

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3!

DO YOU LIVE ON CAMPUS AND NOT KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

CHECK OUT THE VOTING LOCATIONS ON PAGE 1

DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:



Remember to Continue Following the Pioneer Promise:

Protect Myself

Protect My Fellow Pioneers

Protect our SHU Community and Surrounding Neighborhood Communities



Are Students Voting?

BY MAISY CARVALHO
Staff Writer

The 2020 presidential election will be the first presidential election that some students at Sacred Heart are eligible to vote. The question is, are they voting?

“This will be my first time voting in a presidential election. During the 2016 election, I was a few months shy of being 18, so I was not able to vote,” said senior Kolby Driscoll.

Many students are in a similar situation and are eager to vote this year.

“I am absolutely and confidently voting in this year’s election,” said senior Tyler McGann.

McGann is on the executive board of Sacred Heart’s club PioneerVote as the Retention Chair.

Sacred Heart’s website features a page dedicated to the organization and states what the club is: “PioneerVote is a student-led campaign to help raise awareness of political issues occurring at the local, state and federal level.”

“We host weekly meetings where we hold open discussions and talk about upcoming opportunities for the club like spreading awareness for voting and educational awareness for the upcoming election,” said senior Alesandra Leone.

Leone is also on the executive board of PioneerVote as Vice President.

“Politics can be very intimidating, especially with an election like we have coming up. My advice would be to read up on the policies and reforms the candidates are proposing, realizing that voting is going to impact you,” said Leone.

One obstacle some students face is being registered to vote in a state that they are not currently living in. Though absentee ballots are available to out-of-state students, some have struggled with the process.

“I had planned on voting via absentee ballot. I requested my absentee ballot upon arriving on campus in late August. I still have not received this, so when I went home this weekend, I took the opportunity to vote early in person,” said freshman Toni Young.

Issues with absentee ballots are not the only roadblock some students have faced when it comes to voting.

“New Hampshire is one of the only states that doesn’t allow you to register online, and due to COVID and my availability, I was unable to get to the town hall to register to vote,” said junior Halle Boucher.

Though some students are in a similar position as Boucher, some student leaders are seeing a growth in engagement.

“I feel students are more engaged than ever in politics, as it is crucial

to be,” said McGann.

“I feel as though a majority of our students are engaged. We are fortunate here at SHU to have active political clubs so students have an outlet to gain information and engage in elections and politics more,” said Driscoll.

Some students have a preference as to where they get their information.

“Typically, what I do to keep updated with the news is to keep tuned in to social media to see what is going on in politics, and then do later research. I also listen to the Ben Shapiro Show on a semi-regular basis,” said junior Matteo Menta.

“A lot of the information I get comes from social media and articles online. My personal favorite on Instagram is @soyouwanttotalkabout,” said Young.

Senior Tyler Hienz is a member of Sacred Heart’s club Turning Point USA. This is also his first year eligible to vote in a presidential election.

According to Sacred Heart’s website, Turning Point USA is a non-profit organization with a mission to identify, educate, train and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets and limited government. The club works closely with other political organizations on campus to promote political participation at all levels.

“Get out and vote,” said Hienz. “It is said all the time but your vote really does matter.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHU STUDENTS ARE PREPARING TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON NOV. 3.

WHERE TO VOTE

ST. PIUS X OF FAIRFIELD

- MERTON
- SETON
- BERGOGLIO
- SCHOLARS COMMONS
- TOUSSAINT
- UPPER QUAD

JOHN WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- RONCALLI
- CHRISTIAN WITNESS COMMONS
- RIDGE
- OAKWOOD
- PIONEER GARDENS
- NORTH END

News

Study Abroad Cancelled

BY COOPER CLARK
Staff Writer

On Oct. 15, the Executive Director of Sacred Heart University's study abroad program, Dr. Wojciech Wloch, sent an email to students alerting them that all study abroad programs are cancelled for the foreseeable future. This cancellation will continue until the COVID-19 pandemic is under control.

Dr. Wloch said, "Given the current CDC advisory on international travel and continued uncertainties, we will not be offering any short-term/semester-long study abroad options during the winter and spring semesters."

The study abroad board at Sacred Heart believes they should stop all non-essential forms of travel.

2020 Sacred Heart graduate Kyle Carmona studied abroad in Ireland in 2017. Carmona said, "Studying abroad changed my life. I made friends and memories that will last a lifetime. It was one of my favorite parts of college."

Sacred Heart offers a variety of options for students who would like to go abroad. The school offers two-week abroad programs over the winter and summer breaks every year. A full semester program is also offered, which takes place during either the fall or spring semesters.

In total, there are more than 60 programs and 30 different countries that students can participate in and visit through Sacred Heart's study abroad program. Two of the most popular study abroad destinations are Dingle, Ireland and Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

If a student still wishes to go abroad, they must wait until the CDC travel guidelines change.

Dr. Wloch said, "In the meantime, we are available virtually to support your study abroad planning."

Renee Pang, Associate Director for Global Campus Programs said, "The cancellation was a difficult decision to make, considering the immense benefits of study abroad, but was ultimately decided upon with our students' safety and security in mind."

Carmona also said, "On Nov. 9, Sacred Heart will begin celebrating International Education week. This week is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education as part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences."

To participate in this occasion, despite the cancellation of traveling, Sacred Heart will be holding a program of virtual events.

"In addition to globally-minded programming such as a Fulbright returnee panel, virtual cooking class focused on international cuisine, and highlights of internationally-focused courses and efforts at SHU, we will also be holding a virtual study abroad fair featuring overseas staff, partners, and our global ambassadors," said Pang.

