

HEY SENIORS!

The Countdown Begins Now!

95 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION



COVID-19 Testing This Week

Library

Monday 2/15 through Thursday 2/18
8:30am - 3:00pm

Edgerton Center

Wednesday 2/17
9:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday 2/18
9:00am - 4:00pm

SHU Mandatory Weekly Testing

BY CITLALLI GODINEZ
News Editor

On Dec. 15, the Coronavirus Planning Team emailed an update stating that all full-time undergraduate students will be tested on a weekly basis.

Dean of Students Lawrence Wielk stated in an email, “This testing is mandatory for all and failing to get tested each week will result in suspension from the university.”

Sacred Heart University has been preparing for a safe spring semester since December.

“We’re doing weekly testing because the state requires it until the end of February due to the spike in the state,” said President John Petillo. “I think that’s going to change.”

Students are required to book their appointment through a link that Dean Wielk emails out every Friday.

Testing takes place in the library between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and the Edgerton Center between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

“The first part of requiring everyone to get tested within five business days of returning to school was a huge asset in that approximately 40 students found out that they were positive before they got here and potentially infected everyone,” said Wielk.

“Compared to last semester, I think that SHU has implemented better rules and regulations that students and faculty have to follow in order to be on campus,” said senior Danielle Koster. “The wristband idea is great in my opinion because it is very easy to tell who has been tested that week.”

Once a student is tested, they receive a wristband that indicates they have complied with mandatory testing.

“The wristband system, as basic as it may seem, has been helpful, but we are also downloading the results into Student Health Portals for tracking purposes and we are just about to incorporate a new emergency management database to further assist us with tracking,” said Wielk.

Sacred Heart faculty and staff are working toward safety for all on campus to transition to complete normality.

“This week we allowed some in-house dining,” said Petillo. “We want to get as close to back to normal without jeopardizing the safety and healthcare of our students.”

The spring semester calls for a May graduation.

“We’re already beginning to talk about alternatives, so we don’t have to do what we did last year,” said Petillo. “We’re hoping for something and we’re hoping the state allows it.”

“As of commencement, it’s too soon to be able to tell what we

will be able to do and what the state guidelines may be for large gatherings come early May,” said Wielk.

“We have been stripped of our senior year, so if weekly testing can help the chances of an in-person graduation, then I think it should remain strictly enforced,” said Koster.

According to the COVID-19 dashboard, as of Feb. 11, there are a total of 76 positive cases, including 50 on-campus students, 24 off-campus students, and 2 employees.

“I think students are conscious of it and telling other students to wear a mask. The people who aren’t following it are putting others in danger. Students need to realize this is not a joke. Now compared to March, more students are realizing it even though there are some who don’t,” said Petillo.

“I only have to be on campus one day a week at the Center for Healthcare Education and I feel very comfortable as everyone is wearing masks and socially distancing,” said Koster.

“What I have seen so far is that students have been extremely compliant and are all working with us to help stop the spread,” said Wielk.



RIEANNA FLORES/SPECTRUM

THIS SEMESTER, SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HAS IMPLEMENTED MANDATORY WEEKLY COVID-19 TESTING FOR ALL FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

FOR THE ONLINE VERSION OF THIS WEEK’S PAPER, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.shuspectrum.com/

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News

First Latin Immigrant in Homeland Security

BY CITLALLI GODINEZ

News Editor

On Tuesday Feb. 2, the Senate confirmed Alejandro Mayorkas as President Joe Biden's homeland security secretary. Mayorkas is now the first Latino to fill a post that will have a central role in the government's response to COVID-19.

"I think it is very inspiring to see a diverse cabinet in the new administration. I hope the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is able to form a sensible and clear immigration policy that is both humane and sensible," said member of Club Republicans Gian Capolino.

"I commend Biden for his diversification and careful selection of each individual. This is an amazing milestone in history, and it is clear that the Biden Harris administration will be full of glass ceiling-shattering milestones like this one," said President of Club Democrats Kolby Driscoll.

According to the Associated Press, "[Mayorkas'] nomination was stalled in the Senate by Republicans who wanted to question him further on Biden's plans for immigration policy. He also faced questions over his management of an investor visa program under President Barack Obama."

Under the Obama administration, Mayorkas was the director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services and was integral in implementing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

"In a very simple and summarized definition, DACA provides people that came to the United States as children a 2-year grace period when it comes to deportation," said Driscoll.

"DACA is a very sensitive issue but I believe the administration will find a way to make sure the Dreamers are taken care of in a fair way that represents their right," said Capolino.

"My hopes for this new administration are that DACA is reevaluated to ensure that the program is operating at top tier standards and is doing what it's meant to be doing. With Mayorkas, one of the original hands of DACA, I hope that he will see to it that his vision and hopes for DACA are carried out in an ethical and just way," said Driscoll.

Under the Trump Administration, Republicans have pushed to make an end to DACA.

"I am very curious to see what will happen to President Trump's border wall in the future," said Capolino.

According to the Associated Press, "The DHS has terminated an unusual agreement that Arizona's top prosecutor signed with the agency in the waning days of the Trump administration to restrict President Joe Biden's ability to overhaul his predecessor's immigrant policies."

Mayorkas was sued by Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich for carrying out Biden's 100-day moratorium on deportations.

"I believe that the entire concept and action of immigration and deportation needs to

be reevaluated entirely. The America we live in today was built from immigration, and each and every one of our ancestors came into this country as an immigrant at one point or another," said Driscoll.

"I believe that the administration will create a pathway to citizenship for the 12 million-plus undocumented immigrants in the country currently," said Capolino.

According to the Associated Press, "Mayorkas was confirmed by a 56-43 vote, the narrowest margin yet for a Biden cabinet nominee. The first immigrant to serve in the job, he will lead a broad policy overhaul of an agency that was accused of being deeply politicized as it carried out President Donald Trump's initiative on immigration and law enforcement."

