Building dreams one house at a time

Habitat for Humanity uses spring break to make a difference

Many students choose to spend their spring break not lounging around in the sun, but helping others.

Kathleen Vissichelli
Staff Reporter

The members of Habitat for Humanity have exciting plans this spring break with trips to New Mexico, Florida and North Carolina to help build houses from the ground up for families in need already lined up.

This trip is the largest the school has seen so far with 55 people going on the three different trips, according to the Service Learning Center who sponsors Sacred Heart’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

“We did our first trip back in 1995, and since then we’ve been to Baltimore, Boston, Delaware and Alabama,” said Phyllis Machledt, advisor for Habitat for Humanity.

Miguel Colon, staff member and student advisor for the North Carolina trip, said they will be constructing houses from the foundation up, installing windows and doors, and much more.

“We’ll be working with a construction crew and the future homeowner as well,” said Colon.

The work started on Monday and will continue everyday until Friday. The North Carolina trip will take place in Wilmington where the group will be part of a team building ranch homes that were See DESTINATION on page 2...

Sacred Heart 4-Day Forecast

Thursday
Rather cloudy and breezy with a shower
High: 43°

Thursday night
Partly cloudy and breezy
Low: 27°

Friday
Partly sunny, windy and colder

Saturday
Sunny to partly cloudy

Sunday
Increasing cloudsyness

See page 2 for Saturday Forecast

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Housing selection is the time of the year students dread the most.
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MUSIC AND LYRICS
Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant made beautiful music together in this romantic comedy.
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Weather worries
students
Winter conditions question SHU potluck
Brittany Lacey
Staff Reporter

Icy roads, freezing weather, and a wind chill that makes it seem much colder than it is are just a few of the factors reminding everyone that winter is still here.

As the weather gets more severe and the campus faced its first closing due to weather on Valentine’s Day, students raise concerns about driving and walking in this weather.

Lauren Gutierrez, freshman, Hopkinton, Mass., said she finds that it’s not only driving around in the Fairfield area that has become increasingly more difficult in the past few weeks, but also getting around campus.

“The weather here has made everyday tasks, such as going from our dorm See INCLEMENT on page 5...

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The ‘Heart’ Beat
SHU’s exclusive safety & crime report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Two resident’s were in an accident. Public Safety, BPD &amp; AMR responded.</td>
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<td>Public Roads</td>
<td>A commuter student was accused of being involved in a hit and run accident.</td>
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<td>Off Campus</td>
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<td>Off Campus</td>
<td>A commuter student was involved in an altercation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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contributed by: Public Safety

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Destination: New Mexico, North Carolina and Florida

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

destroyed by hurricanes for low-income families. The Florida group will work in Fort Meyers building ranch homes for victims of hurricanes as well, said Machledt.

"The best part of the entire week last year, for me, was when we built all the walls and had to raise them into place," said Lauren Corso, sophomore, Trumbull who is a student leader for the North Carolina group. "It’s one of those things that you never imagine that you will have the opportunity to do, and it’s such a gratifying feeling."

Corso said "you are blown away" by the things the group is able to accomplish in a week.

In contrast to the North Carolina and Florida trips, the New Mexico trip will consist of the group building homes using Adobe bricks, which is a new form of brick. The advisor for this trip will be Machledt who said they’ll stay in a church in Arroyo Seco, which is about 8 miles from their worksite in New Mexico.

"We will be building Adobe houses, lots of building in the mud!" said Kaithin Mulqueen, sophomore and public relations chair for the club. "We will be working in the mountains and apparently the sky is the prettiest blue you’ve ever seen. Nothing like working on a house in a beautiful scene like that, but I think the part I’m most excited about is building with the adobe bricks."

The members of Habitat for Humanity also work in Bridgeport all year long building homes for low-income families. According to Machledt, all of the locations chosen this year were far away because the students wanted to work in different areas and experience other cultures.

"I’m looking forward to seeing another part of our country and to learn more about the culture of the community there," said Robert Bristol, sophomore, East Rockaway, N.Y. "This is a great opportunity to make friends in far away places, and in a way, get out of my comfort zone and experience something completely different."

To attend the trip, there are some conditions that have to be met. Machledt said the students have a role she’s proud of which requires everyone that goes on this trip to first have done work on the Bridgeport sites. Trips like this cost money and the club has done a great deal to raise it through a car wash and a T-shirt sale that were held. On Monday, Feb. 26, they will hold a Chinese Auction where students and staff will be able to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize.

"You really see that this is a need and we are making a tangible difference," said Machledt. "We’ll learn what we can do with our own two hands, it’s the joy of seeing it. But its working with the families and helping to change and make life better that is the most rewarding."
Political survey will let SHU students speak out

SHU Polling Institute will analyze views on the Catholic vote

Ashley Stearns
Staff Reporter

Politics is one thing that is always up for discussion.

With the first survey ever created pertaining strictly to SHU students being distributed throughout the week, students' political views are on the rise.

After conducting frequent interviews for the media outside of campus, Dr. Gary Rose was curious to know how students would vote. As a result, the new survey was created to analyze full-time SHU students and examine the Catholic vote.

"It was time for a serious political survey," said Rose, Professor and Chair of the Department of Government and Politics.

The survey was organized in conjunction with the university's Polling Institute.

The Sacred Heart Polling Institute exists to produce informative and thought-provoking national surveys, said Jerry Lindsey, director of the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute.

"Through polling, the Institute engages students, faculty and citizens nationwide in ethics and policy discussion," said Lindsey. "The polls allow Americans the opportunity to provide regular input on public policy development."

After three drafts, a final survey was created through the joint effort of Rose and Lindsey. The final survey is to be distributed by resident assistants of every dormitory.

The survey will be anonymously taken and should only take five minutes of each student's time.

Questions on the survey vary from home state, nationality, major, activities involved in on campus, political philosophy, religion, attendance of religious services, support of which political party, and whether or not the student is registered to vote.

A policy such as the war in Iraq, abortion, gay marriage, the U.S. Patriot Act, and national health insurance for all Americans will also seek students' outlook.

"I think that the voting survey will help enrich the lives of all students here," said Student Body President Jim Daly, senior, Hailey, N.J. "It will encourage others to get out and vote because before we know it, our generation is going to be making the decisions in our country."

Even students not as politically active as others agreed.

"I think this is a great idea because everyone has different political views and it will be interesting to hear what people on campus think," said Amy Dion, sophomore, Marion, Mass.

The results will be viewed by the Polling Institute and be presented in a Power Point presentation.

Where will the results go from there?

With SHU being one of the largest Catholic universities in the Northeast, it will be interesting to see how young people will vote with the stereotype of Catholics voting more conservatively.

"Right now, it will give some insights of the emerging Catholic voter," said Rose. "There used to be a very distinct image of Catholic voter, but not so much now."

Before coming to SHU 25 years ago, Rose taught at Southwest Missouri State University where he saw a "born again Evangelist" identity relating to politics.

"It structured them to be more conservative," said Rose.

Unlike Rose's previous university, SHU is a private university with students coming from different parts of the country and even from outside of the United States.

The goal of the survey is to see how students coming from different backgrounds compare to one another while also taking in consideration the role attending a school with strong religious ties plays.

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Poll: Sen. Dodd not a top candidate for '08 presidency

Susan Haigh
Associated Press

U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd may be the home state presidential candidate in 2008, but a new statewide poll released Monday shows he's far from the top choice among voters in Connecticut.