Sacred Heart will continue to promote these events and push students to attend them.

Freshman Kiera Farley said, "I was excited to go abroad because I have only heard positive things. I hope that before my four years are over, I will get the opportunity to go abroad."

The Office of Global Affairs will continue to monitor the situation, and hopes to reinstate study abroad programs when it is safe to do so.

Dr. Wloch said, "We will continue monitoring the situation around the world and are eager to restart all study abroad activities just as soon as it is possible."



ANNA PIRKL/SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES THAT THEY WILL CANCEL ALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Final Presidential Debate

BY BRYAN CASEY
Assistant News Editor

On Oct. 22, the second and final presidential debate was held between current President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden in Nashville, Tenn.

The second debate was originally intended to be held on Oct. 15 but was cancelled due to Trump contracting COVID-19.

The final debate was held at Belmont University with a significantly small live crowd of 200 people.

While the first debate was moderated by Fox's Chris Wallace, the final debate was overseen by NBC's Kristen Welker. Welker, a White House correspondent, possessed the ability to mute candidates' microphones in an attempt to prevent the two from talking over each other.

"I think Welker did a good job during this debate. I also think it was a great idea to have the option to mute the candidates, and by doing so, the debate was much more organized and coherent," said senior Jack Kelly.

While millions of Americans have already voted, this debate is vital for those who have not yet decided about their candidate.

According to an AP newsroom report, presidential historian Michael Beschloss said, "The rule is that last debates before the election have a big impact."

Welker asked a variety of questions which covered topics including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the economy, race, foreign policy, and health care.

The opening topic of the pandemic was highly discussed. Trump talked about the future of the vaccine and how it would be ready in the near future. Trump also stated, "We are rounding the turn, we are rounding the corner, it's going away."

Biden questioned Trump's tactics and said, "Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as President of the United States of America. We are in a situation now where there are over 1,000 deaths a day."

Each candidate portrayed himself differently.

"Trump portrayed himself as the same outsider he first pitched to voters four years ago, repeatedly saying he wasn't a politician. Biden, meanwhile, argued that Trump was an incompetent leader of a country facing multiple crises and tried to connect what he saw as the president's failures to the everyday lives of Americans," reported AP Newsroom.

Another topic discussed during the debate was health care and the either completely new or updated systems which each candidate hopes to bring to the American people.

Trump hopes to eliminate the previously implemented Obamacare and bring a new national health care system to the states.

"What I would like to do is come up with a much better health care system that will always protect those with pre-existing conditions," said Trump.

Biden has a different plan and hopes to build upon, instead of eliminate, Obamacare.

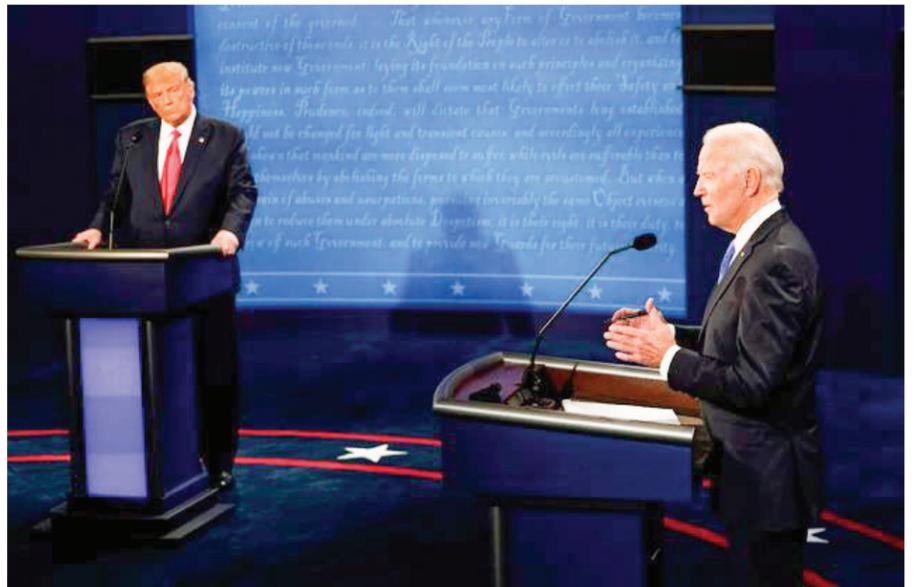
"What I am going to do is pass Obamacare with a public option and become BidenCare. This will provide competition for insurance companies," said Biden.

Race was another debate topic which has been a widely reviewed social topic. Welker introduced this topic by referencing "the talk," which Black Americans give to their children about how they could be targeted due to the color of their skin.

Trump discussed the criminal and prison reforms which were put forward under his administration. He then discussed his own view of himself and said, "I think I have great relationships with all people. I am the least racist person in this room."

Biden responded to this claim and said, "[Trump] pours fuel on every single racist fire."

Senior Rachel Gladu reflected on the debate and said, "The moderator was awesome, she had great questions. Overall, the debate was more under control. Rules were followed, which is weird to say since they're both grown men who should already be following simple requests."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE SECOND AND FINAL PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE BEFORE THE ELECTION NEXT WEEK WAS HELD ON OCT. 22

Perspectives

Is Blackboard Ultra Better?

BY ANNA PIRKL
Staff Writer

On June 27, Sacred Heart University students and faculty received an email from SHU Academic Technology announcing that Blackboard had officially been upgraded to Learn Ultra. This upgraded the look of Blackboard, changing the design of the MySHU portal and the way classes were displayed for students and professors.