"I'm sure that Mr. Mayorkas will do a great job," said Capolino.

"I have high hopes for Mayorkas. I am excited to see how he performs his position, and I trust the judgment of President Biden and his selection," said Driscoll.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON FEB. 2, ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS WAS CONFIRMED AS PRESIDENT BIDEN'S HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY, THE FIRST LATINO TO HOLD THAT POSITION.

Trump Acquitted In Senate Impeachment Trial

BY JULIA HALLISEY

Assistant News Editor

On Saturday Feb. 13, the Senate voted to acquit former President Trump in his second impeachment trial. The vote was 57-43, short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

This vote was almost identical to the vote held Feb. 9 on the constitutionality of holding an impeachment trial for a former president.

The Senate was not expected to gain enough Republicans to convict.

"The partisan lines are quite stark these days," said Professor Gary Rose, advisor for Club Republicans.

"I think the [Republican] Senators know that Trump is at least partially responsible, but they won't act on it because they don't want Trump and his supporters to be mad at them," said freshman Brian Fosey, member of Club Democrats.

Many argued that the impeachment trial in the House of Representatives was flawed because of the lack of due process.

"Impeaching a president should never be done in such a rapid fashion," said Rose. "However, the trial within the Senate appears to be following proper protocols."

Seven Republicans joined Democrats in their voting. Richard Burr of North Carolina, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Mitt Romney of Utah, Ben Sasse of Nebraska, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania all voted to convict Trump.

In the future, there may be consequences for these votes.

"It is possible that when some of them come up for reelection, they will face a primary by pro-Trump Republicans," said Rose. "Their votes to convict will not be forgotten."

The trial, which was expected to last through February, came to a close after just five days.

"I suspect that the Senate's Democratic leadership knew what the outcome would be," said Rose. "So they decided to move quickly and get back to normal business."

Although the Senate did vote to allow witnesses, no witnesses were brought forward after Trump's legal team threatened to call dozens of witnesses to drag out the duration of the trial.

Witnesses most likely would not have affected the outcome of the trial.

"It would have been interesting for the general public to hear some high profile people's perspectives," said Fosey. "But, most Senators already had their minds made up."

The verdict is certain to affect politics in the future.

"I think America is never going back to what we thought was normal before the Trump presidency," said Professor David Luesink, advisor for Club Democrats.

This trial will also affect Trump's future role in the GOP. Since he was found not guilty, he will not be barred from running for office again.

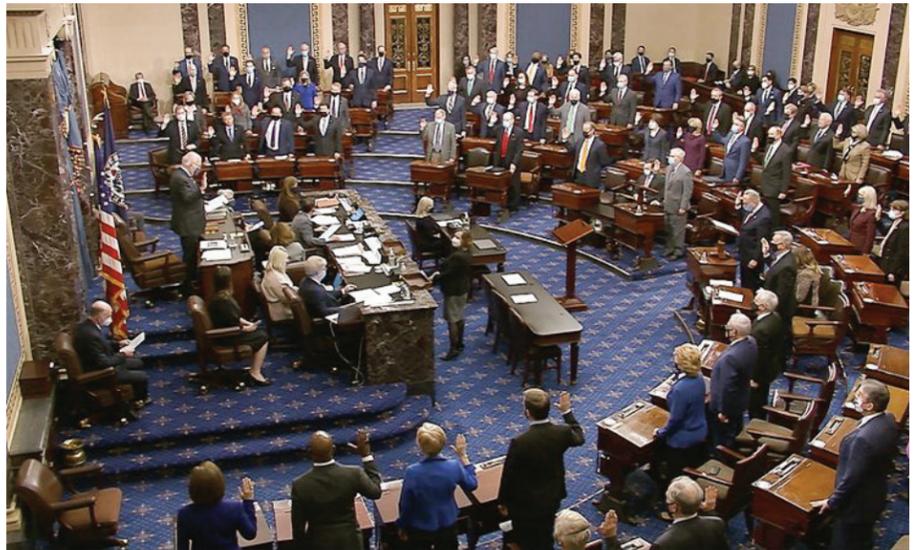
"Trump has been the center of the GOP since 2016," said Rose. "So I'm interested in watching and studying what will become of the Republican party in the post-Trump era."

Some are worried about the possibility of Trump running for president in 2024.

"If Donald Trump were to run for office again and lose, think of what he would do," said Fosey. "It would be deadly, disastrous, cataclysmic."

With a deep divide between parties, it is possible that this trial will push Republicans to submit articles of impeachment against President Joe Biden.

"If the Republicans take the House [of Representatives] in the next election, I think it is almost certain that they will try to impeach Biden for anything they can think of," said Luesink.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON FEB. 13, THE UNITED STATES SENATE VOTED FOR PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ACQUITTAL IN HIS SECOND IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.

Perspectives

SHU Students Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

BY MACKENZIE MAHER
Perspectives Editor

On Dec. 14, the United States began to administer its first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers. Shortly after, the FDA approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to also be distributed.

Many nursing students at Sacred Heart University were eligible to receive the vaccine due to working in the hospitals for their clinical hours.

“Knowing I have to be in the surgical ICU this semester, I believe it was in my best interest to get it,” said senior Shania Latassa.

Senior nursing major Sophia Caruso had a similar reason for why she wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

“I chose to get my vaccine because I am working in the hospitals caring for individuals who are high risk,” said Caruso.

According to CT.gov, Connecticut is currently in phase 1A and the beginning stage of 1B of vaccination distribution, which includes healthcare personnel, long-term care facility residents, medical first responders, and individuals 65 years and older, as well as residents and staff of select congregate settings.

Junior Brooke Cahill received the Pfizer vaccine through her job as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at an assisted living home.

