



THE SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FAIRFIELD, CONN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

REPORTING CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1983

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 4

WATCH THE PIONEERS IN ACTION:

THURSDAY 2/23:

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE IN THE PITT AT 7 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AT ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE, TIP OFF AT 7 P.M.

(NECFRONTROW.COM)

FRIDAY 2/24:

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY AT FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY AT 4 P.M.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY AT AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AT 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 2/25:

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CCSU AT 2 P.M. IN THE PITT CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THURSDAY 2/23:

LIVE AT RED'S WITH ELLE SARA

RED'S PUB STARTING AT 5 P.M.

SATURDAY 2/25:

PIONEER LANES BOWLING NIGHT

BOBBY VALENTINE RECREATION CENTER BOWLING ALLEY, STARTS AT 7 P.M.

GOSPEL FEST 2023 CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, STARTS AT 8 P.M.

Earthquake Leaves Turkey and Syria in Rubble

BY COURTNEY CHURCHILL
Staff Writer

On Feb. 6 at approximately 4:17 a.m., a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck a minimum of ten provinces of southern Turkey as well as western Syrian cities of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib, leaving a magnitude of loss, sadness, frustration and hopelessness.

As of press time, the AP has reported the death toll surpassing 40,000 from this tragic disaster. According to World Vision, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a three-month state of emergency in the damaged areas, as 13 million out of 85 million citizens have already been affected by this.

"Everybody in the world is feeling the pain now, so help is arriving to the area," said Dr. Tolga Kaya, SHU's director of engineering. "However, help needs to be sustained for months, if not years, which will be challenging."

Skepticism has been heightened from the aftermath of the earthquake. Contractors of both countries have been the primary target due to the lower probability of people surviving within these few, miniscule spaces of the buildings and survivors often being found in the rubble.

According to AP, the now nonexistent buildings of Turkey and Syria were improperly constructed. The infrastructure was doomed in withstanding the quake, which generated further frustration and outrage from both countries.

Although there has been mobilization on a global level regarding relief efforts, there is a projected question if it will be enough for the Turkish and Syrian communities to recover in the long-term.

"[SHU] sent out an email, but I don't think it's enough. A lot of people are talking about it on social media, but on campus right now I want students to know about it as well," said sophomore Busra Kahraman. "We are the voice of our generation and I think if we talk about it, it will help spread the word."

Dr. Isil Akbulut Gok in the department of political science and global affairs said that this support needs to continue past the state of initial shock.

"So far, the global community has offered generous earthquake assistance. Many organizations and countries offered to help rescue efforts and indeed, have sent search and rescue teams and aid," Gok said. "However, it is important to note that donations usually occur in the early days of disasters, and then the world moves on and affected places and people are forgotten."

Syria has endured severe political turmoil that has delayed aid convoys from being sent. Due to this matter, millions of lives will continue to be jeopardized and the damage of this disaster will pose a threat for the



AP Photo by Ugur Yildirim
Rescue team pulling survivors out of the wreckage caused by the tragic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

economies of both countries.

"Turkey is one of the largest economies in the world, but some sources estimate that the economic toll could reach \$84 billion, which is roughly ten percent of Turkey's GDP," said Gok. "Syria is a war-ravaged country, which is already in shambles. Its economy will take years to recover. I hope that disaster relief will not be squandered and wasted."

Millions of people have been impacted, including members of the SHU community who have endured suffering from this tragic disaster.

"A close relative of my father died unfortunately on Feb. 8. He was found dead under the rubble and concrete. My mom's friend, she lost half of her family," said Kahraman. "Everyone's lost something whether it's a sense of hope, a family member or a loved one."

Kaya's close friends who live in the affected areas shared stories of what they have seen and experienced themselves.

"They find babies who are alive without any parents around. Nobody knows who they are," said Kaya. "A minimum wage man died, leaving his wife and two kids. They needed just a few dollars to go to their relatives' apartment in another city. They were on the streets, under rain."

AKUT, UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders and more are also reliant organizations. For more information on how to support the relief and rebuilding efforts, search your inbox for an email sent by Campus Ministry titled "Supporting Our Friends in Turkey and Syria" and Dr. Gary Rose's email, "Earthquake in Turkey and Syria."

Visit Our Website for even more Spectrum Content!

SCAN ME



LOCATIONS NEWSPAPER RACKS

Hawley Lounge
(next to stairs)

CHE
(Inside by front doors)

Library
(inside front doors)

West Campus (West Building)
(first floor lobby)

West Campus (East Building)
(outside Cafe Rosso)

Thea's Abbey
(lobby)

Melady Hall
(inside front doors)

63's
(outdoor glass 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)

Pio's Kitchen
(inside front doors)

News

SHU Alumnus Todd Cassler Speaks to WCBT

BY ANGUS HENDRICKS
Staff Writer

On Feb. 16, the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT) hosted its Dean's Distinguished Speaker Event at the East Theater on Sacred Heart University's West Campus. They hosted Todd Cassler, whose presentation was titled "You Own the Contract For Your Career."



Sacred Heart University photo by Tracy Deer-Mirek
Todd Cassler photographed with attendees of his speech at West Campus, "You Own the Contract For Your Career."

Since graduating from SHU with an MBA in 2001, Cassler worked as President of Financial Institutions and Advisory Solutions for John Hancock Investments for 16 years. He currently works as a Chief Strategy and Growth Officer for Mariner Wealth Advisors. "The different things students should focus on are how they use their time, practice continuous learning as they progress in their career, and just be

willing to show up and participate in whatever is in front of them," said Cassler. "If they do those things then they will be successful in their careers."