“Blackboard Ultra is the new, improved, and more modern looking version of Blackboard, which replaces Blackboard Learn. Ultra has been available for a couple of years now, but it is only recently that Academic Computing has deemed it ready for adoption,” says Associate Provost Steven Michels, one of the people behind the new update.

For many Sacred Heart students, it took a little bit of getting used to the new features on Blackboard Ultra.

“I think after a few weeks of using the new features provided by the new Blackboard, it got a lot easier,” said senior Moetiz Shilleh. “For me, this new Blackboard has very similar functions and didn’t take too long of an adjustment period.”

Keeping the pandemic and online learning in mind, the school provided workshops for faculty so that they could have a better understanding of how to use the new features.

“The Center for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching (CEIT) had a four-week long workshop for faculty over the summer, which focused on Ultra in addition to preparing classes for SHU-Flex and the fall semester. Academic Computing also had a series of videos, tutorials and consultations for faculty beginning in July,” said Michels.

New features of Blackboard Ultra include Activity Stream and Messages, with the hopes of consolidating critical information into quick and easy access.

“I like Blackboard Ultra,” said junior Corey Picard. “I think it makes it easier to find your assignments, especially since there is a lot more online work now.”

One of the other main features of Blackboard Ultra is the Calendar view, which allows students to see all of their due assignments in one place. Some students find this to be helpful, while other features may be annoying or difficult to use.

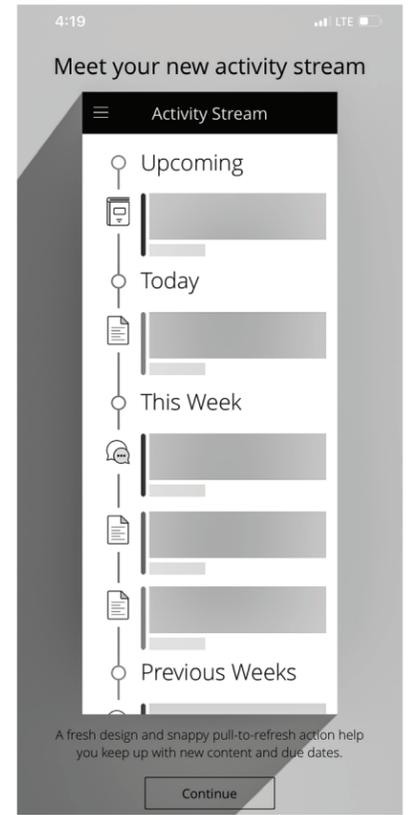
“I hate that we get random emails about assignments tied to the new Blackboard, as well as how the new Blackboard doesn’t automatically single out the classes you’re enrolled in,” said junior Brianna Zelma. “But I do think it does a better job of keeping things organized from week to week.”

For some students, they are having a difficult time navigating through the new features. “While Blackboard is a great way to submit assignments and keep students organized, sometimes it can be a bit difficult to find certain assignments,” said freshman Grace Langdon. “It is common for different professors to have their own way of teaching and posting announcements and assignments in different places than other professors.”

At the same time, other students enjoy how accessible Blackboard Ultra is. “I like it because it is easier for me to find assignments and everything on there,” said sophomore Kaylah Grant. “I can also access my professors’ emails better because before I could never find them.”

Some Sacred Heart students feel that the switch from the previous Blackboard to Blackboard Ultra has been easy for them.

“It was not a hard switch from the previous Blackboard because they are pretty similar. I find that this version of Blackboard is easier to use than the last one,” said junior Emilee Camodeo.



RIEANNA FLORES/SPECTRUM
THIS SEMESTER, SACRED HEART INTRODUCED A NEW VERSION OF BLACKBOARD CALLED BLACKBOARD ULTRA.

Attempted Robbery Off-Campus

BY LUCCA CASALDUC AND BRYAN CASEY
Staff Writer

Shortly after midnight on Friday, Oct. 16, Sacred Heart Public Safety received a report of an attempted robbery.

A Sacred Heart student returning to her off-campus residence on Stratfield Place in Bridgeport was approached in her driveway by two armed suspects. The two demanded money and valuables. After discovering that she had no cash or valuables with her or in her vehicle, the men fled from the area.

The suspects were identified as being two Black males, between the ages of 20-30, wearing dark-colored clothes. Both men were armed and flashed their firearms at the student.

Shea Edwards, Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Safety, said, “Any crime that affects our community members is very upsetting, regardless of whether it occurs on campus or off. The priority is always about personal safety and well-being, so we are all thankful that no one was physically injured.”

Statistically, the City of Bridgeport leads Connecticut in number of robberies. According to an official FBI “Offenses Known to Law Enforcement” table from 2019, Bridgeport had 392 robberies and 555 burglaries. The city with the second most robberies in the state was New Haven, with 321 robberies and 659 burglaries. The two cities are fairly close, about half an hour away from each other.

Even though there were no injuries, students were shocked and startled by the news that came Saturday, Oct. 17.

“I didn’t even know about the robbery. I hope the girl is fine and is recovering from the traumatic event. I hope the Sacred Heart community can come together with the city of Bridgeport so we can feel safer on or off-campus, no matter the time,” said senior Saptak Talwar.

A similar event occurred in February. However, the previous crime took place at a Sacred Heart off-campus residence hall. On Feb. 6, two males were seen attempting to pry the front door off the building of Taft Commons. A Public Safety officer confronted them, and they fled the scene.

“Over the last four years that I have attended this school, I have heard many stories or situations like this. It is unfortunate that these events happen. However, I do believe the university does a good job keeping us safe,” said graduate student Brianna Lauria.

Many students trust Sacred Heart’s preparation and are accustomed to these situations. Public Safety has 45 officers that work to make the Sacred Heart community safer.