“I was not hesitant at all to do so, and couldn’t help but think about my residents, my family, and life before the pandemic while receiving it,” said Cahill.

As part of their clinical training, Sacred Heart nursing students were among some of the first to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers at Danbury Hospital. The students were part of The Nuvance Health Vaccination program, during which they vaccinated over 2,500 individuals throughout the week.

Latassa said she felt overwhelmingly honored to have the chance to give the vaccine to healthcare workers.

“They’ve been on the front line for over 365 days in a row now. By being a student giving the vaccine, I was not only able to see the hope and relief in their eyes, but in the bigger picture, I was able to fill a spot so that another nurse could be on the unit doing their job and saving a life,” said Latassa. “There was no other place I would have felt more useful.”

Caruso also participated in administering the vaccine and said that this is one step closer to getting back to a new normal.

According to NPR, 13% of the population in Connecticut has had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 5.1% has received both doses.

In New York, childcare workers are eligible to receive the vaccine as part of phase 1B. Senior Alexa Irizarry works at a daycare and said that she received the vaccine because

she wanted to play her part in ending the spread.

“It was honestly such a moving experience. I felt like I was really making a difference for the world,” said Irizarry.

Cahill says that she feels extremely relieved to have been able to receive the vaccine.

“I encourage everyone else to get the vaccine when they are eligible,” said Cahill.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

AS THE COVID-19 VACCINE BEGINS TO BE DISTRIBUTED, SOME SACRED HEART STUDENTS BEGAN TO RECEIVE THE VACCINATION.

Living the Suite Life in the Upper Quad

BY ASHLIN HALEY
Assistant Perspectives Editor

Sacred Heart University recently finished two new additions to the Upper Quad residential village on campus. These new buildings, Teresa of Calcutta Hall and Frances Xavier Cabrini Hall, opened in the beginning of January for the spring semester of 2021. The expansion of the Upper Quad allows more housing options for students and is projected to be completely finished by July 2021.

Calcutta and Cabrini Halls include suites that house four to five students each with 357 beds in each building. The dorms also include study rooms on each floor, common areas and kitchens in each suite, and larger communal rooms for students to gather.

Many students that recently moved into Calcutta and Cabrini Halls have different opinions on the new dorms and their features.

“I like living in Calcutta Hall because the location is super convenient,” said sophomore Isabella Macia. “The common rooms and kitchens are spacious, the closets are huge, and it is nice to be living in a brand-new dorm.”

Similar to Macia, other students in Calcutta Hall say that their new dorms are enjoyable.

“So far, I really enjoy living in Calcutta Hall,” said sophomore Kayla Drake. “The size of the room is really nice and the common areas are great to hang out in.”

Other students say that the new buildings are visually appealing.

“I absolutely love the Upper Quad. It is beautiful. I am very lucky to live here,” said sophomore Victoria Kennedy.

Many students also say that the features in the new dorms are helpful with their individual lifestyles.

“The kitchen is my favorite part. I have dietary restrictions, so it’s really nice to be able to cook all my own food,” said junior Juliann Pellegrino. “My suitemates and I have a blast cooking together as well.”

The study rooms on each floor have also been a great component for many students.

“The study rooms and lounge areas that have been put on all the floors are so nice and perfect for students to study in,” said senior RSA Isabella Vassallo. “We have even seen residents hanging out in them watching a movie or the Super Bowl.”

Even though many students agreed that there are numerous benefits to living in Calcutta and Cabrini Halls, other students said that there are some negative aspects of the new dorms, but nothing that overrules the nice aspects of living there.

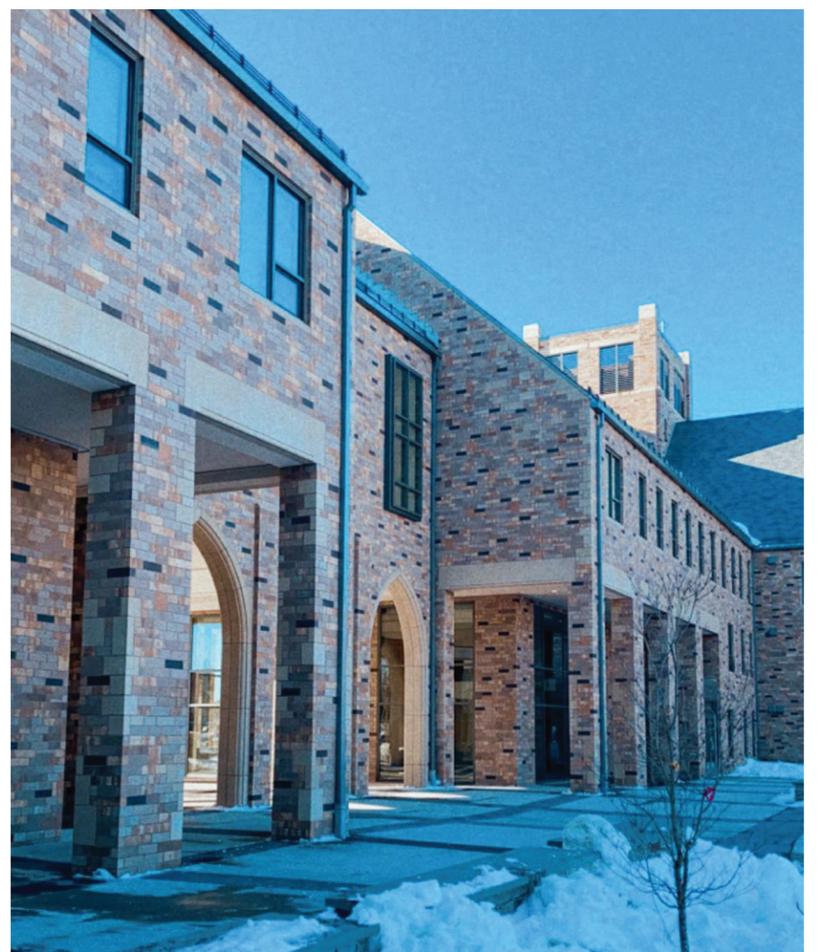
“Obviously, there are kinks with any new building, but all the residents have taken it in stride and have been able to adapt and be patient with getting those kinks out,” said Vassallo.

