



# THE SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FAIRFIELD, CONN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

REPORTING CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1983

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2

## WATCH THE PIONEERS IN ACTION:

WEDNESDAY 2/8:

**WOMEN'S WRESTLING**

**VS. WNE & COLUMBIA,**

**FIRST MATCH IN THE**

**PITT AT 7 P.M.**

THURSDAY 2/9:

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**VS. SAINT FRANCIS AT**

**7 P.M. IN THE PITT.**

FRIDAY 2/10:

**WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY**

**VS. LIU AT 2 P.M. IN THE**

**MARTIRE FAMILY ARENA.**

**MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS.**

**AIR FORCE AT 7 P.M. IN**

**THE MARTIRE FAMILY**

**ARENA**

SATURDAY 2/11:

**MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS.**

**AIR FORCE AT 7 P.M.**

**IN THE NEW MARTIRE**

**FAMILY ARENA**

**UPCOMING**

**EVENTS:**

WEDNESDAY 2/8:

**WAX HANDS WITH SET**

**LINDA'S 3RD FLOOR AT**

**4 P.M.**

FRIDAY 2/11:

**PSYCHIC FAIR WITH SET**

**EDGERTON ATRIUM**

**AT 5 P.M.**

**BRACELET MAKING**

**WITH EDUCATION CLUB**

**LINDA'S 3RD FLOOR**

**AT 7 P.M.**

## The Power of an Empty Canvas

BY COURTNEY CHURCHILL  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2, the Narrative Art Exhibition opened in the Sacred Heart University's Art & Design Gallery in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibit, which is composed of 84 artworks by 26 international artists, highlights themes of gender, race, sexuality, folklore, religion, history, mythology, disability and politics.

Prof. Nathan Lewis, who is the chair of the Art & Design department and gallery director, is credited for assembling this exhibition. His idea stemmed from a desire to intersect a wide variety of themes to deliver the "Art of Story," as well as revealing how all the international artists' works resonate with the audience in different ways.

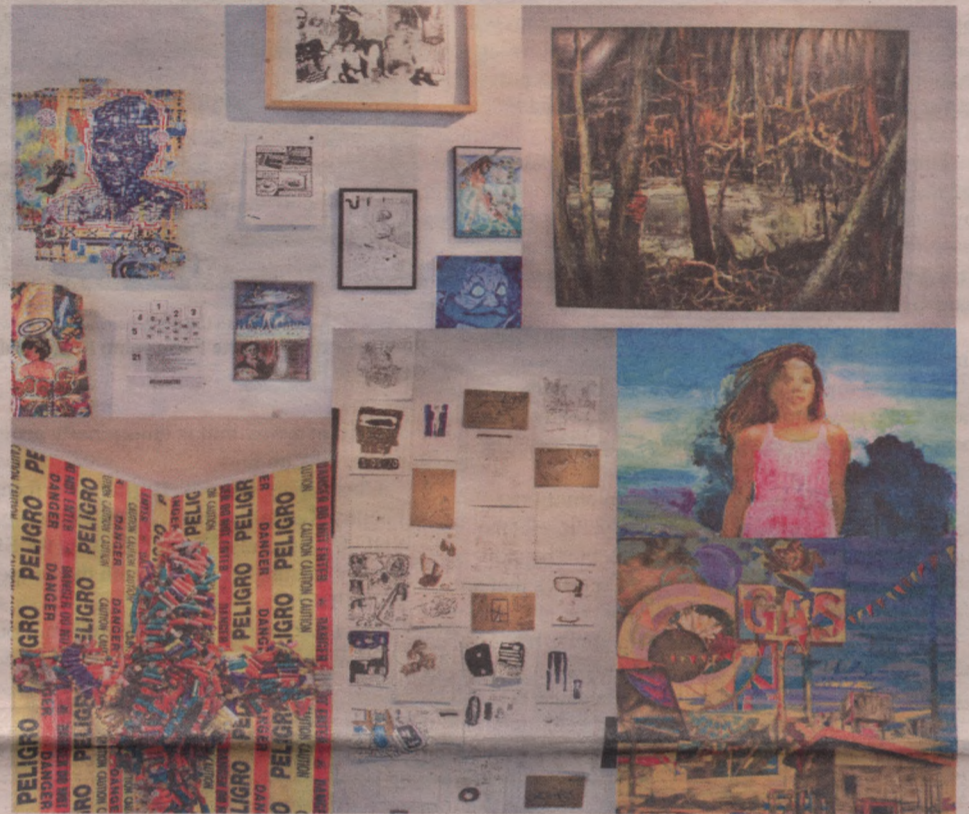
"This show is about story, meaning, artwork and how different artists engage with that whether they engage directly through telling a story like the graphic novelist Jon Allen," said Lewis. "Others deal with more symbols and then we are projecting stories into them."

Lewis has networked with many artists both to help conduct this art exhibit. It has reached an audience beyond the SHU community, since the artwork comes from all over the globe.

"I get to go meet these artists and bring their work back to the university so that other people can see that art is everywhere," Lewis said. "The whole show has to do with the way people are working stories."

Lewis depicted the way in which each artist resonated or identified with their own artwork.

"Jenny Dubnau's painting called 'Dictator,' that is a close up of Trump's mouth," said Lewis. "In Margaret Roleke's work, you can see she is working with gender studies, women issues, gun violence, looking at America as a culture that is patriotic, religious and loves



Student art pieces up for display at the Art & Design Gallery in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts.

guns."

"Oliver Herring is a queer artist that has been doing drawings like male nudes. Part of his practice is learning about the person that is posing and making them a part of the process," said Lewis. "When he agreed to be in this exhibition, he wanted the text there to tell the story of the person."

There were many spectators at this art exhibition, including SHU art students.