“Unfortunately, there are no new leads in the current investigation. As additional information is uncovered, we will share it with the community. Public Safety has worked with Bridgeport Police to increase the frequency of patrols throughout the neighborhood,”

said Edwards.

As part of the university’s effort to keep the community safe, SHU uses an emergency notification system which can be downloaded on any phone. The application, “SHU Safe,” can be utilized to quickly and easily contact Public Safety.

The Office of Public Safety plans to continue to work with Bridgeport Police in order to keep both on- and off-campus residencies safe.

“The Department of Public Safety has worked with the Bridgeport Police to increase the frequency of patrols throughout the neighborhood. Going forward, we are looking to host a meeting for our off-campus students to review and discuss crime prevention techniques and personal safety tips,” said Edwards.

The Sacred Heart Department of Public Safety urges the community to report anything suspicious to Bridgeport Police (203-581-5100) and Public Safety (203-371-7995).



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
ON OCT. 16, SACRED HEART PUBLIC SAFETY WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY AT AN OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE IN BRIDGEPORT.

Features

First 50 Days of SHU

BY JACLYN MONTANO
Staff Writer

Sam Cavalea, a first-year student, did not know anyone when she first stepped foot on Sacred Heart University's campus this fall. With all of the restrictions that were in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she did not know where to start when it came to getting involved on campus.

With the help of The First 50 Days Events that were accessible for all students on campus, Cavalea got the opportunity to partake in some of the activities available. These activities included a farmer's market, creating custom phone wallets, and getting the opportunity to talk to members of Greek Life on campus.

"The First 50 Days events were definitely impactful for the freshmen this year, as it's harder than ever to get out of the dorm room because of the pandemic," said Cavalea. "It has been really great to have fun activities right at my fingertips every day."

The First 50 Days Events are campus-wide programs that are intended to get students involved on campus during their first few months at Sacred Heart. It is filled with social, informative and academic activities that have been planned by many of the different clubs and organizations on campus.

Some of the organizations that held events frequently were Greek Life, the Student Events Team, Club Sports, Student Activities and Campus Ministry. There were also events hosted by the Student Life Department. They offered paint nights, virtual bingo nights and virtual game nights for all students to attend.

"As a freshman, you get many emails and you don't know what's actually important. So figure you can put it in a pamphlet, and it says the time, the location and just a description of what the thing is, then they can pick and choose what they find any interest in," said junior Mari Fay, First 50 Days and Welcome Week Co-Coordinator.

Since COVID-19 affected how these events were typically run, the Student Life Department had to come up with ways to make sure that all of the events were able to still take place by following the safety guidelines. With these guidelines, most events had to take place outside. The cabanas and tents near the quad were used nearly every day to hold events run by different organizations.

The First 50 Days events were promoted through weekly emails, along with pamphlets that were handed out to students.

Katherine Morovich, Director of First Year Programs, was in charge of contacting all on-campus organizations to see if they had any events planned that they wanted to be featured in the virtual brochure. She then compiled the information she received from the organizations and shared the time, date, location and description with the first-year students.

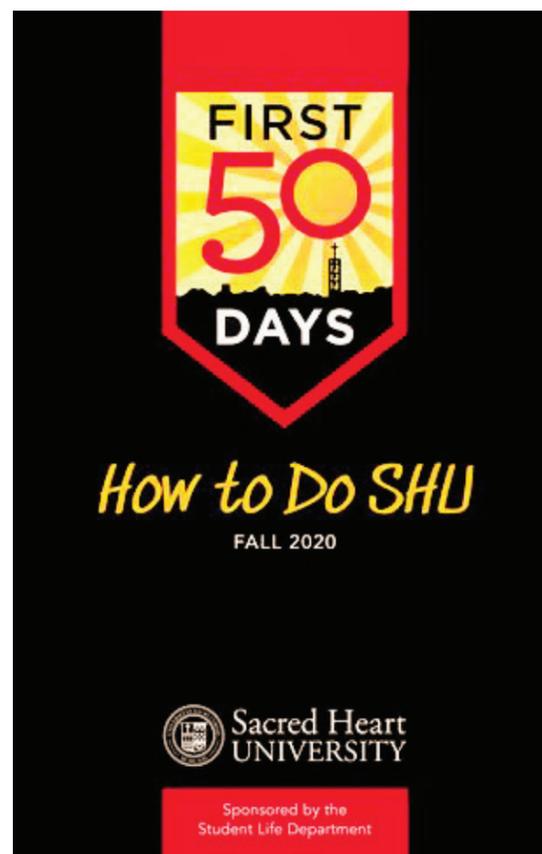
The First 50 Days ran from Aug. 31 through Oct. 19. During this time, there were over 300 different events held.

Morovich said the turnout of these events was good considering the COVID-19

guidelines.

"It's hard for anyone when you're in a new environment to reach out to people and get involved that way," said Fay. "So we're giving them a chance, putting it out there for them and saying at this time, you can go see this club or go to this event, and meet people, because that's the best way sometimes."

For future questions or suggestions, email orientation@sacredheart.edu.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL FIRST 50 DAYS EVENT SERVED A DIFFERENT PURPOSE THIS YEAR IN GETTING STUDENTS ACCLIMATED TO CAMPUS DURING COVID-19.

2020 Internship and Career Fair

BY GRACE CROWLEY
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University held their annual Internship and Career Fair on Oct. 23 from 1-4 p.m., however, unlike previous years this fair was held virtually.

Amazon and Danbury Mission Technology are two examples of companies that participated in the fair. There was a waiting line to enter each chat room with a representative, but everyone was allowed 10 minutes to talk with the employers once they were allowed in.