Dr. Catherine McCabe, former Dean of the WCBT, discussed the importance of alumni-student relations.

"When we have people who are able to come back to the students and say I graduated from here, there's that connection and feeling that my success started with my experience at Sacred Heart," said McCabe. "When you see someone like Mr. Cassler, who is at the top of his career with an amazing position, it shows students that there are successful alumni who are at the top of their field."

She also discussed how Cassler was picked for this event.

"Todd has great advice from his journey, and that advice can certainly help students, that is a big reason why we brought him back to speak, and I believe that his presentations are

aimed to explain to the students what he is doing in his industry and how it can be helpful to the students," said McCabe.

The WCBT hosts its Dean's Distinguished Speaker Event every semester to bring in an individual who can impart practical advice to students. Bringing in SHU alumni is even more favorable because of the connection they can make with students.

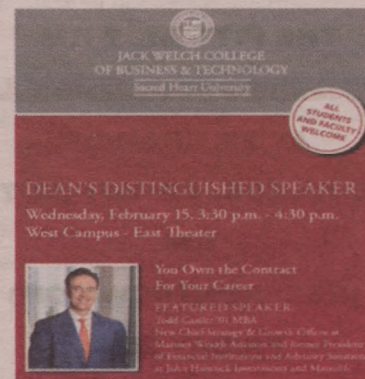
"Mr. Cassler is obviously a valuable source for the students, as a speaker for this event, not only for his career but because he is an alumnus. He is the kind of speaker that the department would especially want to bring in because the alumni-to-student connection is so valuable, and I have never seen an alum turn away a student when that student is attempting to build a network," said Prof. Melinda Formica, Executive Director of Advancement at the WCBT.

Cassler presented advice about the inner workings of the finance industry and some of the essential steps toward success.

"As cliché as it does sound, it really is about who you know and not what you know. Your network and connections are incredibly important," said Cassler. "Everything you do now will affect you later on in the future. It is the little differences you can make within yourself that will set you apart from the rest of the applicant pool."

Sophomore Madison Breckner attended the event.

"I thought the presentation was helpful, particularly, the parts about making connections and the importance of having confidence in yourself to start conversations," said Breckner. "I think having a speaker be an alum of SHU made a huge difference. Knowing he went through many of the same things we are currently going through and then using what he had learned from his education at the University to further his career is encouraging."



LinkedIn, @Jack Welch College of Business & Technology

The Dean's Distinguished speaker on Feb. 15 was Todd Cassler, the New Chief Strategy & Growth Officer at Mariner Wealth Advisors.

Hey Mom, Can I Use Instagram?

BY EMMA GRIMES
Staff Writer

This year, Connecticut is trying to pass state legislation that will require social media companies to get parental consent for children under the age of 16 in order to use the platforms.

The bill was originally introduced in a 2022 legislation session but was never passed. Despite this, it did have several supporters, the Children's Committee being one of them. This year, the bill will be introduced to the General Law Committee. The committee sees the importance of making this bill a priority in terms of its relations to children.

The proposal for the bill states, "That title 42 of the general statutes be amended to require a social media company to obtain consent from a minor's parent or guardian before allowing the minor to establish a social media account if the minor is younger than 16 years of age."

Youth mental health is being taken into consideration with the creation of this legislation. Junior Allison Peto discussed how content has changed over the years on media platforms.

"Social media has now developed into this world of posting the very best parts of your life as a way of almost proving to your followers how cool your life is," said Peto. "This can give those followers a false impression of what a person is like behind the screen and can have a negative impact on people seeing only perfect and flawless people on their timelines."

These changes as well as the way the media is being used and perceived have raised concern for parents and their children's perception of themselves and their own lives. The increased

presence of social media has caused an increase in mental health issues in young people.

"I think that social media can have both a positive and negative impact on young children, but the cons outweigh the pros. Social media has become a place where everyone, regardless of age, is obsessed with how their photos look and how many likes they get and that can get toxic," said Peto.

James Castonguay, Director of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, is well versed in both media and parenting and sees the importance of this bill.

"I do think it is important for younger children to have parental oversight over social media access. And, as a parent myself, I am, of course, a strong supporter of parental rights in this regard," said Castonguay.

While the bill demonstrates the importance of parental consent on social media, it lacks education on social media practices after consent is given.

"Part of the challenge, however, is that, unlike many other countries that teach media literacy from elementary school through high school, many U.S. parents were not taught media literacy in school," Castonguay said. "A well-informed, media literate parent and public are in a better position to make decisions about their children's healthy media use."



Collin Moura, Photo Editor

A Sacred Heart University student scrolls through Instagram during a break from schoolwork.



AP Photo by Brian Solis

Mark Zuckerberg, the owner of popular social media sites Facebook and Instagram pictured delivering a speech.

Features

Study Abroad: An Opportunity Like No Other

BY DANIELLA BALDINO
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's study abroad program is hosting information sessions for the fall and spring semesters of the 2023-2024 school year.

"There are programs offered for our Sacred Heart campus in Dingle, Ireland, John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, the University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle, Western Australia, as well as CIEE programs which allow students to spend three to six week sessions in various cities all over the world," said junior global ambassador Mary Durant.

When students study abroad in one of the many countries that SHU offers, they can take classes that transfer back to their major requirements, which allows them to stay on track for graduation.

