Sacred Heart to Dedicate Multiple Days at Vaccine Clinic for Undergraduate Students

On Friday, April 16, the Coronavirus Planning Team announced that Sacred Heart University’s vaccination site will open for two extra days. Dedicated to vaccinating undergraduate students, the site will offer the Pfizer vaccine in the new atrium in the East Building at West Campus during these days.

"We heard you when you told us through our recent survey that you wanted to be vaccinated on campus," said the Coronavirus Planning Team.

Appointments can be made through Hartford Healthcare MyChartPLUS.

The dates scheduled for students' first doses are Thursday, April 22 and Sunday, April 25. Students' second doses will be scheduled for Thursday, May 13 and Sunday, May 16.

The survey sent out by the Coronavirus Planning Team asking about interest regarding vaccination played a significant factor in getting vaccines for students.

"That allowed us to communicate with the state that there was an interest in getting vaccinated," said Gary MacNamara, director of public safety.

Sacred Heart has been working all semester to secure vaccines for students.

"I’m ecstatic about it because most colleges don’t have that kind of commitment," said Dr. John Petillo, President of the university. "And of course, it helps that we have a vaccination site on campus."

These vaccines allocated for undergraduate students were made possible with the help of Hartford Healthcare, a medical site Sacred Heart has been working with for months.

"Hartford Healthcare has been phenomenal and very generous with us," said Petillo.

A total of 2,000 appointments were made available on Friday. Split between the two days, the university is giving an opportunity for a big percentage of students to be vaccinated.

"Our goal is to be as normal as possible next semester, which will be affected by the percentage of vaccinated students we have," said MacNamara.

Students who make appointments will be receiving their second dose before the end of the semester.

"We want to make sure especially those who are going home and leaving the state can get their first and second shot here," said MacNamara.

Along with vaccinating undergraduate students, Sacred Heart is hoping to create vaccination opportunities for graduate students and employees.

"This is not a one and done deal," said MacNamara. "We’re going to make sure everybody on campus who wants a vaccine gets a vaccine."

Many students have already jumped on the opportunity to make appointments.

"I’m happy I got a vaccine appointment," said junior Abigail Wunderlich. "I feel it’s easier than getting a vaccine at home."

Sacred Heart will also provide shuttles to West Campus on the dedicated clinic days.

"I think it’s especially beneficial for students who don’t have their cars on campus," said Wunderlich.

Some students had already been vaccinated at Sacred Heart’s vaccination site prior to the additional dates.

"Making the appointment was a little tricky, but once I showed up, it was an easy process," said senior Stephen Vaughan. These upcoming dates are expected to be just as quick and easy.

"Block out a half hour," said Petillo. "Then you get your shot and have the waiting period and you’re done and know you’re safe."

Sacred Heart also introduced a raffle for prizes including iPads, iPhones and AirPods for students who receive their second vaccination and upload their information to the student health portal by the end of May.

While it is not currently required, Sacred Heart is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to receive a vaccine before the fall semester.

"We want to come back to a normal life and the best way to do that is if we’re over 80% vaccinated," said Petillo. "Be smart, be wise, and be responsible to the larger community."

Biden Requests $1.5 Trillion Budget

President Joe Biden requests his first federal budget at a whopping $1.5 trillion, in hopes to enhance America’s schools, healthcare and housing, as well as environmental protection.

"Major changes are coming, and students need to be informed," said Dr. Gary Rose, chair of the department of government.

According to the Associated Press, Biden seeks to increase the Department of Education’s funds by 40.8%, Department of Health Services by 23.1%, housing and urban development by 15.1%, and a $14 billion increase to address climate change.

In addition, the Biden administration will try to deal with incoming arrivals from the U.S. southern borders, including an $861 million investment in Central America to address the issues driving people to migrate to the U.S. According to the Associated Press, Biden seeks to increase the Department of Education’s funds by 40.8%, Department of Health Services by 23.1%, housing and urban development by 15.1%, and a $14 billion increase to address climate change.

"I think it is reckless spending and a reflection of President Biden accommodating the far-left wing of his political party," said Rose. "I would certainly be in favor of fixing roads, bridges and rail lines as that is true infrastructure, but so much of his proposal has virtually nothing to do with infrastructure improvement."

However, the Biden administration and Democratic Party believe that the request would bring spending in line with the U.S. to historical average. The $700 billion that is being put into non-defense funding is essentially comparable to a 30-year average.

