

THE SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FAIRFIELD, CONN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

REPORTING CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1983

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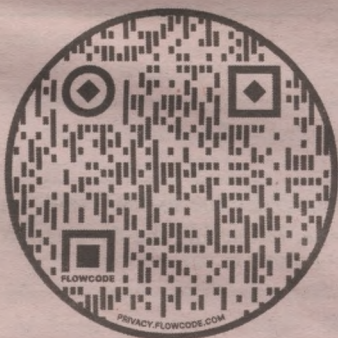
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Campus Safety and Title IX

BY SOPHIE CAMIZZI
News Editor

On Aug. 26, a student was sexually assaulted off campus at their home located in the Madison Avenue area of Bridgeport.

According to an email sent by Jack Fernandez, Director of Public Safety, the perpetrator knocked on the door, forced entry into the student's home and then attacked them. After attempting to leave, he was caught by police and taken into custody.

This incident has raised some concern from fellow students due to the severity of the issue.

"My heart dropped to the pit of my stomach," said senior Brooke Sleavensky. "I found myself reading the announcement over and over again, trying to make sense of the situation and see if what I was reading was really true."

As a federally funded institution, Sacred Heart University is obligated to protect students from sexual assault, harassment and violence.

According to Title IX, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Sacred Heart's Title IX Office has many protocols, training sessions and other resources to uphold these laws. One program that has recently come into effect is called the Green Dot Program.

"Basically, you think of acts or behaviors related to sexual assault, violence and stalking as red dots," said Kristen Eschwie, Project Coordinator of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Grant. "When you intervene, you create a green dot. The program focuses on ways to intervene, getting around your barriers and ways to do proactive green dots."

Another program that has been in effect longer is the Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct training that all incoming students are required to take.

"The purpose of training is to expose students, build awareness, and assist students to be able to recognize when something isn't right and enact strategies for next steps," said Mia James Westendorp, Title IX Coordinator.

With these protocols in place, some students feel safe on campus.

"When I'm on campus, I feel fine, but when I walk on Park Avenue late at night, I do feel a little nervous," said sophomore Grace Duffy. "I know that there's a blue light near the crosswalk, but I do wish there were more of them since it's technically off campus."

However, some students feel there needs to be more consideration from other students concerning safety.

"For the most part, I do feel safe on campus," said Sleavensky. "I

wish male students understood the importance of closing main entrance doors of dorms and apartments instead of propping them open for their friends. They don't understand that someone unwanted can enter these buildings and will most likely target a woman's room."

In order to prevent sexual assault, misconduct and harassment, students need to rely on each other.

"A safe community involves everyone," said Gary MacNamara, Executive Director of Public Safety and Government Affairs.

"We work hard to keep SHU safe, and to make it a great place to live. However, one crime is one too many, and we are always looking at ways to enhance safety for our community members."

If you are the victim or witness to a sexual crime, please contact Public Safety, file a complaint online or fill out a report through the Silent Witness Program.



Emergency Line: 203-371-7911

Office Line (non-emergency): 203-371-7995

Scan to download the SHU Safe App

For iPhone



For Android



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

THE SPECTRUM

NEWSPAPER RACK LOCATIONS

Martire

(first floor by the main staircase)

Spectrum Office

(in the Communications and Media Arts wing)

Curtis Hall

(just inside the front doors)

Linda's

(first floor across from the bookstore)

Pitt Center

(just inside the front doors)

SC Wing

(first floor near 63's and Edgerton)

UC Wing

(near the Public Safety window)

Melady Hall

(just inside the front doors)

Student Life Office

(in the lounge)

Hawley Lounge

(next to the stairs)

Library

(just inside the front doors)

CHE

(just inside the front doors)

West Campus - West Building

(one rack is toward the Market and dance studio, the other is in between the Factory and Maker Space)



News

Afghanistan Update

BY SOPHIE CAMIZZI

News Editor

On Sept. 12, the Taliban's higher education minister Abdul Beqi Haqqani announced that women can continue their education as long as they wear Islamic dress and classrooms are gender-segregated.

This is only the newest update since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Aug. 15, about two weeks before the U.S. planned to withdraw from its 20-year occupation.

"I was confused and angry at how much time the U.S. spent there, only to have such an unfortunate turn of events," said senior Daniele Doctor. "In addition, the news of how the Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani, fled while his people were in peril, only made me more scared for the future of the country and its people."

Videos shared on social media showed mass amounts of people at the Kabul International Airport trying to flee the country.

According to an interview conducted by the Associated Press with a U.S. consular officer, "Even more upsetting were the children who got inside the airport separated from family. As many as 30 children a day, many confused and all of them frightened, were showing up alone for evacuation flights."

Some online users drew comparisons between the Vietnam War, but others disagreed.

"The Vietnam War is very different," said senior Nawaf Alyousif. "The U.S. started the war to prevent Vietnam from becoming a communist country. However, in Afghanistan, the forces had the task of eliminating threats of terrorist organizations."

One week later, 13 U.S. troops and at least 169 Afghans were killed at the same airport due to a suicide bombing conducted by ISIS-K.