Many students were concerned about not having a face-to-face interaction with company representatives. Junior John Garvey was worried he would not be able to get his name out like he would in person, although, he said, "I feel confident."

Once students registered online using their Sacred Heart email, they could attend the fair and network with any company they were interested in speaking to. Students also had the opportunity to upload their resumes online.

"I'm hoping that from this career fair I can learn more about various career paths and hopefully gain insight on what I would like to pursue," said Garvey. "I'm excited to talk to both large and small companies and see how they operate so then I can compare and contrast their varying differences."

When asked how the pandemic may have affected their new hires, representative Crystal Smith said, "We are ramping up."

Smith did not feel the positions were at a loss due to the pandemic because students will now be looking for internships and jobs in a virtual manner.

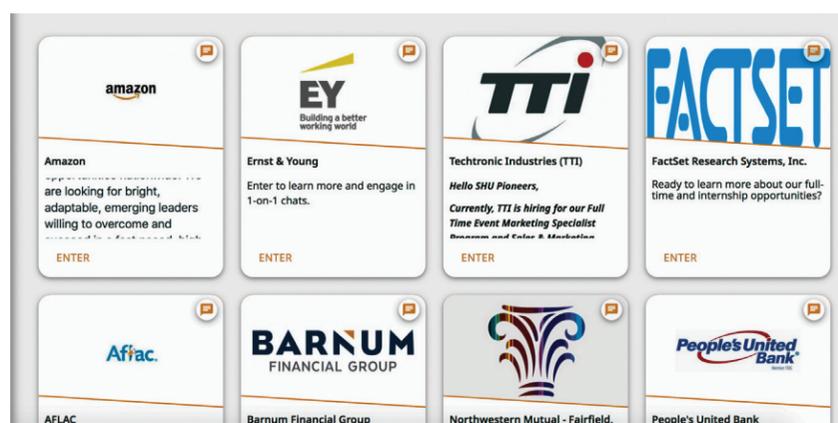
After attending the three-hour fair, Garvey said, "I think the fair ran smoothly with the waiting and chat rooms, but I was a little surprised when I entered the chat room in my button-down shirt just to realize there was no camera involved."

After experiencing the virtual internship and career fair, students noted what they would do differently next time.

"Jot down some quick questions you have about the various companies. That way you can almost eliminate the possibility of freezing up and running out of things to say. For being a virtual career fair I think there's barely any room for improvement, but involving a web camera might make both students and representatives feel more comfortable and personal," said Garvey.

Garvey also said, "I wasn't looking for anything in particular from this career fair but my main goal was to learn more about different companies and successfully network, which I believed I achieved."

Overall, students had many takeaways from the internship and career fair. Continue to look out for more events like these through emails from careerdev@sacredheart.edu.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HOSTED A VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP AND CAREER FAIR FOR SHU STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH A VARIETY OF EMPLOYERS.

MAISY CARVALHO/SPECTRUM

Spotlight

'I Hope You're Not Mad At Me': How Jason Cotton Bet on Himself and Hit the Jackpot

BY DAN GARDELLA
Editor-in-Chief

Some things are worth the risk. In some cases, even a job offer.

The 2018-19 Sacred Heart men's ice hockey team was appearing at the Atlantic Hockey playoffs, hosting a best-of-three series at home against RIT. The Pioneers had taken three of the four meetings between the two teams during the regular season and even claimed the first game of the series.

Sadly, that would be the last win of their season as RIT would grab the last two games on the road, upsetting the Pioneers and ending their season prematurely. For junior Jason Cotton, who was graduating that spring, he had a decision to make: enter the working world or return for one final season.

If Cotton decided to forgo his last season of college hockey, he would immediately begin a job in the investment banking industry. The job opportunity was manufactured by Cotton's head coach, C.J. Marottolo.

Prior to becoming the head coach at Sacred Heart, Marottolo was an assistant at Yale University, where he became close with Keith McCullough, who is the CEO at Hedgeye Risk Management in Stamford, Conn.

"Whenever a young man on our team comes to me wanting to get into that line of work, I give him a call and see if he has any opportunities. He interviewed Jason and went through the process and got offered an opportunity," said Marottolo.

The job was Cotton's for the taking, but so was the chance to come back for one more season of college hockey.

Following Sacred Heart's exit in the Atlantic Hockey playoffs in 2019, Marottolo received a call from Cotton the morning after their season-ending loss. He was not going to take the job.

"He said, 'Coach, I want to thank you for helping me get a job down in Stamford, but I'm not going to take it. I hope you're not mad at me. I want to train every single day this summer to get better,'" said Marottolo.

Marottolo was far from mad. Rather, he was thrilled to get Cotton for one last season.

What Cotton did during his senior year will long be remembered within the program and around the university. Cotton set career-highs in points (37), goals (20), and assists (17) in 2020. Those numbers put Cotton in consideration for the Hobey Baker Award, which is given to the best college hockey player in the country.

"Every day he was working on a piece of his game. He was working on his strength, conditioning, his explosiveness. When his senior year came, he was ready to go," said Marottolo.

As Cotton was leading the Pioneers statistically, he was also the driving factor in Sacred Heart's success. The team won 21 games in 2019-20, the most in a season since the 2009-10 season.

Within those 21 wins were victories in back-to-back nights against Yale and nationally ranked Quinnipiac to claim the inaugural Connecticut Ice Festival championship. Cotton was named the festival's Most Valuable Player after scoring two goals and dishing out a pair of assists in the two wins.