Students have also noticed other minor details in the new dorms that are potentially frustrating.

“The only thing I can think of is that there are a limited amount of washers,” said Pellegrino. “Also, the cabinets do not fit a standard size plate. You can tell that some of the building was rushed.”

Although there are certain things to adjust to in Calcutta and Cabrini Halls, many students still agree that their overall experience has been positive.

“It was great to see the building that we have been waiting for for so long start to fill up with residents and see them all enjoying this beautiful new building,” said Vassallo. “The new Upper Quad buildings are so amazing. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to be the first people living here.”



RIEANNA FLORES/SPECTRUM

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY OPENS TWO ADDITIONAL DORMS AS A PART OF THE UPPER QUAD RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE: CALCUTTA HALL AND CABRINI HALL.

Features

Walking in Confidence

BY ELIZABETH KALFAYAN
Features Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, the Department of Catholic Studies sponsored a virtual colloquium entitled “Walking in Confidence.” The speaker of the event was Jenny Hubbard, whose daughter, Catherine Hubbard, was killed in the Sandy Hook shooting.

While the Sandy Hook tragedy was touched upon during the event, it was not the focus of the entire presentation. Hubbard detailed her journey with faith and God and how it helped her find her way in what she considered a “dark time.”

The Sandy Hook shooting occurred eight years ago on Dec. 14, 2012.

“It was a day like no other,” said Hubbard.

Hubbard found that what she considered to be a more perfect time in her life suddenly turned very dark. She had two children who were happy and making friends, but the day of the Sandy Hook tragedy changed everything.

Hubbard detailed her faith journey leading up to the Sandy Hook shooting as well as her journey after the fatal day. Hubbard found herself praying to God to bring her daughter back. But, she also found that her prayers had been answered, just not in the way she would have expected.

Hubbard had come to the realization that her daughter had found her home with God in heaven. While Hubbard’s home was the physical one her daughter had lived in, her daughter was now living in a better, spiritual home.

“I found the event to be very inspiring,” said junior Emma DaSilva. “As someone who has been affected by 12/14, I was able to find hope at the end of a dark tunnel.”

Hubbard went on to mention that she had wrestled with the idea of why it had happened, but she also came to the conclusion that it’s okay not to understand all the time.

“Jenny was authentic. She said she would just tell her story and her faith journey as she experienced it and believed it and that is what she did,” said Dr. Michelle Loris, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and host of the event.

Hubbard had made a space for herself where she would journal and read Bible passages to connect with her faith. She had gone through a period during which she was angry at God, and eventually, she had reached a breaking point and yelled at God. However, she realized that God was bigger and greater than her pain.

“I think the main thing I took away was that God never goes away. We might lose sight of Him because of our daily lives, but the truth is He is always with us. He will never leave our side, and when we need Him, He will be there,” said sophomore Julia Simoneau.

Hubbard grew up Catholic, but she had realized that while her body was physically present in the pew at church on Sundays, her mind and heart were not.

“There was a time when I believed that if you turned your back on God long enough, He would walk away,” said Hubbard.

Hubbard soon realized that God never really walks away. He is always going to be present for you when you need Him.

Hubbard has also written a book on her experiences with her faith journey and the Sandy Hook tragedy. She still has a journey ahead of her, she doesn’t know where it’s going to take her, but that idea also excites her.

“I am in awe of Jenny’s faith. Not everyone has that kind of enduring faith in the face of such extraordinary challenges,” said Loris.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
THE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDIES SPONSORED A VIRTUAL COLLOQUIUM, “WALKING IN CONFIDENCE,” TO DISCUSS JENNY HUBBARD’S JOURNEY WITH FAITH.

Local Newspaper Gives Students New Opportunities

BY MAISY CARVALHO
Assistant Features Editor

In Sept. 2020, Sacred Heart University’s School of Communication and Media Arts (SCMA) launched a new course called “Professional Journalism.” The class offers real-world experience in the field of journalism through the revival of the Easton Courier.

Easton, Conn. is a neighboring town of Fairfield. The town lost its local paper in 2018 when the Easton Courier fell out of business.

“Ad sales continued to drop with the sluggish real estate market, decline of local businesses and migration of classified ads from local papers to online sources,” said former Easton Courier editor Nancy Doniger.

Doniger is a professor at Sacred Heart’s SCMA. She was contacted by her colleague, Jim Castonguay, in late 2018 with a game plan to revive Easton’s local paper.

“He wanted the university to undertake the project, recognizing the importance of a free press and local coverage to democracy,” said Doniger.

After meeting with local community leaders and other SCMA professors, Doniger and Castonguay received permission to use the original name, and thus the Easton Courier was revived as a non-profit digital paper.

The fall semester of Professional Journalism was a small pilot class of less than ten students. Junior Tomas Koeck was among the first to experience the course.

“I thought that the way the class was structured where you go in every week and you talk about updates you have in your own story, as well as suggestions from other students, really allowed everybody to grow together,” said Koeck.

Koeck highlighted the opportunities that working for the Easton Courier has given him. In addition to his bi-weekly “Sunday Nature Walk” column, Koeck collaborated with his classmates and contributed articles on the needs of the community.

“You will also have the opportunity to help the community in different ways,” said Koeck. “The way that we can give help is by writing the article.”

Sacred Heart students work among a group of staff writers, including local writers and Easton High School students. Due to this collaborative effort, many people have seen the paper. The website had been viewed over 84,000 times four months after the launch in Feb. 2020.