According to the Associated Press, "In all, 2,455 U.S. service members were killed in the Afghanistan War. In terms of federal budget, Congress has allocated a bit over \$1 trillion to the Department of Defense for the Afghanistan War."

After the U.S. sent out its last flight from Afghanistan, President Biden addressed the nation and defended his decision to withdraw all troops and end the war after heavy criticism.

"I was not going to extend this forever war," he said. "And I was not going to extend a forever exit. To those asking for a third decade of war in Afghanistan, I ask, 'What is the vital national interest?'"

Since the late 1990s, when the Taliban was last in power, Afghanistan has become more industrialized and educated than before.

According to the Associated Press, "For now, the Taliban appear less interested in imposing restrictions on daily life than in getting the country running again."

Despite the Taliban's recent stance on educating women, women have been banned from sports. Additionally, an all-male interim government was recently announced on Sept. 7, with key members from their previous rule.

According to the Associated Press, "Appointed to the key post of interior minister was Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is on the FBI's most-wanted list with a \$6 million bounty on his head and is believed to be holding at least one American hostage."

Not only is Afghanistan amid a major power transfer, but they are also struggling financially.

In a news conference on Thursday, Kanni Wignaraja, the U.N. Development Program's Asia-Pacific Director, said, "Afghanistan pretty much faces universal poverty by the middle of next year. That's where we're heading – it's a 97-98% (poverty rate) no matter how you work these projections."

While some people may have conflicting thoughts about these events, many hope that the people of Afghanistan are safe above all else.

"I feel absolutely helpless to all tragedies of human rights abuses occurring anywhere," said Doctor. "I pray for those impacted by the Taliban's new control of government. I hope that the future has brighter days for the Afghan people."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALIBAN FIGHTERS OUTSIDE KABUL UNIVERSITY, AFGHANISTAN ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 2021

The Aftermath of Hurricane Ida

BY COLLEEN SHAFFER

Assistant News Editor

On Aug. 26, Hurricane Ida traveled through New Orleans and parts of the Northeast, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake, including power outages and flooding.

While the brunt of the storm was felt in Louisiana, remnants traveled up to Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, among other places.

According to the Associated Press, three-fourths of New Orleans' power has been restored, but some communities on the outskirts of the city remain without power or gas.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimated "the area was likely to see a hurricane within 50 nautical miles about once every seven years and a major hurricane about every 20."

Some students have posted videos of houses that are flooded, or cars submerged underwater.

"It was very frustrating to open my car door to rainwater covering the floorboards, but I was glad that it was such a fixable problem," said senior Kristen Murray. "Many people's cars were submerged worse than mine, so I was glad that mine could be fixed."

Because a large number of people were affected, many wonder what will result from future storms, especially since hurricane season is not set to end until Nov. 30.

"After Ida, I am very nervous for the future since climatologists are showing that more severe weather is to come due to climate change and other factors," said Jessica Waters.

Although there has been mixed information regarding the frequency of storms, there is evidence to support this claim.

According to the Associated Press, "The 2020 hurricane season broke records with 30 named storms, seven major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher, and 10 storms that underwent rapid intensification. Since ocean temperature controls the potential intensity of tropical cyclones, climate change is likely behind this trend."

President Biden also supports this idea after walking through the flooded streets of New York.

According to the Associated Press, he said that it was time for Americans to get serious about climate change and firmly believes that this storm, along with others in the future, will turn skeptics into believers.

Although parts of the United States were affected differently, everyone must deal with similar consequences such as flooding, property losses and electrical outages.

In response to the damages, the White House has asked Congress for \$24 billion in disaster aid to cover the costs of Ida and similar storms.

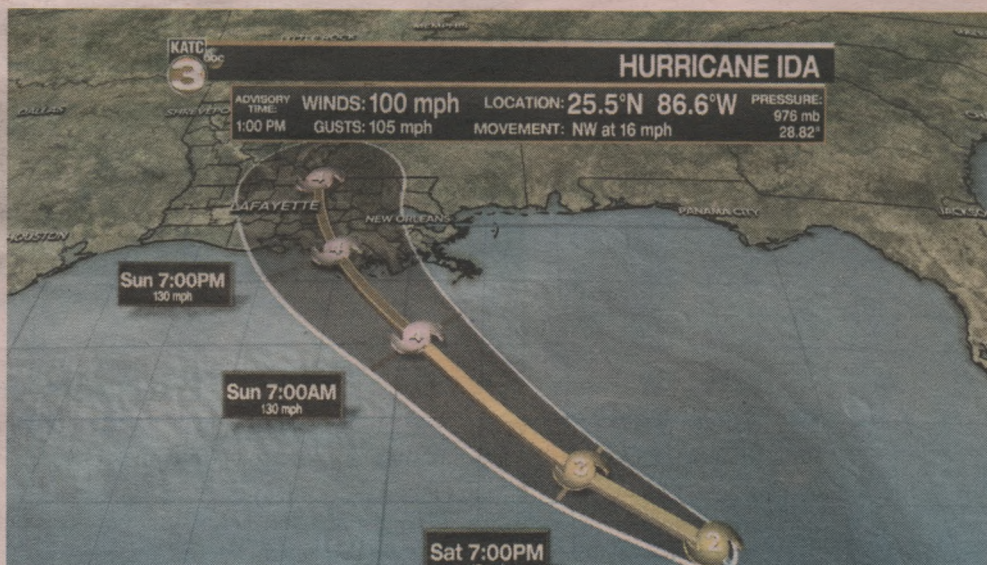
This aid will help areas in Louisiana, New York and New Jersey, along with other states with prevailing damage.