"You definitely had to be able to balance your time as a student over there and you had to be prepared to study in advance, so you were able to explore the town and go on the field trips that they have for you," said junior global ambassador Lizzy Encke. "I learned I had to manage my time."

The study abroad global ambassadors are always available to answer questions about applications for the fall semester which are due March 15.

While studying abroad, students can take classes for their major.

"Since I'm a nursing major, I did a health assessment where we had labs and we had a nurse as our professor. I also took pathophysiology which was online, and I had to teach myself," said Encke.

With studying abroad, students have the accessibility to visit new countries and cities. "While I was abroad in Australia, I had the opportunity to travel to Sydney and



Alanna Wunsch, Staff Photographer
A baby lamb that SHU students were able to hold on slea head drive in Dingle, Ireland.

Melbourne, North and South of Perth to see much of the Australian Outback, as well as to Phuket, Thailand, and Bali, Indonesia," said Durant.

Studying abroad has left a big impact on Encke's life.

"When someone asks me, what did you get out of studying abroad, it was being really immersed in the culture and the community. You became really good friends with all the people that you studied abroad with. We also became really close with the people in the town," said Encke. "When I left, I cried."

According to the SHU Study Abroad website, students who study abroad gain more knowledge, self-confidence, and independence.

"Spending a semester abroad in Australia has always been a goal of mine, and being able to achieve that goal is the most amazing feeling," said Durant. "I learned a whole new sense of individuality, something far different than I learned moving to SHU as a freshman."

"I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to study abroad in such a unique way and I am forever grateful for the memories and the friendships I made," said Durant.

For students looking to learn more about the study abroad program at SHU, visit the Office of Global Education in the main academic building near 63's or visit their website <https://www.sacredheart.edu/study-abroad> or check out the Instagram @shugobal.



Contributed by Lizzy Encke
Sacred Heart nursing students at a historical ruin in Dingle, Ireland.

Your Career Begins Here!

BY GERALDINE PAGLIA
Staff Writer

Yellow balloons lined the steps leading to the Bobby Valentine Health and Recreation Center (BVC), directing students in business professional attire to the beginning of their futures.

The Career Center hosted its Career and Internship Fair Thursday, Feb. 16 at the BVC.

"It is an amazing feeling, to be able to invite employers to campus and help provide opportunities to our students and alumni," said Executive Director of Career Services, Keith Hassell.

There were over 250 students and 32 employers, and the event was open to all Sacred Heart students. Whether they were looking for a summer internship or a full-time career, the fair offered students the opportunity to present themselves in front of a diverse panel of employers.

Employers such as the Major League Baseball (MLB) network, Cintas Corporation, and Barnum Financial Group were at the event.

"It's a great way to get your name out there and jump into the real world and get a taste of what it is like going on interviews and introducing yourself to new jobs," said junior Olivia Corcione.

The intimate setting of the fair was by design. The Career Center has adapted to a post-Covid-19 world making its events smaller. Students are able to connect with employers without an overwhelming crowd.

Students registered through Handshake, an online job posting platform the office maintains with a job bank and job search management exclusively for SHU students.

"Networking is still the number one

way that students find jobs and internships. At the career fair, employers are there with many job opportunities. Even if you are not looking for a position at the current moment, meeting the managers, taking their business cards, and staying in touch builds connections," said Hassell.



Contributed by Geraldine Paglia
Advertisement for the Career and Internship Fair outside of the Bobby Valentine Health and Recreation Center.

box; flexibility is the key to opportunity," said Director of Career Services, Amy Novak.

Missed the event? The Career Center will be hosting additional fairs in March and later in the spring, along with many other events. Located on the second floor of the Linda E. McMahon Student Commons, the Career Center also assists students with building their professional profiles.

"The career fair is an amazing opportunity for all students to get an outlook on future careers, understand more into your major, the current and future workforce industry, but most importantly network yourself by building up your name," said junior Justine Ruvolo.

Career Drop-Ins, hosted by the Career Center, allow students to stop by to have their resumes and cover letters reviewed, start the job and internship search, or practice interview skills.

In addition, the Career Center provides guidance in conducting a senior year or final graduate program job search for a full-time position after graduation, planning for and researching graduate school options, and one-on-one professional development coaching.

"We want students to think outside the

Not Your Average Tour Guide

BY MIA SANSANELLI
Editor-in-Chief

Every day prospective students and their families visit colleges and universities looking for the next step in their education journey. At Sacred Heart University, Student Ambassadors are the first faces those prospective students see when they step foot on to campus.

The Student Ambassador Program is a selective organization comprised of undergraduate students, all with different backgrounds and experiences. They all have the same objective, to help recruit the next generation of Pioneers. And the program is currently recruiting new members.

Although the primary responsibilities of this group are to facilitate tours for prospective students and families, they do much more than that.

Rob Gilmore, a SHU alumnus and current Director of Campus Experience, took over the Student Ambassador Program in 2011.

"The Ambassador program is a unique opportunity that provides leadership skills to students, while acting as the official student representatives of Sacred Heart to all incoming prospective students at the university as well as visitors to Sacred Heart in general," said Gilmore.

Student Ambassadors work at Curtis Hall as part of Undergraduate Admissions. These individuals are trained to give efficient tours while providing families essential information about the university and answering any questions they might have. They also assist around the office, at open houses and admissions events, with freshmen move-in, and so much more.

