

## HEY SENIORS!

### The Countdown Begins Now!

88 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION



### Where to Find The Spectrum on Campus

- Library
- SC Wing
- Hawley Lounge
- Student Life Office
- UC Wing
- Center for Healthcare Education
- Martire
- West Campus (West Building)
- Curtis Hall
- Pitt Center
- Linda's
- Melady Hall

## American Democracy Under Siege

BY FRANCESCA COMPAGNO  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 16, the Sacred Heart University College of Arts and Sciences sponsored the "American Democracy Under Siege: The Media and the Capitol Insurrection" colloquium. This was a panel discussion about the vulnerability of the media during Donald Trump's presidency and his final days in office.

The colloquium discussed themes of justice, truth, politics, history, law and order, media, and multiculturalism.

The mediator was Prof. Mark Congdon, an assistant professor in Sacred Heart's School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

The experts who spoke about the impact and failures of the media were Eric Deggans, Jill Collen Jefferson, and Suran Huang, a photojournalist who was at the Capitol during the events of Jan. 6.

"This really gets at our mission of having students understand global and contemporary issues and developing their critical thinking skills," said Congdon. "The topic of this colloquium aligns directly with developing global citizens who are aware of what is going on. The media is a fundamental right in our constitution, so it is important to understand how the media is used to hold our political leaders accountable."

One topic the panel focused on was how many people are unable to realize if what they are reading or watching on social media is correct.

"These social media websites use algorithms from your previous searches or your friends list to show you what you want to see only," said Congdon.

"We all know that different media outlets can lean more liberal or conservative, and that is apparent when listening to the delivery of information," said senior Kolby Driscoll, president of College Democrats. "In any case, when talking about the insurrection or any other newsworthy topic, it is always important to get your information from multiple sources."

This event is part of a series of panels to help better understand and process the events of Jan. 6.

"The series is intended to help our community better understand these unfolding events and their significance by examining them from a variety of perspectives and engaging expert panelists from multiple disciplines," said Dr. Robin Cautin, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sacred Heart wants to provide frameworks with expert panelists to explain the factors that led to the insurrection at Capitol Hill.

"No doubt that the significance of what happened and why it happened are topics that will be discussed for a long time to come," said Cautin.

Many students attended and learned from this event.

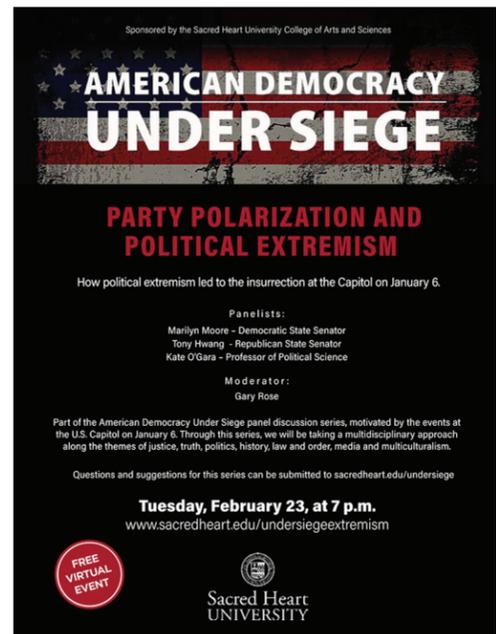
"I do feel that I have a better understanding of how the media plays a huge role in people's opinion of what happened that day," said junior Laura LoBello. "I remember that day, in addition to watching various news channels, I was watching TikTok and my whole 'For You' page, video after video, was about the insurrection."

LoBello emphasized that people who viewed TikTok videos have a different perspective of the events that happened than others who did not. "The media you consume definitely affects your perspective," said LoBello.

"I did not see inaccurate or biased reporting, at least based on my own observations. Everyone was appalled with no media outlet defending the insurrection," said professor Gary Rose, chair in the department of government. "But I'm not an expert on media nuances."

While attending, students recognized the importance of this event and future events of its kind.

"It is critical to host multiple events such as this one, highlighting a wide variety of viewpoints in order to paint an inclusive and fair picture of the events that unfolded," said Driscoll.



ON FEB. 16, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SPONSORED "AMERICAN DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE" TO DISCUSS DONALD TRUMP'S FINAL DAYS AS PRESIDENT.

## SPECTRUM NEWSPAPER SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS (2021)



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# News

## Student Activities Continues “Unleash Your Potential” Series

BY EMILEE CAMODEO  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 17, Amanda Wagner, Assistant Director of Transfer Admission at Sacred Heart University, hosted a workshop via Zoom highlighting the importance of leadership and personal development skills. This allowed for students to become involved within their community and determine what they can gain from inclusion.

“This workshop is one of those ways to enhance your leadership skills,” said Wagner. “You get to learn from others on campus about how to think and act like a leader on campus.”