However, there are other ways to help, such as donating to the American Red Cross, Project Hope, World Central Kitchen and others seeking to rebuild communities.

While many have survived Hurricane Ida's wrath, some are still saddened by the impact that the storm has made on their local communities.

"My house here had no damage or flooding, but back home in New Jersey, I have

friends of friends who have lost homes and many belongings due to Ida," said junior Jessica Waters. "Luckily, my family and friends are safe, but seeing the devastation so close to home was very sad."



TRACKING OF HURRICANE IDA WEEK OF AUG. 26.

ABC/KATC NEWS

Perspectives

Covid-19 Delta Variant

BY ASHLIN HALEY
Perspectives Editor

In early July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the delta variant, first detected in India, has become the dominant strand of Covid-19 in the United States. According to the Associated Press, the delta variant is now responsible for 90 percent of new Covid cases.

The mutation has caused an immense amount of concern throughout the nation. In response to its spread, experts have been encouraging unvaccinated people to strongly consider getting vaccinated in efforts to combat the pandemic. Studies have shown that those who have been fully vaccinated with either Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson and Johnson are more likely to fight off the delta variant, causing more urgency by experts to spread awareness about the benefits of the vaccines.

The decision for many schools like Sacred Heart University to mandate the vaccine in order to come back to campus has sparked conversation among students about their personal choices with the vaccine.

“I personally got the vaccine as soon as I could in April,” said senior Anna Pirkel. “I wanted the feeling of security that comes with being vaccinated so I feel more comfortable going out in public.”

Other students say they took advantage of their off-campus job, giving them the opportunity to get vaccinated early.

“I’m a nursing major, and the field I work in gave me the chance to get the vaccine before a lot of people,” said junior Ashley Kenneally. “I was thankful for this opportunity and it gave me a lot of peace of mind. After that, I was just waiting for my friends and family to get the same opportunity and access to the vaccine.”

However, other students say they had reasons why they didn’t think they would get the vaccine until it was required by Sacred Heart.

“I worked every day while I was home, not knowing if the people around me had Covid-19,” said senior Cameron Williams. “I have been tested well over 50 times and tested negative each time. I tested positive for the antibodies and honestly just never felt the need to get the vaccine until the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was available in my town.”

Some students say that they originally didn’t plan on getting the vaccine, but didn’t mind that the school decided to mandate it.

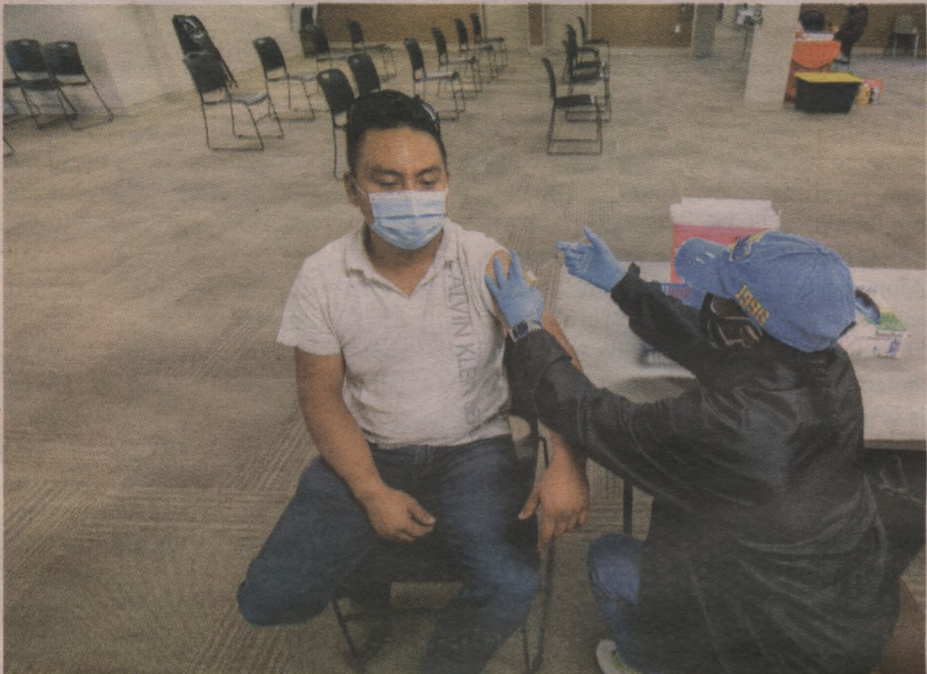
“I was indifferent to getting the vaccine,” said senior Tori Hanushak. “I heard many benefits but also read about the dangers, so I wasn’t sure what decision I wanted to make, and then the school mandated it, which made the decision easier for me.”