"A student ambassador doesn't necessarily have to be involved in a million things at the school," said Gilmore. "They should have an appreciation for getting involved and a willingness to learn new things and to have a good time when they're working. [We're looking for] someone who will see this as a fun opportunity but also as a growth opportunity."

Julia Tavalilla, a former ambassador herself, and current Associate Director of Campus Experience, said that she loves Sacred Heart for the growth and the opportunities that it provides students.

The program is seeking students who can talk about their passions, who have good one-on-one skills, and students who can retain information well.

As well as, "someone that brings energy to families, to the office, and to their fellow student ambassadors. Someone that wants to tell their story and leave their mark here," said Tavalilla.

The virtual application to join Student Ambassadors goes live on Feb. 27 and is due back by March 17. The selection process includes first, a review of one's application and then a student can be offered an interview. Candidates will find out if they have been invited to join the program in April.

"Joining student ambassadors challenged the trajectory of my college career by making me more involved on campus and introducing me to a group of people who share the same love for SHU," said Samantha Bailey, a senior in the Ambassador Program.

The Student Ambassador Program expects students to contribute in a number of ways, but they can expect to gain as much as they put in.

"This position allows students to absorb certain techniques and certain skills that can be used in any profession," said Gilmore. Some that he listed were comprehension skills, public speaking skills, and confidence building.

Some graduates from the Ambassador Program have become admissions counselors for the university or faculty in other Sacred Heart departments. And many ambassadors have gone on to pursue careers in broadcasting, dentistry, law, etc.

The Student Ambassador Program looks for students who want to positively impact the university and help the community grow, while growing as an individual themselves.

"This program has taught me how to connect with anyone of any background and be able to tell my story while they're just beginning to tell their own," said Bailey.

Brendan Williams contributed to this article.

Audrey's Corner



The Picture of Happiness

This week Audrey's Corner celebrates "Moments of Happiness" with photography submissions from Sacred Heart students.



Gas Station Pitstops
By Kailey Blount

"This actually was a moment of anxiety! My sister and I were stuck in a snowstorm driving home from school. We pulled over into a gas station to wait out the worst of the weather. There, my sister captured this photo of me. To soothe my anxiety, she had been cracking jokes about the situation. I look back at this memory now with joy. It reminds me that the company we keep can turn a time of crisis into a moment of happiness."



The Sheep Brigade
By Jillian Reis

"I went to Ireland with SHU for the study abroad in Dingle and we got to go to this place that had a bunch of sheep. We got to hold baby sheep (the one I got was thick and he was not having it), but we also got to go and pet the older sheep. As soon as I went in, a flock of sheep surrounded me. One of them even went under my butt so I was practically sitting on it! I loved the attention from the animals, and I loved giving them attention even more!"



Fuzzy Mornings
By Camille Vail

"Early mornings I wake up to a ball of fluff in my face. My youngest cat, Poppy, absolutely loves cuddles, especially when it includes attempting to smother me! Maneuvering enough to not bother her while also taking this picture was a tricky feat, but this time it was a success. The look of absolute content on her face makes a lungful of fur worth it every time."



Back of My Mind Tour
By Ayasha Cantey

"For my first concert, I was able to see my favorite artist. I was accompanied by my twin cousins who are also dedicated H.E.R. fans. If you love H.E.R.'s music, I recommend attending one of her concerts! It is a life changing experience!!! The Back of My Mind album, was one filled with emotion and honesty. The live band definitely added to the experience!"



Sisters Playing Chess
By Jill Amari

"My sister (right) and I enjoyed traveling a lot in summer 2022, and our mom captured this moment of happiness at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, Mass. Peek the giant chess board!"



Spotlight



Mia Sansanelli: The Queen of Media

BY ALEJANDRO RAMOS

Spotlight Editor

“Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn’t work hard”

Mia Sansanelli, senior in the school of communication, media and the arts, is getting ready to wrap up her undergraduate career.

Sansanelli is studying sports communications and media with three minors including honors. Her academic involvements include a few leadership positions such as Editor-in-Chief of The Spectrum, Senior Producer of The Pulse, Senior Editor of Her Campus, and SCMA ambassador.

“The academic programs and facilities provided paired with the athletics and the location it all just really made sense,” Sansanelli said. “So that’s how I ended up here and since coming here I’ve been able to do more than I ever thought I could.”

Sansanelli’s time at Sacred Heart is not coming to an end just yet, as she will continue her journey at SHU by pursuing a Masters degree in Sports Communication Media with a concentration in sports broadcasting.

Aside from her busy academic schedule, Sansanelli is booked and busy on the athletic side of things too. She is captain of the Women’s Soccer Team and serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).



She has played soccer since the age of four.

“Out of all sports it was the one I loved the most,” said Sansanelli. “It was also the most challenging, I was better at other sports as they came easier to me but it’s the one, I fell in love with.”

For fun, Sansanelli likes to help animals and read. She has a dog and three cats of her own and enjoys volunteering at a cat shelter back home. During academic breaks, she enjoys reading, writing, and visiting with friends, family,

and teammates.

As for career goals Sansanelli hopes to be an NFL sideline reporter while also being a freelance journalist. She can also see herself coaching in the future, with sports always being a

part of her life.

If life was utopian, this would be Sansanelli’s life.

“I’ll be wealthy enough to give back to others and more specifically my dream is to open a dog sanctuary for older dogs and ones that have medical conditions,” said Sansanelli. “Hopefully I can live on a big farm in New England and take care of them with my significant other.”

In a male dominated field, Sansanelli has learned many lessons.