The Quinnipiac University survey shows Dodd with 8 percent of the vote in a possible Democratic primary. New York Sen. Hillary Clinton leads the pack with 33 percent, followed by Sen. Barack Obama with 21 percent and former Vice President Al Gore with nine percent.

Dodd has a slight advantage in Connecticut over former North Carolina Senator John Edwards, who has 5 percent of the vote.

If Senator Christopher Dodd can't even come close to winning a Democratic primary in his home state, that's obviously a bad sign for his presidential campaign," said Poll Director Douglas Schwartz.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut chairman of Dodd's presidential campaign, said the poll shows that voters in Connecticut love Dodd as a senator.

"Now they're just beginning to focus on the possibility that he might be president," Blumenthal said. "There's still loads of time to change that image. And the good news is, he has very high approval numbers as senator. It should translate into lots of support for president."

Sixty percent of voters said they approve of the job Dodd is doing as a senator. Thirty percent said he would make a good president, 49 percent said he would not and 22 percent were undecided.

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Chris Dodd.

AP Photo/Lee Martinez

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College is getting down to 'businness' on March 3
ACCSB accreditation, 10 year celebration and reunion scheduled

Mikara Cimmino
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart means business.

Well at least on March 3, when the John F. Welch College of Business will celebrate its international accreditation by AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and its 10th anniversary as a college.

Alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and the advisory board will be present to celebrate the College of Business.

The reunion will take place in The Wilhelmina Matthews Center on March 3 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

"I think this is a great opportunity for people who have been through the business program to come back and see how far the Sacred Heart [business program] has come, since they have become the John F. Welch College of Business," said Jason Payne, junior, Courtland Maynor, N.Y. "These alumni and others will now get the chance to see how their contributions have helped the program."

The reunion will give everyone associated with the John F. Welch College of Business the chance to see old friends and celebrate their and the colleges great accomplishments throughout the 10 years.

The attendees at the anniversary celebration will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, while given the chance to watch the women's basketball team battle it out in first round of the NEC tournament.

"We are hoping to have at least 300 students, over 100 faculty and some business alumni," said Anthony Massa, director of the John F. Welch College of Business.

"We invited the senior graduates and five or six retired faculty members. The seniors are very much encouraged to come and join the reunion. We have a great raffle with some awesome prizes. If anyone has a question about this event please contact the College of Business website."

"Being a business major and currently attending the program here at Sacred Heart, it is an honor to be part of such a great program," said Brian Walsh, sophomore, Wakefield, Mass. "I think this anniversary celebration will be great."

Even though some students, like Kara Basque, freshmen, Plainville, Mass. will not be able to attend the anniversary and reunion celebration, she believes it will be a valuable experience for all who attend.

"The 10th anniversary sounds like a good time," said Basque. "Being a business major, I wish I could be there. I'm sure there will be people there who would be great to meet and also great connections for the future."

So get down to business and help Sacred Heart commemorate 10 years of success and honor with the John F. Welch College of Business.
**News**

**Alpha Sigma Psi takes on a new role and cause**

*Campus fraternity is dedicated to promoting Diabetes awareness*

Leah Gallagher  
*Staff Reporter*

Alpha Sigma Psi is taking steps to get the university community involved with diabetes awareness.

Alpha Sigma Psi, a fraternity on campus, has been working closely with the American Diabetes Association. Participating in the annual American Diabetes Association Walk in Fairfield, Alpha Sigma Psi has actively promoted diabetes awareness.

"From what I see, it is apparent that they [Alpha Sigma Psi] care about their cause and are concerned with making it a focal issue for others on campus, and not just their organization alone," said Jason Hawkins, President of Omega Phi Kappa, senior, Queens, N.Y.

Alpha Sigma Psi assists with set up for the walk, and they work the day of the event assisting with manual labor and working the registration tables.

Although diabetes awareness is not the primary cause of the fraternity, Alpha became very interested and active in the cause because of brothers in the fraternity who are directly affected by diabetes. Four brothers of Alpha, three of whom are now alumni, have been diagnosed with diabetes, which is the primary reason Alpha Sigma Psi chose Diabetes Awareness as their cause.

Students are impressed with the work Alpha is doing to promote diabetes awareness.

"It’s great that they are not only concerned with domestic abuse, but they show concern for those with diabetes," said Sarah Weyer, sophomore, Shirley, N.Y.

"It really shows that alpha is concerned with the greater good rather than just a small portion of the issues we face today," she said.

Some students have friends or family members who fight with diabetes.

"I feel like people our age don't know that much about it and what it does to the body. And a lot of diabetes cases can be prevented with just a little caution and awareness so I think it’s great," said Kelly Linskey, junior, Seal Beach, Calif.

Other Fraternities on campus are taking notice of Alpha Sigma Psi’s dedication to the cause.

"I think that when it comes to issues such as this one, no one's work is ever finished. Even if 75% of the people are aware and prepared to work for the cause there is still 25% of the people who haven’t been reached effectively. Getting those people to support your cause is just as important. It is a work in progress everyday," said Hawkins.

As students become more aware of what they can do to help making diabetes a prominent issue they are becoming more eager to get involved.

"I would definitely participate in the walk, and I think students who care and may also have family members with diabetes, will be willing to get involved and help as much as they can," said Linskey.

Alpha Sigma Psi’s work with Diabetes Awareness is gaining recognition from the SHU community. The fraternity was given a certificate of recognition for their work with the cause on Jan. 16 by Fairfield County Director, Diane Creed, to show appreciation for the work that Alpha Sigma Psi continues to do for diabetes awareness.
Time to get in shape on National Fitness Day

Campus fraternity is dedicated to promoting Diabetes awareness

by Susan Patton Staff Reporter

Do you like to work out? The Intramural Department will be offering fitness classes and fund-raising challenges through a benefit developed by the American Cancer Society in celebration of National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day. The event will take place on Feb. 22 at the William H. Pitt Center at 12:15 and 12:45 p.m.

"This is a great idea that will get young people motivated about their own health as well as the health of others," said Kelly Linskey, junior, Seal Beach, Calif.

The proceeds go to the American Cancer Society is wonderful. All of us have been affected or know someone who has been seriously affected from cancer. Finding cures and having money to do the research is a great thing that people want to be a part of," said Linskey.

Sacred Heart's Intramural Department is helping to celebrate this day to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle. They are offering two fun充满了 fitness classes and two fundraising challenges through out the day.

"I like how you can participate in those classes with your friends, it makes the day more appealing and it sounds like a lot of fun," said Brianna Raaf, sophomore, East Northport, N.Y.

Classes will be offered at 12:15 and 12:45 p.m. The first class is a low intensity aerobics class, while the second class will be Pilates. Sacred Heart is offering these two different classes to help get the entire university community involved in this celebration.

"I think celebrating this day is a really good idea. Exercise is very important to me and I know a lot of other people feel the same way. I think National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day is a good combination of most people's interests, working out, and doing it to raise money for a good cause," said Raaf.

Some students are interested in raising their limits with the Cardio Blast challenge or the Bench Press challenge. Finding a sponsor to donate a specified amount of money towards the American Cancer Society for every minute they run, every push up they do, or every bench press accomplished.

"It's a good idea to celebrate National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day. It gives you that extra motivation to do a few more push-ups or to run a little further, because it's not just for you, it's for a cause. That, and it's always nice to push your personal limits every once in awhile. Why not raise some money for something meaningful while doing it?" said Casey Bertoldo, junior, Warwick, N.Y.