"I saw a lot of the artworks have themes regarding social justice which was something

I quickly picked up on when I first got here," said freshman Erin Pellegrini. "The piece of the bullet casings on the back wall had a very cool and powerful message."

Other students described specific characteristics of the artworks, along with common messages that can be found in them.

"The artwork seems to show a lot of humanity, who we were, who we are and what resources we work with now that have changed over time," said sophomore Marissa Mele.

The exhibition will be open until March 10.

Visit Our Website  
for even more  
Spectrum Content!

SCAN ME



## LOCATIONS NEWSPAPER RACKS

**Hawley Lounge**  
(next to stairs)

**Student Life**  
(across from office between doors)

**Library**  
(inside front doors)

**West Campus (West Building)**  
(first floor lobby)

**West Campus (East Building)**  
(outside East Cafe)

**Thea's Abbey**  
(lobby)

**Melady Hall**  
(inside front doors)

**63's**  
(inside front doors)

**Martire**  
(first floor by the main staircase)

**Spectrum Office**  
(in the SCMA Wing)

**Curtis Hall**  
(inside the front doors)

**Linda's**  
(first floor)

**Pitt Center**  
(inside front doors)

**SC Wing**  
(first floor near 63's and Edgerton)

**NC Wing**  
(first floor near couches)

**Pio's Kitchen**  
(inside front doors)

# News

## Community Theater Welcoming Christopher Grundy

BY BRENDAN WILLIAMS  
Managing Editor

Dr. Christopher Grundy, Director of the Choral Program at Sacred Heart University is trying to build a culture that connects students and faculty.

In his first concert as a faculty member, Grundy will be performing a world premiere by local composer Neely Bruce. The piece titled "Garland of Sacred Song" was a special interest to those in Sacred Heart campus ministry, as it features a selection of various Christian texts from inter-faith Christian traditions.

Sacred Heart Performing Arts Choral Program will present Christopher Grundy, Baritone Performing Arts Faculty Recital on Sunday, Feb 12 at 3 p.m. at the SHU Community Theatre with pianist Eric Trudel.

The recital will also feature "Songs of Travel," by Ralph Vaughan Williams and "Selected Lieder" by Austrian composer Franz Schubert. "The whole program is roughly an hour long, so everyone can still get to their Super Bowl parties on Sunday," said Grundy.

No stranger to the music of Williams, Grundy first heard the piece in 8th grade. "I have been performing this piece for more than 20 years now and it never loses its freshness, it really is so beautifully written and so compelling a story," he said.

"You can really expect to go on an emotional journey with this piece," said Grundy. "It tells the story of a lifetime in nine short epithets. The story of adventure, love, and loss in musical settings that are very compelling and relatable."

"Especially college students who are in the adventure phase of their life relate very strongly to this piece and really connect with it because it is



Sacred Heart University Community Theater Website  
Poster for the Baritone Performing Arts Faculty Center on Feb. 12.

framed in a way that is emotionally accessible and powerful," he said.

Christopher Grundy, Baritone Performing Arts Faculty Recital is Sunday, Feb 12, at 3 p.m. at the SHU Community Theatre. Tickets for SHU students, faculty, & staff are FREE with the coupon code SCHUBERT.

For reservations and more information, visit [WWW.SHUCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.SHUCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG)



## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BY EMMA GRIMES  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 18, Sacred Heart University put on its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Commemoration, presented by SHU's Office for Inclusive Excellence and Multicultural Affairs. The theme for this year's event was "The Power of Community," representing the importance of not just talking about being allies, but listening to and actively advocating for marginalized communities.

The commemoration is hosted annually to bring students and staff together to discuss the triumphs and trials that are recognized on MLK day every year.

"This event impacts the student body in terms of representation for diversity, equity, and inclusion in a positive manner," said SHU student, Benjamin Bello, who attends the event annually and sings in the SHU Gospel Choir, which performed at the event.

"We organize the MLK celebration every year to ensure that his messages and the associated calls to action are not lost," said Maurice Nelson, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. "It is important for us to reevaluate his life of service, advocacy, and activism to inform how we live out our institutional mission for social justice."

University President, Dr. John Petillo, opened the event with words remembering King and encouraging the SHU community to honor his faith and excellence. He spoke of his hopes that SHU as a whole embodies traits that would make King proud.

This year's guest speaker at the event was Albert Lee, an associate professor of Music and Director of Equity, Belonging, and Student Life at Yale University. Lee spoke on the importance of taking action in order to create positive change while drawing from his own journey, as well as creative writings from Langston Hughes.

Lee not only spoke at the event, but "is a phenomenal vocal artist and performer," said

more affluent singer."

Bello also discussed what this holiday and celebration truly meant to him.

"Personally, this event means that I get to strengthen my courageousness around campus and it has opened me up to talk more about some of the stories I have witnessed, especially with diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging," Bello said. "I have not only a voice and a message for the community about the event, but that I also have a connection which is promoting and serving the greater community."

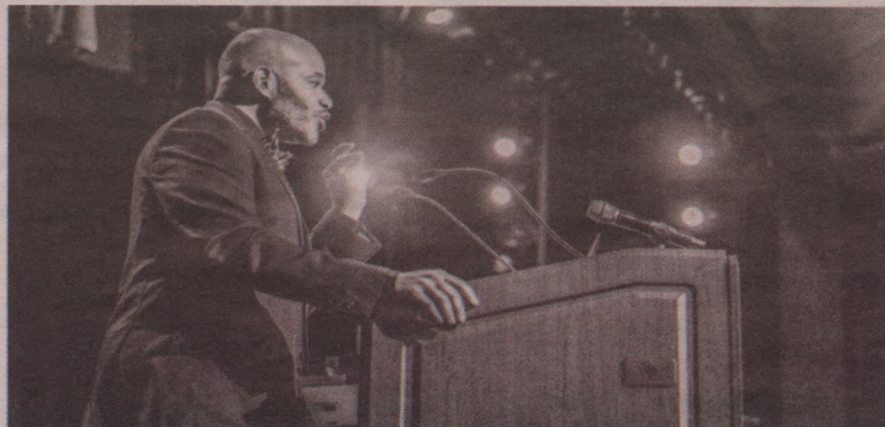
Nelson found personal connections to what was discussed during the Commemoration.

