said Maggie Pringer, secretary of the Education Club.

The club hopes to supply as many books as they can to the school.

“Kim Woodruff made a connection at Discovery Magnet School and realized they don’t have any books, since it is a new school. So, that solidified our reasoning for doing the book drive. Now it’s slowly, but surely, becoming a reality,” said Pringer.

The club plans on sending letters home to families, asking for books or money donations.

Before leaving for winter break, the club hopes to host a read aloud party for the students. They plan to invite children’s literature authors to come read donated books.

“To me, books are what make the imagination come alive. We want to make it our goal to raise money and collect books this semester for either of these schools. All children deserve an equal opportunity to education,” said Woodruff.

The book drive is also an opportunity for students at Sacred Heart to get involved in the Bridgeport community.

The book drive is a joined effort between the Education Club, the English Club and the Honors Program.

“SHU students can help, and please do. We want to make this book drive big. We hope to be able to send books to more than one school in the area,” said sophomore Colleen O’Melia, a member of the Education Club, English Club and the Honors Program.

“We need as many book donations as possible to reach this goal,” she said.

Along with the book drive, the Education Club is working to co-sponsor a calculator drive with the Math Club.

“Jenn Robillard, a member of the Education Club, volunteers at Bassick High School and said that the students in calculus have to do all of the math by hand. We are excited to reach out to the community and help the students at Bassick pursue their education,” said Woodruff.

Robillard has kept an eye on the desperate need for calculators that are necessary for students to excel in math.

“Both classes I observed only have two calculators to share between about 25 students,” said junior Robillard.

Regular class work is hard without a calculator, but it makes standardized testing extremely difficult for the students.

The calculus class is going to be taking the AP exam in the spring, which will be nearly impossible without calculators,” Robillard added.

The Education Club has other events planned for this year. Tomorrow, they will be starting a partnership with a Bridgeport program for high school students. In the near future, the club will go to Central High School to help students with college preparatory work through a program called Today’s Students Tomorrow’s Teachers.

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**Chris Burrows Receives Associate of the Year Award**

**BY MEGAN LACKMAN**
Staff Reporter

To some she may be the library mom. To others she may be the nice café lady. Chris Burrows, a Chartwells employee of four years, has been awarded the Northeast Region Associate of the Year award. This award is given to those who are noticed for their outstanding work for Chartwells, chosen out of 1,000 nominees.

Before being placed at the Library Café, Burrows worked for the catering crew. Burrows has been with the Library Café from the beginning, it is her pride and joy. She enjoys coming to work.

“How many people do you know who are excited to go to work? When I wake up in the morning, I don’t dread going to work, I look forward to going to work,” said Burrows.

When Burrows found out she was nominated, she was in tears.

“It was such and honor, being awarded for something you love,” said Burrows.

The announcement came to the library in the form of flowers and an envelope. Burrows had no idea what was going on until she had opened the card and read what it said.

Today, there will be a reception in New York at the College of Mt. St. Vincent, where she will receive her award.

“I enjoy getting up and hearing about what the kids do and how their week is going,” said Burrows.

A mother at home, Burrows likes to be a mom to the students.

“These are my kids,” said Burrows.

“Chris is a ball of energy, she is always looking out for people. It is obvious why she got the award,” said junior Joe Wetherall.

Wetherall has been working at the Library Café for three years now. The first few times he worked with Burrows, he thought she was very strict because of her adamancy for cleanliness. However, her benevolent personality won him over.

When students worldwide go into their school library, most do not go there to visit the woman who works at the café. But students at Sacred Heart do.

“Going to the library, it is great knowing that Chris is there. She is like my mom when I am away from home,” said junior Carla Vaccarella.

Students go to the café to just sit and talk to Burrows. They talk about almost anything. She enjoys getting to know the students and what they did over the summer or even their weekend plans.

“When I need to get out of my room and study, I come to the library, but I don’t go upstairs or to a study room,” said junior Kaitrin Owens. “I sit at the café because I know I can get work done along with the great company from Chris.”

Burrows is so grateful for her crew. She could not have done it if it was not for them.

“I have a really good crew, they all have great customer service skills,” said Burrows.

Burrows has watched many people come and go. Becoming very close with students, it is always bittersweet watching them grow from a freshman into a graduate.

“It is sad when they graduate,” said Burrows.
New Education Course Offered in Dingle, Ireland

Students will learn about cultural differences through hands-on experience

BY LAUREN PETTINELLI
Staff Reporter

Imagine looking out the window after a good night's rest and seeing the seemingly never-ending fields of green, maybe some cows and the people of Dingle, Ireland going about their daily routines.