The Biden administration believes the cap, imposed by the long-abandoned 2011 budget deal, is due to a decade of severe underinvestment in public services. Biden is now trying to turn around with a large increase that would mostly pass through the national security programs.

"Although I may have my own personal opinion on politics and our president, I would love to see positive change within our nation," said sophomore Maddison Jones. "Even if it’s simply fixing things in the education department or helping with our health department with things like the vaccine. Through and through, some proposals should be made for change."

The President’s plan as written through Congress is typically a long shot to pass. As seen throughout history, conflicts with Republicans are likely to put a hold on these accounts, putting them on the back burner for months after the Sept. 30 expiration of the budget year.

For more information on the proposal and other developments, Biden will be addressing his first joint session of Congress on Wednesday, April 28.

"The best way for students to understand what is going on in our nation is by reading media reports from several different media outlets and perhaps even taking an informative course on American government," said Rose.
Derek Chauvin Trial Update

BY RYAN DOWNEY
Staff Writer

Derek Chauvin, the police officer charged in the death of George Floyd, is currently on trial. Chauvin was seen in a video kneeling on Floyd’s neck for a total of nine minutes and 29 seconds. Chauvin’s trial has now completed its third week of testimony in a courtroom in Minnesota and is expected to go into the week of April 20.

After the death of Floyd, the Black Lives Matter Movement reignited, forming protests throughout the U.S. and around the world. This movement calls for racial equality and that all the men and women on the police force who have unlawfully taken the lives of Black individuals be held accountable.

“The Black Lives Matter Movement is a testament to how badly things need to change in this country,” said sophomore Christopher Bocola. “There is no reason a black man should be killed for a petty crime on noncompliance.”

Chauvin and the other officers who were at the scene of the crime lost their jobs shortly after Floyd’s death.

On March 29, Chauvin sat for the first time in front of a jury as his trial began. The trial began with showing the video that was blasted all over social media with Floyd yelling “I can’t breathe” as Chauvin held his knee on the neck of Floyd.

According to the Associated Press, this was followed by the testimony of Darnella Frazier, the teenager who shot the video. In the emotional testimony, Frazier explained how Chauvin ignored the pleas of bystanders to get off of Floyd’s neck.

“A medical examiner concluded last year that Floyd’s heart stopped, complicated by how police restrained him and compressed his neck,” said an AP report.

On the death certificate was listed high blood pressure and fentanyl intoxication, as well as previous use of methamphetamine. Those in the courtroom have debated whether the narcotics in Floyd’s system played a part in his death.

Chauvin’s defense attorney, Eric Nelson, has raised many questions regarding Floyd’s death. Nelson questioned Chauvin’s partner, Courteney Ross, about previous drug use and questioned a bystander who was a paramedic about responding to overdose cases, attempting to raise the narrative that the cause of death may have been a drug overdose.

Professor James McCabe, an Associate Professor of Government at Sacred Heart University with previous police officer experience, said, “It appears that his (Chauvin’s) defense, that drugs and Floyd’s heart condition as the cause of death, does not seem to be holding up against the medical testimony presented so far.”

The drugs that were discovered in Floyd’s autopsy seem to be the main act of defense from Chauvin and Nelson and probably will continue to be as the trial proceeds.

Chauvin’s defense attorney tried to show that the video of Floyd’s death shows him yelling “I ATE TOO MANY DRUGS!” while being pinned down by the police. According to the Associated Press, when asked about this, prosecution witness Jody Stiger said, “I can’t seem to make that out,” furthering the idea that drugs did not play a larger role in the death.

The coroner who performed the autopsy deemed it a lack of oxygen and his heart stopping, but the defense attorney’s content says otherwise.

“People put in that position experience positional asphyxia... meaning just the position alone can cause suffocation,” said McCabe. “Adding the extra pressure of putting a knee to the head or neck makes the actions even more dangerous.”

LG Energy and SK Innovation

BY MARIO PEDERNERA
Staff Writer

On April 1, LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation, two South Korean electric vehicle battery makers, came to an agreement that ended a trade dispute and will now allow one of the companies to start manufacturing their batteries in Georgia.

President Joe Biden plans to increase the number of electric vehicles to help with climate change as part of his clean energy agenda. As written in an article by the Associated Press, “The companies pledged to work together to strengthen the EV battery supply chain in the U.S. and support the Biden administration’s efforts to advance clean energy policies, including electric vehicles.”