“I’ve always been a perfectionist to the point where it’s held me back and I think the biggest lesson I’ve learned is that you cannot be afraid to fail,” said Sansanelli.

In her role as Editor-in-Chief of The Spectrum, Sansanelli is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the paper including the editorial team.

“Mia is a highly skilled and dedicated leader. She works collaboratively and has built a strong team of editors who function as a true team, putting in maximum effort but also enjoying the experience of working together,” said Professor Joanne Kabak, faculty advisor of The Spectrum.

“With Mia at the helm, Spectrum has thrived as an excellent example of professional journalism and an authentic voice of students at the university,” said Kabak.

Sansanelli’s colleagues also recognize her drive and dedication to her various constituencies.

“The one word to describe Mia, is driven. She works harder than anyone I’ve ever met in so many different leadership roles, from the soccer field to the control room,” said Brendan Williams, Managing Editor of The Spectrum and member of The Pulse.

When asked for advice, Sansanelli said, “If you’re going to leave your mark in this life make sure it’s in a good way. Make sure you’re kind to people, be as optimistic as you can, and if you’re going to do something make sure it’s something that’s positive.”



SCAN ME

Arts & Entertainment

Your Friendly, Neighborhood Spider-Man

BY JESSICA BALOGH
Staff Writer

DEAR SPIDERMAN
I'm SAMMY, I am 4
years old, and I am a
big boy like you.
You are doing good
saving people, you don't
die when you do it, I
hope you are having a great
time. I love you!
25 It's an amazing year for me.
SAM



AP Photo by Pamela Parker

Four year old Sam writes a letter to Spiderman with his own coloring attached.

Letters to the "Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man" have found a home for the first time in a small museum called City Reliquary in Williamsburg, Brooklyn until April 2. These letters were originally sent to 20 Ingram St. in Forest Hills, N.Y., an address in Queens that was shown as Peter Parker's in one issue of the Spider-Man Marvel Comics.

A real family, ironically named the Parkers, had been living in that house since 1974. According to Yahoo News, the home's connection to the famed superhero goes even deeper. Their longtime neighbor, Terri Osborne, shared a last name

The family, despite being unaware of their home's superhero connections initially, quickly grew quite fond of the letters and collected them for nearly three decades.

These letters were not only written from across the US but also spanned the globe. According to Hell Gate, some letters were written by children in Switzerland, India, Austria and Germany. One child wrote, "I live in Lausanne (Switzerland) and I would like to know if you plan to come to Europe soon."

"Spider-Man just feels so much more accessible than other superheroes because even though in the story he is in New York, to a kid it may not just be New York," said freshman Wren Campise. "It's just that he's in that one area so kids know they can reach him. He's there and dependable."

According to Hell Gate, one child from Germany even sent a care package to the home containing miscellaneous items such as sour chewing gum, horse stickers and a €0.01 coin.

Another child wrote, "I'm Sammy, I am 4 years old, and I am a big boy like you. You are doing great, saving people, you don't die when you do it. I love you!"

Letters were not the only items finding their way to the Parker home and on display at the City Reliquary. They also received junk mail directed to Peter Parker, one inviting him to activate a DISCOVER card.

The Parkers' moved out of their 20 Ingram St. home in 2017, gifting the collection to their daughter Pamela Parker. Parker donated the heartwarming letters to the City Reliquary which celebrates local heroes and unconventional stories, according to Yahoo News.

"Spider-Man is relatable. He's young, kind of awkward, smart, and just overall extremely nice," said sophomore Vice President of Film Club, Kate Fleissner. "He helps around the community in small ways, even saving a cat from a tree."

Spider-Man is an important character in Forest Hill's community, reported Hell Gate. One local, Larry Ng, even started a campaign to place a statue for the hero in the area but the Disney Company objected.

"Spider-Man is every bit as iconic as Mickey Mouse or the Wizard of Oz. So, he's a great cultural touchstone," said Golda.

with Spider-Man's archenemy Norman Osborn.

According to the news site Hell Gate, after the release of issue #317 of "The Amazing Spider-Man" series in 1989, their home was put on the map.

Pamela Parker, the daughter who grew up in the Forest Hills home, told the NY Times that there were some letters sent throughout the 90s but with the release of "Spider-Man" in 2002, their mailbox became flooded with letters from children who were great admirers of Spider-Man.

"I think Spider-Man resonates with young adults because they are generally powerless in this world and Peter Parker represents this sudden acquisition of power to change things for the better," said Prof. Gregory Golda, a professor in the School of Communication, Media, and the Arts. "And as young adults mature and take on more responsibilities, they can relate to what Peter Parker is going through."

Little Theatre Presents "Moon Over Buffalo"

BY NICOLAS RUBANO
Staff Writer

A long table is lined with an array of props ranging from metal swords to bottles of whiskey, several extravagant costumes for each actor are meticulously placed for quick changes, and performers are waiting in the wings to deliver two hours of fast paced, meticulously rehearsed physical humor.

These elements come together first during rigorous rehearsals to bring the Sacred Heart University Theatre Arts Program (TAP) production of Ken Ludwig's "Moon Over Buffalo" to life. It is considered a farce: a dramatic comedy filled with improbable, exaggerated storylines, and absurd satirical humor.

"Moon Over Buffalo" follows the antics of declining 1950s actors George and Charlotte as they try to take advantage of what may be their chance at stardom when they receive word that A-list director Frank Capra is coming to scout actors at their matinee performance. Chaos ensues as the bickering couple tries to navigate through the afternoon show.