The Connecticut Ice championship sparked the Pioneers, who finished the regular season with a 5-2-1 record over their final eight games and sat as the second seed in the conference tournament. Unfortunately, COVID-19 cancelled the tournament before Sacred Heart could get started.

"I'm sure if you ask Jason, that opportunity to compete for a championship is something he will always miss," said Marottolo.

Although Cotton and Sacred Heart did not get the chance to compete for an Atlantic Hockey title, Cotton's senior year led him to sign a professional contract with the Carolina Hurricanes, becoming the first player in the program's history to ink an NHL contract.

Pretty far from your ordinary 9-to-5 job.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
SHU MEN'S ICE HOCKEY PLAYER JASON COTTON SIGNS A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT WITH THE CAROLINA HURRICANES.



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Arts & Entertainment

Stage 2 Of Theaterfest

BY ALEX MCCLOSKEY
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Theater Arts Program (TAP) at Sacred Heart University went through the second stage of their annual TheaterFest, a three-part series where students develop and refine plays, which was taped and later posted to YouTube.

The second step of TheaterFest is the Black Box Staging phase. The Black Box theater is a minimalist approach to theater that emphasizes the script and ability of the actors over everything else.

“This staging helps the audience pay more attention to the true story and writing rather than be distracted by costumes or a set,” said junior Sarah Lindskog. “In traditional staging of plays, the characters would have props to use, costumes to become their character, and a set to help set the scene for the audience, to make it easier for them to understand the story.”

In the first phase, the plays came to the Reader’s Theater, where the script was read in front of an audience who gave constructive criticism. Plays that go to the third phase will present a full production of the play with props, costumes and more intricate set designs.

Lindskog takes on the role of one of the characters in the play “Worth the Wait,” which was written by Stephanie Patella and directed by Geralyn Jones. Alongside this play was “Something Blue,” written by Grace Curley and directed by Zach Gaeiro; “Get Stuffed,” written by Sellina Barnes and directed by Mae Archacki; and “Poser,” written by Mark Roberti and directed by Sam Deluise.

Junior Allison Campbell said, “It truly makes you work to be a better actor to tell the story with so little assistance from such things as costumes, props, or a set for the first two rounds. You have to use your acting skills to make a script come alive, and I think that is important as an actor, to trust yourself to bring a script off the page.” Campbell plays the character Neve in “Something Blue.”

Unlike in previous years, this year’s TheaterFest events were not open to the public. With original plans to stream the events, those in charge of TAP opted to post videos of the performances to YouTube for later viewing instead.

“This year is definitely a change. Usually, we would perform round one on the stage in the Little Theater, the cast sitting right next to each other in chairs as we do a full reading of the script for an audience. This year, we were spaced six feet apart on the Edgerton stage, wearing masks, to an audience of people spaced six feet apart sitting in designated chairs,” said Campbell.

“Another change is getting our temperatures checked before every rehearsal and even auditions to make sure the cast is healthy and able to be around one another while still maintaining social distance and wearing masks,” said Lindskog. “We do have to wear our masks during the performance, which is also new this year.”

Though there were several necessary changes to stay safe during the pandemic, TAP managed to work through them and produce four Black Box versions of the plays. While this year has been challenging and different from previous years, students are thankful for the opportunity to grow as members of TAP.

“Though this has been an odd experience, I cannot fathom to say how grateful I am that we have a program here at SHU that still allows students to write plays and learn and grow as actors, writers, and directors, regardless of the restrictions we must endure this year,” said Campbell.



RIEANNA FLORES/SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART’S THEATRE ARTS PROGRAM HELD THEIR SECOND ROUND OF THEATERFEST OF STAGING IN THE BLACK BOX THEATRE.

“The Voice” Season Premiere

BY MIA STARK
Staff Writer

The 19th season of “The Voice” premiered on Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. ET on NBC.

Kelly Clarkson, Blake Shelton, and John Legend return as coaches this season, as well as Carson Daly as host. Gwen Stefani also joined the coaches this year after she was replaced by Nick Jonas last year.

“I’m sad Nick Jonas isn’t coming back to ‘The Voice’ this season,” said sophomore Mia Ditizi.

There will be no studio audience this season in any round of the competition due to COVID-19. There is also a likely chance there will be no live audience for the shows later this season.

According to Newsweek, “With staff and crew members reduced by 60 percent for Season 19, showrunners are taking many precautions to keep contestants and judges safe. That means refraining from inviting spectators into the studio, having coaches and contestants take routine coronavirus tests, enforcing facial covering mandates for crew members and seating coaches far apart on set.”

There will also be only 10 contestants per team this season.

“I’m super excited about the new season of ‘The Voice’ because it makes me feel somewhat normal again. The pandemic has taken over our lives for so long, and it’s really refreshing to watch one of my favorite shows,” said sophomore Anastasia Colagregco.

“The Voice” consists of many different rounds. First, there is the blind audition, which is based solely on the contestants’ voices. The coaches hear the artists perform, but they do not get to see them. If a coach is impressed by the artist’s voice, they push a button to select the artist for their team. Then, the coach’s chair will swivel so that they can see the artist they have selected.

If more than one coach pushes their button, the power then shifts to the artist to choose which coach they want to work with. If no coach pushes their button, the artist is eliminated from the competition.

After the blind audition is the battle round. Once the teams are set, coaches will dedicate themselves to developing their team of artists, giving them advice and sharing the secrets of their success.

During the battle rounds, the coaches will also pit two of their own team members against each other to sing the same song in front of a studio audience.

Then, only who the coaches think are the best on each of their rosters remain and proceed to the knockout rounds. The artists will be paired again with a member of their team, but this time, they find out only minutes before performing who their competitor is.