"As a black man, I am inspired by the leadership and tenacity of Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. I am inspired about his reckoning with not being infallible and by his pursuit for constant learning



Instagram, @shu\_multiculturalcenter

Students perform in the Edgerton Theatre for the university's MLK Commemoration.



Instagram, @shu\_multiculturalcenter

Dr. Albert Lee speaking at Sacred Heart's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration on Jan. 18.

Bello. "I became inspired to work on my vocal tactics and techniques to become a strong and

and growth," Nelson said. "This has impacted me personally and professionally, so the event challenges me to consider ways to better honor and continue his work."

# Features

## Calling All Future RSAs: Applications Open Now!

BY GERALDINE PAGLIA  
Staff Writer



Sacred Heart University photo by Tracy Deer-Mirek

Pictured are Frassati and Wiesel Hall. The buildings are staffed with 6 student RSAs and 1 Residence Hall Director.

“personable, approachable, friendly, and have some level of organization,” said Voight-Jause.

She expressed that being an RSA is a leadership role but also a job.

“My number one piece of advice for applicants is to be themselves,” said Voight-Jause “we are not looking for one specific person, but a diverse group of students.”

They are also required to present programs to maintain a learning and social atmosphere. Giving their residents educational opportunities outside the classroom. RSAs take on many roles and responsibilities, though the ability to serve their residential community and make a difference is worth it.

Senior Resident Director, Chnoa Manso-Vargas, chose to become a Resident Success Assistant (RSA) after having such an amazing RSA her freshman year.

“My favorite part about being an RSA overall is we really get to impact the community especially residential-wise,” said Manso-Vargas “We really make an impact on our campus, and we do not even realize it.”

Being a full-time undergraduate student, Manso-Vargas accredits her time-management and organizational skills to maintaining her role as an RSA. There is no typical day-to-day work as situations arise and conflicts must be dealt with.

The one-on-one and group interactions allow RSA to build lasting connections with

Sacred Heart Office of Residential Life has opened the Residential Success Assistant (RSA) applications for the 2023-2024 school year.

Associate Director of Residential Life, Beth Anne Voight-Jause, monitors the RSAs and aids in conflict resolution situations. She also oversees a building of students and responds to emergencies.

Things that Voight-Jause looks for in RSAs are for them to be

residents and peers. The residents are often a diverse group of students, as they come from different locations and have different interests as well as different living habits.

Maintaining a safe living space for everyone is essential. While each RSA deals with different residential areas around Sacred Heart University, they are there for each other to lend a helping hand.

One of the most important parts of an RSA role while on active duty is to go on walks. This entails checking areas such as the bathrooms, emergency exits, and perimeters.

Senior, Jacquelyn Palumbo enjoys getting to meet new people and watching her residents grow throughout the year. As a biology major and heavily involved on campus, she still manages her time to be on active duty from 8 to 11 p.m. on weekdays and weekends from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. when scheduled.

The application process to become an RSA can be different for everyone. “Don’t get discouraged if you get put in the alternate pool. I was there once too, and I eventually got the position, said Palumbo “Some of the happiest and best RSAs I know were in the alternate pool.”

The application process consists of a general question application, followed by an interview. Lastly, a group processing day full of fun team bonding activities to see how well everyone works as a team and would fit in the RSA position.

Applications are now open, and SHU is looking for more RSAs. “Look for the emails and apply! Ask RSAs you know questions; it can be really helpful,” said Palumbo. Applications can be found on the Sacred Heart University website under the Residential Life section.



Sacred Heart University photo by Mick Reed

Aerial shot of the Upper Quad: Frances Xavier Cabrini Hall, Mother Teresa Hall, Thea Bowman Hall, Pierre Toussaint Hall, Elie Wiesel Hall, & Pier Giorgio Frassati Hall.

## Sigma Chi: “A Fresh, New Perspective to Fraternity Life.”

BY CARISSA MUNOZ  
Assistant Features Editor

**Sigma Chi Spring Rush**

- ♠ Meet the brothers Wed January 25th 9am-12 Berg (game room)
- ♦ Bowling with the brothers Wed February 1st 6pm-9pm Bobby V
- ♣ Preference night (invite only) Sunday February 5th
- ♥ Bid Day Friday February 10th

Instagram, @sigmachishu

The rush event list for SHU’s Sigma Chi fraternity.

Sacred Heart University’s Greek Life will have its newest fraternity participating in this year’s formal spring recruitment: Sigma Chi.

Sigma Chi is the sixth organization in the school’s Interfraternity Community (IFC), and the 12th Greek affiliation amongst the other eight Panhellenic organizations. Sigma Chi’s Sacred Heart chapter was founded last year and took part in its first recruitment process during the fall semester.

“We are looking forward to meeting all the new Potential New Members (PNMs) and getting know everyone who is interested in joining,” said

Jack Kirkwood, Sigma Chi’s President. “We plan to make a name for ourselves by becoming a group on campus that everyone feels welcome and friendly with.”

At Sacred Heart, IFC Recruitment includes two open events hosted by the fraternities, where any male-identifying student is welcomed to attend. In addition, each organization can host one invite-only event for members who have shown mutual interest with the respected brothers in membership.

Through this process, each fraternity can find individuals that they choose to extend an invite, known as a bid, to join their brotherhood.