Sacred Heart offers several opportunities to travel abroad and to seek adventure in different parts of the world. These opportunities have included India, Australia, Italy, Germany and Ireland - but now there is an addition to this experience.

This winter session, there is an new advancement in the study abroad program. There will be an education course added to the program that will ensure an experience full of hands-on learning and traveling.

Co-Director of the Intern Program and Fifth Year Program, Professor Michael Giarratano said, "We are very excited about it because other departments were really successful and we want to do the same."

This course counts for education credits, but any student who has a desire to go is welcome to.

A student will receive three credits and will be in Ireland from Dec. 27 until Jan. 11. The course is called EDS41/541 Irish and American Education in Comparative Perspective. All together, the study abroad program during the winter is estimated to have 30 to 40 students attend, spring will have at least 60 to 70.

"It's a really special and unique program because students get to take local site visits and interact a lot with the locals," said Coordinator of Study Abroad, Francesca Schenker. "Students always love their time there."

Some of the excursions that students will be involved in incorporate mini trips to the Ring of Kerry, a night at a traditional Irish singing club, horseback riding, Irish set dancing lessons and much more.

Within the program, there will be class readings and a discussion of how different the schools are compared to America, before going to different classrooms around Dingle.

The second week, students will participate in fieldwork, interact with children, get involved and have guest speakers in order to engage students and help them understand more about the differences in cultures.

Mandy Montgomery Blogs About Hockey

I like to discuss new topics every month and to inform my readers of new changes and achievements in the NCAA," said Montgomery. "Hockey is a part of my life that brings me joy and makes me work hard, I want my readers to feel the same way."

Her stories feature life issues, team bonding, work ethic, social skills and sportsmanship.

Montgomery writes blog posts for a popular website called Women's Hockey Life. You can find all of her posts at www.womenshockeylife.com. She is one of many contributing bloggers.

Montgomery started blogging because she had a passion for both hockey and writing.

She plays Division I hockey for Sacred Heart and has played since she was young.

"Come give the Pioneers some support and catch a game at Wonderland of Ice," said Montgomery.

Montgomery enjoys receiving feedback from the viewers of her blog. She encourages people to write her with complaints or compliments.

"I also incorporate other sports, at times, to grasp attention of a wide audience," said Montgomery.

Although hockey is the focus of her blog, Montgomery will discuss other sports.

"Every sports team, no matter male or female, requires such commitment and hard work," said Montgomery.

Her blog is not to force the love of hockey onto her readers. It is to provide further knowledge of women's hockey and the NCAA.

"I do hope that my blog, however, will help publicize my team and the sport for many readers around the world," said Montgomery.

Blogging is a way to express "feelings, emotions and concerns," said Montgomery. "I get my best stories from personal experiences. When I'm speaking from a victory game or a loss to another team, the truth is always necessary in blogging."
Arts & Entertainment

"Who's Improv Is It Anyway?"

BY MARISA PAPA
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University's improvisation troupe, The Awkward Handshakes, performed a fundraiser show on Oct. 2 in the Edgerton Theater.

About 125 students sat in the audience awaiting the beginning of the performance at 10:10 p.m. Media Studies students filmed the fundraiser for archival purposes.

During the performance, The Awkward Handshakes played eight games, all stemming from the television show, "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

I was very excited to go to this show because I have watched "Whose Line is it Anyway?" for years and it was interesting to see friends actually performing the games I'd watch on TV," said freshman Dan Murphy.

The performance included the improvisation of 12 members—seniors John Delbari and Danny Garel, juniors Cody Knox, Christopher Minardi, Mike Gandolfo, John Colletta, Ryan Cotrupi, Lindsay Sepolca, Abby Wooster and Declan Lynch, and sophomores Jordan Rodriguez, and Sarah Klaum.

"Improv is something I've done since I was a little kid and being able to go on stage in front of hundreds of people and make them laugh still makes me happy," said Lynch, head of The Awkward Handshakes.

A popular game that improvisers played was called Party Quirks, which involved Rodriguez, Minardi, Klaum, and Cotrupi. An improver is the host of a party, and must guess who is coming to his or her house based on clues given by the other players.

Rodriguez impersonated actor Nicholas Cage, Minardi portrayed a cat, and Cotrupi imitated Miley Cyrus. Chris Lizio, an audience member, said his favorite game was Party Quirks. "They had an idea of what they wanted to do and stuck with it. They didn't change it up. They developed the scene nicely and interacted with each other very well," said Lizio.

As a member of The Awkward Handshakes, Garel's favorite game was called Freeze. In this game two audience members were chosen to come on stage and participate.