“Having your stories broadcast far and wide is a great asset, and because of the Easton Courier, I’ve been able to get my work published elsewhere,” said Koeck.

“The class benefits students through experiential learning,” said Doniger. “They study how a real town and real people live and conduct themselves and write factual news and feature articles of value to the community.”

The course is currently running with 12 students who represent all class years. The section meets for two and a half hours once a week to discuss stories and learn about the world of journalism.

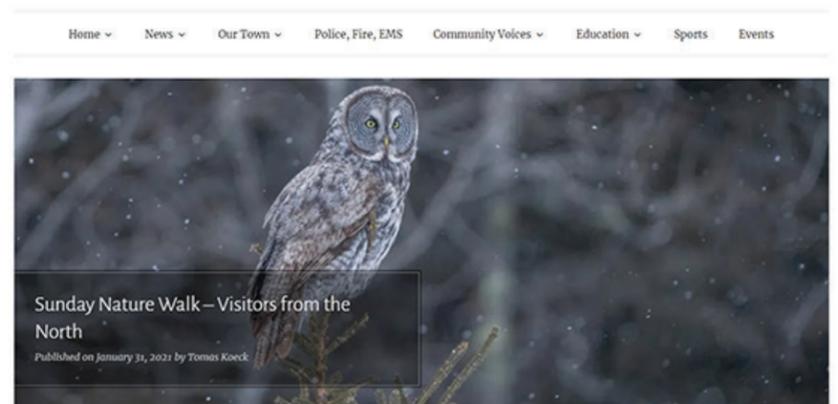
The students have the opportunity to contribute to sections that appeal to them. Professor Doniger and Professor Castonguay assign stories from sections including local

issues, arts and culture, history, nature and farms, and all other local news stories.

“This opportunity will give me a foundation to help build and better my career in writing, as well as get the chance to connect with individuals who will act as mentors,” said freshman Marissa Acciardo.

“The environment is very comfortable due to the professors’ attitudes toward me and my classmates. The class is more than I expected and something I look forward to,” said freshman Julia Portoghese.

Easton Courier
Community Matters – Your Local Voice



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
SACRED HEART STUDENTS FIND DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO THE LOCAL FAIRFIELD AND BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEER SERVICES.

Spotlight

Welcome to Audrey's Corner!



JILL AMARI
 MANAGER OF AUDREY'S CORNER

It's a new semester, and you know what that means...the return of Audrey's Corner! Established in 2018 in honor of Audrey Niblo, Audrey's Corner endeavors to emulate the positive personality and passions of Audrey. These include topics like kindness, ice cream and pets, but also topics such as bullying, stress, mental health and other challenges which affect our community (inside and outside of SHU) and which we must address in order to work together to find solutions.

Audrey's Corner welcomes works from students, faculty, staff and clubs, to name a few. We are a very open and welcoming section that is always looking for new ideas and contributors! In the past, contributing writers, artists and photographers have submitted journalistic articles, conducted interviews, collaborated with clubs and organizations, published creative works and taken serene photos.

This semester, we have some exciting pieces planned, so be sure to keep an eye out for Audrey's Corner each week! Some works to look for in particular are interviews with the new staff at the Counseling Center and a piece on happiness. As always, we will continue to promote kindness on campus and in the general community, and we will continue to remember Audrey through a variety of articles.

While the fall semester was certainly an unusual one, and this semester will continue to be a bit different than in the past, we look toward a promising future and hope that Audrey's Corner can provide a bit of light in dark times, just as Audrey was an optimistic light for those around her.

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

Want to contribute to Audrey's Corner or know someone who's interested? Email Jill Amari, Manager of Audrey's Corner, at amarij@mail.sacredheart.edu.



COVID-19 Memorial Service

BY SHANNON SZEFINSKI
 Managing Editor for Editorial

On Feb. 15, Sacred Heart University hosted a memorial service to remember Connecticut residents and loved ones of university community members who lost their lives to COVID-19. This was an all day event, sponsored by the Office of Mission Integration, Ministry and Multicultural Affairs that took place from 9:00 a.m. and finished in the late afternoon.

The service was live streamed on YouTube which allowed for families at home to watch throughout the day and access at a later date. The memorial was also displayed on every screen throughout campus so students on campus would be able to take a moment walking through the halls to watch the service. The doors of the chapel were also open all day for anyone who wished to hear the reading of the names in person.

The service began with remarks from Father Tony Ciorra and university president, Dr. John Petillo which led into an opening prayer from interfaith chaplains at Sacred Heart, Imam Gazmend Aga and Reverend Sara Smith. Sabina Petillo led off the reading of the names.

Dr. John Petillo stressed to the university community that this was a day of reflection and community members should participate in any capacity they could.

"These are people whose families aren't going to see them again, they're not just numbers they're people like us, and that could've been us," said Petillo.

Campus Minister, Valerie Kisselback, also emphasizes the fact that these are people not just names on a piece of paper.

"We hope this service offers consolation in the midst of grief and serves as a reminder of the magnitude of the loss we have experienced this past year. We have 55 people reading almost 6,500 names over the course of 5 hours," said Kisselback. "These are not just names, but beloved parents, children, siblings, grandparents, relatives and friends."

Those reading names at the service were made up of deans, university professors and faculty members, students, health care professionals from St. Vincent's Medical Center, and state elected officials.

Senior Shannon Torres was among the 55 readers that presented names at the memorial.

"It was memorable to be a part of this memorial because sometimes you forget how it has affected others in so many different ways," said Torres. "You look at these names and it takes a second to register why we have to read these names in the first place and it's sad."