This event was part of the Student Activities “Unleash Your Potential” series. This series aims to show students, faculty and staff of Sacred Heart what they are capable of and how their actions can influence others.

“I had a mentor tell me once that their role was to hold up a mirror for me to realize what I could do and become,” said Wagner. “If you want to unleash your full potential, take advantage of the opportunities around you to expand your view and gain new skills.”

During this workshop, students were able to define and understand the differences between diversity, inclusion, equity and justice.

“Inclusion is bringing people to the table, equity is who isn’t at the table, and why,” said Wagner. “Diversity is the difference of people, where justice is building off of equity, essentially doing the work and bringing everyone together.”

“It is great to attend a workshop like this because these are the conversations that need to happen more often,” said Connie Cuccurese, Assistant Director of Student Activities. “It is important to take the time to listen, learn and gain a new perspective.”

At Sacred Heart, students are encouraged to branch out and join different organizations, clubs and sports teams.

“Being on a sports team, you learn how to be a team player and how to work with others,” said junior Anna Pirkel, member of both the track and cross country team. “I think that when other people see someone that is involved in something, they will want to do the same, whether it is in their comfort zone or not.”

“Growing up as a kid, I was involved in many different things such as Girl Scouts and even involved in my church,” said Wagner. “Being involved in sports allowed me to rely on others in order to meet my goals.”

Inclusive leadership allows people to be able to identify implicit biases and how they impact leadership as a whole.

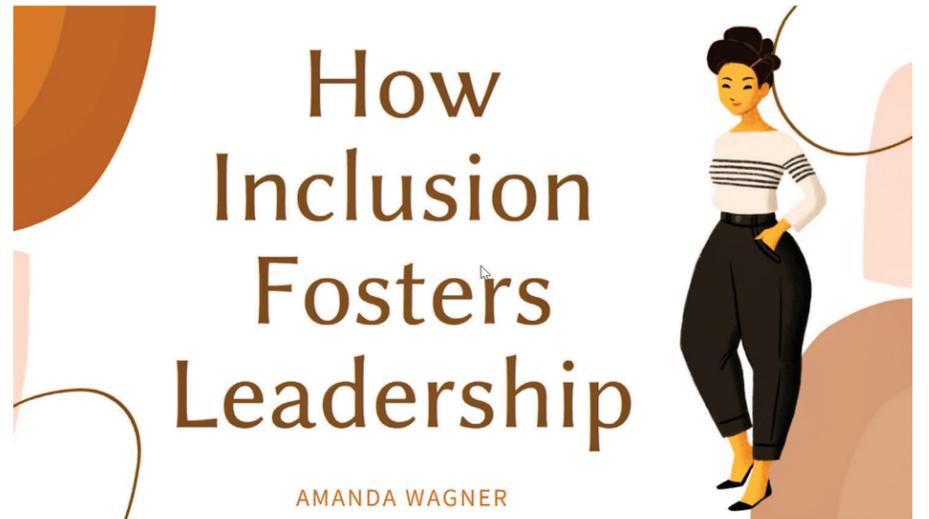
“It is important as leaders to step up. Change starts with you,” said Cuccurese. “Don’t be afraid to speak up and discuss the topic of inclusivity. The more this happens, the more you, as a leader, can create change.”

“A phrase we use often in the Student Activities office is, you need to get uncomfortable to get comfortable,” said Cuccurese. “Challenging yourself to be open to learning new things, taking in different perspectives, and putting your newfound knowledge to the

test.”

In the workshop, Student Activities suggested the “Dare To Lead” podcast, hosted by Aiko Bethea, to continue the conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion.

“Toward the end of the session, Amanda shared ‘Where do I go from here?’ She explained it is important to continue to learn, read articles, watch videos, attend presentations or even go to events where you can learn from other leaders with different identities from your own,” said Cuccurese.



CHARLOTTE GRENS/SPECTRUM

THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER STUDENT ACTIVITIES WILL HOST DIFFERENT EVENTS THAT MAKE UP THEIR “UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL” SERIES.

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

[www.shuspectrum.com/](http://www.shuspectrum.com/)

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(LOCATED ON OUR HOMEPAGE UNDERNEATH  
OUR TWITTER FEED)

# Perspectives

## Springing into Sorority Recruitment

BY ANASTASIA COLAGRECO  
Staff Writer

Spring sorority recruitment is in full swing at Sacred Heart University. For the past few weeks, various Panhellenic organizations have been preparing to welcome new women into their sisterhoods.

While formal recruitment took place this past fall, spring is a time for sororities to initiate new members if they have not met their chapter's limit. Often called "informal" recruitment, the process is structured quite differently than the action-packed weekend every September.

Chapters can plan their own events and make their own schedule, creating a more flexible and easy-going environment for potential new members (PNMS) and the sororities.