Similarly, other students say that due to their awareness of the delta variant, they decided to get vaccinated.

“I didn’t necessarily go out of my way to get the vaccine in the beginning,” said graduate student Ryan Corbett. “Once I saw how the delta variant was affecting people, I decided to get vaccinated.”

Numerous students also said they felt strongly about getting the vaccine and advised other people to do the same.

“I think it’s an important thing to do, especially if it keeps the people around you safe as well as family members and friends,” said Pirkel.



MAN RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AP NEWS

No More “SHU-Flex”

BY DEANNA DRAKOPOULOS
Perspectives Editor

Sophomore Daniella Bruno is excited to finally have a semester with fully in-person classes after Sacred Heart University implemented hybrid classes her freshman year.

“I am so happy that classes are fully in person this semester. I enjoy going to all of my classes and I feel like I am finally getting the full college experience and learning better,” said Bruno.

The Coronavirus Planning Team sent out an email on March 16 stating, “Because we anticipate that the public health situation come fall will be considerably better than it is now, we are planning NOT to implement a SHU-Flex approach in the fall. This means, in part, that students will not be Zooming into their classes in lieu of in-person attendance, as is done with SHU-Flex.”

Many students were thrilled about this news, as it brought a sense of normalcy to their lives at school.

“I think retuning to normalcy has been long overdue, and I think it’s best to try to return to pre-Covid life as much as possible,” said senior Nicole Marinaccio.

Some faculty members are also excited that there are no more hybrid classes.

“I agree with the decision to get rid of SHU-Flex, as long as we can safely have full student and staff presences on campus, and it seems we can have that, with the university’s decision to require vaccinations,” said Prof. Brian Stiltner of the Department of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies. “It feels good to be fully in person so that students can interact with me and with each other.”

Some students have concerns about there being no “SHU-Flex” option if they do contract Covid-19 or are in close contact with someone who did.

“I don’t think getting rid of SHU-Flex was the best option because if a student has to quarantine, it will be hard to catch up on assignments without being able to Zoom in on

the classes for those 10 days,” said junior Gianna Romagnoli. “The pandemic is still very real and affecting a lot of people as we see the rise of cases on campus.”

The Coronavirus Planning Team has found a new way to accommodate students if they contract or are exposed to Covid.

On Aug. 6, the Coronavirus Planning Team stated, “Although there will not be SHU-Flex in the fall, that does not mean you will be left behind should you get sick and need to miss a few classes. As always, your professors will work with anyone who has to miss more than two consecutive classes because of illness or the need to isolate or quarantine. This could include recorded lecture, virtual office hours or alternate instruction, and supplemental course materials as appropriate.”

Some students do not agree with the decision to implement fully in-person classes.

“I feel that with the rise of cases on campus over the past week, we should not have a full class of students on top of each other in a classroom,” said junior Haley Sullivan.

Current sophomores have had to adjust to fully in-person classes since hybrid classes is all they know.

“Although it has been an adjustment, I feel like I can focus more on my schoolwork and learn better in person than back and forth from my computer one day to in person the next day,” said sophomore Jalen Madison.



Features

New SHU Dining Hall - Thea's Abbey

BY JENNIFER HALLOWELL
Assistant Features Editor

Along with welcoming the new freshman class and all previous students back on campus for the fall 2021 semester, Sacred Heart University has also welcomed a new dining hall called Thea's Abbey to their campus. The dining hall is located in the new residence hall, Thea Bowman Hall.

"I believe this hall, like the others, has distinct characteristics well beyond the setting itself. Pioneer Village has become another gathering place beyond the Chapel Quad," said President Petillo, President of Sacred Heart.

This brand new dining hall offers Breakfast & Co. (grill all day), SONO (Latin-inspired menu), Deli on Park Ave. (New York deli-style sandwiches), a pizza and pasta station featuring handmade pastas, and stations for beverages. Also, to make things easy when students just want a quick grab and go, BOOST mobile ordering is available at select stations.

"Our chef was very excited to bring in some different types of kitchen equipment for this dining hall. We built the plans for this space to allow for our new pizza oven, the Marra Forni that makes pizza in a rotating oven in under 90 seconds. We also made room for a pasta maker so that we could offer the freshest pastas on campus," said Kayla Hawley, Sacred Heart's Marketing Director.

Along with Thea's Abbey being a new and exciting place for students on and off campus to gather and eat, it is also a location with a new quad to gather on.

"I really enjoy the new dining hall," said sophomore John Martello. "Since I live in Scholars Commons, it is very convenient having a dining hall so close to the dorm. Given this is my second year on campus, it is nice to have another food option with such great choices."

Off-campus students are also enjoying the new dining option.

"Although I am an off-campus student, since I am required to have the commuter meal plan package. I have been utilizing the dining dollars this semester because of the new dining hall. As a senior living in a house off-campus, preparing and cooking after a long day of classes can be exhausting. I am very happy that the new dining hall has opened for this reason because of the healthier and tasteful food it includes," said senior Gabriella Tamburri.