This farce show is only the fourth of its nature to be done at Sacred Heart, and the company is diving straight into the material as the countdown to opening night begins.

"I've never worked on such a purposeful comedy show as this one, and I think that is quite literally my favorite part about it," said sophomore Sierra Sailer, the show's Production Stage Manager.

"The fact that the show is a farce makes it so unique to anything else I've had the chance to work on, and that's made it a really special experience for me," said Sailer.

The play is directed by Jerry Goehring, Executive Director of Performing Arts at SHU.

"It's very interesting the approach that our director has us go about these characters and trying to find the honesty within them even though it does seem a bit cartoony at times, that's kind of the honesty within it," said senior Abby Palmer, who plays Charlotte.

"Our director is having us raise the stakes really high with pretty much every line we say, so we have to kind of balance high stakes and actually hearing us talk, but I think we're going to get there and I think the delivery of the lines really makes the show," said junior Jordan Pita,



Instagram, @shutheatrearts
Artwork for the SHU Theatre Arts Program's upcoming production of Ken Ludwig's "Moon Over Buffalo."

who plays George.

A farce would not be complete without its characteristic physical gags and slapstick comedy. Though only the end result is seen onstage, there is a whole other world happening behind the scenes to pull off these bits.

"Because it's physical comedy, we end up leaving every scene sweating and panting, which is something that I haven't experienced before, but it really shows that with the direction we're being given, were working hard and that every time it's getting better and better and that there's still room to grow," said Palmer.

With just a few weeks until opening night, the company is anticipating to introducing new audiences to the story.

"I do think that this show is suitable for anybody. There is just so much physical humor in this show. I think of the show like a sitcom or a really funny movie, so if you've never been to the theater or a play before, I think you're going to have a really good time," said Pita.

"Moon Over Buffalo" runs in The Little Theatre March 16-18 at 8 p.m., Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m., March 23-25 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Edgerton Box Office or at edgertoncenter.org/theatre_arts.php.

The Joan Didion and Gloria Naylor Archives

BY ALANNA WUNSCH
Staff Writer

"Archives of prominent authors, like Gloria Naylor – or Joan Didion, provide a treasure trove of materials that launch new scholarship and insight into the lives and works of the author and their process," said Susan Luchars, Librarian for the College of Arts and Sciences at Sacred Heart University (SHU).

The New York Public Library has recently acquired the archives of Didion and her husband, John Gegory Dunne. These archives include hundreds of candid photographs of their lives, letters, notes, manuscripts and more.

Didion produced decades of significant work across many different genres. "Play it as it lays" is considered to be one of her most important works. She wrote novels, essays, screenplays, political dispatches, reportings and memoirs, all of which are noted for their distinctive voices. Didion has been praised for her style, poignancy, decisiveness and critical eye.

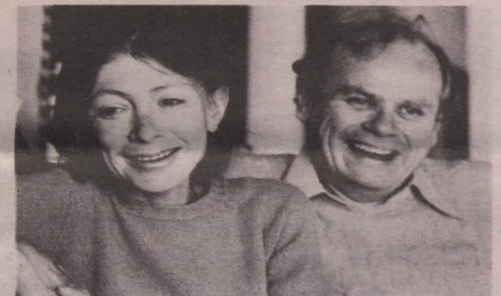
This spring, SHU is receiving Naylor's archives, after five years at Lehigh University. In 2009, Naylor gifted her extensive archives to SHU, the first university to grant her an honorary degree.

Naylor came to fame for her expression of the Black experience in America. She depicted the lives of the lower class, living in nonideal circumstances and the troubles they faced. Her award-winning novel, "The Women of Brewster Place," has become a required text for English 201 courses.

"Students loved the book, and teachers loved the book. It really resonated with them," said Dr. Michelle Loris, Associate Dean of Curriculum and Special Projects at SHU.

Naylor had a long history with Loris. Loris admired her "passionate and exquisite literary depictions" which inspired her to explore more of Naylor's work. In 1994, she encouraged the university to give Naylor her first honorary degree, based on her significance in the literary world.

"She was so honored, delighted and grateful, she really connected to SHU's mission for social justice



AP Photo by the New York Public Library
Joan Didion and her husband John Dunne in their Malibu home during December of 1977.

and its culture of community and belonging," said Loris.

Later on, Loris compiled a book of critical essays on Naylor's work and got to interview her multiple times. Through their many interactions, they grew a strong collegial connection and relationship, which led Naylor to believe that SHU was the right place for her archives.

In 2009, Loris and two students went to Naylor's home in Brooklyn, N.Y. and collected 60 boxes of letters, notes, drafts, maps, research and more. These archives were stored at the SHU Library for nine years, until two scholars from Lehigh University asked to borrow them for digitization.

"They did a fabulous job digitizing; they're making the archives freely available virtually for everyone. But the archives are ready to come back to SHU now in 2023," said Loris.

Among those excited to deep dive into the archives is junior English major, Colleen Degennaro.

"Naylor's archives will allow students and faculty alike to immerse themselves in the literary journey of one of the greats, as well as to interact with the writers and artists who, like us, have been inspired by her brilliance. I think Naylor's intelligence and sensitivity will truly shine in her nonfiction writing," said Degennaro.

Luchars also expressed her excitement, curiosity and interest in going through the archives.

"Who knows what discoveries SHU students and staff will make once they are introduced to these rare and unique objects collected by Gloria Naylor during her lifetime?" said Luchars.