This spring’s IFC Recruitment began on Jan. 23, a week after each fraternal organization hosted table times for PNMs. Sigma Chi’s table time occurred on Jan. 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. Outside of table times, PNMs have the opportunity to meet the brothers of Sigma Chi through various events hosted by the fraternity.

On Feb. 1, Sigma Chi hosted a bowling event in the Bobby Valentine Recreation Center on campus.

In comparison to the other fraternities, Sigma Chi runs strongly through an alumni network.

“The support structure for all Sigma Chi chapters is through their alumni network,” said Nick Frias, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life. “Most fraternities are supported by headquarters staff and even though Sigma Chi still has headquarters

support, this organization has such an engaged and active alumni group that those individuals really assist in the success of the undergraduate chapter.”

According to Sacred Heart’s website regarding Greek Life, students who choose to join fraternities and sororities are given opportunities to have hands-on experience in leadership roles, exposure to potential careers, a chance to give back to the community, and a way to create friendships and support systems.

For the IFC, the addition of Sigma Chi to the community has given students another organization to become involved with.

“Sigma Chi has brought a fresh, new perspective to fraternity life at SHU,” said Frias. “They come in with strong alumni and headquarters support and are looking for new and creative ways to challenge the entire fraternity community to make everyone better.”

Members of Sigma Chi spoke highly of their experience with the brotherhood thus far.

“My favorite thing about Sigma Chi is the group of guys that we have,” said Kirkwood. “Everyone is close with each other and always comfortable with being who they are and asking whatever they need to.”

While the fraternity’s spring recruitment session ends with Bid Day on Feb. 10, Sigma Chi has an added opportunity to gain new members. Because the organization is an “associate chapter,” a chapter that has not become chartered yet, Sigma Chi is allowed to recruit members year-round while the remaining chartered chapters cannot.

For students interested in learning more about the fraternity, they can visit Sigma Chi’s Instagram: @sigmachishu.

Daniella Baldino contributed to this article.

**Sigma Chi**  
**BOWLING EVENT**  
Wednesday  
February 1st  
6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Bottom of the Bobby V

Instagram, @sigmachishu

The brothers of Sigma Chi will be hosting a bowling event for new recruits on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

# Audrey's Corner

**AUDREY'S  
CORNER**  
a place for kindness & reflection

## *I Am Black History*

BY AYASHA CANTEY  
Contributing Writer

The English Department is proud to announce that the first issue of HeartLines, Sacred Heart's online Literary Magazine, will be published this semester! Headed by Professor Hulme, the magazine's faculty advisor and Editors in Chief, Kailey Blount and Jillian Reis, HeartLines hopes to continue Sacred Heart's literary magazine by creating an online platform for writers and artists to share their talent.

This year, Audrey's Corner celebrates Black History Month with a strong student voice. Ayasha Cantey, talented poet and English major, shares her poem "I am Black History", reflecting on her relationship with her identity.

I am Black History  
By Ayasha Cantey

As a Black American  
I have been conditioned to see  
The ugliness in our community  
It took me a while to love  
These black commodities

Black is Beautiful  
From the melanated skin,  
That glows in the sun  
To the million freckles of  
Power that accompany your face

Black is Beautiful  
From the width of hips  
To the depths of a soul  
Those thick luscious lips

Black is Beautiful  
From the diversity in our community  
To the familyhood in our heart

Black is Beautiful  
Black is Brave  
Black is Smart  
Black is History

I am Black History

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# Spotlight



## Todd Gibbs: Engaging Alumni

BY ALEJANDRO RAMOS

Spotlight Editor



Contributed by Alejandro Ramos

Todd Gibbs with Student Government members at the second Turkey Drive last semester. (Left to right: Director Bella Scarmack, President Alejandro Ramos, Senator Bella Neves, Todd Gibbs)

Todd Gibbs, Executive Director for Alumni Relations, has been with Sacred Heart University for almost a decade.

Gibbs had a brief stint at SHU from 2008 to 2009 as the Executive Director of Development, working in University Advancement.

"I was here in 2008-09. At that moment in time, I felt like Sacred Heart was in the early stages of positive growth and I really felt a sense of connection to the kind of vision, values, and the mission of Sacred Heart. That everyone mattered," said Gibbs.

In 2009, he departed SHU during a period of change when he was presented with an opportunity to lead a non-profit organization.

"I was presented an opportunity to follow a passion and to lead it," said Gibbs. I led an organization that had a direct benefit to loved ones, and helped redefine and reshape it."

The organization, Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, works with children, veterans, and first responders. Their mission reads as follows, "We are here to enhance the lives of individuals who have disabilities and challenges through equine-assisted activities and education." More information about the organization can be found at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org)

Although he wasn't actively searching for the next step, Gibbs' next opportunity came when he received a call from SHU to return in some capacity.

Gibbs returned to Sacred Heart in 2014.

"I kind of always felt like I had unfinished business here," said Gibbs.

Although his title gives him a leadership role in the school's alumni engagement channels, Gibbs is adaptable to the many roles in institutional advancement.

In his eight years since being back he has touched upon the many functions of an advancement office; annual funds, giving campaigns, scholarship funds, major gifts, stewardship, and data services.

"Under the leadership of our Senior Vice President Paul Sutera, who joined us about 18 months ago, he's organized the office in a way that clearly delineates alumni engagement as its own pillar and so I lead that alumni engagement channel," said Gibbs.

One of his pillars' responsibilities is alumni relations, engagement, and involvement. A physical event that brings alumni back to SHU is homecoming. Over the years, this weekend has grown in popularity.

When interviewed in October 2022, for a Spectrum article

titled 'Welcome Back, Alumni!' Gibbs said, "Eight years ago, we had 250 students attend homecoming, with less than five events. Last year, we welcomed back 1,300, and this year we hosted over 2,000 alumni over the course of the weekend."