The Sacred Heart community is excited to experience this new dining hall and what's to come with it in the future.

"My team and myself are just more excited about offering another destination for dining for students," said Hawley. "As we continue to grow over the semester, we are most looking forward to adding things to our program and introducing some trendy menus to the campus. We are excited to finish up the outdoor dining area and begin to

use it for programming. With such great fall days ahead of us, outdoor dining still has a chance to happen this year."



JOSEPH DECARLO

NEW THEA ABBEY'S DINING HALL LOCATED IN THE PIONEER VILLAGE ON MAIN CAMPUS

9/11

BY JULIA HALLISEY
Features Editor

Last week, Sacred Heart University held several events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Faculty and staff members from numerous departments participated in ten events held on campus and in the new Sacred Heart Community Theatre.

Sacred Heart commemorates 9/11 every year, but wanted to do more for the 20th anniversary.

"We at SHU have organized a much more comprehensive and truly outstanding series of events to commemorate this 20th anniversary," said Prof. Michelle Loris.

Other than the 20th anniversary, there is something special about this year for Sacred Heart.

"We realized that most of the students weren't even born yet and had no real understanding of the experience," said Prof. Richard Falco. "Everything was just pictures, so we felt this was the time to do it."

"Unlike my parents and some of my cousins, this wasn't something I experienced first hand," said sophomore Grace Hand.

Some of these events included colloquiums, movie screenings, musical performances and a candlelight vigil.

The "Power of the Image" colloquia was held on Wednesday, Sept. 8 and was hosted by Falco, who is a former photojournalist for TIME Magazine. Falco presented the photographs he took at Ground Zero in the days following the attack.

"I feel like part of my work as a photojournalist and now as a teacher is to pass on this information and my experiences," said Falco.

Falco took this time to share the stories behind every photograph and his personal experience of being there.

"Just from a second-hand experience of this, I can feel how life-changing it was even though I wasn't there," said Hand after attending Falco's presentation.

Later Wednesday night, an interfaith memorial and candlelight vigil took place at the university chapel.

"It was a beautiful service and I truly appreciated the interfaith nature of the service," said Rabbi Josh Ratner, Sacred Heart's interfaith chaplain. "9/11 impacted so many people of different religious backgrounds."

Students gathered to remember the attacks of Sept. 11 together, as a community.

"It was a beautiful service," said senior Brooke Ziccardi. "It really felt like everyone there was united."

On Saturday, Sept. 11, there was a live musical tribute, a film screening of Boatlift and a panel discussion held at the Community Theatre.

"Our aim is to enlighten and engage our students and our local community in respecting, remembering and reflecting," said Loris, who hosted the panel discussion with Falco and

Hadar Lubin, a psychiatrist and associate clinical professor at Yale University.

Sacred Heart will continue to commemorate 9/11 with a new Art and Design gallery that opened on Tuesday, Sept. 14 outside the Edgerton Theatre. The gallery, designed by Prof. Jon Walker under the direction of Art and Design Chair and Gallery Director Mary Treschita, will display Falco's photography from Ground Zero.

"It's not going to just be pictures on the wall, it's going to be a multimedia experience," said Falco.

The show will run through Dec. 11.



KENLEY PIERRE

PART OF GALLERY OUTSIDE EDGERTON THEATER AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FEATURING PROFESSOR RICHARD FALCO'S PHOTOGRAPHY ON SEPT. 11 2021.

Spotlight



Our Little Corner

JILL AMARI
MANAGER OF AUDREY'S CORNER



Welcome to the fall 2021 semester—and to Audrey's Corner! We're now in our fourth year of bringing hope, kindness and challenging topics to the community through the power of words.

Our little corner of The Spectrum is a bit different from the rest—and we hope you'll stick around to read about us and to enjoy the submissions our talented writers, artists, and photographers have to offer.

Audrey's Corner was created in honor of Audrey Niblo, a student who passed away suddenly from a heart condition in May 2018. Audrey was a beloved staff writer for The Spectrum, as well as a sister of Theta Phi Alpha at Sacred Heart University. She was also an advocate for bully victims and spoke about her experiences of being bullied as a child. Audrey's involvement and passions allowed her to reach many members of the Sacred Heart community, and each person she met was touched by her kindness, positivity and resilience.

The goal of Audrey's Corner is to emulate the beliefs of Audrey herself and to support all members of the Sacred Heart—and wider—community. From topics like comfort food, mental health and bullying, we strive to create a page that gives you a sense of Audrey's personality and what was important to her, even if you never had the opportunity to meet her. As always, we will continue to promote kindness and self-care, and we will continue to remember Audrey through a variety of pieces, including articles, interviews, graphic designs, photographs and creative works.

To further honor Audrey's legacy, we have established the Audrey Niblo Award for Excellence in Reporting and Writing (or simply the Audrey Award). This is a monetary award for undergraduate students who significantly contribute to Audrey's Corner throughout the year. An application will be sent out to all undergraduates in an email, and you can sign up there. Or, if you'd like to contribute before the applications are reviewed, you can email Jill Amari, Manager of Audrey's Corner, at amarij@mail.sacred-heart.edu.