"To have an important author's archives at our university gives the University stature, reputation gravitas. She could have given her archives to any of those schools, but she chose Sacred Heart University," said Loris.

To celebrate the return of the archives, Loris and SHU are planning to honor Naylor with a celebration in October. The commemoration will include keynote speakers, an exhibit showcasing her work, and the archives on display.



Sacred Heart University photo by Tracey Deer-Mirek
Dr. Michelle Loris pictured with Gloria Naylor during her visit to Sacred Heart University.

Sports

Chikara Hanzawa Breaking through the Ice

BY VICTOR DIPIERRO
Staff Writer

On Feb. 11, the Sacred Heart University (SHU) men's ice hockey team beat the U.S. Air Force Academy 5-3. While SHU came away with the victory, it was freshman forward Chikara Hanzawa who stole the show.

About halfway through the first period, while falling to the ice, Hanzawa scored his first collegiate goal to put SHU up 2-0. Hanzawa's goal was so impressive that it made its way onto SportsCenter's Top 10 plays of the night.

"It was truly a great feeling to finally get my first goal," said Hanzawa. "I was struggling at the beginning of the season. It took me a while to get comfortable, but my coaches and teammates helped me a lot and this wouldn't be possible without them."

Growing up in Japan, it was Hanzawa's father that introduced him to the game of ice hockey.

"I started playing hockey when I was 3 years old," said Hanzawa. "My dad played in the Asia League Ice Hockey in Japan. He introduced me to the sport and taught me how to skate from a very young age."

Before his collegiate days, Hanzawa played junior hockey for the Minnesota Wilderness of the North American Hockey League (NAHL). From there, he was traded to the South Shore Kings, a team based in Foxborough, Mass.

"That is when I found my offense and started producing," said Hanzawa. "My time with the Kings is when Sacred Heart first discovered me, and Coach

Marottolo started recruiting me to come and play here."

The transition from junior hockey to the NCAA was an eye-opening experience for Hanzawa, who had just one point in his previous 19 games.

"I was surprised at the differences between junior hockey and college hockey," said Hanzawa. "Every single game matters, and they are much more physical and competitive."

Getting used to the NCAA wasn't the only obstacle for Hanzawa. The Tokyo native needed to learn to adapt to the cultural differences here in the United States.

"I was definitely a little bit nervous," said Hanzawa. "It was difficult going to a new country that I've never been to. I was only 17 when I came to America, and I couldn't even speak English. The language and culture barriers were hard to overcome."

For someone who was constantly being exposed to new things, Hanzawa felt comfort in knowing that he always had hockey to fall back on.

"Hockey was always there for me," said Hanzawa. "Everything around me was changing but hockey always stays the same. I formed many friendships on the ice, and I feel connected to people through hockey. It made the transition of coming to America much easier."

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



John Greene, Staff Photographer
Chikara Hanzawa celebrates with his teammates after his first collegiate goal against Air Force.

High Hopes for Women's Lax

BY MARIA MUSACCHIO
Staff Writer

While they were picked to finish third in the Northeast Conference (NEC) this season, their highest selection since 2014, the Sacred Heart University women's lacrosse team is shooting for an even bigger goal this season.

The team fell short of a playoff bid by just one spot in the 2022 season, where Mount St. Mary's would end up taking home the title.

"There is something definitely special about this team," says graduate student attacker Grace Reinold. "I believe a lot of that stems from the culture of our team this year and having so many girls back from last spring."

The buy-in to that team culture is something that head coach Laura Korutz thinks will propel her team to new heights this year.

"The team has bought into our system fully this year and that starts with our veteran group of leaders," said Kortuz. "It has been nice to see the shift in mentality and we look forward to showing it on the field this season."

Led by a plethora of fifth year students including defender Claire McElhenny, Reinold and attacker Lydia Werlau, the women are eager to improve their 6-10 record from 2022.

"These three are still as hungry and as determined, if not more so, as they were in their freshmen year which is rare in fifth years," said Korutz. "They show up to practice ready to compete and that effort and grit filters down to every class."

Both McElhenny and Werlau were chosen as team captains for the 2023 season and have praised their team for their closeness which, in turn, has led to extraordinary chemistry on the field.

"This team is extremely special because the chemistry and love for one another is like no other team I have been a part of," said McElhenny. "We have each other's backs no matter what, which means we win and lose together as a family."

The Pioneers opened up their season on Feb. 11 against Manhattan, but fell 14-13 in overtime. Despite the loss, Werlau and Reinold combined for 7 goals, respectively.

"Grace and Lydia are the heart and soul of our offensive end," said Korutz. "They have been great mentors to the younger players and have worked to build a cohesive unit on our offensive end where everyone is a threat to score."

After falling behind 7-1, the Pioneers pushed back offensively in the second half to force overtime.

"My hat-trick was a result of our offensive sets and my teammates setting up these scoring opportunities," says Werlau. "I'm looking forward to seeing our growth as the season progresses."

The women took on Quinnipiac on Feb. 15, but dropped the game by a final score of 16-11.

"A loss is definitely not our ideal way to start off the season," says McElhenny. "We have learned that sometimes you have to fail in order to learn so you can succeed."

The women will be on the road against UMass Lowell on Feb. 25 then pay visits to Iona and Monmouth before their home opener against the University of New Hampshire on March 8.

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



Instagram, @shuwlax_...
Graduate Student Lydia Werlau on the attack versus Mercy College.