Sacred Heart has 53,000 living alumni residing in all 50 states and coming from a total of 64 countries. These alumni give back in many ways; presence, promoting SHU in their community, mentoring students, and job/internship opportunities.

One-third of these students have graduated under President John Petillo's 12-year presidency at the university. At other higher education institutions, young alumni who have graduated within 10 years are called G.O.L.D.: "Graduates of the Last Decade." At SHU, they are called Petillo's Kids.

There are currently eight alumni chapters based on geographic location in the United States. By June 2024, Gibbs hopes to grow that number to 20. The activities and engagement of these chapters were severely impacted by COVID-19. Aside from alumni chapters there is also affinity groups and alumni societies.

Alumni Engagement alongside the Center for Career & Professional Development have established a new platform. "Pioneers Connect" which works like LinkedIn but accessible only to SHU students has had a successful launch. Within the first week of launching, the platform has over 500 users.

"Pioneers Connect" allows for interactions between alumni and students alike. Whether you are connecting with a current or former classmate, potential employer, or looking for a mentor this platform has you covered.

Gibbs stressed that work in University Advancement (UA) is only possible through collaboration and coordination. These include the pillars within the UA framework as well as campus and community partners.

This year they assisted SHU's Student Government with their 11th annual Turkey Drive. Without the support from alumni and donors the goal would not have been met. Student Government Senator Bella Neves sits on the board of Community and Inclusion that was responsible for putting together the turkey drive.

"Mr. Gibbs played a significant role in making both our November and December Turkey Drives so successful. Any time we hit a bump in the road, he was always there to help," said Neves. "As a student here at Sacred Heart, it is so great to see a staff member who is so willing and happy to help others!"

When asked about vision and the future Gibbs mentioned building class identity. "While we have not had a class identity, we want to start building that," said Gibbs. "We will have a 25 and 50 at homecoming. Over time we will start to introduce other class reunions."

Aside from class reunions, there are plans to unite SHU's affinity groups. "What we will continue to do is build reunions driven by affinity. It can be orientation leaders, which we have done in the past, members of the band, and groups even within Spectrum," said Gibbs.

Many of these ideas are born within different departments in the community and are brought to Alumni Engagement to facilitate them.

On June 10 the Alumni Association Board in collaboration with the university will be hosting the very first Distinguished Alumni Awards Program. "It's truly a chance to recognize alumni for significant professional and community accomplishments and the work that they are doing in the different phases of their career trajectories," said Gibbs.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Love is in the Air

BY ALANNA WUNSCH  
Staff Writer



Instagram, @shutheatrearts

Official promotional poster for the Sacred Heart University production.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Theater Arts Program (TAP) at Sacred Heart University is putting on their own version of the second longest-running-off-Broadway revue in history, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

This rom-com type musical "takes on the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as 'the relationship,'" according to edgertoncenter.org. This updated version of the show includes two new songs, revised lyrics and scripts to accurately reflect dating in the modern era.

The small, four-person cast, is eager to perform this "celebration of the mating game" for audiences over the next two weekends.

Senior Paul Keegan, who plays Man #2, also a staff writer at The Spectrum, is most excited to make the audiences laugh.

"I hope audiences come to the

show and leave with a smile on their face," said Keegan. "We have a blast onstage, and I hope anyone who sees the show has a blast from the audience."

Both Keegan and Senior Julianna Rezza who plays Woman #1, an editor at The Spectrum, rave about the relatability of this production.

"It'll make you emotional, laugh until you cry, and feel like the difficulties and complexities of relationships are not something you go through alone," said Rezza.

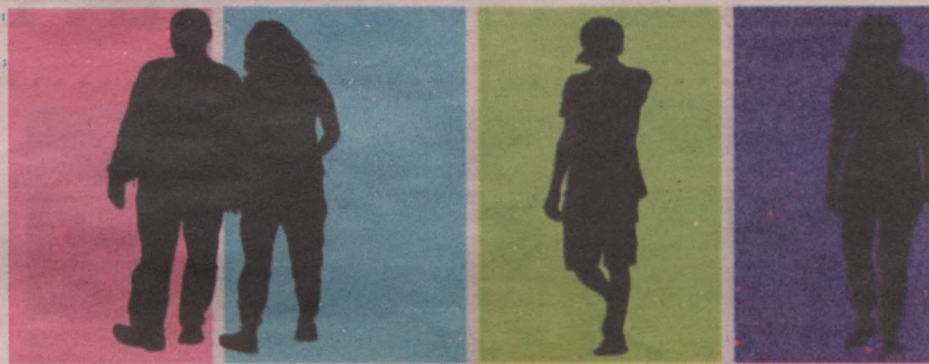
"One of the taglines for our show is 'everything you've ever secretly thought about dating but were afraid to admit,' which is totally true," said Keegan.

One unique aspect of this musical is that each actor plays a different character in every scene.

"All four of us play about fifteen different characters throughout," said Keegan.

To prepare for a role that consists of 15 different characters, Keegan mentioned his strategy on how to dive into the part.

"When I'm playing more than one part in a show like this one, physicality, props, and voices are the major parts of my process. I like to approach each part like its own human, using both physical



Instagram, @shutheatrearts

Colorful graphic from a poster for the production this February.

and mental space to differentiate."

As for the production aspect, senior Lauren Torres, the production stage manager, praised the prop and costume designers of the show.

"I give a lot of credit to our designers Marykate Kiley and Matt for working with our unique approach in those departments," said Torres.

Chris Conte plays the role of Man #1, Paul Keegan plays Man #2 and Grace Kelly Kretzmer (GK) plays Woman #2.

As for how TAP was bringing something new to this story, Rezza said that the uniqueness lies in the cast and crew.

"Myself, Chris, Paul, and GK under the amazing direction of Justin, Leo and Tom, have worked together, laughed, spit balled, tried and failed," said Rezza. "We ended up with four entirely new and different characters never seen before, ones formed by our own lives, our perceptions, and a team willing to support us as we try."