There has been a recent push to change to using more electric-based vehicles due to their effects on the environment.

“It will allow greener production of energy at source or possibly even carbon capture (it will be difficult to move away from oil/methane anytime soon),” said Dr. Frank Robinson, assistant professor of physics and director of the engineering 3+2 program at Sacred Heart University. “We have a better chance of controlling CO2 emissions if it all comes out at a few locations, rather than being spat out all over the planet.”

The Associated Press added that in addition to the deal made between LG Energy and SK Innovation, “The commission said SK could supply batteries to Ford Motor Co. for four years and to Volkswagen AG for two years. The decision had jeopardized a $2.6 billion battery factory that SK is building in Commerce, Georgia.”

“Batteries still have very low energy density (energy per kg) compared to gasoline, so they need to be very heavy and take up a lot of the car. They still take much longer to charge than fill up a tank of gas,” said Robinson.

“I think we’re definitely headed towards electric cars becoming common, but with time,” said sophomore Chris Gallagher. “I don’t see an issue with it because it has been proven to be a lot more beneficial to the environment, and I think it’s a positive thing that steps are being taken to produce more vehicles like this to be used.”

Information provided by the Associated Press shows the need for a settlement like this to meet the demand for electric vehicle batteries the country will soon have.

“Supplying the U.S. fleet of roughly 279 million largely gas-powered cars and trucks to electric vehicles is a focus of Biden’s infrastructure plan, with $174 billion allocated for EV incentives, a half-million charging stations and development of a domestic supply chain,” wrote the Associated Press. “Experts say it’s possible the U.S. will run short of electric vehicle batteries if it doesn’t set up its own network of parts suppliers.”

With alternative forms of power and fuel constantly being searched for, it seems that rechargeable batteries are the method getting the most attention right now.

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Improvements in battery technology seems the best way forward.”
On-Campus Housing Selection

By Francesca Mccaffrey
Staff Writer

On March 31, Sacred Heart University students who plan to live on campus next year were constantly refreshing their Outlook emails with the hopes that a low number would appear for housing selection along with their housing selection date. According to Sacred Heart’s website, on that date, housing selections lottery numbers were posted for rising sophomores. In this process, a low lottery number allows you to choose your dorm earlier in the selection.

Starting on April 7, lottery numbers 1-150 chose their housing, followed by 151-275 selecting on April 8, and finally 275 and above selecting on April 13.

For many students, the housing selection process can be a stressful time depending on their given lottery number and not quite knowing what to expect being a first-year student.

“Since it is my first time working with housing, I did not know what to expect, but with a low lottery number, it made it much easier,” said rising sophomore Maggie Gillespie.

Many students go into the process with the hopes of getting a certain dorm, but their lottery number can derail this.

“My housing selection was not what I expected,” said Gillespie. “Considering I received a high lottery number, I did not think I would be placed in the Upper Quad; however, one of my roommates had a low number, which granted us the ideal dorm we wanted.”

Some students say there can be room for improvement with the housing selection process in the future.

“If I were to change the process, I wish that there was a more equal opportunity to get into your top dorm, which does not seem totally reasonable but would definitely be more fair,” said Gillespie.

Additionally, some students say there should be more information given about the buildings and speed of the process as well.

“I wish we had a tad more information about the buildings and which ones might have been taken first,” said Seidman.

For many students, the housing selection process can be a stressful time depending on how much experience you can gain from doing one,” said sophomore Nina Manganello, intern for the Connecticut General Assembly.

“I never felt that it was difficult to juggle my internship and my schoolwork because I would only work during breaks or when I had days off in between my class schedule,” said Frangu.

“I plan on going to law school after undergraduate school,” said sophomore Edije Seidman.

“I wish we had a tad more information about the buildings and which ones might have been taken first,” said Seidman.

According to Sacred Heart’s website, the Center for Career and Personal Development offers “assistance finding internships for which students may be able to earn academic credit, resume writing, cover letter writing, interviewing, and job skills development,” as well as other support to help students work toward pursuing their career path.

The opportunities that have come from my internship were to build my resume in leadership experience and to be able to use the skills I used in my graduate classes to help students they are working for.

“I had the amazing opportunity to get an internship from Sacred Heart with Prof. Congdon to work with the organization of Sister Cities,” said first year graduate student Leslie Giraldo.