The players started out a scene and audience members would yell "freeze" when they wanted the group on stage to stop moving. Then volunteers would come on stage and join the scene.

The game would continue so multiple audience members could participate and get an idea of what being a part of Improv is like.

"Hopefully freeze will bring in more of a crowd and get people more motivated to come to Improv if they can come up and perform with us," said Garel.

Every Tuesday The Awkward Handshakes welcomes students to an open rehearsal where they perform short form games, which last around 5 to 10 minutes each.

The attendance of players at these rehearsals then directly correlates to how many games they participate in during the fundraiser show.

Since this was a fundraising event, students paid $5 at the door, or $3 in advance. The money collected for this fundraiser benefits the Theater Arts Program for special trips that Improv takes such as traveling to N.Y. and seeing local improv groups perform.

The Awkward Handshakes raised $457 for this fundraiser. In return, the audience got over 2 hours of laughter.

"I thought the show went really well. We had a lot of positive feedback both in person and on social media," said Lynch.

BY TARA DURKIN
Staff Reporter

Bill Haug is a guitarist and musician who taught himself how to play at the age of 12.

Now Haug is playing at different locations, but can mostly be found playing at Sacred Heart's on campus pub, Reds.

Haug said that he loves playing all sorts of music; rock, pop, country and acoustic.

Bill Haug may appear to be a typical faculty member among the Sacred Heart University community however, if you peek back a layer of his persona as Communications Coordinator, you'll find a very impressive, musical surface and background.

Haug says his degree in Media Studies not only helps him with camera work or video production but taught him that he needed to keep up with the latest technological changes.

"The digital and online world is the biggest way I promote myself," said Haug.

He incorporates his love for music into his everyday routine and lifestyle whether it's singing along to his current addiction, Ed Sheeran, in the mornings or bringing a little song to jazz up the work place.

"The people around me always point out that I'm tapping my feet or drumming with pencils, sometimes I hum without realizing it's out loud," said Haug.

Surely his coworkers are fond of his disruptions because they supply an endless amount of support towards his music career. Alongside his family and friends, they never miss a performance.

"They come to every show, and they sing just as loud with me every time. I love them for that. Without them, I couldn't do what I do," said Haug.

Surprisingly, Haug says his music roots come from his favorite band since middle school, Metallica.

"I wanted to play and sing like James Hetfield," Haug confesses.

Haug's mother bought him a starter guitar pack from a local shop back in New Jersey by the end of Middle School, which further ignited his interest to identify himself as an artist. But his perspective on sound didn't evolve until he got his hands on his first acoustic guitar.

"It really changed my outlook on the music I wanted to play, which is still what I play now," said Haug.

Although you may be familiar with Haug in business attire, Red's is where his inner musician takes the mic. He loves the energy from the crowd and the atmosphere of the venue.

"It is always filled with music lovers who like to hear anything from the Ignite remix to the newest country hit," said Haug. "Everyone always sings along."

In Between Two Gigs

A look inside Sacred Heart communications coordinator, Bill Haug

With an upcoming gig approaching on Oct. 17, Haug is excited to take the stage.

"I'm looking forward to it. I hope a lot of people are able to come out. It would be really cool to pack that place like it is for senior pub nights and alumni weekend. I'll play some usual stuff and a few new covers and tunes I've been working on. It should be a good night," said Haug.

He isn't shy about sharing the spotlight and challenges new and old faces to take a turn on the mic.

"I've got a few new ones that ask for audience participation. So, if you're there, get ready to sing," said Haug. 
Box Office Boom

LOS ANGELES
Associated Press

The Sandra Bullock-George Clooney space drama “Gravity” rocketed to the top of the box office and into industry record books during its opening weekend. The Warner Bros. adventure debuted with $55.55 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday — the biggest October opening ever and the biggest openings for Bullock and Clooney. The film also dominated the international box office, adding another $27.4 million overseas.

“It’s all good news,” said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution. He credited director and co-writer Alfonso Cuaron, who takes viewers into orbit with a story set almost entirely in space that explores challenges faced by two astronauts during a spacewalk. Cuaron’s team developed equipment and technology to replicate the weightlessness of space.

“It’s never been seen before, visual effects like this,” Fellman said. “Just the space shots are mind-boggling. It looks like you’re right there.”

Last week’s top movie, Sony’s “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2,” rolled into second place with $21.5 million. The animated sequel features the voices of Bill Hader and Anna Faris and a cast of “foodimals,” like tacosnails and shrimpantzees.