"The format is different in the spring and affords PNMS a nice opportunity to get to know each organization better," said Kathryn Ionta, the Assistant Director of Greek Life.

As of this publication, the chapters that are still holding spring recruitment include Delta Zeta, Tri Delta, Theta Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Theta. Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Sigma participated this spring as well, but have since completed the process.

While the format was already different in the spring, there are added challenges for the Panhellenic community to work around due to COVID-19.

"It's important that we all follow the Pioneer Promise," said Panhellenic President Kaitlin Pontes. "Each sorority can have in-person events if they choose, with limits on how many people can attend. To include bigger groups, chapters are mostly holding info sessions and activities virtually via Zoom."

For example, Theta Phi Alpha recently held a paint night, where interested women could sign up and meet the sisters in small groups.

"We've all had to get creative with the recruitment process and events," said Ionta. "And if a woman is interested in getting to know a chapter better, she can always contact sisters to meet up for coffee or food within COVID guidelines."

Freshman Rhiannon Ortiz is a new member of Delta Zeta who recently joined their Retention Committee and has been deeply involved in their spring recruitment process.

"Some girls have asked me if they should go through the recruitment process," said Ortiz. "I think that everyone should try it if they're looking to make some new friends. You never know which group you'll click with."

While the process may seem daunting, she encourages every woman to consider giving it a try.

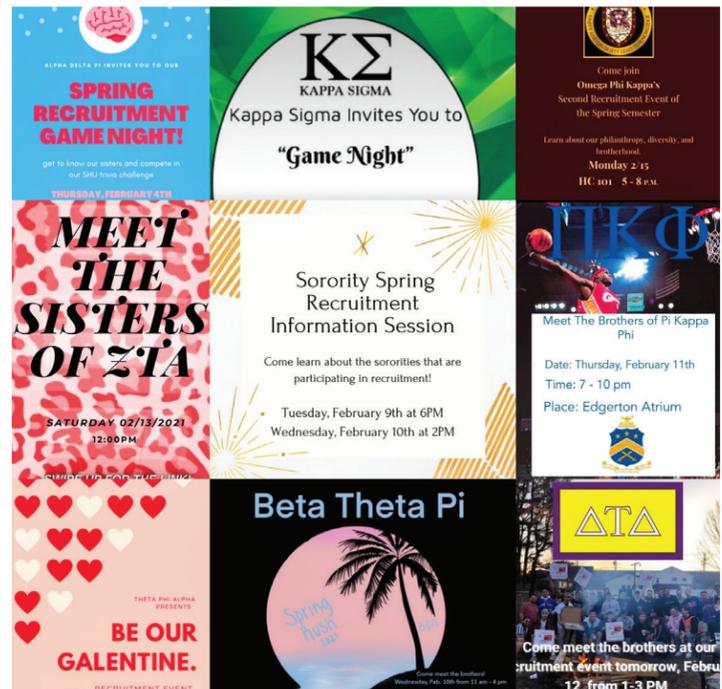
"I love being in a sorority because I always have someone there for me whenever I need them," said Ortiz. "I also love having older sisters that can guide me through all the new

experiences of college. That's so special, and it's so worth it."

Each sorority has unique qualities such as their philanthropies and values, which makes the Panhellenic community such a diverse group of women. Sacred Heart students who desire a sense of belonging may be able to find it within the organizations participating in spring recruitment.

"Dive right in and give yourself the opportunity to get what you want out of your college experience," said Ionta.

Anyone interested in joining the Panhellenic community can find information through their emails and Instagram page, @shu\_panhellenic. Each chapter has their own Instagram page as well, where they post details about events.



AS THE SPRING SEMESTER GETS OFF TO A START, THAT ALSO MEANS THAT SPRING SORORITY RECRUITMENT IS NOW UNDERWAY.

## The Chris Harrison Controversy

BY DEANNA DRAKOPOULOS  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Chris Harrison, host of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" announced on Instagram he will be temporarily stepping down from the franchise for an unknown period.

This announcement came after a controversial interview with Rachel Lindsay, former contestant on "The Bachelor" and Season 25's Bachelorette, in which Harrison defended current contestant on this season of "The Bachelor" Rachel Kirkconnell.

Some of the photos Kirkconnell posted on social media were considered racist, including her attending an antebellum-themed party in 2018.

Lindsay asked Harrison about the Kirkconnell photos during an interview on Feb. 9.

"We all need to have a little grace, a little understanding, a little compassion," Harrison told Lindsay during the virtual interview on Extra.

Some fans reacted negatively to his comments.

"I was very upset and disappointed in Chris Harrison after being a Bachelor fan for so many years," said sophomore Anna Richards.

"Is it a good look in 2018 or is it not a good look in 2021?" Harrison asked Lindsay during the Extra interview regarding the pictures.