Instagram, @shuwlax_...
Seniors Sydney Colesworthy (left) and Mikala Eacrett pose for a picture before their scrimmage versus Mercy College.

Chiefs Take Super Bowl LVII

BY BRYAN SMITH & CRISTIAN MARTINEZ
Co-Sports Editor & Staff Writer

According to Fox Sports, the networks broadcast of Super Bowl LVII brought in over 113 million television viewers, as the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles by a score of 38-35.

Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker connected on a 27 yard field goal with eight seconds remaining in the game to give the Chiefs their second Super Bowl title in four years.

"Both teams deserved to be in the Super Bowl," said junior Nelson Lassalle. "I expected it to be a high scoring game since the Chiefs and the Eagles are both great teams."

Both teams were the number one seed in their respective conferences, and both had identical 14-3 records in the regular season. Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts also finished first and second in NFL MVP voting.

"I was very satisfied with the outcome," said senior Stephen Gonzalez. "As a Giants fan, I did not want to see one of their division rivals, the Eagles, win another Super Bowl. I thought it was cool to witness a heroic effort from Pat Mahomes against a very talented Eagles roster."

Patrick Mahomes was named Super Bowl MVP after throwing 3 touchdown passes and rushing for 44 yards on a sprained right ankle.

The Super Bowl is known for the football game, of course, but also for the commercials and halftime performance. Companies typically spend between six and seven million dollars to play their 30-second ad, which has been specifically designed for the game.

"I personally enjoyed the Popcorners commercial because Breaking Bad is one of my favorite shows," said

Gonzalez. "It was awesome to see Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul back together reprising their iconic roles as Walter White and Jesse Pinkman."

Performing at halftime was nine-time Grammy award winning artist Rihanna. Her first time headlining the Super Bowl, the iconic artist announced after her show that she had performed while pregnant with her second child.

"Rihanna's performance was average at best. What most of us are getting out of this is that she's pregnant again," said junior Brendan Kerr. "She should've played Disturbia and brought out either Kanye or Jay-Z."

With his victory in Super Bowl LVII, Patrick Mahomes now has two Super Bowl victories, and two Super Bowl MVPs, after also

winning the honor in Super Bowl LIV.

Meanwhile, the Eagles, after winning in thrilling fashion in Super Bowl LII, will have to wait for another opportunity to compete for the Super Bowl.

Both of these teams hope to return to the Super Bowl next year, after what figures to be another exciting NFL season. Super Bowl LVIII takes place on Feb. 11, 2024 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.



Instagram, @nfl...
Rihanna performing at the Super Bowl halftime show.



Instagram, @chiefs...
Chiefs Tight End Travis Kelce kissing the Lombardi Trophy.

Editorial

JULES REZZA
COPYEDITOR

An Ungraceful Adventure

I was served both dinner and breakfast on the same 6-hour flight. I was cold and sweaty, hungry and nauseous, with a sprinkle of total exhaustion, but as the bus pulled onto the left side of the road my face broke into a giant tired smile.

For most people, traveling is a fast and easy yes. I envy these people. For me, getting to Ireland was difficult, deliberation-riddled, and comprised of a lot of not only planning but reassuring the validity of fears and anxieties.

Since I was young, I've always been a hypersensitive person, not in the way that I insult easy! But in the way where sounds, smells, visual stimuli, emotions, and changes all strike a deeper chord. It's something that affects my brain as well as my physical body, my tendency of getting sick skyrocketing when I dramatically change locations or experience overwhelm long-term.

But a part of being a highly sensitive person means art and literature resonates more too. So, amidst the difficulty of adjusting and vividness, was this undeniable draw to the unknown. I'd read until dawn, my body wrapped in covers and a flashlight with AA batteries bringing me on a thousand adventures. All these strong heroines would leave and find a wholeness. I wanted that too.

I grew up with this dichotomy, the fear that it would all be too much and the need for it to exist, be an entity in my life. Writing in Ireland, listening to the earth, and letting the ghosts leftover on broken land manifest in my words was my dream. And yet it took a lot for me to get there, and I needed to accept it would not be graceful. It was not.

I cried during takeoff, was sick for 10 out of 14 days, and when I arrived, my first thought was what am I doing here. Why am I here?

And then...life happened. My big giant adventure was this beautiful tiny thing that I held in my hand. It was chai lattes in the morning with writing workshops. It was shopping during lunch and meeting the locals. It was afternoon ice cream and dancing and pubs and conversations at night.

And then it was the land. Connor Pass and Hussey's Folly and Killarney National Park and a lighthouse overlooking Dingle. It was harsh and cruel and absolutely stunning.

And with every view, my overactive brain fell still.

The antithesis of my existence, this constant war between needing the world and feeling like I am a bundle of raw nerves, incapable of handling it all, helped me hold Ireland's hand.

She was beat a thousand times, told to hide. The land itself, cliffs and fog and wind so strong it can throw you into the sea. And yet undeniably perfect and resilient and gorgeous.

So yes, I can say with faith and truth that I struggle. When everything feels like it hits you harder, it's hard to continue to step into the ring. But being in Ireland, creating the works I did, and seeing how the world exists in contradiction just as much as I do- that was my adventure. It's the adventure I wanted.

It's the one I needed too.



***In our February 8 issue, the caption for the photo collage in the article titled, "The Power of an Empty Canvas," stated that the artwork was from students. This is incorrect. The artwork was submitted from outside the university.

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. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers voiced in this forum.

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