R-rated fare rounds out the top six. Twentieth Century Fox’s “Runner Runner,” starring Ben Affleck and Justin Timberlake, opened in third place with $7.6 million. Warner Bros. “Prisoners,” starring Hugh Jackman and Jake Gyllenhaal, locked onto the fourth spot. Universal’s racing tale “Rush,” starring Chris Hemsworth, drove into fifth place, followed by “Don Jon,” Joseph Gordon-Levitt’s directorial debut about a porn addict looking for love.

“The adult drama is back, and fall is the season for the adult drama,” said Paul Dergalibedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. “This is when you get your more challenging films, some of the more eclectic fare, and a lot of those movies, by their nature, have to be rated R.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The Sacred Heart University volleyball team split this past weekend's matches giving them a 3-1 record in NEC play. The Pioneers defeated Bryant on Saturday afternoon, but lost to Central Connecticut State on Sunday.

This weekend was a struggle for us. Even though we had won our first conference match and had a very good opportunity to win the match against Central Connecticut, we had a hard time maintaining a high level of play," said Head Coach Rob Machan.

The Pioneers emerged victorious in a come-from-behind victory against the Bryant Bull Dogs. Junior Alissa Young led the Pioneers to victory hitting .417. Senior Diana Mercado notched 15 kills to give the Pioneers another conference win.

To us, winning is a byproduct. We are more concerned with executing our game plan. We weren't satisfied with our efforts," said Young.

The Pioneers made a lot of errors early, which caused the match to be a dog fight. Bryant won the first set 25-21 due to four straight early errors by the Pioneers that gave Bryant the momentum and the lead.

"We didn't play our game. We normally attack and we were really passive," said Young.

In the second set, Sacred Heart struck first and held onto the lead. The Pioneers heated up after Mercado went on a four point run and freshman Sara Krutka posted an error free set going 3 for 6. Sacred Heart won the second set 25-18.

In the third set, Sacred Heart got off to an early start with an 8-0 run and Mercado scored five more points to lead the match 14-8. Young hit a perfect 3 for 3 and Sacred Heart took the third set 25-21. Bryant kept it close in the fourth set, but the Pioneers proved to be too much for them again closing out the match 25-21.

"Even though we were successful we felt like we didn't give our best effort. The team would like to become a team that attacks from the first point of the set," said Mercado.

On Sunday afternoon Sacred Heart lost to Central Connecticut 3-1. Central Connecticut was able to capitalize off of the Pioneers countless hitting and service errors. This loss was the Pioneers first in NEC play.

"We learned from our mistakes. This weekend gave us more reason to go on the court and practice and keep working harder for what we want to achieve at the end of the season," said Mercado. The Pioneers came out hot winning the first set 25-22. Mercado had her best performance of the day hitting .750 and achieving a double of kills (19) and digs (13). But the match went downhill after that for the Pioneers.

"We started off strong in the first set. We attacked them and executed our game plan. From then on we made to many errors and played to passive," said Young.

In the second set the fight continued. Both teams fought and exchanged points. The score was tied all the way to the 12th point, but Central Connecticut heated up and scored seven straight to win the set 25-14.

The third set went back and forth, but the Blue Devils capitalized and took the set 25-23. The Pioneers started off hot in the fourth set, but a late rally by Central Connecticut gave them the set and the match.

"The team always gives a great effort, but we are working on our consistency. With how hard we continue to work in practice, I expect us to continue to improve," said Machan.

The Pioneers played the University of Connecticut yesterday. Results were not available at press time. The team continues conference games away this weekend at Long Island on Saturday and St. Francis Brooklyn on Sunday.
FOOTBALL

Pioneers Fall in NEC Opener

BY KATIE SHEPARD
Sports Editor

It was nearly a comeback for the Sacred Heart University football team Saturday afternoon that lost in a heart-breaking fashion to Northeast Conference foe Wagner College 23-20 in the waning seconds.

After getting a quick field goal early on in the first quarter, the Pioneers struggled offensively over the course of the next two quarters. With two fumbles, one returned for a touchdown and five passes it was not looking good for the Pioneers.

"It was great to see such support from the students and parents and families," said sophomore RJ Noel.

Sacred Heart overcame a 17-point deficit to tie the game late in the 4th quarter, pleasing the 4,288 capacity crowd on hand.

"I’m excited and happy they battled back and tied the score," said head coach Mark Nofri. "But we didn’t play our best brand of football.

Junior running back Keshaudas Spence electrified the crowd with a 55 yard run near the end of the third quarter to give the Pioneers some life. Spence was the leading rusher on the day with 90 yards on 16 carries.

Two plays later, Noel found senior wide receiver Greg Moore in the back of the endzone to cut the Wagner lead to 10.