The artists then each select their own song to perform individually while their direct competitor watches. At this point, the artists try to influence the judge’s decision to choose them to move on to the live shows.

Lastly, during the live shows, the top artists from each team will compete each week against each other during a weekly live broadcast. The television audience will then vote to save their favorite artists and the two artists with the lowest number of votes will be sent home each week.

In the end, one contestant will be named “The Voice” and will receive the grand prize of a recording contract.

“‘The Voice’ is by far the best singing competition on TV,” said junior Liv Chaponis.



USA TODAY

THE NEW SEASON OF “THE VOICE” PREMIERED ON NBC ON OCT. 19 AT 8 P.M WITH RETURNING COACHES, KELLY CLARKSON, BLAKE SHELTON, JOHN LEGEND AND GWEN STEFANI.

Sports

Men's Ice Hockey to Begin 2021 Season and Co-Host 2023 NCAA Regionals

BY **MIA SANSANELLI**
Staff Writer

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, on Oct. 15, the Atlantic Hockey Association released the men's ice hockey schedule for the 2020-21 season. The Sacred Heart University men's ice hockey team will have 24 conference games and two non-conference games. The season will begin on the weekend of Nov. 13-14 and will conclude with the Atlantic Hockey Tournament in Buffalo, N.Y.

Other news that the Sacred Heart community can look forward to is the announcement of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's ice hockey tournament being held at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport in 2023. Sacred Heart will co-host Regionals with neighboring Division I program, Yale University.

"We are very excited to be starting our season on Nov. 24 at Quinnipiac," said C.J. Marottolo, men's ice hockey head coach. "Our league has done a terrific job in organizing our schedule so we can play the game we love in a safe environment."

Marottolo also discussed how his team has been training throughout the fall semester, during which he and the staff divided their preseason into three phases.

September was focused on strength and conditioning in order to make sure the team was physically where they needed to be. October emphasized skill development on the ice and cultivating what they wanted their identity to be as a team. Finally, November will be when they get into their system of play.

"Our goals are very simple. We will strive to have the best GPA yet, be involved in our community in a positive way and work as hard as we can every day to bring an Atlantic Hockey Association championship to Sacred Heart University," said Marottolo.

The players expressed their gratitude toward being able to play a season this year, as many other sports seasons have been postponed.

"I'm very grateful about the fact that we get to play games this year, even if it is shorter and starts later," said sophomore Timmy Clifton.

Due to COVID-19, the men's season was cut short last spring after the team won the inaugural Connecticut Ice Tournament and 21 in-season games.

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, Atlantic Hockey has separated the league into eastern and western pods, with the Air Force standing alone as the geographic outlier to limit some of the risk factors regarding COVID-19 exposure during travel.

"This will no doubt be the most difficult time that we will have to deal with as coaches and players alike. The players and coaches are wearing masks on the ice during practice, and that has taken some time to get used to. It is hard to communicate, but each day we make more progress on that front," said Marottolo.

According to Clifton, there will unfortunately be no fans allowed at home games this

year. Although there will not be that extra momentum from the crowd, he says they still know what it takes to win.

Looking toward the future, Webster Bank Arena will hopefully be filled with fans for the 2023 Regionals.

"We are thrilled to be co-hosting a NCAA regional at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. The people at Webster Bank know exactly what it will take to ensure a great student-athlete experience, plus a fun engaging experience for the fans as well," said Marottolo.

Webster Bank Arena has previously hosted five NCAA men's hockey tournaments. The men's hockey players at Sacred Heart are excited for the opportunity to host regionals on their home ice in March of 2023.

"Sacred Heart hockey is constantly on the rise, and it is awesome that we are getting recognition because we are the real deal," said Clifton.



MADELINE GIRANDOLA/SPECTRUM

THE SACRED HEART MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM WILL BEGIN THEIR SEASON ON NOV. 13 AND WILL CO-HOST THE NCAA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.

SHU Women's Bowling Ranked 14th in the Nation

BY **PATRICK BILLINGS**
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's women's bowling team has claimed the number 14 spot in the preseason power rankings. The National Tenpin Coaches Association selected these rankings.

According to Imurailsplitter.com, The National Tenpin Coaches Association is comprised of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) coaches who sponsor women's bowling.

"I was beyond excited when I found out about our national ranking. Our team worked so hard for this and I couldn't be happier for us," said senior bowler Skyler Mulligan-Brown.

According to the Sacred Heart athletic website, the team finished the 2019-2020 season with 61 wins and 36 losses throughout the season. The team also had a conference record of 13 wins and five losses in the Northeast Conference (NEC) which led the team to a regular season conference title.

Last year, the Pioneers ended the season at 14th in the nation.

Rebecca Kregling, women's bowling head coach, said, "I was hoping we were 14th or 13th since we were ranked 14th in the final poll last season. The coaches ranking us there again was a complement to our program."

Usually, the team's season is during the fall, but due to COVID-19, it was moved to the beginning of February.

"The NCAA has allowed the bowling season to continue as normal. The season has been cut short by removing the first half of the fall session, which normally begins on Oct. 1, to six weeks in the winter session, which is usually an eight-week season from mid-January to mid-March," said senior Colby Jones. "Some other schools may have tournaments running in January. We hope to be able to participate in them to have a little more time to compete before the end of the season."

COVID-19 has impacted teams all over the country. Despite the pandemic, the Sacred Heart bowling team wants to make sure they are ready for the upcoming season and prove to everyone why they deserve the spot they are in now.