"There are several intentions behind this memorial: to provide a space to mourn during a time when our communal ways of expressing grief have been so disrupted; to honor those we have lost and commend them to God; and to pray for our neighbors in Bridgeport, Fairfield, Trumbull, and throughout the state of Connecticut, in recognition of the broader civic community we are connected to as a university," said Kisselback.

The COVID-19 memorial service stream can be accessed at <http://www.sacredheart.edu/memorialservice>.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
 SABINA PETILLO BEGINS THE READING OF NAMES AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY'S COVID-19 MEMORIAL SERVICE ON FEB. 15.

Arts & Entertainment

The Week(e)nd's Halftime Performance

BY JACKIE O'ROURKE
A&E Editor

On Feb. 7, The Weeknd headlined the annual Pepsi Halftime Show during Super Bowl LV. The performance and game aired live on CBS as well as its streaming service, CBS All Access, last Sunday evening.

"I thought it was good. I didn't think it was over the top or the best halftime show, but it was during a pandemic. I didn't think it was bad," said sophomore Rachel Petti.

The Weeknd began his setlist in the stands of Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Fla. The show began with his hit song, "Starboy."

"Starboy" is originally a duet with Grammy Award-winning EDM duo, Daft Punk. "Starboy" is one of The Weeknd's many collaborations throughout his career.

In the days prior to the Super Bowl, many people speculated on social media that artists with whom The Weeknd has previously collaborated, such as Daft Punk and Ariana Grande, were going to make a surprise appearance during the show. However, The Weeknd performed the entire show alone with no special guests.

"I thought the performance got a lot of hate and criticism because it was just him instead of others, but due to COVID, he couldn't have done that," said freshman Alaina Deshefy. "It was a really good performance under the circumstances. He couldn't have a lot of dancers and huge things going on."

About four minutes into the 14-minute performance, The Weeknd dizzily navigated his way inside the stadium through a maze of mirrors and lights. During this, he sang his song "I Can't Feel My Face." This moment sparked a lot of memes across Twitter and Instagram.

Around 10 minutes into the performance, The Weeknd joined a large group of dancers on the field dressed in the same red suit jacket as him and accessorized with head bandages and face masks.

Ever since The Weeknd's album "After Hours" came out in March 2020, he has made various public appearances with evolving cuts, bruises and bandages as part of his physical appearance, which is said to be part of a storyline for the album.

TikTok user @waleezy explained The Weeknd's intentions in a TikTok video with 2.5 million likes.

"You got to give it to The Weeknd. He was fully committed. This has been months in the making and tonight was the finale," he said.

"His whole performance was based around his newest album that a lot of people don't know about, but it all made sense if you understood his album," said Deshefy. "He stayed in character the whole time."

However, some thought The Weeknd was sending another message with the head bandages and masks. Former Surgeon General of the U.S. Jerome Adams tweeted, "I did like the mask wearing and the social distancing at the #SuperBowl halftime show. Well done!"

"I've loved The Weeknd's music for a long time now, and as a fan, I was so happy to see him dip into his discography and play a variety of his music over the years," said senior

Alex Caruso. "During an interesting year with no fans present, The Weeknd was able to up the cinematography and overall quality of his performance as he was purely focused on the television audience."

According to Keith Caulfield of Billboard, "Streams of The Weeknd's songs surged 41% in the U.S. following the star's Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 7, according to initial reports to MRC Data."

"His collected songs across his entire catalog generated 48.9 million on-demand streams (audio and video) on Feb. 7-8 – up 42% compared to the 34.5 million they tallied on Feb. 5-6," said Caulfield.

"He was able to show off his signature style through this performance, and I truly believe it was the greatest Super Bowl halftime show of all time," said Caruso.



ON FEB. 7 THE WEEKND HEADLINED THE ANNUAL PEPSI HALFTIME SHOW DURING SUPER BOWL LV.

CNN

"Driver's License"

BY ELIZABETH COYNE
Assistant A&E Editor

Seventeen-year-old Olivia Rodrigo released her new hit song "Driver's License" on Jan. 8 and since then has skyrocketed the charts, broken numerous records and added to the many theories regarding her relationship status.

Star of Disney+'s "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," Rodrigo has been rumored on numerous occasions to have written her song about co-star Joshua Bassett. With lyrics detailing emotions of an intense breakup, many suspect it is the newfound romance between Bassett and pop-singer Sabrina Carpenter that inspired "Driver's License."

The number of listeners continues to grow each day and has been a massive hit for the new artist.

The song broke Spotify records on Jan. 11 by earning the highest number of streams in a day that the platform has ever seen. The single then beat its own record the very next day on Jan. 12 with even higher numbers. The weekly streaming debut was the highest in U.S. Spotify history, earning over 30.433 million streams.

"Driver's License" was also announced to have broken the record for most requested song in one day on the Amazon Alexa Device, as well as becoming the largest streaming debut ever seen globally on Amazon Music.

Rodrigo has been participating in a number of interviews to comment on her songwriting success with top publications such as Rolling Stone Magazine. She also recently performed "Driver's License" live for The GRAMMY Museum and "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

Rodrigo has been very vocal about her gratitude in response to all of the attention.

On Twitter, Rodrigo said, "thank u guys so much for listening omg I cannot comprehend this."

Many students at Sacred Heart University have enjoyed watching Rodrigo's rise to stardom and are impressed with her growing numerics.

"At the start of her career, Olivia Rodrigo is already breaking charts and records that artists, such as Ariana Grande, were only capable of hitting years into their career," said sophomore Annie Wunsch.

The single has become a favorite among a large audience and many Sacred Heart students have been listening to it frequently.

"I thought the message behind the song was really there and you could tell just how powerful it was," said junior Patrick Coyne. "I thought it had a good flow and it's definitely one of those songs you could sit in the car and chill to. Basically, it's a banger."

Additionally, a lot of attention has been garnered around the music video for "Driver's License," which was directed by Matthew Dillon Cohen. The video currently has over 100 million views on YouTube and is continuing to climb every day.