Interested students and staff can pick up their pledge forms and further information at the Main Lobby, Intramural Office, or the Fish Bowl at the William H. Pitt Center.

When can be made payable to the American Cancer Society.

Students can work out in benefit others.

Snow plowing and safety are a big concern on and off campus

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the library, more problematical," said Gutierrez, explaining that being a freshman driving in a new area can also be complicated. "When you add icy and detrimental roads to the equation, it makes everything severely worse," Gutierrez said.

These winter conditions raise questions about SHU's policy on closing the university during days of inclement weather.

The university takes several precautions when dealing with the unpredictable weather, but even so, many students feel that there is still more that can be done.

A couple of days before SHU's first real snow storm, Director of Communications Funda Alp sent e-mails out to students informing them about which radio or television stations to turn to for information on school closings and delays.

Up-to-date information on delay and cancellations could also be obtained by checking the Sacred Heart University Home Web Page, ctweather.com, or Public Safety's Snow line at 365-7669.

In addition to offering a Snow line, Jack Fernandez, director of Public Safety, said that Public Safety also provides hazard checks of the sidewalks, parking lot, driving lanes, doors that may be blocked by snow or ice, and report their findings to the appropriate department for immediate action.

"We monitor the weather conditions on campus and increase patrols of the residential halls this time of year," said Fernandez.

But even with these precautions being taken, some students still feel that SHU still needs to enhance their safety measures.

Jillian Powley, freshman, Reading, Mass., said that even with the safety measures being imposed, the school could still do a better job with cleaning up the snow around campus.

"It's a small campus, so it's not that hard to get around," said Powley. "But it seemed as if some pathways were only plowed once during the day, which makes walking around on campus not that simple with the ice that was transpiring."

Powley, however, said she appreciated that the university closed for a day due to the weather.

"The weather was really bad, and I thought it was a smart move on their part," said Powley. "Limiting driving during inclement weather is always a worthwhile idea."

Ryan Mongillo, sophomore, Northford, who lives in Roncolli and has a little hike to make when attending class, said he feels that safety measures need to be enhanced at this school during this frosty season.

"I thought the roads were not plowed very well and I almost slipped once coming down the big hill where the professors park," said Mongillo. "I was a little disappointed in the way the plowing and clearing of paths were done."

During this period of unpleasant weather, the welfare of handicapped students can also pose a problem as result of the lack of plowing and clearing of the pathways.

Mongillo said he has a friend on crutches that he had to drive around.

"It would have been almost impossible for him to get around campus with the conditions here," Mongillo said.
College acceptance is only getting more difficult for prospective students

Rachel Maresca
Staff Reporter

All current students at Sacred Heart University should consider themselves lucky to be here.

Admission policies in colleges all over America are getting more difficult as each year goes on. Each year it gets increasingly harder to get in to colleges that we all used to consider "safety schools."

The SATs are now out of a possible 2400 points. To all of us that took the SAT's back when getting a 1600 was for geniuses, find it unbelievable. However, how do the current freshman here at SHU that actually took this new standardized test feel about it?

"The SATs weren't too bad being out of 2400, I think they give you a better opportunity to get a higher score because people accelerate in different areas. The essay gives students a chance to show their writing ability on a more personal level," said Chris Caccia, freshman, Glocester, R.I.

This definitely seems to be an upside to changing the SATs, but it just doesn't seem right to those of us that took them when it was only the math and verbal sections. I know if I had to do a writing sample when I was a senior in high school, I feel as though it would have made the whole college process much harder.

"I didn't take the SAT's, because of the whole process was so stressful, but I still think SATs are important. But the SATs now aren't as important," said Chris Caccia.

Getting your hands on a diploma is becoming increasingly more difficult.

lacrosse. All I needed to take were the ACT's, but either way, it's the most miserable Saturday ever, said Stephan Gerhard, freshman, Centennial, COLO.

Going to college used to be an option, now it's a necessity. Realizing and understanding that, is one of the number one reason that getting accepted into college is becoming so difficult. Not just "anyone" can get in. You need to have something to offer to the school that you're trying so hard to impress. You need to stand out nowadays because average just doesn't seem to cut it.

"I don't like that the admissions process is getting harder because pretty soon if they keep making it harder than they will lower the percentage of high school students who are being accepted into college. College helps kids become more responsible and ready for life and if you don't give them a chance then what's going to happen," said Caccia.

Lately, what seems to be happening is that high school seniors don't seem to get into their first choice schools. So many students are left disappointed in April when the acceptance letters start, flooding in. Luckily, for some student's, they may have not gotten in to their number one school, but they are very happy here at SHU.

"Sacred Heart wasn't my first choice, but after being waitlisted at my first choice school, Sacred Heart treated me well in the admissions process and it helped me decide," said Caccia.

"Sacred Heart was not my first choice, but I'm happy with the decision and enjoy my time very much. I like how admission to SHU is getting harder because then a degree from here will be more impressive, and I can get a better job," said Gerhard.

For the classes of 2007 and 2008 here at SHU, they didn't seem to have such a hard time when applying for schools.

"When I applied to Sacred Heart, I got in with no problem. However, when my younger sister applied here it was her first choice and she got denied, not even waitlisted. I was so surprised because I know our school is always welcoming to siblings of current students," said Tara Piscitello, junior, Manorville, N.Y.

It's situations like this that makes you sympathize with the future college applicants, lets just be thankful were already in college.

What did you think of Senior Mystery Trip?

Meghan Wilcox
Senior, Bedford, Mass.

"It really was a surprise and it was a lot of fun."

David Wolfson
Senior, New Rochelle, N.Y.

"I don't remember much, but I think I had fun."

Frank D'Errico
Senior, Hamilton, N.J.

"I thought it was a great time. And I'm thrilled it's no longer a mystery on where I parked my car."

Jillian Hoxsie
Senior, Coventry, R.I.

"I thought it was great. And I think that it's a good preview of what Senior Week is going to be like."
Laptops: friend or foe?

Katie Carroll
Staff Reporter

When students are preparing to go off to college they might have numerous items on their to buy list such as pens, notebooks, bed comforters and desk lamps.

One key item on everyone’s list is a desktop or laptop. Fortunately, for SHU students they don’t have to worry about going out and buying one.

Sacred Heart University offers the mobile computer program, which provides you with a laptop when you are a freshman and a new laptop when you return for your junior year.

This program, which is included in the SHU tuition, has its perks. For example, if you’re having a problem with your computer you can bring it to Info Tech where trained students and computer technicians are there to repair the problems.

In the past, most professors allowed students to use laptops in class for note taking and hands on activities in the classroom. However recently, some professors at the university are putting a stop to the use of laptops due to all the distractions available on our computers.

“Although I allow the laptops for note taking, the challenge of remaining completely focused and attentive is very clear. The temptation while in class to quickly instant message a friend is always there. Much is often lost in terms of class discussion when students are not completely paying attention, which is one reason many professors do not choose to allow for laptop use in class,” said American Government Professor, Kate O’Gara, Fairfield.

“I feel that if you can manage talking on AIM in class and getting good grades, the professor shouldn’t tell you not to use it. We are in college, we pay to go here, the professors should not be the ones to make our decisions for us,” said info tech worker Tom Bathe, senior, White Plains, NY.

Another laptop issue is with the Mac computers, which is mandatory for media studies, art and communication technology majors. The problem is that Apple laptops do not provide the option of exchanging batteries like the rest of the majors who have the IBM computers. Some SHU students are not aware that the Mac doesn’t offer the exchange battery program.