“I had the opportunity of getting an internship through the help of Sacred Heart University’s academic instructors.

“I’m hoping to gain a better understanding of the marketing industry itself, as well as skills I will use throughout my career,” said sophomore Nicole Capuano, who will be interning at Gameday Tailgate Experience during the summer.

Student’s Internship Experiences

By Ianna HANKINSON
Staff Writer

Have you ever thought about taking steps to benefit your future career path?

“I plan on going to law school after undergraduate school,” said sophomore Edije Seidman, intern for the Connecticut General Assembly.

Many students say they have utilized the university’s career center to their full advantage in order to help prepare and strengthen their applications for internships.

“The career center has been a huge help with fixing my resume, cover letters, and preparing and offering internship opportunities that align with the career path that I’ve chosen,” said Sementilli.

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Many students say they have gained substantial opportunities from their internships.

“The opportunities that have come from my internship were to build my resume in leadership experience and to be able to use the skills I used in my graduate classes to help an undergraduate class create a wonderful learning opportunity for themselves and for Sacred Heart University,” said Giraldo.

Other students say they hope to obtain experience and opportunities from their upcoming internships.

“I’m hoping to gain a better understanding of the marketing industry itself, as well as skills I will use throughout my career,” said sophomore Nicole Capuano, who will be interning at Gameday Tailgate Experience during the summer.
The Tokyo Olympics will be held from July 23 to Aug. 8. Japan had planned to hold the Olympic games in the summer of 2020, but the government decided to delay the games one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government recently decided to hold the Tokyo Olympics without allowing overseas spectators, saying they want to make it a safe environment for sports athletes and audiences in Japan. “I cannot wait for the Olympic games. We have been waiting since summer 2020. I am proud of the government and the IOC’s (International Olympic Committee) decision,” said senior Ulala Murasawa, who is a student at Sacred Heart University in Japan.

According to a press release from ESPN, the Japanese government is spending a lot of money to establish the Olympic Games. It is reported that the games cost $15.4 billion. “$6.7 billion is public money, and a University of Oxford study says these are the most expensive Olympics on record,” according to an ESPN press release.

The public money includes 4.45 million tickets, which were sold to residents of Japan. However, the Japanese government has not yet decided how many spectators will be able to attend the games.

“They have promised refunds, but this will be determined by so-called authorized ticket resellers that handle sales outside Japan,” according to the ESPN press release. The refunds are for everyone who has already purchased the tickets.

Japanese media coverage has been focused on the cost of preparing for the Olympics. Sakai Masato reported in an article of the President, “The cancellation of the Tokyo Olympics will have negative effects on Japan’s business.” On the other hand, other broadcasts in different countries tend to focus on the health and safety of athletes and spectators. Some people disagree with the Japanese government’s decision to hold the games this summer.

“The organizers say that they will be enforcing regular testing, social distancing, perhaps not having full capacity of spectators in the stadium to prevent the spread of the virus,” reported Alastair Gale in The Wall Street Journal.

According to the discussion between the Japanese government and IOC, they will allow foreign Olympic athletes to participate in the Olympics. However, families of those athletes will not be able to go to Japan to watch in person. During COVID-19, many athletes have continued to train for the Olympics and find ways to maintain their skills while in quarantine. In addition to their physical skills, many athletes had to work on their mental health and had to come to terms with not competing last summer.

Senior sports psychologist with the U.S. Olympics and Paralympic Committee Dr. Karen Cogan said in an Oklahoma News interview, “We’re already being physically isolated from each other, and then to struggle with a difficult emotional issue alone, that’s just a double whammy I would say.”

Many athletes have been stressed with pressures to keep their mental health for the Tokyo Olympics because they cannot assume how the Tokyo Olympics is going to be organized.

Another aspect of mental strain on athletes, in addition to being pressured to perform well, is the added stress of COVID-19.

Academic Mentoring Program

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to be a mentor for a student in middle school? The Academic Mentor Program (AMP) is a mentoring program between 21 Sacred Heart University undergraduate students and 28 John Winthrop Middle School students, grades six to eight. This mentor program provides both academic support and social support for middle school youth,” said program coordinator Jillian Rigby.

Founded in 2001 by the Jones Zimmermann Foundation, the AMP allows college students to become mentors to middle school students down the street in Bridgeport, Conn., according to the Academic Mentoring Program page on the Sacred Heart website.