"It's a gorgeously shot video to match the exquisite production of the music. It's got a nice dramatic sweep to it on both counts," said Prof. Gregory Golda, multimedia production instructor at Sacred Heart.

Fans of Rodrigo are excited to see what new and creative ventures she will take on within her career.

"I will be watching her career now with interest to see how she follows it up. It's difficult to keep a career going in a field that's so crowded but hopefully she'll be one of the outliers with a long string of hits," said Golda.

"With her emotionally charged lyrics, she's connected so many people and will easily become one of the most influential people of this decade," said Wunsch.



OLIVIA RODRIGO RELEASED HER NEW SINGLE, "DRIVER'S LICENSE," ON JAN. 8.

NBC NEWS

Sports

Sacred Heart Football Kicks Off Spring Season

BY **MARIA CIPRIANO**
Assistant Sports Editor

On Feb. 1, Sacred Heart Athletics announced that the Northeast Conference (NEC) released a fall-to-spring schedule that would entail a four-game season for the Sacred Heart University football team.

Head coach Mark Nofri was happy for the student athletes to resume sports.

“To have something taken away from them for 18 months is sad to see, especially when it is out of their control,” said Nofri. “They want to play and compete. This gives them an opportunity to do so, even if it is four games and in the spring.”

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, each school will play four games starting March 7, two at home and two on the road, with the potential for two make-up weekends. The top two teams will meet for the NEC championship in April. All games will be played on Sundays.

“More than anything, I was just excited because in the summer when they said we were not playing, I felt the breath leave from everyone,” said redshirt sophomore quarterback Marquez McCray.

Junior linebacker DeAndre Byrd was also happy to hear the news that football would be happening in the spring.

“We were elated. We were away from football for so long,” said Byrd. “The anticipation was there but with us getting shut down last semester, we became skeptical for a while. We were just happy the schedule came out and we were ready to play.”

Since last fall, the team has been preparing as if they were still in preseason mode.

“We have been practicing, lifting and meeting all the time on Zoom. We have Wednesdays and Sundays off, but we’re getting after it every day,” said McCray.

Junior running back Julius Chestnut (JuJu), McCray, and Byrd have been taking extra measures to ensure their bodies are ready for this season.

“The hours we put in outside of the team is crazy. Some people think that we are crazy because it will be Marquez, JuJu and I going out to the field at 5 a.m.,” said Byrd. “We run around the stadium, on the field, around the school. We try to be consistent because we know if we’re working hard, we can help the team a lot.”

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, SHU will meet with Merrimack on March 21. This will be the first time the teams face off against each other since the 1997 season as Division II opponents.

“No matter who our opponent is, I expect us to play well,” said Nofri. “It is my job to have them ready to play, and it is up to the players to execute the plan for each opponent.”

Both McCray and Byrd are excited to face off against a new team.

“I watched a few of their games last year, and they are not a bad team at all,” said Byrd.

“They have some playmakers, and I feel like we need to take them very seriously. If we don’t, it could be a close game.”

The first game will be held on March 7, and the Pioneers will travel to Duquesne. They will then be home for two back-to-back weekends against Long Island University (LIU) and Merrimack. Their last game will take place on March 28, away against Wagner.

“Our goal as a team is to win the NEC conference and get the automatic bid to the FCS playoffs,” said Nofri. “Take one game at a time, but starting fast and staying healthy will be a big factor on how good we are.”



CT INSIDER
THE SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM WILL BEGIN THEIR SEASON IN THE COMING WEEKS PLAYING FOUR GAMES; TWO HOME AND TWO AWAY.

SHU Sports Back in Full Swing

BY **MIKENZIE CARBONE**
Sports Editor

After months of no athletic competitions, Sacred Heart University Athletics are in full swing as the spring semester unfolds. Athletics were halted last March due to COVID-19, and protocols have been implemented by the athletic department for the health and safety of the coaches and student athletes who are performing this spring.

“I am so happy for the student athletes to do what they love to do most,” said Executive Director of Athletics Bobby Valentine. “That is to be with their teams and to compete out on the field, ice, court or in the pool.”

The Athletic Department has made adjustments to practices and games in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

“There has been so much preparation,” said Valentine. “First off, practices look different. We have smaller groups and we have different places where teams have to practice.”

The intended spring sports are competing. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of fall sports in 2020, a number of fall sports are being combined with spring sports to play during the spring season.

“The adjustment that Sacred Heart University has made within this COVID society and the adjustments the athletic department has made within the university have been rewarding,” said Valentine. “We will be able to learn from this experience as we move forward.”

The following teams are underway in their season: men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s track and field, men’s and women’s hockey, men’s and women’s fencing, women’s soccer, women’s bowling, wrestling, men’s and women’s volleyball, and men’s lacrosse.

Men’s basketball is 6-6 on the season and 6-5 in their conference. Women’s basketball is 7-5 on the season and 7-3 in their conference. The top four teams in the men’s and women’s basketball Northeast Conference (NEC) will qualify for tournament play, which has been reduced from eight teams to four teams due to COVID-19.

Men’s and women’s track and field opened their season on Feb. 7 at the UAlbany Invitational. Neither team finished in the top 10 of any race.

Men’s ice hockey is 4-7-2 on the season. Junior John Benson was named Atlantic Hockey goalie of the week on Feb. 9 after 52 saves in two games. Women’s ice hockey is 1-4 after winning their first game on Feb. 9 against Long Island University (LIU).

Men’s fencing was defeated by Drew University 3-2 and women’s fencing won against Drew 4-0. On Feb. 10, women’s soccer opened their season with a tie against Fordham.

Women’s bowling is 5-3 on the season. Rachel Bamford was named NEC Bowler of the Week on Feb. 10.