“The IBM computer has the option of removing the battery from the computer and then replacing it with a fully charged battery in exchange for what is in their computer. The only way to charge an apple is to have a plug it into an outlet, which is not always available there, isn’t a separate way to charge the apple. If Mac offered the program I would imagine we would have it,” said information Technology worker Christopher Stevens, freshmen, Danbury.

There is also a constant frustration of not having Internet service in the school especially in the HC wing.

“Not only do the Macs not get service in the HC but the IBM’s don’t get service as well it’s often due to the overload of people connected to a wireless router. Generally when your Internet doesn’t work, it is due to viruses or spy ware on the users computer or a network connectivity issue,” said Stevens.

Professor O’Gara incorporates laptops into her classes and discussions. O’Gara said, “I also used the laptops for group presentations. The advantage of doing the presentations on Blackboard is that students have access to that information when they are not in class. This then allows students to access that information later making it a useful tool in the classroom.”

If professors are cracking down on the use of the laptops in the classroom is there any point in keeping the mobile laptop program?

“We offer the mobile computer program because it includes a 3 year warranty which is covered on-site at Sacred Heart University. It also provides you with a year of coverage after graduation. In addition, full time students receive a new computer every 2 years,” said Bathe.

Perhaps with increased participation from students and faculty, as well as the addition of new technological applications to the SHU program, the school will become a front-runner in the world of technology based education.
Students audition for The Real World

San Diego cast member Randy Barry gives students audition tips

Cristin Colucci
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, Feb. 15, students gathered in the Edgerton Theater to audition for MTV’s reality show, “The Real World.” Before the interviews, former cast member, Randy Barry, gave the students hints about auditioning.

Barry was on the cast for “The Real World’s” fourteenth season in San Diego, Calif. After doing the show, he started casting for MTV’s music-video show TRL, and then was asked to give lectures at colleges about his experiences on “The Real World.”

He works for a company called Yougar Production where they do distribution and manage talent. They travel to colleges and Barry gives lectures about his experiences and then the students get the opportunity to audition for the show.

They also send the audition tapes out to any reality show that is casting at the time, not just “The Real World.”

“The production company will bring the casting process as a school event,” said Barry, Boston, Mass.

Yougar Production allows students from all over the country to have the opportunity to try out because casting companies only go to select cities.

“I want to audition because I want to get out, have fun, and meet new people,” said Stephanie Elmesmanai, freshman, Huntington, N.Y. “I want to stop doing the same old thing and do something different that not a lot of people get the chance to do.”

Barry was working at a nightclub in Boston when the casting crew came in and told him he should audition. He made his audition tape, got a callback, and made it on the show.

Before the students went off to audition, Barry gave them some words of advice based on his own experience from auditioning for the show:

“They are going to take you, put you in an uncomfortable experience, and watch you freak out about it,” said Barry.

Barry stressed to the students to just be comfortable on camera, be honest, and have fun with it.

“I want to audition because I like to be in the limelight,” said Kristin Haggard, sophomore, Queensbury, N.Y.

After listening to Barry give his lecture, the students were directed to a classroom where they would be interviewed on camera for it to be sent out to whichever shows are currently casting.

“I want to audition because it is a good opportunity to be on television and I think it would be cool,” said Kimberly Spallone, freshman, Glen Cove, N.Y.

This is an experience unlike anything else where you get to live in a house with different people from all over the country.

“It’s been a life-long dream of mine, I’d be really excited and tell every person I know to watch it if I got picked,” said Katie Higgins, freshman, Brick, N.J.

The students who auditioned were given a good introduction to the casting process and will now wait to hear if they were chosen to be on MTV’s “The Real World” in the future.

Mystery revealed: Seniors party at The Playwright

Kathleen Schultz
Staff Reporter

After the rumors have been flying for days where the mystery trip would be, seniors finally arrived at their ‘mystery’ destination Monday night.

Buses dropped off excited seniors at The Playwright in downtown New Haven which hosted this year Senior Mystery Trip event.

“It was what I expected and more. I thought I was going to have a good time, but I ended up having a better time,” said Kristina Catanzaro, senior, Paramus, N.J.

Seniors dressed to impress, rushed in the doors of the Playwright to see their classmates, meet up with old friends and enjoy the party together.

This event was for all those students who are on the graduation list for December 2006, May 2007 and August 2007. There were 400 seniors in all that attended this Senior Event.

“I had a great time. I’m not usually a fan of playwrite, but it was cool how it was just our class,” said Katie Landino, senior, Wallingford.

“It was a lot of fun. It was great to be able to see all the seniors, especially since we do not live on campus anymore with each other,” said Kevin Thomas, senior, Patchogue, N.Y.

The Playwright had two huge rooms one for dancing and the other for mingling, that accommodated all the seniors. There were two huge bars and a food buffet, open all night. The buffet offered pizza, potato skins, mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers and buffalo wings to the students and staff that attended.

“The Senior Mystery Trip was more than I expected surprisingly. It was well organized and such an amazing night,” said Laura Kelly, senior, Huntington Station, N.Y.

Duane Wuan, a New Haven DJ had the party going, keeping the seniors dancing all night.

“SHU seniors rocked The Playwright. It was awesome to have all of us there together,” said Joe Rosenfield, senior, Monro, N.Y.

“It was so much fun. I loved it. It made me realize being there last night that college is coming to an end which is depressing, but we still have commencement ball and senior week though so that’s good,” said Matthew De Rosa, senior, East Northport, N.Y.

After a night of fun for the class of 2007, there are plenty more senior events to look forward to in the coming months.

A Special Concert

Christopher Forsyth
Staff Reporter

On Sunday Feb. 18, The Sacred Heart University Concert Choir and Four Heart Harmony joined together in concert to perform at The United Congregational Church in Bridgeport. The show was titled “A Special Concert.”

The groups performed with many professors from the music department. Professors Elina Christova, Hui-Mei Lin, And Michniewicz, Galen Tate and Joe Utterback played their own solo pieces and aided the choirs with their performances. The choirs were also assisted by Artist International Competition winner, flutist; Dr. Jill Sokol of New York.

“We have been preparing since October,” said Dr. John Michniewicz, Director of Sacred Heart University’s Academic Music Program.

The concert began with Professor Tate playing Prelude and Fugue on the Organ. Un Sospiro was played by Dr. Hui-Mei Lin on the violin. Dr. Joe Utterback played an improvisation of the pieces St. Louis Blues and Send in the Clowns. Dr. Elina Christova serenaded the crowd on the piano with three pieces titled Prelude, Nocturne, and Etude.

Dr. John Michniewicz closed off the solo performances with the piece Carrillon De Westminster.

“This concert was good because it gave us a chance to show off our faculty,” said Kristin McHtire, sophomore, Avon. The combined choirs opened up the second half of the concert with Ubi Caritas. The song is a combination of African and Latin Chants. The second song they performed was Dond Akuru (The Voice of the Dove). This piece is an African chant as well.

“We did quite well,” said Jeff Barrett, senior, Wolcott. “We really pull it together at performance time. Everyone did a fantastic job.”

The audience was then treated to a special piece by the choir from their performance from the previous night titled Bridge over Troubled Water. This piece was well-received by the audience. The fourth song sung was Voices of Light. This song is a Gregorian chant that was accompanied by a Celtic flute melody played by Dr. Jill Sokol.

The last piece performed was titled Nolla Fantasia. Three professors and both choirs participated in this piece. The message of the work is a call for peace on earth, and for justice to be served.