Sacred Heart students are to provide these young students with exposure to the possibilities within learning and higher levels of education. The program is not all student-run, however; it’s also supported by faculty and administration at Sacred Heart. “My position includes managing the undergraduate mentors, middle school mentees, being a liaison between SHU, John Winthrop teachers, and mentee’s parents,” said Rigby. “I create and implement enrichment (social activities after tutoring) for mentees and monthly mentor training.”

As for the program’s mentors, they are expected to make a minimum of a full year commitment but are strongly encouraged to mentor for two years in order to strengthen the mentee and mentor relationship. They are also expected to dedicate around four hours or (two hrs. x two days) per week working with two students after school from 2:30-4:30 p.m. normally. Mentors should be very academically stable in their college career by having at least a 3.0 GPA and also should have at least some experience working with children prior to participating in the AMP.

“SHU students can get involved by applying to be an AMP mentor. This position has a requirement of attending AMP twice a week for the academic year. Students can reach out to the Office of Volunteer Programs and Service Learning for more information,” said Rigby.

Once mentors are selected, they are paid $10 every AMP session attended with their students. They also attend a training session in the beginning of the semester and participate in AMP activities the program has planned out for them and their students. An average AMP day is around two hours long. It is usually broken down by four major activities: homework assistance, which normally lasts an hour, a 10-minute snack time, some sort of recreation for 20 minutes, and finally, a customized learning activity for about a half hour.

According to the Academic Mentoring Program page on the Sacred Heart website, the program also offers some field trips each semester free of charge. Some local places include the Jones Family Farm, SkyZone, Sacred Heart basketball games, and an annual Broadway trip. Since COVID-19 hit last year, it has changed plans for a lot of the program and has made it more difficult to take the students on some of these trips.

“SHU students can first apply for this mentoring position in the spring of their freshman year, to begin mentoring in the fall of the following year,” said Rigby. “This is a year-long commitment and students can renew their mentoring position annually for a total of three years of being an AMP Mentor. Students are also welcome to apply even if they are not a current freshman.”
Spring is a time of renewal and life and is often an uplifting season. To celebrate the warm weather and blooming flowers, we invite you to take time to appreciate the beauty of spring. Below are photographs from several talented Sacred Heart University students which capture just some of the beauty and wonder of spring.
Taylor Swift Releases “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)”

BY MADISON PELUSO

Staff Writer

Taylor Swift wanted to have an act of reclamation that would get everyone to talk about her and her music. On April 9, Taylor Swift re-released her second studio album “Fearless.” Entitled “Fearless (Taylor’s Version),” Swift’s re-release solves her recent struggles regarding the lack of control over her first six albums. As a result, Swift put out a collection of 26 songs, including six new tracks from the “vault.”

The fact that she seems to be making a concerted effort to keep the songs almost exactly the same adds to the defiant tone of this project, showing that these songs, as she originally conceived them, belong to her and no one else,” said music adjunct instructor Darren Litzie.

According to The Washington Post, Swift left her label, Big Machine, in 2018. Her master recordings fell into the hands of American media entrepreneur Scooter Braun. Subsequently, Swift vowed to re-record her first six albums in an effort to own her music.

This album includes many well-known classics such as “Love Story,” “You Belong With Me,” “Fearless” and “Today Was a Fairytale.” There are only slight differences with the new versions compared to the older versions. “The two subtle differences that I noticed are that Swift’s voice sounds a bit more seasoned and matured, as one would expect, and the recordings sound more crisp and clear, thanks to recording technology that is constantly improving,” said Litzie.

Along with the originals on the album, the six new songs from the “vault” include “You All Over Me” featuring Marren Morris, “Mr. Perfectly Fine,” “We Were Happy,” “That’s When” featuring Keith Urban, “Don’t You” and “Bye Bye Baby.”

“I have listened to the album,” said sophomore Ellie Kiernan. “I like it a lot.”

According to The Washington Post, “None of the tweaks seem like artistic necessities,” said Litzie. “I think what she’s doing is actually pretty admirable.”

Swift took to Instagram and Twitter on Feb. 11 writing a lengthy note about the release of “Fearless (Taylor’s Version).”

“When I think back on the Fearless album and all that you turned it into, a completely involuntary smile creeps across my face,” wrote Swift.