"This year we are really focused on developing our relationships with one another. Lots of team bonding. This is especially important since as of right now, we don't have any competitions planned for this semester, so building our friendships will bring us together and give us a leg up when it comes time to actually compete," said senior Rachel Bamford.

Bowling practice has also been impacted by COVID-19, especially since bowling alleys do not offer much space to spread out.

"Practice is strange. Our practices are usually team oriented; we have many people on the same pair, we play head to head games, etc. We haven't been able to do that this year since we need to spread out, so it's kind of sad to not be able to bowl as a team," said Bamford.

The dynamic of the practices are done individually due to CDC regulations.

"We usually prepare at a much faster pace since we usually are competing mid-October. We have been practicing mostly with skill drills, individual video review and, this past week, individual scoring," said Kregling on preparing for the season.

Bowling is an individual sport, but players still play for their team. The team's energy and support can change the whole match.

"The girls have team dinner once a week, grabbing food and eating six feet apart but still being together. Anything that we can do to create relationships will help us next semester, especially since we cannot have a full team practice," said Kregling.

Although this is an unusual season, the team is looking to move up the rankings to the number one spot.

"The main goal for this season currently is to get to know each other and prepare for next semester. When we can compete, our goal is to win conference championships and go to NCAAs," said Jones.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

THE SACRED HEART WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM WAS RANKED 14TH IN THE NATION BY THE NATIONAL TENPIN COACHES ASSOCIATION.

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Not Your Average Internship

MACKENZIE MAHER
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

When people hear the word “internship,” they usually think of making copies and fetching coffee, but my internship at Mud Magazine has been everything but taking Starbucks orders.

Mud Magazine is a place for young creators to express themselves and share things that other young people are interested in listening to and reading. With sections on their website including creative culture, hook up culture, party culture, internet culture, college culture and mental health culture, there is ample space for any college student to find their niche and enjoy reading.

This semester, I have been interning with Mud as a staff writer focusing on the pop culture section. While writing for Mud, I have gained so much more experience than just writing skills. I have learned the importance of working collaboratively with a team that is constantly bouncing new ideas off of one another in order to make our pieces the best they can be, the routine of writing for a digital publication weekly, getting to know the behind the scenes of how a real print magazine is published and, of course, the coolest part so far -- interviewing a girl band.

Mud Magazine has given me more opportunities than I could have ever imagined doing as a college student. Being able to see my name published online every week next to a published article is such a cool experience.

Aside from that, I was able to have a Zoom interview with musical group Avenue Beat. Having the opportunity to interview a group whose song I had been listening to on TikTok was such a surreal moment. Their song “F2020” went viral on TikTok with fans creating videos to it and even celebrities like Perez Hilton getting in on the trend. When I sat down and interviewed the three girls Sami, Savanna and Sam, it was like talking to one of my best friends. Their vibe was extremely laid back and the conversation flowed so well. My first real interview with a musical group was such a huge success and is something I will never forget. I cannot thank Mud enough for giving me the

opportunity to do so.

I have been able to accomplish some tremendous things while interning at Mud so far. Taking over their Instagram for the day, being an advocate for mental health awareness with their “Call Your Friends” campaign, having a successful first interview with a girl band and publishing content that people my age want to read are some of them. I am excited for that list to grow as I grow as an intern with Mud Magazine.



Home Is Where the Heart Is

JONATHAN SORIANO
SALES MANAGER

Before you say anything, I know what you’re thinking – corny name for an article, right? You’re not wrong, it’s just the best thing I could come up with as I was writing this. Anyhow, I’m sure we’ve all heard this before, and chances are it’s a joke some of our moms made half-teared up during our freshman year move-in, which seems like it was ages ago.

While this is a cliché, it holds a lot of truth, especially for many of us here at Sacred Heart. We came here because we all felt something when we stepped foot on this campus for the first time. Whether you’re a senior begrudgingly preparing yourself for commencement, or a freshman wondering how you’re supposed to register for classes for the first time, we all remember that feeling.

Home is something that doesn’t have a manual to it – it’s just something you make your own wherever you go. And as I approach what appears to be my last semester here at Sacred Heart University, that’s what SHU has been for me. Home is a community, it’s a feeling, and most of all, it’s a place like no other. No matter where you come from – whether it’s Connecticut or New York, Massachusetts or New Jersey, Rhode Island or anywhere else - we all blended identities the second we became Pioneers.

It’s a sense of community like I’ve never experienced before, and truth be told, it’s more than I expected when I made the decision to enroll at what then just seemed like a small, private university in Fairfield County. I’ve made bonds here with people I will cherish forever, made memories I will never forget, and learned from some world-class mentors.

If you told me that I would have been writing for the university newspaper when I first came to Sacred Heart, I would’ve said there’s no way and I don’t think that’s something I could even do. Fast forward a few semesters, and here I am, addressing my fellow classmates in my first-ever editorial. SHU has truly challenged my abilities and pushed me to reach heights I originally didn’t think were attainable. That’s what a true home is – a place where you feel comfortable being yourself and testing boundaries you didn’t think were possible. For that, I thank every single one of you I’ve come across on this journey, and I hope that you have found similar success in any area of your personal or academic journey.

If you’ve made it this far, I want to thank you for reading this, and I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy day to read something in a paper that freshman-me would have walked right past.

Keeping an open heart and an open mind is some of the best advice I got when I arrived on this campus, and when you do that and follow your passions and intuitions, home really is where the (sacred) heart is. (Sorry, I couldn’t help myself).

No matter where you are on your Sacred Heart journey, I wish you continued success, happiness, health, and safety – and I want to say, if there’s one thing you took away from this cheesy article, I hope it’s this: follow your heart and make your home authentically yours.

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.

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