“We did really good,” said Sarah Novotny, junior, Ridge, N.Y. “We have our weaknesses and weaknesses, and I think our strengths really were shown.”

The concert gave listeners a variety of musical styles participated in this piece. It afforded a sizable crowd from the Bridgeport community. The audience gave the performers nothing but praise.
Students tune in to ‘Music and Lyrics’

Shelley Thomas
Staff Reporter

The new movie “Music and Lyrics” had something to sing about last week when this comedy opened everywhere in theaters on Valentine’s Day.

Alex Fletcher, played by Hugh Grant, is a has-been eighties pop star that was reduced to working at amusement parks and high school reunions. Alex gets his chance to make a comeback when a current pop sensation, Cora Corman, asks him to write and record a duet with her.

Everything seemed great, however, Alex has never written lyrics before and had to come up with a hit song in just a few days. This is where Sophie Fisher comes in, played by Drew Barrymore, to help this struggling songwriter.

Sophie is an eccentric plant lady who has a flair for words and caught the attention of Alex, who then begs for her to collaborate with him on the song. Sophie is reluctant at first because she is vulnerable from a previous relationship that ended badly, but soon Alex and Sophie’s chemistry heat up as they search for the love and achievement that they both seek.

“I thought it was really cute,” said Kristin Moliterno, sophomore, Harrison, N.Y. “It was definitely a date movie, perfect for Valentine’s Day, and there was a lot more comedy in it than I expected.”

Even if you were not in a romantic mood, it was still an enjoyable movie to watch. The writer and director of this film, Marc Lawrence, packed this movie with music, starting it off with a witty and cheesy video that is unforgettable and initially established what Grant’s character was like in the eighties.

“It was surprisingly entertaining,” said Ryan Simpson, sophomore, New Hartford, N.Y. “My favorite parts were definitely the re-creations of the eighties videos. I thought Hugh Grants hip-trusting was hilarious.”

“Music and Lyrics” would not have been as amusing if it wasn’t for its talented cast. With Hugh Grant’s witty one-liners and Drew Barrymore’s sweet and ditzy personality this movie definitely scores high.

“I love Drew Barrymore,” said Casey Devane, sophomore, Hamarock, Mass. “She’s one of my favorite actresses. She made the movie adorable and she and Hugh Grant had such great chemistry together.”

“Music and Lyrics” was uniquely humorous and romantic, making it one of the best Valentine’s Day gifts Hollywood could give.

MOVIE REVIEW

“Music and Lyrics” PG-13
Warner Brothers 2006

Actors Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant are photographed at the New York premiere of their new film.
Features

As housing placement approaches, the debate for on or off campus continues

Alyssa Larsen  
Staff Reporter

A college student’s worst nightmare, not finals, housing; always wondering where to live or who to live with. We all want to make the best out of our four years and a bad housing placement could definitely do the opposite.

When attending tours on college campuses, the one thing parents and students all wanted to hear is that “Campus housing is guaranteed all four years.”

At Sacred Heart, students are guaranteed housing all four years, but it is not guaranteed you get the housing of your choice and campus housing does not guarantee being apart of the main campus or being together as a community.

Being scattered around Bridgeport and Fairfield hardly makes the campus friendly.

Being located away from the main campus of Sacred Heart makes students feel as if they are commuters.

After freshman and sophomore year where to live, that is considered on campus housing, becomes quite hazy.

The options for sophomores are Roncalli Hall, Christian Witness Commons, and Scholars Commons All of which are in walking distance from campus. For juniors, Park Ridge, Taft Commons, Park Royal and specialty housing in Oakwood are available. This means juniors no longer have the opportunity to live in Scholars Commons.

Park Ridge, Park Royal and specialty housing in Oakwood is available and considered campus housing for seniors.

Habitat’s first Chinese auction

Taylor Higgins  
Staff Reporter

On Monday, February 26th, Habitat for Humanity will be having their first Chinese auction.

The Auction will take place in the Merton Hall great room from 1:00 P.M. until 6:15 P.M.

At a Chinese Auction you buy raffle tickets, you then take the raffle tickets and place them in the designated bags of prizes you want to win.

The more tickets you have, the better chance you have at winning the prize of your choice.

“The mission of the Chinese Auction is to raise money for the three Spring Break trips that we are having this year. We are sending 55 students to Florida, New Mexico and North Carolina. All of these places have been hit in the last few years by poverty and devastation,” said Megan Wood, senior, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

“We also hope to raise awareness for homelessness in the Bridgeport area. This year we wanted to do something big especially since this is the largest group that we have ever sent on a Spring Break trip, we need the help,” said Wood.

“This event will also show our presence on campus, since our organization is always present in the Bridgeport community through Habitat. During Spring Break, North Carolina is blitzing on a house, which means that they will be putting up the framing of the whole house (foundation to roof) during the week,” said Wood.

“In New Mexico the students will be building with mud. At this point we are not sure what the Florida group will be doing but we hope that they will get the blitz on a house as well,” said Wood.

“It’s very easy for students to get involved in Habitat on campus, our meetings are on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Faculty Lounge. We are also always looking for volunteers to help us with any of our events,” said Wood.

“If you can’t make the meetings but want to know what’s going on all you need to do is e-mail sshabitat@sacredheart.edu or instant message our president at HEARTHABITAT,” said Wood.

“If students would like to sign-up for a work day they can just stop by the Service Learning Office (next to the faculty lounge) and sign-up,” said Wood.

Habitat for Humanity t-shirts will be sold as well for $12 each.

All profits will support the Habitat Spring Break trips to North Carolina, New Mexico, and Florida.

“I think it is a great opportunity for students to help out for a good cause on campus. Five dollars worth of raffle tickets can make a huge difference,” said Catherine Mead, junior, Sherborn, Mass.

“It’s a good chance for students to take a break from classes that day, and participate in something that can help others that need it,” said Mark Faison, Ramsey, N.J.

At the end of the auction, the prizes will be drawn and you could win a gift basket, gift card and/or a coupon to: Uno’s, Taco Loco, Bennigan’s, Mario the Baker, Billy’s Bakery, Nail 2000, Italian Fine Foods, Downtown Cabaret, Blockbuster, Einstein’s Bagels, and much more.

The only downside to living in Park Royal is that it is not all Sacred Heart students.

Parkridge is one option upperclassmen can consider.

Apartments are available to the community of Bridgeport.

About 700 rising sophomores, 340 rising juniors and 280 rising seniors live on campus housing.

“We have what is called “progressive housing” meaning that our housing options change as our students change over their 4 years”, said Allen Machielson, Director of Residential Life, Fairfield.

“We try to keep first years students as close to the main academic area as possible, second year students are all trying to figure every Long out but we do give them an opportunity to now live in a community area of their choice,” said Machielson.

“Upper-class students in our opinion have turned a corner and desire a more independent living situation. We believe that this will help student to start their adjustment to the “real world of living”, said Machielson.

“I wanted to live off campus, because I wanted a little more freedom from campus policies. I also felt that it was cheaper to live off campus, then to pay for campus housing,” said Leigh-Ann Sambus, senior, Siouxcity, N.Y.

Sacred Heart students start to move off campus junior and senior year.

Students are looking to live locally with roommates.

“They live minutes from campus and I am very happy to be living off campus. I wish I had moved off earlier in my college years,” said Sambus.

According to Realtor.com, rental apartments and condos in the Bridgeport area range from 700 dollars or more per month and in the Fairfield area it is up to over 1000 dollars per month.

Renters are hesitant to rent to college students because of lack of responsibility and reliability.