“I think what she’s doing is actually pretty admirable,” said Swift. “The message she’s sending is one of a true artist who has a tremendous amount of pride in her work, and she’s willing to spend a lot of time and money to ensure that she has full ownership of it.”
The Sacred Heart University Pioneers football team returned to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Sunday, April 11 to decide the Northeastern Conference (NEC) champion. After a 30-27 loss to Duquesne in week one, the Pioneers came away with a 34-27 overtime victory to secure the NEC trophy.

“It feels amazing to be champions,” said Pioneers junior quarterback Marquez McCray. “A lot of hard work has gone into this, and it feels good to be recognized.”

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, Brantley finished the game with four receptions, for 75 yards, and one touchdown.

“We found one of our best players on a mismatch, Quez [Marquez] made an unbelievable throw and Nas made an unbelievable catch,” said DiRenzo. “It was a perfect all-around play, call, throw, catch, to win a championship, you can’t draw it up any better than that.”

Team success triumphs individual success for the Pioneers.

“We’re playing a lot smarter, and a lot more together. It was win or go home, and everyone sacrificed and we came together,” said Chestnut.

The Pioneers will enter the pool for the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs and are scheduled to play the University of Delaware on Sunday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

Softball Achieves Four-Game Win Streak

BY ALEX MARCIANIKA
Staff Writer

On April 10, the Sacred Heart University softball team defeated Wagner College in a doubleheader series played at the opposing team’s home field in Staten Island, N.Y. These two victories have extended the Pioneers’ winning streak to four games. Sacred Heart won the first game by a score of 1-0 and the second game by 7-5.

However, the four-game win streak ended on April 13, when the Pioneers lost to the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Blue Devils 4-3. Sacred Heart went on to lose the next three games to CCSU all by one run except the last encounter, which resulted in a 15-1 victory for the Blue Devils.

Sacred Heart has a current record of 8-14 and a conference record of 6-8. This lands the Pioneers within the top four teams of their conference, according to the 2021 Northeast Conference (NEC) softball standings.

The top four teams in the NEC will qualify for the conference tournament and fight for a chance to earn a bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament. The only way to gain that bid is to win the NEC tournament.

“I’ve won the tournament twice as the fourth seed,” said head coach Pam London. “If you are the hot team going into that weekend, you can absolutely take it.”

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Leaders on the team such as junior Amy Petrovich and senior Colleen Walsh may be crucial to the Pioneers in their attempt at qualifying and winning the NEC tournament. Petrovich plays left-field and is one of the main hitters for the Sacred Heart squad, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

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Staff Writer

On April 10, the Sacred Heart University softball team defeated Wagner College in a doubleheader series played at the opposing team’s home field in Staten Island, N.Y. These two victories have extended the Pioneers’ winning streak to four games. Sacred Heart won the first game by a score of 1-0 and the second game by 7-5.

However, the four-game win streak ended on April 13, when the Pioneers lost to the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Blue Devils 4-3. Sacred Heart went on to lose the next three games to CCSU all by one run except the last encounter, which resulted in a 15-1 victory for the Blue Devils.

Sacred Heart has a current record of 8-14 and a conference record of 6-8. This lands the Pioneers within the top four teams of their conference, according to the 2021 Northeast Conference (NEC) softball standings.

The top four teams in the NEC will qualify for the conference tournament and fight for a chance to earn a bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament. The only way to gain that bid is to win the NEC tournament.

“I’ve won the tournament twice as the fourth seed,” said head coach Pam London. “If you are the hot team going into that weekend, you can absolutely take it.”

Leaders on the team such as junior Amy Petrovich and senior Colleen Walsh may be crucial to the Pioneers in their attempt at qualifying and winning the NEC tournament. Petrovich plays left-field and is one of the main hitters for the Sacred Heart squad, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, Matthew Brantley finished the game with four receptions, for 75 yards, and one touchdown.

“We found one of our best players on a mismatch, Quez [Marquez] made an unbelievable throw and Nas made an unbelievable catch,” said DiRenzo. “It was a perfect all-around play, call, throw, catch, to win a championship, you can’t draw it up any better than that.”

Team success triumphs individual success for the Pioneers.

“We’re playing a lot smarter, and a lot more together. It was win or go home, and everyone sacrificed and we came together,” said Chestnut.

The Pioneers will enter the pool for the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs and are scheduled to play the University of Delaware on Sunday, April 24 at 7 p.m.