We also welcome participation from graduate students, professors, faculty, staff, and even parents of students. If you'd like to contribute but are not eligible to apply for the Audrey Award, please email Jill expressing your interest, and we'll be happy to work with you.

To read more about Audrey's Corner or view past submissions, please visit our page on The Spectrum website: <https://www.shuspectrum.com/archives/category/audreys-corn/>.

We hope you'll enjoy all that Audrey's Corner has to offer this semester as we use our voices to create an open and welcoming page. Thank you for supporting our writers, artists, and photographers as we all strive to honor Audrey.



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Arts & Entertainment

“Certified Lover Boy”

BY MARIA ZEGARELLI
Assistant A&E Editor

Canadian rapper Drake recently released his new studio album, “Certified Lover Boy.” The album is available to stream on all major music platforms including Apple Music, Soundcloud and Spotify.

Since his first studio album release, Drake has reached a large level of fame among young music listeners worldwide. He has dropped several albums, each one gaining more streams than the last.

According to Billboard Music Charts, “Certified Lover Boy” earned the most streams on day one of release in Spotify history. The album also earned Apple Music’s number one album spot in over 145 countries.

According to Forbes, five songs from “Certified Lover Boy” earned a spot on the US Top Ten list. Three other songs from his previous studio album, “Scorpion,” were also placed on that list.

“Certified Lover Boy” was released through OVO Sounds and Republic Records. The long-awaited project is one hour and 26 minutes in length and features rappers Travis Scott, Lil Baby, Kid Cudi, and 21 Savage.

Once the album cover was released, fans began discussing on social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. The cover art pictures 12 of the “pregnant woman emoji” in various skin tones and shirt colors.

Many Sacred Heart University students are fans of Drake and were excited to hear he had new music coming out.

“I’ve been a fan of Drake and his music style for as long as I can remember. I started listening to him when I was in high school, and I’m always excited for when he drops new music,” said junior Alaina DeRose.

“I’ve been a fan of Drake since his first mixtape, ‘So Far Gone.’ I’ve bought and downloaded every studio album, mixtape and compilation album he has given us up until ‘Certified Lover Boy,’ of course,” said senior Madison Cora.

According to Billboard, “Champagne Poetry” is currently the third most streamed track on the album. Ahead of “Champagne Poetry” at the number two spot is “IMY2” featuring Kid Cudi. The number one most streamed song is “Knife Talk” featuring 21 Savage and Project Pat.

“I really enjoyed the album. Drake gives us a softer melodic side to him, which explains why the album is called ‘Certified Lover Boy’ in the first place,” said Cora. “Drake continues to exhibit different personalities and explore new sides of his musical style.”

“I don’t normally listen to Drake, but I thought the album, or at least the handful of songs I listened to off of it, were really unique and well executed. You can tell he puts a lot of time and care into his creative process, and the album reflects that,” said junior Hailey Morelli.

“It is not every day we get to experience an artist in new lights. ‘Certified Lover Boy’ definitely showed the different strengths and variety of styles that this talented artist could do,” said DeRose.

“IMY2” begins with a tribute to the late rapper Juice WRLD. Drake relishes in his many accomplishments and how he is continuing to find himself as a man. According to Billboard Music Critic Carl Lamarre, “The unexpected duo delivers a collaborative track that pairs Kid Cudi’s melodic flow with Drake’s renowned tone.”

“We’re in the Drake era now, and Drake is sitting at the top with no one really challenging him besides distant Kanye West,” said Cora.



Drake's "Certified Lover Boy" album cover. Drake recently released his new album "Certified Lover Boy" to much acclaim.

“Only Murders in the Building”

BY ELIZABETH COYNE
A&E Editor

The brand new series “Only Murders in the Building” is available to stream exclusively on Hulu. After premiering the first three episodes on Aug. 31, a new episode is set to be released every Tuesday.

According to Hulu, “Only Murders in the Building” is a mystery series that follows three strangers Mabel, Charles and Oliver, played by Selena Gomez, Steve Martin and Martin Short respectively.

After bonding over their love of true crime podcasts, the trio get caught up in the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of their neighbor Tim Kono. During their own investigation, the team decides to start a podcast of their own focusing only on “murders in the building.”

Gomez, Martin and Short are also executive producers on the show.

“Powerful actors getting producing credits is nothing new, but it seems to be more common today,” said Prof. Todd Barns, digital film and video production instructor at Sacred Heart University. “It’s more interesting to me that they went out and got Dan Fogelman as another executive producer. He is the creator of ‘This is Us,’ and he came and spoke to my FTMA class last year via Zoom during the pandemic. He has one of the last big hits on TV, so perhaps they hope he can help them reach a wide audience.”

Many Sacred Heart students and staff, while expressing their opinions on “Only Murders in the Building,” talked about their experience with true crime content and entertainment.

“I love watching true crime! One of my favorite shows is Criminal Minds, which has a true crime vibe to it, but any other show similar on Netflix is something I’ll definitely watch,” said junior Reagan Daly.