Renters are concerned about parties, loud noise, and damage.

For next school year the university is looking to add additional units in Oakwood and Park Royal for upper classmen.

On Tuesday Mar. 27 students will have the ability to see the residence halls at an Open House from 8 p.m-10 p.m.

This will give students the opportunity to see what is offered and to get a glimpse of the rooms and apartments available for the upcoming school year.
SHU’s very own award winning musician: Dr. Joe

Joe Di Guglielmo  
Staff Reporter

Dr. Joe Utterback is a shining example of the well-rounded staff of professors offering high quality education to Sacred Heart University students. Also known as "Dr. Joe," Dr. Utterback is a very talented freelance jazz pianist.

His current class offering at SHU: Music On Broadway, is just one of the many things he does with his time. His class is described as a survey course that deals with the history and aspects of Broadway and it’s music from the beginning up until today.

"I bring in a lot of history, art and some literature into my teaching because those things are related to Broadway and music," said Utterback, when talking about the aspects of his course.

"When you are doing a Broadway show, you have set designs and costumes; you have some dancing, which brings in ballet. There is a story line which brings in literature, as well as the structures on stage that deal with other arts," said Utterback.

Utterback graduated from Wichita State University in the 1960's with his Bachelor and Masters degrees in piano performance.

He then returned to school in the mid-1970's after a number of years on the road to earn his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Kansas. Utterback has been known to devote his time helping others.

He has performed in and leads workshops and organizations at national and regional conferences such as: The National Federation of Music Clubs, The College Music Society, The Music Teachers National Association, and The American Guild of Organists.

Merton hall’s resident assistants support the troops

Jennifer Spinelli  
Staff Reporter

The Merton Hall Resident Assistants recently came together to send care packages overseas to our troops in Iraq.

"The Merton Hall staff had been tossing around the idea of doing a program for the troops, for almost the entire year I was just first one to submit a program planer to actually get one started," said Robert W. Rood, senior, SHU Alumni.

"I actually know a few people in the service, as well as lots of friends that have gone over to Iraq or Afghanistan. I have heard stories about how simple things from home like a letter, a magazine, ziplock bags can make their lives easier and it boosts their morale to get support from individual people at home," said Rood.

"This amount is way more than we anticipated. We originally figured around $100 dollars is what we would be able to raise. We actually expanded the program quite a bit and we did collections in Merton, Seton, and Christian Wilkins Commons," said Rood.

"Students were not the only donors, faculty from the Computer Science department contributed a significant amount also," said Rood.

Contributed Photos  Christian Stiefer

Dr. Joe has really got it all that rhythm.

This is all in addition to being the Music Director for the First Congregational Church in Stratford.

Utterback is also known as a critically acclaimed recording artist, having released a lengthy number of recordings including "Ballads At The Movies" which earned him a Grammy Nomination.

With his charismatic style and his many accomplishments, Utterback has become known internationally by performing more than fifty concerts and by writing over 260 musical compositions.

His influences include works for piano, violin, barcarolle, voice, and instrumental combinations, which have won him ASCAP awards annually since 1991.

Utterback has had regular long-time engagements playing in clubs throughout the U.S. in cities such as San Francisco, Denver, St. Louis, and Kansas.

Lately he has spent some time in New York City playing annually each December in the Empire State Building, or for the Tony Awards Gala.

He has also had regular bookings at the G.H. Club, Regents East, and The Lion, in addition to special appearances at The Hotel Mark, The Waldorf Astoria, and The Pierre.

Utterback has been teaching at SHU since the early 1990's.

Those interested in taking his Music On Broadway class in the future should check on the availability during class registration time.

In his courses Utterback doesn’t offer too many exams, instead he tries to make his course more of an "experience" for his students.

"I gear my courses to the average person, as opposed to the music major to keep them as non-technical as possible," said Utterback.

"One of my favorite aspects of teaching at Sacred Heart is the experience of being able to turn students on to music they might have not heard before, whether they like it or not. I like to teach them about old jazz and older Broadway music and hope they learn something new, said Utterback.

"I feel like the students of Sacred Heart are a good up-and-coming group of people and I enjoy teaching there very much," said Utterback.

If you would like to know more information about professor Dr. Joe Utterback, go to his website at www.joeutterback.com, where you can find a wealth of information about him.

In his course to chat more personally or if you have any questions regarding his music class or anything else, you can send him an email at utterbackj@sacredheart.edu.

Ciao, from Italy

Jenna Rignanese  
Staff Reporter

A water taxi paddles along the river on a sunny morning taking my companions and I to our final destination, San Marco square.

I step off the rocking riverboat and look out at the enormous crowd gathering in the piazza.

It is Can a Salute Venice; a time of celebration and fun that lasts the entire weekend.

We walk towards the main center of excitement through a family of pigeons who land on our arms, head, and shoulders, with no regret.

I fling them off of me with buckling laughter.

As we move on towards the Piazza we pass carts with thousands of bright colored costumes, glittering masks, and bags of confetti.

Signs that the weekends preparations were underway.

Spending most of the day walking around the quaint city, we discover small shops stocked with cashmere and glass blown jewelry.

Small trinkets and treasures seem to be the trademark of this river town.

Each side street has lights dipping from window to window, and I can imagine how the streets will transform into a magical place by dusk.

The face painters have set up shop at every visible corner. I sit down at one of their stations and an elaborate butterfly is painted on half of my face.

The rows of lights lead to the main square where lasers and lights beam off of the buildings surrounding the square.

Tents of food and drinks are set up everywhere

Truly this is the Mardi Gras of Italy.

The next morning we awake at dawn and the streets are dusted in a covering of paper and glitter.

We step onto the water taxi to take the journey back.

By boat, bus, plane, and train we arrive back at the apartment by mid morning.

I laugh at the thought of referring to Rome as my home, but in this new world, there's no place like it.

In the grand scheme of things, our first successful adventure is over, more to come next week!
Start the Madness For Men’s and Women’s Hoops

As the regular season draws closer and closer to the end, the men and women’s basketball teams are primed for the Northeast Conference tournament. The women head into the tournament looking to defend their NEC title while the men are ready to make their presence felt. After Monday nights win against Mt. Saint Mary’s, the women are standing at second in the NEC, tied with Robert Morris with a 12-3 record. The Pioneers will face a tough stretch ahead, going on the road for their two final games against Monmouth and Quinnipiac.

"With the way we can play, we should be good and ready for the play-off's but we know that there are now cake walks here," said Pioneer Head Coach Ed Swanson.

Carrying the Pioneers into the playoffs will be the play of there seniors. With all-star’s Amanda Pape, Jasmine Walker, and Kerri Burke leading the way, there is every reason to believe the Pioneers have a team as strong as any in the NEC.

"This time of year, seniors aren’t seniors. They’re dangerous because it’s their final games and they certainly play like it," said Swanson.

Men’s hoops bounce back with win

Jay Gagliardi
Staff Reporter

It was an all around team effort that propelled Sacred Heart’s men’s basketball to a rare, but impressive, one sided victory against Mount St. Mary’s in an important game for both teams.

Sacred Heart took the court Thursday night knowing what needed to be done. They needed a solid, convincing win against a Mount St. Mary’s team that also had much to prove.

Going into the game the two teams were tied for fourth place, giving the winner sole possession of the final spot for an eventual home game in the NEC tournament.

After getting crushed by Central Connecticut earlier in the week, the Pioneers wanted to erase the doubt of all their skeptics, and show that they were capable of stepping out of the NEC norm, and winning by a double digit margin.