Torres also expressed her admiration for the cast and crew.

"Justin Zenchuk, our director, has been nothing but amazing and I really enjoy watching him work with the cast day in and day out," said Torres.

As for her favorite aspect of the show, Rezza said, "I play some pretty funky characters, some of my scenes being completely wild and others being really wholesome. I love the diversity; it's a good challenge as an actor, and just so ridiculously fun to laugh and learn with my cast mates."

There are multiple opportunities to see "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." It is premiering Feb. 9 and showing until Feb. 11, with another performance on Feb. 12. For ticketing, dates and more information, visit [www.edgertoncenter.org](http://www.edgertoncenter.org).

## From the Theater to the Red Carpet

BY NICHOLAS RUBANO  
Staff Writer



Instagram, @everythingeverywheremovie

Best film nominee, "Everything Everywhere All at Once."

production and people can receive credit in their own areas."

While she is a fan of the Academy Awards, Jolie acknowledges that some films are not given the same recognition as others.

"My main genre is animation, it's what I do, so I wish there were a few more animated film awards just because it's what I'm passionate about," said Jolie.

The sci-fi adventure movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is poised at the top of the nomination list with 11 nominations. According to the New York Times, the film also makes Academy history with lead actress Michelle Yeoh being the first Asian Best Actress nominee.

Sophomore Grace Peknic is avid about her support for the film.

"No question about it. It tackles the relationship between a mother and daughter. It also makes the audience question what really matters in this life, where everything seems to be happening all at once," said Peknic.

"The cast is filled with brilliant performances... [and] the cinematography blew me away," she said. "It is so relevant to our society and the world we are living in. I cannot wait to see it get all the credit it deserves at the Oscars."

Senior Christopher Devlin was surprised to see "Top Gun: Maverick" as one of this year's nominees.

"While it was a good movie it doesn't feel like an Oscar Award winning film," said Devlin.

He had a similar opinion on "Elvis."

"I understand why 'Elvis' was nominated, but I do not think it will win."

Freshman Maggie Ives, on the other hand, is disappointed to see her favorite film of the year is not one of those up for the grand award.

"I think 'Don't Worry Darling' shows an abstract view of the world that should be recognized by the Oscars," said Ives.

Freshman David Izzari also felt "Don't Worry Darling" was slighted by the Academy.

"I really liked the use of sound tracking. They used the sounds of breathing to show terror. It's very spooky. The sound was probably my favorite part of the movie," Izzari said.

The 95th Academy Awards can be viewed live next month on ABC on March 12.

## Big Designers Shine at Paris Fashion Week

BY JESSICA BALOGH  
Staff Writer

The famed Paris Fashion Week held the first of its semi-annual presentations from Jan. 17 to Jan. 26 with a variety of intricate designs and celebrities in attendance. Designer brands such as Dior, Chanel, and Schiaparelli unveiled new fashions for the winter/fall season. These outfits made waves with their unique and sometimes controversial design choices.

Dior presented their line of looks by designer Maria Grazia Chiuri, who based them on the Black performer Josephine Baker. According to the Associated Press, Baker was a former Dior client who left the United States to find global fame in Paris during the 1920s. She fought for race, gender and nationality rights throughout her life.

According to Fashionista, many of these outfits were within the black-and-white color palette, including a touch of feminine influence and 20s elegance. Dior was commended for having half of their 60 outfits presented modeled by women of color, a step forward progressively for Paris Fashion Week.

Senior Greta Pryce, Vice President of the Fashion Club, discussed the influence of fashion and how adding meaning to it gives it more power.

"Fashion itself even in the material form is so influential and when you put meaning behind it, even a song or any artwork, it can definitely resonate with people even more than just the product itself," Pryce said.

While Dior shined at Paris Fashion Week, they could not escape all controversy. Many people criticized Dior for their invitation to Russian influencer Yana Rudkovska, who was on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's list of cultural figures suspected of supporting Vladimir Putin.

Chanel was another famous luxury brand that debuted a new line of looks at this event. According to The Guardian, designer Virgine Viard's theme was a dignified Paris apartment.

Their presentation involved abstract plywood sculptures by artist Xavier Veilhand, that were in the shape of animals such as stags and birds. The models emerged from these sculptures in modest glitter tweed suits often adorned circus-like top hats and bow ties worn as chokers.

Schiaparelli's line of clothing stirred up quite a large amount of controversy within social media. People were outraged over the inclusion of fake



Instagram, @parisfashionweek

Model Marc Forne wearing Dior during Paris Fashion Week.

animal heads, with some citing it as a form of promoting animal cruelty. This uproar was ignited by Kylie Jenner's large lion head sitting atop her shoulder.

While Pryce understood why those online would be upset by these looks, she also sees it through a different lens.

"They're definitely just trying to get shock value out of the public and I think fashion week is supposed to be like this, like look at all the crazy stuff that is happening," said Pryce.

According to the New York Times, designer Daniel Roseberry was inspired by some of the vices within Dante's "Inferno" when creating these designs. He used the poem as a metaphor for the pressure he feels when creating new unique looks.

While Paris Fashion Week is an enormous event within the fashion world, it can easily be misunderstood.

"I've heard of it before, but I don't look into it as much as I would want to," said sophomore Julia Civetta. "I don't really know what I'm missing, if I maybe spent more time making efforts to educate myself about it, I would be more interested in it."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

# Sports

## The Women Behind the Scenes

BY VICTOR DIPIERRO  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 28, the Sacred Heart University (SHU) women's basketball team hosted Stonehill College in a tight game that they won by a final score of 66-61.

For those that tuned in to watch on Northeast Conference (NEC) Front Row, it might have appeared to be an average broadcast. However, behind the scenes, they probably didn't know that this was another historic day for Sacred Heart.