Wrestling is 0-2 with the EIWA Championships on Feb. 26 at Spooky Nook Sports Complex, Lancaster, PA.

Men’s volleyball is 0-2, and women’s volleyball is 0-1. Men’s lacrosse is 0-1 after their season opener against Stony Brook.

In the upcoming weeks, the following teams will begin their season: football on Mar. 7, baseball on Feb. 23, softball on Feb. 27, women’s lacrosse on Feb. 27, men’s soccer on

Feb. 17, men’s tennis on Feb. 20, women’s tennis on Feb. 16, women’s field hockey on Mar. 7, men’s and women’s swimming and diving on Mar. 29, men’s golf on Apr. 23, and women’s golf on Apr. 16.

Valentine gave advice to the student athletes and coaches prior to the spring season.

“The one quality we are going to lean on the athletes for is their ability to adjust and adapt,” said Valentine. “You have to be able to pivot on a dime.”

At the moment, there will be no fans allowed at the games.

“We’re hoping we will be able to open up some of the games during the spring for a portion of fans to come,” said Valentine. “Luckily, we have the technology to Zoom many of our games so family and friends can see things being done in a 2D environment.”



SACRED HEART ATHLETICS
DUE TO COVID-19, SACRED HEART ATHLETICS WERE PUT ON PAUSE BACK IN MARCH OF 2020 AND NOW THEY ARE ALL BACK IN FULL SWING.

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Not All Heroes Wear Capes, Some Wear Dust Jackets

AMBER MARTINEZ
WEB MANAGER

Quotes have the power to put things into perspective. For me, this is especially true with book quotes.

2020 will always be a year where you can say it and someone will groan. Like when I was a child, books gave me perspective this year, and I do not know why I ever doubted their power.

Books have been a big part of my life--and to be honest, my personality--for over 10 years. For anyone who knows me, they know that I live and breathe books, which is why hearing that I used to hate reading shocks people. I sometimes think about all the amazing books I would have missed and all the things I would not have learned if my sister never made me read the Harry Potter series. A series that set into motion the 10+ years of being a dedicated reader.

And I for sure have been rewarded for that dedication.

A lot has changed for me this year, and with the discovery of what I was truly passionate about came people asking me what I want to do after college. If you had asked me 6+ months ago, I would have told you I wanted to be an FBI Agent. Only a few months ago, I would have said I had no idea. But after further thought, I have decided that I want to work in the book community, to show the world that books have the power to heal and teach.

With 2020 being a year no one will forget, I have compiled a few of my favorite book quotes that I think will help bring into perspective the rollercoaster that was last year and serve as inspiration for this year. These are some of the few that made a difference for me.

"I feel our connection even as the world falls to pieces around us." - "The Similar" by Rebecca Hanover

Even though we have been either inside or have had limited interactions with people for most of the year, people have

still managed to meet new people and forge and strengthen connections with existing relationships. The world is falling to pieces around us, and while we are scrambling to fix things and make things better, we are connecting on a different level than before. We are not only learning about ourselves but realizing who belongs on our journey through 2021.

"Without pain, how could we know joy?" - "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green

I understand that 2020 will go down in history as one of the worst years in the 21st century. I also understand that many lives, jobs, and happiness were lost. I am not arguing that that did not happen, and I will not say that I did not hate 2020, but like John Green says, you cannot know joy if you do not know pain. Pain shows us not to take things for granted, something I believe we did a lot before last year.

"What's done is done. Say good-bye to the past, and hello to the future and we're wasting time, when already we've wasted enough. We've got everything ahead, waiting for us." - "Flowers in the Attic" by V.C. Andrews

It is over. 2020 is now in the past. Will we ever forget what happened? No, but we need to start moving forward. 2021 is a new year, and we should be treating it as such. I took a vow to make this year about bettering myself, my life, and the world around me.

This year, find what makes you happy. I know I am.

When Does it End? Part 2

ELIZABETH KALFAYAN
FEATURES EDITOR

As the semester begins to get under way, I find myself looking back at old photos from senior year of high school and freshman year of college up until now. Looking back at these photos, I start to remember memories I have probably tried to repress at one point or another over the past couple of years. It's another rollercoaster of emotions, except the rollercoaster just got way more intense than it was last semester.

At this point, there's probably just under 100 days until graduation, whatever form that may be, and I feel like I just moved in for band camp freshman year. Time moves so quickly and yet so slow at the same time. I blink and the time spent at Sacred Heart just flew by, but in the moments of struggle, I definitely felt like time could not go by fast enough. Such as those moments when I was on the verge of a breakdown because everything got very overwhelming very quickly. But the positive and happy moments are still ones to remember. Moments such as playing in front of a crowd in the halftime show with the band at a football game.

However, on a much smaller and more recent level, winter break felt like forever, but before I knew it, I was moving back in for the spring semester. I took advantage of a winter class to keep myself somewhat busy, but there was still a lot of empty time that was not wasted like I would have expected. It was a time to relax and reflect on the past year because of the coronavirus, but also the past four years of my college experiences.

I find myself even more unsure of what I want to do post-graduation than I did last semester and have found a lot more

people feel a very similar way. There is this sudden pressure to know exactly what we are supposed to do the day we graduate, especially as that day becomes closer with each passing day.

However, everything is so up in the air all the time now that I'm not even really sure what next week is going to have in store for me. If I'm not even sure of that, how am I supposed to know exactly what I want to do and where I want to go 12 weeks from now? I just try to keep a little sense of hope in the back of my mind that everything is going to be okay in the end and just take it day by day. But sometimes that gets difficult when it seems as though every other person that I talk to wants to know what I'm doing after graduation and I was supposed to know this answer as of last year.

Here is the overall general answer that can be applied to me and probably many other second semester seniors: I am not completely sure what I want to do when graduation day comes, but I will figure it out when it does come.

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