With Luke Gronato out due to a minor shoulder injury, the team would need a solid effort from everyone that stepped on the floor.

“We needed everyone to step up for us tonight,” said Liam Potter, sophomore, Linlothorpe, UK.

Sacred Heart not only played well offensively but was able complete its effort on Thursday night playing impenetrable defense.

The Pioneers rank 11th in defense, in the NEC and have received a lot of scrutiny throughout the season. However, Sacred Heart erased all questions about its defense allowing only 51 points, the least allowed by SHU all season.

"Coach talked a lot about defense, and said everyone needed to step up and be a presence," said Potter.

See MEN’S HOOPS on page 15...
WIH’s Panella caps off career as a Pioneer

Alyssa Iannotti
Staff Reporter

Recently, senior hockey star Michelle Panella was a standout player for the Rhode Island Rams women’s hockey team. She was a key player in their season, leading her team to victory in many games. Panella was one of the top scorers in the league, finishing with 11 points, nine blocks, and nine rebounds. She was awarded the Atlantic Division Championship in Anchorage, Alaska, where she played and contributed to the team victory. Panella was a valuable player for the Rams and will be missed by her teammates.

WIIH defeats Rams

Kendra Sloan
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart women’s ice hockey team took on the Rhode Island Rams in a game that was both intense and exciting. The Rams provided little competition, as the Sacred Heart team won by a score of 1-0. The match was a close game, with both teams playing at a high level of intensity. The Sacred Heart team was led by their star player, who made key contributions throughout the game.

Sowinski holds block party in the Pitt

Steve Conoscenti
Assistant Sports Editor

Sophomore Kaityn Sowinski, a senior from Marlboro, N.J., started the game with a quick wrist shot past the Rams, into their goal, bringing the score up to 1-0. The Sacred Heart team continued to dominate, scoring three more goals in the second period, finishing the game with a 4-0 victory.

GAME NOTES:

Before the game, Pioneer seniors Kerri Burke and Jasmine Walker were honored with game balls for reaching a career milestone. Walker became the 12th player in school history to score 1,000 points while Burke became the school’s all-time leader in assists.

With this victory, coach Ed Swanson is tied for second for most career wins in the Northeast Conference.
Men’s Ice Hockey sweeps Holy Cross; Army Next?

Chris Armellino
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart beat Holy Cross in a 5-4 win this Friday at Hart Center, scoring four goals in the second period, including a game-winning goal by Peter Ferraro of Pleasantville, NY.

With 11:40 left in the period, Ferraro picked up a loose puck in the Crusader zone and sent it past Holy Cross goaltender Tyler Chestnut for the win.

Senior James Sixsmith started things off for the Crusaders with 2:23 left in the first period when he deposited his 14th goal of the year.

The struggle continued however, as Rob Godfrey scored a goal at the 8:01 mark of the second period, giving the Crusaders there a 3-1 advantage.

Sacred Heart went on to score three more goals in the second period. At the 9:39 mark, junior Scott Marchesi of South Portland, Maine cut the Crusader lead to one. Marchesi stepped up again, scooping up a loose puck shot by Erik Boisvert of Drummondville QC, and then fired it in for his third goal of the season.

Freshman Dave Jarman of Toronto, ON tied the game again with 6:13 left in the second. Alexandre Parent, of Botsbriand, QC, fired the puck to Jarman who ripped a shot into the net to tie the game. Sophomore Heath Trapp, of Regina, SK, gained a lead for the Pioneers with 2:25 left in the second, sending Dave Grimson’s rebounded shot into the back of the net. Crusader Sean Nappo tied the game again for Holy Cross six minutes into the next period.

Holy Cross beat Sacred Heart 37-34. Stefan Drew made 33 saves and this is the Pioneers third straight win over the Crusaders.

Men’s lacrosse set for new season in spring

Gabrielle Castellana
Staff Reporter

The 2007 season of the Sacred Heart men’s lacrosse team starts this Saturday. The big question is how will they do? With a very high ambition, the team plans to leave the 2006 season behind and start fresh with this upcoming one.

The cumulative season statistics of last season show a 7.68 average for goals scored. A goal breakdown shows a total of 108 goals in 14 games. Out of those 14 games, only two were won.

However there is much hope for a better season and a game plan has been thought out and will be put into action. With the guidance of head coach, Thomas Mariano, and assistant coaches, Rob Chambers, and Chris Lukowski, the team is moving full force ahead.

“I feel good about this season and I think that our schedule and conference have more parity than last year which should make for some good games and hopefully big wins,” said Zach Smith, sophomore, Chittenden, Vt. As members of the prestigious Colonial Athletic Association, many of the players are going into this season with a newfound sense of confidence although it will be very competitive.

Out of the 13 games that are going to be played, seven of the teams are ranked in the top 25 of Division I. The CAA Tournament takes place at the beginning of May, and the top four teams in the league will qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

“Conferece will be one of the best in the country. We’re looking to qualify for CAA playoffs and win CAA championship,” said Mariano. According to him, this is a team goal that will be executed in a strong season with a tough schedule. Entering the 15th season as head coach, Mariano knows the strengths and weaknesses of each player.

Mariano also expects the top players of the team to be Peter Greco, senior, Hamburg, N.Y.; Bobby Karl, sophomore, Clifton Park, N.Y.; Tony Tanzi, junior, Mahopac, N.Y.; Joseph Camillo, senior, Weymouth, Mass.; Casey Kirch, senior, Newton, PA; Healy, senior, Towson, MD; Brett McGlensey, junior, West Chester, PA; and Ricardo Vargas, junior, Falls Church, Va.

“I think the biggest difference between this year and last year is our team chemistry and dedication, we might not be the best skilled team out there, but we play together and have pushed ourselves all season, and that’s what’s going to win us games,” said Nick Russo, sophomore, Lindenhurst, N.Y.

There are also many newcomers that according to Mariano we should look out for, Evan Morgan, freshman, Ashburn, Va.; Timmy Katz, freshman, Freeport, N.Y.; Dan Mesler, freshman, Branchport, N.Y.; Stephen Gerhard, freshman, Centennial, Colo.; Kevin Morgan, junior, Staten Island, N.Y.; Rich Schmidt, freshman, H Hicksville, N.Y., and Brendan Foley, freshman, Hicksville, NY. All have the potential to be great Pioneer lacrosse players.

Good strategies with good players are key for this team. With Greco, Karl, and Tanzi returning as top scorers, Healy, McGlensey, and John Benyei, junior, West Hartford returning as top defenders, and Vargas who’s backed up by Zach Frank, freshman, Islip Terrace, N.Y., Mike Murtha, sophomore, Bay Shore, N.Y. and Tom Timko, sophomore, Merrick, N.Y. the Sacred Heart men’s lacrosse team is starting out on the right foot. These starting players are determined and goal-oriented.

“It’s a younger team this year so it’s going to be a building year. We just need to feel how to win again,” said McGlensey, who made ten starts on defense and played in 13 games last season.

With a goal set and a strategy put into action, they are looking towards a prosperous season. It all starts up on Saturday Feb 24 with an away game against Colgate. There are only going to be four home games this season and the team seems ready to win.

Brian Fitzsimmons
Sports Editor

After completing a home-and-home series sweep of Holy Cross on Saturday night in Milford, the men’s ice hockey team looks to clinch second place in Atlantic hockey needing just one point to do so. Seems simple, right?