To celebrate National Women in Sports Day, The School of Communication, Media, and the Arts (SCMA) at SHU put together an all-female broadcast for this game for the second consecutive year.

"It is very important for girls to get involved in sports," said Tammy Petrucelli, the deputy athletic director at SHU. "It helps build confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and leadership skills."

As a woman in sports herself, Petrucelli understands the significance of putting together an event like this, as well as what it means for SHU and women.

"Research shows that girls who participate and work in sports graduate from college more often than girls who don't," said Petrucelli. "They are also more likely to land competitive jobs, which is helpful in such a male dominated industry."

According to ESPN.com, women account for about 17% of professional athletes and 21% of sports reporters, which is a significant increase from last year, where only 14% of women had a job in the sports industry.

While women are still underrepresented in the sports world compared to men, they are making strides here at SHU.

Last January, the SCMA program made history by becoming the first school in the NEC to put together an all-female broadcast, which was spearheaded by Brian Thorne, a graduate professor of Studio and Live Production in the program.

Petrucelli noted that this year's broadcast wouldn't have been able to come together without the hard work of Shannon Szefinski and Shannon Torres, who are both graduate assistants in the SCMA program and were also involved in last year's production.

"There is a lot of planning that goes into an event like this," said Torres. "We have undergraduates and alumni that dropped everything to be here because they didn't want to miss this for the world."

Torres, Szefinski, and the rest of the crew did such a great job that Petrucelli is considering making the all-female broadcast a yearly thing.

"For us to get recognition not only for being an all-female crew but for the job we did as a broadcast was nice," said Torres. "We really took the broadcast to new heights this year because people were more confident in us, and we were more confident in ourselves."

Although this was only the second all-female broadcast at SHU, the SCMA department feels this is the start of something special.

"It was awesome to be a part of an event like this because you are doing something that is bigger than yourself," said Szefinski. "This broadcast went better than we could have ever imagined, and I am so thankful for everyone that played a role in making this day so special."

*Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.*

## Four Cheers for Cheer!

BY BRYAN SMITH & MARISA MUSACCHIO  
Co-Sports Editor & Staff Writer



Johnny Greene, Staff Photographer  
Sophomore Izzy Berube hoists up the 2023 UCA Gameday Division trophy.

Another banner is coming to the Pitt Center!

The Sacred Heart University cheerleading team successfully defended their National Championship, winning their fourth consecutive title in the Open All-Girl Game Day division down in Florida at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex.

Led by head coach CJ Sereno, a former SHU cheerleader herself, the Pioneers continue to succeed on the biggest stage.

"I have very talented athletes," said Sereno. "The emotions are crazy, it's like an emotional rollercoaster."

Winning year after year is not easy, and it can be challenging to maintain the same level of competitive spirit with each title that the Pios take home. This is something that Sereno has to try and manage as the year goes on.

"I felt a little uneasy going into this season because it's never handed to you," said Sereno. "They have to execute absolutely perfectly."

Senior Madison Jones is the game-day captain, and she has now been on the team for all four of their national titles.

"It was amazing. We went out there and had fun," said Jones. "It was surreal, unexplainable honestly."

As the team continues to win, the target on their backs gets larger and larger. This adds to the pressure of trying to defend their title year in and year out.

"We go down there just to hit, but this year the win felt different," said assistant coach Jayce Jones. "It was just a harder

year to win. As coaches, all we wanted was for them to hit perfectly and they did that."

That's now four wins in four years for the senior class, something that Jones doesn't take lightly.

"Throughout the season there was a lot of pressure because all four years of me being here we've won," said Jones. "Leading the team to this competition was hard because there's a lot of expectations and high hopes."

The cheerleading program has evolved in a big way since Sereno became the head coach back in 2016. Assistant coach Jones credits a lot of the team's success and growth to Sereno.

"She's impacted the cheer team a lot. I was on the team with her the first year when she started coaching in 2016. Ever since then we've grown so much," said Jones. "It's just her dedication, her drive to support and keep the team going. She's very positive on and off the mat."

The culture that Sereno has cultivated within this program is part of what makes them special and is a driving force behind their continued success.

"I think the most important thing about this program is that they have fun. I think that is what sets them apart from everyone else," said Sereno. "They want to come to practice and they do their job. They are focused when they need to be, but they also have fun doing it."

This focused-but-fun attitude is one of the ways that Sereno tries to create an edge for her team.

"It makes it easier to push them because they want to get better and love being here," said Sereno. "I think I do a really good job of not putting pressure on them, and I tell them to come in here, do your best, and have fun."

The growth that the Sacred Heart cheerleading program has undergone since Sereno took over is a sense of pride for the former SHU cheerleader.

"When I was on the team we weren't even doing skills remotely close to what they're doing now," said Sereno. "I never thought it could get to where they are now to where we can say Sacred Heart is the team to beat."

As SHU looks to make it a five-peat next winter, the question is what's next?

"CJ always has some tricks up her sleeve," says Madison Jones.

*Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.*

## A New Shade of White

BY CRISTIAN MARTINEZ  
Staff Writer



Instagram, @shufencing  
Sacred Heart fencing athletes show great support and enthusiasm for their teammate, junior Jessica Young.

The Sacred Heart University (SHU) Division 1 fencing team is getting an upgrade at the coaching position following a chaotic period without one.

On Jan. 11, legendary SHU fencing alumni Christopher White was hired to be the new coach of the program.

"Our old head coach was suspended just before the start of our season, so the season has been a bit of a challenge," said Sophie Witek, captain of the women's fencing team. "We are very grateful for Coach White joining our team and finally bringing back some stability."

Without a head coach for the majority of the season the hiring process became hectic. However, White hopes that he can get the Pioneers back on a winning track as the last time SHU fencing won the Northeast Conference (NEC) was back in 2015, when White was still on the team. As a player, White helped SHU win four NEC titles in a row.