After forcing Wagner into a three and out, Noel led the Pioneers down the field again before hitting sophomore Moses Webb for a 14-yard touchdown to cut the lead again down to three.

The defense held their own against a Wagner offense with a plethora of weapons, particularly in the run game. Sophomore linebacker Kellen Sperduto recorded 22 tackles on the day with three and a half tackles for a loss.

"We played pretty sound defensively," Sperduto said. "We made adjustments at halftime and once we did we shut it down really well in the second half."

As a whole, the Pioneers defense racked up four sacks, 12 tackles for a loss and one interception. Junior defensive back Preston Sanford came up with the pick and put the offense in the best field position of the day, but the Pioneers came up empty on a missed 35-yard field goal.

"We needed someone to step up and make a play," Sanford said. "We really needed a turnover on defense to stop them from pounding the rock."

The defense again forced a Wagner punt and after a facemask penalty on the Seahawks, the Pioneers were in striking defense on the 12-yard line. However, after a false start penalty and a few incompletions, the Pioneers were forced to go for the tie with a 31-yard field goal. Rogers delivered and the game was tied with a little less than two minutes to play.

Wagner consistently ran the ball on the final drive and after shaky time management, they sent kicker Bryan Maley out for a 46-yard field goal attempt with only seven seconds remaining.

Maley drilled the kick leaving the Pioneers four seconds to miraculously score. But after a squib kick, Sacred Heart had only one second to work with. Noel threw an incompletion to Moore ending the game along with the five game-winning streak for the Pioneers.

"The hardest thing now is to come back next week and be ready to go," Nofri said.

The Pioneers look to bounce back next week as they take on in-state rival Central Connecticut State Saturday. Kick off is at 1pm on Campus Field.
Weekend Split for Pioneers

BY ANDREA BERINGER
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University field hockey split their two games this weekend, finishing with a 4-7 record after non-conference play. Friday night the Pioneers won in double overtime against Lehigh 2-1. 3:32 into the second overtime period, r-sophomore Liz Bergman scored the game-winning goal. This win snapped a four game losing streak and yet another overtime victory for the Pioneers.

“It was a great combination between Mace, Gallagher and I,” Bergman said. “It is always a good feeling to help the team get a win.”

Lehigh got on the board first and scored just two minutes into the second half with a penalty stroke. Freshman Danielle Gallagher answered for the Pioneers with a goal of her own in the 59th minute of the game. Gallagher also assisted on Bergman’s game winner in overtime. Sophomore goalkeeper Mary Altepeter made 11 saves in the game.

“We did a good job of finding passing lanes and making options available,” Altepeter said.

After a slow first half, both teams picked up the offense in the second half, causing corners as well as getting shot attempts off.

“We really began to start causing fouls on the other team too so we could achieve corners and keep it in the attacking end of the field,” said freshman Lauren Harrison.

On Sunday afternoon, the Pioneers were defeated by Lock Haven 4-0. The game was the last of the non-conference schedule giving the team a 4-7 record before conference play.

The Pioneers struggled to capitalize on the offensive end and Lock Haven continued to keep the pace and momentum throughout the game.

The Pioneers had an opportunity for an early lead as Bergman blasted a shot that was redirected by sophomore Christine Mace, but the Eagles goalkeeper Elisha White turned it away.

The Pioneers were out shot 17-8 and Lock Haven had an 11-3 advantage on penalty corners. Sacred Heart looks to improve on both sides of the ball before conference play next weekend.

“We are still working out some kinks in our press along with finishing offensively and being patient on defense,” said Altepeter.

Sacred Heart begins MAAC conference play this Sunday against cross-town rival Quinnipiac. The game starts at 12 pm.

PLAYERS of the WEEK

KRISTIN
VERRETTE

CHRIS
CONNELLY

THE EXPERIENCE I’VE HAD WITH MY TEAM HAS BEEN VERY SPECIAL.

- Kristin Verrette

RUNNING GIVES US A LOT OF GOOD COMPETITION AND CHANCES FOR GOOD EXPERIENCES.

- Chris Connelly

HOMETOWN Saugus, Massachusetts YEAR Junior
MAJOR Business SPORT Women’s soccer, Midfielder
GOALS AFTER COLLEGE Attend grad school and pursue a career in medical device or pharmaceutical sales.
STATS/AWARDS NEC Player of the Week for 2 consecutive weeks. 4 goals and 1 assist in

HOMETOWN Medford, New York YEAR Senior
MAJOR Exercise Science SPORT Cross Country
GOALS AFTER COLLEGE Keep running competitively and become a successful strength and conditioning coach.
STATS/AWARDS Winner of Fairfield Invitational. Finished in top 10 in every race this season.