Look deeper into this final phase of the Pioneers’ book, that hopefully has a better ending than last year, and you can see the multiplying subplots that litter this coming weekend’s home-and-home series against Army.

The past two weekends against Mercyhurst and the Crusaders (both sweeps), coach Shaun Hannah has created a two-headed monster of splitting time between Jason Smith and Stefan Drew in goal. Both have proved to be vital parts of a championship puzzle even if only one can be in between the pipes during a playoff game.

In 2005-06, Smith was riding high on his back for the latter part of the season and some suggested his tried out too quickly as UConn jolted the Pioneers from the playoffs exterminating any hope of raising a trophy. Hannah has given Smith the breather he desperately needed and Drew couldn’t have been better.

This weekend, the Black Knights play host in the confines of Tate Rink but travel to the Milford Ice Pavilion for Saturday, where the Sacred Heart seniors will be honored. Pierre-Luc O’Brien, who broke the school’s scoring record last week, and Smith, who tied the school’s all-time win record, will receive a big ovation. As a matter of fact, they deserve more than that.

Peter Ferraro, Charlie Veilleux, Drew Sanders, Kalen Wright, Todd Spencer and Louis Gentile will join the two record holders in the group who will be recognized for their efforts wearing the red and white vests. However, they will also attempt to solve Army’s net minder Josh Kassel, who was named the AHA Goaltender of the Week.

One point is all it takes.

After that, the Pioneers can look forward to entering the playoffs with a clean slate they have desperately coveted for over a year, a rested star goaltender, and prolific scorers who will do everything in their power to achieve a small goal that can lead to the biggest of all.

One point. And then, the first chapter can begin with ease.
Pitching to lead baseball team this season

So we've passed the Pro Bowl, both NBA and NHL all-star games are over, and the meat of the college basketball season is behind us. That only means the four greatest words in the English language hold true right now.

Spring Training is here.

And at Sacred Heart, it is no exception. The defending Northeast Conference champions have begun practice and make their season debut Saturday in Norfolk versus Norfolk St.

It's been a long time since the Pioneer baseball team ended their season after losing in the NCAA Regionals in Athens, Ga., to Jacksonville, and there are many bright spots and fresh faces to look towards this coming season.

The Pioneers return 16 players to their roster. This includes reigning Northeast Conference tournament MVP, Bobby McKee, the winning pitcher in the Northeast Conference Championship clincher, Chris Howard, and stud pitcher Jay Monti.

Pat Pickens

Spectrum Columnist

SHU will also welcome back junior shortstop Ryan Nemecik. Nemecik had a hallcaticious 2005, and had boots with a probability and a torn labrum.

Nemecik batted .302 in 47 games in 2005. He also led the team with 60 total bases as was pesky as a leadoff hitter.

But despite the familiarity, the Pioneers will be reliant on some young talent, and will have a new look in the 2007 season.

Sacred Heart will enjoy junior Jovan Rodriguez into the outfield, along with Justin Mulrain. Rodriguez played a season ago at Monroe College where he was a two-time all-region outfielder. Rodriguez batted .429 a season ago at Monroe, had 11 doubles, and 20 RBI.

MEN'S HOOPS: from page 12...

Sacred Heart won every defensive category on Thursday night, and in fact had as many blocked shots as Mt. St. Mary's had steals.

The game started with Mount St. Mary's hitting its opening shot, putting them up by three, and giving them exactly one minute to enjoy its only lead of the game.

The Pioneers defense caused three early turnovers and saw their starting center, Potter, block three shots, passing his career high in the first three minutes of play.

The Pioneers would need to trigger their defense for the rest of the game and the three blocks by Potter were just half of what he would end up with as a total.

SHU looked to attack the paint for the second game in a row and leave the three point shooting aside. The Pioneers were successful in doing this behind the aggressive play of junior, Brice Brooks, who put himself in position to be the first Pioneer to earn a point, rebound double double.

Brooks had five early points and contributed immensely to Sacred Heart's growing lead throughout the first half. He ended the half with 11 points, completing the first part of his double double and only needing two rebounds in the second half to wrap it up.

"We played well on defense and I think we are getting more comfortable every game," said Brooks, junior, Silverdale, WA.

Sacred Heart continued its balanced play throughout the entire half causing the opponent to shoot 26 percent from the floor, turn the ball over 13 times and allowing them to get to the free-throw line nine times.

Hidden behind all the emerging statistics for the first half was the most impressive one that is rarely done in division one basketball. The Pioneers shot a perfect 10-10 from the line in the first half, with Brooks leading the way, hitting all five of his.

Mount St. Mary's was able to hold She's lead to within ten at the eight-minute mark, but behind six blocks, the Pioneers closed the half at a 21-5 run and went into the break with a comfortable 19-point lead.

Sacred Heart continued their stellar play for the entire second half and an early 13-2 run put the game out of reach for any sort of miracle comeback by the Mount.

Three players emerged as double-digit scorers and Brooks pulled down his tenth rebound to complete his own double double with 18:29 remaining in the game.

Even playing time was balanced in this "poster game" for any team that needed a big win. With a comfortable lead, Coach Dave Bike was able to distribute playing time among his team, allowing every player to at least 15 minutes of action.

After SHU's 10th and 11th block, Mt. St. Mary's had no choice but to just accept that it had been outplayed in pretty much every category.

The Pioneers won the inside game and outscored its opponent 42-28 in the paint. Freshmen duo, Ryan Litke and Chauncey Hardy added 13 and 11 respectively and outscored the entire Mt. St. Mary's bench by them.

The Pioneers simply played a good basketball game on both ends of the floor, and were rewarded in a FDU loss earlier Thursday evening, helping SHU bypass fourth place and move them into third.

"It was a game we needed. We've been struggling on defense all year. It helps when you can rebound and minimize second shots," said Coach Dave Bike.

With the win, SHU is in great position entering the final stretch of play.

Mulrain is just a freshman from Ontario, but his speed and prowess at the top of the lineup have the hierarchy of Sacred Heart baseball drooling in anticipation.

Catcher will also be an interesting spot to watch, with incumbent Jamie Morales still on the squad, but SHU also has brought in Frank Bainer, from St. Thomas Aquinas.

College to the roster, to help anchor an already stellar pitching staff.

Besides Monti and Howard the Pioneers return pitcher/firstbaseman Jeff Hanson, who also led the team in homeruns with five, and also had three wins pitching a season ago, and setup man George Lamar, who led the team in appearances with 24 a season ago.

Throw in freshmen Jared Balbach and Eric Romanchuk and Sacred Heart has a pitching staff worthy of repeating.

Add to the equation new pitching coach, Wayne Mazzoni and the Pioneer pitching staff will be formidable.

Having depth in pitching is essential this season especially because the format of series has changed.

Because St Francis of N.Y. dropped baseball, there are just eight teams in the Northeast Conference. Each conference series is now four games instead of the three games like last year.

Depth in pitching will have to carry the Pioneers, especially with perennial threats Quinnipiac, Monmouth, and Central Connecticut St. lurking with the potential to throw the Pioneers off the throne as Northeast Conference champions.

The Pioneers start with Norfolk St. and then play eight games in Florida in Clearwater.

The season is here and hope springs eternal.
Pioneers ready for Saturday's Senior Day and weekend series against Army

Jason Smith will be honored Saturday on Senior Day and will be remembered as one of the best goaltenders in school history.

HATSOFF
The women's ice hockey program has grown over the years. Senior Michelle Panella is a big reason why.

ON THEREBOUND
The men's basketball team bounced back to their usual winning ways.

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