"Coach White is a very experienced coach and cares a lot about our team's success," said Domenic Bartolo, captain of the men's team. "I think it's awesome that he thinks he can bring the team back to its previous success as one of the top collegiate fencing programs in the country."

Before joining the coaching staff at SHU, White coached at Grace Church High School in Manhattan from 2015-2023. At Grace Church he transformed their fencing program from an after school activity to a competitive team.

While at Grace Church he dealt with challenges that developed and tested his coaching ability. Most of the students were used to fencing as a recreational program, but were not committed to the idea of a team. It took a year or two, but through setting expectations and hard work, the program saw a new life as a competitive team.

"Fencing does not always leave you with time for many hobbies outside of it," said White. "I mostly enjoyed spending time with my teammates who were pretty much my family and giving back to the community that raised me."

White was introduced to the sport of fencing through the Peter Westbrook Foundation (PWF). The goal of this foundation is to introduce underprivileged kids to fencing and give them opportunities to excel in the sport through community and mentorship.

"PWF was my introduction to fencing," said White. "My mother not only saw Peter on Oprah one day, but she also had a family friend whose son was in the program and through him she enrolled me and I loved it from the first day."

Both teams will be back in action on Feb. 15 for the Columbia Invitational.

*Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.*

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## “On The Road Again”

COLLIN MOURA  
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

There is no constant in life other than change. For a long time, this frightened me. I liked having a routine and knowing what my day held. I would get anxious if things didn't go according to plan, even panicking if a situation felt unfamiliar. I've always loved trying new things but was absolutely terrified of the change that accompanied it.

My outlook on all of that changed this fall, as I began embracing the spontaneity of life with a sense of adventure. I can now comfortably say that I find myself thriving in change, at my happiest when I'm on the road, going places that I've never been.

Over the past few months, I have prioritized solo travel. This has not only led me to new experiences and friends, but has also began shaping who I am. I love the sense of independence and unpredictability that a 4:15 a.m.

wakeup for a journey to Vermont holds. From recent day-drives to NYC or flights out to London and Canada, I have been going out of my way to create memories, perfectly content in the change and uncertainty that comes along with it.



The world is so big. I want to see as much of it as I can as soon as I can. So until then, you'll probably find me searching for my next adventure. Who knows if it'll be by car, train, plane, or where my final destination will be, but I do know that I'll be embracing change, enjoying the present, and living my life to the complete fullest. To wrap this up, I'll leave you with the first song that I queue when stepping foot in an airport or setting out on a long drive. In the wise words of Willie Nelson, “On the road again, goin' places that I've never been, seein' things that I may never see again, and I can't wait to get on the road again.”

## I Fell in Love with Journalism

SAMANTHA MARANO  
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



Growing up, I always knew what I wanted to do when I was older, but I never understood what the job was. I have always wanted to be on television and have the opportunity to be around celebrities. I could not sing; dance and acting were not my forte, but I loved to read and write. As I was growing up, I started falling in love with the idea of becoming a journalist without even knowing it yet.

A recurring question presented in several television shows that I had picked up on was, “Was it Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, or Thomas Hardy who first made you fall in love with literature?” My answer would be Jane Austen.

The 80s television show “Full House” star actor Bob Saget's character Danny Tanner's career was a sports broadcaster who soon went on to be a co-host on “Wake Up San Francisco.” The 2003 hit romantic comedy “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” star Kate Hudson played the part of Andie Anderson, a writer for the women's magazine Composure as the subject-matter expert for a series of “How to” articles. Being a reporter, being on or having my talk show to writing for a hip magazine are all jobs I would die for and experience in my career.

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

Letters to the editor should not exceed 600 words and should be emailed to [spectrum@sacredheart.edu](mailto:spectrum@sacredheart.edu). The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers voiced in this forum.



Next fall, I will find myself on a solo semester journey in Madrid. I don't know anybody else choosing to study through CIEE and will most likely be the only Sacred Heart student in the city. A year ago, I'd be panicking to no end. Yet, I have never been more excited for something in my life. Change will certainly await me, but I'm actually excited to be going alone. I can't wait to meet people from all around the globe, and to live each day with a sense of spontaneity. I went on a trip by myself for the first time this year and have gone on dozens since. I'm hoping that by my next editorial, I'll have embarked on dozens more.



Rory Gilmore pursued her career as a journalist from high school throughout college. Watching “Gilmore Girls” on TV at a young age made me realize and learn that journalism was what I always wanted to do in life. I wanted to be like Rory. I wanted to grow up and experience everything she was doing. Now here I am, nineteen, writing and being a part of the executive board for my college newspaper. I was an Arts and Entertainment writer and editor for the Husky Herald at Harrison High School, New York, and now I am a writer for The Spectrum newspaper, Circulation Manager and Assistant Public Relations Editor, and this is only the beginning.

So many people in your life can love you, but people believing in you is harder to come by. I have done so much in my slow start of pursuing a career in journalism, and several people in my life did not believe I could ever do this or be where I am today. The people who are waiting around for me to fail are, surprisingly, my biggest supporters in a way.

Journalism matters, and I strive to put something out there in the news world and be remembered as one of the great journalists I am constantly learning about. One day, I was sitting at my desk researching Gay Talese, a famous journalist on whom I needed to write my paper based on his success. I wanted to be one of the greats in my field that journalism students must write a ten-page final essay about me one day.

Now a sophomore at Sacred Heart as a Media Arts: Broadcast Journalism major, the ultimate foresees of what my future is going to be like. I always believed that one just like me can do whatever they want in life if they just set their mind to it and give it 110%.

I want to be casually shopping in my local grocery store and for someone to see me and say, “Aren't you that woman from TV?”

I'm Samantha Marano, and we will be right back after the break.