“The true crime podcast wave has been fascinating to watch. When I was growing up, documentaries had a much smaller audience than narrative. More recently that has been changing, largely due to a voracious public appetite for true crime,” said Barns. “I don’t listen to the podcasts, but I watch the docs all the time and I can’t get enough of them!”

John Hoffman, co-creator of “Only Murders in the Building” along with Martin, revealed it was a personal connection to a similar mystery that inspired him to create the specific storyline of the show.

Hoffman said, “It just so happened that in tragic form, a year before I started writing this show, a friend of mine was found dead on his floor with someone else and it was deemed a murder-suicide.”

On “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” Martin said his contribution to the show was “an idea I have had in my head for 10 years.”

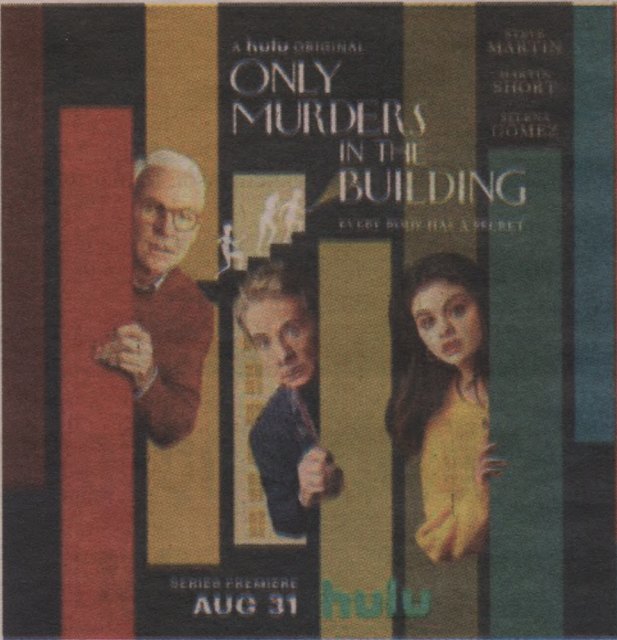
Since its release, the show has been recognized continuously for its unprecedented success. According to The Wrap, “Only Murders in the Building” is the most-watched

comedy premiere in Hulu history.”

Lots of Sacred Heart students and staff commented on the dynamic between the show’s talent.

“I really like the show so far, it’s so cool to see more classic stars like Steve Martin and Martin Short with the queen of Disney herself Selena Gomez! I can’t wait to watch more,” said junior Hailey Morelli.

“Streaming services are more about capturing a specific audience than broadcasting to a wide audience as network TV used to do. If Hulu can capture ‘Three Amigos’ fans at the same time as ‘Lose You To Love Me’ fans, it’s a big win for them,” said Barns.



Hulu's new show "Only Murders in the Building" has gained popularity since its premiere on Aug. 31.

Sports

Judy Ann Riccio Named New Athletic Director

BY MARIA CIPRIANO
Co-Sports Editor

On Sept. 8, Judy Ann Riccio was named the fifth Athletic Director of Sacred Heart University, making her the first woman to become head of the Athletics Department in the school's history, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

Riccio has been serving as interim director since June 8 after former Athletic Director Bobby Valentine announced in a press conference that he was stepping down from Sacred Heart and would run for Mayor for the town of Stamford, according to the Connecticut Post.

Students at Sacred Heart shared their perspectives after hearing the news about the new athletic director.

"It is refreshing to see that a female has such an influential role in the athletic community here at SHU," said senior Catherine Rossi. "Athletics is typically a male-dominant section at colleges and seeing Riccio being appointed to this position encourages other females to follow in her footsteps."

According to the Connecticut Post, Riccio is the 57th woman to be the director of a Division I athletic program, with only 36 of the 57 schools having football programs.

"I think she will bring so much to SHU athletics since she has so much experience and knows so much about Division 1 sports," said senior Andy Hesse. "Not only that, I feel she cares so much about the experience. So I can't wait."

Riccio is not a new face at Sacred Heart, as she previously was an executive director of the divisional budget and chief financial officer of intercollegiate athletic budgets for the last 17 years, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

"Riccio will bring a fresh and new perspective to the position. Her background is strong in finances and she will help to direct money into programs that need it," said Rossi.

Sacred Heart Women's Volleyball Defeats Columbia

BY ALEX MARCINIAK
Assistant Sports Editor

On Sept. 4, the Sacred Heart University women's volleyball team earned a 3-1 victory over Columbia University at the Black Knight Invitational hosted in West Point, N.Y.

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, the Pioneers have a current pre-season record of 3-3, going 2-1 at the Boston College Invitational and 1-2 at the Black Knights Invitational.

After losing the first day to both the United States Military Academy (USMA) and High Point University, Sacred Heart was able to rally back and secure a win against Columbia to avoid a shut out at the Black Knights Invitational.

"Early in pre-season, we're still finding the team dynamic," said graduate student Mackenzie Eford. "Army we took to five (games). Next time we play them it's an easy win in three."

In their 2019 campaign, the volleyball team was able to secure a Northeast Conference (NEC) championship, which allowed them to qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament.

Last season, the Pioneers had a dominant performance with a 10-0 record against all NEC opponents. However, due to Covid-19, the Pioneers were forced to forfeit to Long Island University, which ended their season abruptly.

The chance at another conference takeover is in the team's sights going into the 2021 season.

"Of any team that I've had here, this team wants to be great as any of them (previous teams), and they're willing to put in the work to do it," said Head Coach Rob Machan.

Senior leader Sarah Ciszek led the team with a triple double in their matchups against Columbia and USMA.

Ciszek currently leads the NCAA in triple-doubles with three and ended last season with the 2nd most in Division I volleyball with four.

Not many players are able to achieve a weekly conference award in the NEC; however, after her performance this past weekend, Ciszek was able to collect offensive player of the week on top of her eight other conference awards.

"It's awarding being recognized for all that I've done," said Ciszek. "My personal goals are to beat my records from previous years, and I think I'm on the right track."

Ciszek is not the only player on the team to be awarded conference awards, with her teammate Eford coming into the season with First-Team All-Conference in the Great American Conference (GAC) honors.

Alongside Ciszek, junior Jasmine Rogers was selected onto the All-Tournament team after their performances at the Black Knight Invitational.

Rogers was able to pick up a double-double with 13 kills and 13 digs in the Pioneers victory against the Columbia Lions.

"She's (Rogers) one of the most consistent players on our team," said Ciszek. "I think she's underappreciated in this conference. Giving her All-Tournament team was needed."

On Sept. 10 and 11, Sacred Heart is hosting a tournament in Fairfield, where teams from Lafayette College, Fairfield University and University of California, Irvine will be attending.

Even though the Stags of Fairfield share the same town as the Pioneers, they are not in the same conference as Sacred Heart. This will be the third tournament in a row where the Pioneers have not faced a conference opponent.

Although the Pioneers have a fairly long history of games against Fairfield, Sacred Heart has never faced UC Irvine, and the last time they played Lafayette was well over a decade ago.

"We prepare for all teams the same way," said Machan. "We worry about what we're doing, and our goal is being successful on our side of the net. We don't worry about what the other team is going to do. We want them to adjust to us."



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL FINISHED 1-2 AT THE BLACK KNIGHTS INVITATIONAL ON SEPT. 4

Sacred Heart Football Home Opener Recap

BY ROBERT FINIZIO
Co-Sports Editor

Football has returned to Campus Field as over 4,200 fans came out to watch the Sacred Heart University football team shutout the Bucknell Bison in their home opener 21-0 on Sept. 4.

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, the Pioneers continued a ten-year long streak of winning their first home game of the season, all while putting together the first shutout for the program since their 2013 matchup with Duquesne.

"We got great support from the students, from families and from administration," Head Coach Mark Nofri said. "When you can have the kind of home environment, it makes it a lot easier to play at home than on the road."

The Sacred Heart defense held the Bison to 143 total yards of offense and forced sophomore punter Ruben Anderson to punt on Bucknell's first six drives, according to Sacred Heart Athletics. The defensive front was led by junior defensive tackle Rayshad Wallace as he tallied five tackles and a sack, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

"They're playing physical and hard," said Nofri. "That's half the battle."

On the offensive side, the Pioneers continued to work the run game with nearly 300 rushing yards and a pair of rushing touchdowns. Walter Payton finalist Julius Chestnut racked up 170 yards off 26 carries and a touchdown. Junior Malik Grant took over the run game in the second half with nine rushes and his third collegiate rushing touchdown, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

"It felt great to finally get a touchdown here at SHU," said Grant. "I've been preparing very hard and for a long time to step up and do what I have to do."

Their only passing touchdown came on a 39-yard reception in the hands of sophomore wideout LJ Haskett, which was Haskett's first collegiate touchdown, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

"We couldn't be more excited for LJ, he has so much potential and ability and I'm glad that he got to showcase a little bit of what he can do," said junior quarterback Marquez McCray.

In his ninth start for Sacred Heart, McCray was able to deliver 150 yards of air mail with one of his top targets being senior wideout and former roommate Rob Dinota. McCray also was second in rushing for the Pioneers with 49 yards off nine scrambles. He credits the ability to scramble and find space on the field to a very experienced offensive line.

"We have a veteran offensive line," said McCray. "They all know what they're doing and take the pressure off me, Julius and all the other running backs. They just make it a lot easier."

Coming into the season, the Northeast Conference (NEC) preseason poll that was published on Aug. 3 placed Sacred Heart in the number one spot to repeat as NEC champions, but Nofri believes there is always work to be done.

"I think there's always room for improvement," said Nofri. "I would like to see us execute better in the Red Zone."

Nofri enters his tenth season at the helm after leading the Pioneers to a win in the first ever NEC championship game last spring versus Duquesne, according to Sacred Heart.

Editorial

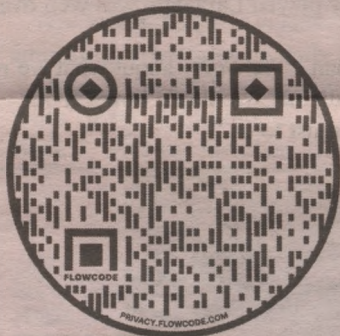
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