"It made me angry that Chris Harrison tried to back up Rachel by saying how the photos were from 2018, insinuating that racism was not an issue then," said sophomore Gianna Romagnoli.

The issue for some fans is that Harrison told Lindsay that the antebellum party did not give off the same look in 2018 as it does now in 2021.

"He was not sensitive to the racial injustice that has been faced in this country," said sophomore Jenna Williams.

After facing backlash for defending Kirkconnell's actions, Harrison took to social media to apologize in an Instagram post. He wrote, "To my Bachelor Nation family—I will always own a mistake when I make one, so I am here to extend a sincere apology."

Some students say that his apology is enough and should make everyone move on.

"I think this is an over-exaggeration and people need to relax," said sophomore Brendan Capozzi. "It all came across wrong and he apologized for it, so I don't think he deserves to be getting this much backlash."

According to CBSnews.com, Harrison said his intentions were to ask for grace in offering Rachel Kirkconnell the opportunity to speak on her own behalf.

A number of former contestants spoke out about Harrison's comments during the interview.

According to ET, Tayshia Adams, the most recent Bachelorette, said that she is "really hurt, disappointed and confused" by the response to Kirkconnell's actions, which she called "blatantly racist."

According to CBSnews.com, "Lindsay is not renewing her contract with the Bachelor franchise when it expires." She said she does not want to be affiliated with the ignorance and cannot deal with it anymore.

"My words were harmful. I am listening, and I truly apologize for my ignorance

and any pain it caused you. I want to give my heartfelt thanks to the people from these communities who I've had enlightening conversations with over the past few days, and I am so grateful to those who have reached out to help me on my path to anti-racism," Harrison wrote to the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) community on Instagram.

Harrison will be stepping aside for a period of time and will not join for this season's "After the Final Rose" special. In the time off, Harrison said he will be dedicating his time to educating himself profoundly and productively.

Many students have opinions on who they want to replace Harrison as the host.

"I feel that there should be a female host in replace of Chris Harrison. It would bring more of a feminine approach to the show," said Romagnoli.

Romagnoli also said that Rachel Lindsay would be a good potential host.

"She has a better perspective coming from Bachelor Nation and is one of the show's strongest advocates for racial justice," said Romagnoli.



CHRIS HARRISON IS TEMPORARILY STEPPING DOWN FROM HIS ROLE WITHIN THE BACHELOR FRANCHISE.

WASHINGTON POST

# Features

## Building a Bridge: Reaching out to LGBTQ Catholics

BY CAROLYN BEDDOW  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, Reverend James Martin presented a virtual colloquium entitled “Building a Bridge: Reaching out to LGBTQ Catholics.”

Rev. Martin is a Jesuit priest, author and editor-at-large at American Media. He has a Masters degree in Divinity, a Masters degree in Theology and even an honorary degree from Sacred Heart University in 2010.

During this colloquium, Martin described in detail the LGBTQ community and the Catholic Church. Martin visited Sacred Heart two years ago to give a similar presentation, both of which were connected to his book “Building a Bridge.”

“Rev. Martin’s message is based upon the Gospel’s message to love and on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, whose claims are to respect the dignity of every human being and to work for the common good,” said Dr. Michelle Loris, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as Chair of the Catholic Studies Department.

In order to build a bridge between the LGBTQ community and the Catholic Church, the Catholic Church needs to be open to listening in order for people to feel welcome in the church community.

In addition to listening to and being open-minded toward LGBTQ individuals in the Catholic church, there needs to be a reminder that these individuals have suffered or are currently suffering in some way. Martin mentioned many statistics regarding LGBTQ youth and the rates at which they are harmed.

“Never forget how much LGBTQ people have suffered,” said Martin.

Martin also detailed how LGBTQ youth are three times more likely to contemplate suicide than their straight counterparts, and five times more likely to have actually attempted suicide. This is according to the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

“I think that Rev. Martin’s goal is to bring as many voices together from within the Church as possible, and to facilitate a conversation that leads everyone to arrive at the same basic truth: that we are all deserving of love and respect,” said Keith Johnston, Director of Performing Arts and Director of Band and Orchestra. “That seems a simple truth, yes? Not everyone agrees.”

Two years ago when Rev. Martin first spoke at Sacred Heart, there were letters sent to the school complaining about the presentation, as well as protestors trying to make a statement against the presentation. However, these protests didn’t stop the university from having Rev. Martin present not once, but twice.

“Some students said they were pleased to see that Sacred Heart University is a university that takes a stand to embrace the LGBTQ community,” said Loris.

Many LGBTQ Catholics fear coming out because they are afraid of not being loved by their friends, families or even God. The fear of being rejected can cause people of the

LGBTQ community to leave the Catholic Church community.

“They bring joy, energy and life to our world, our church and our campuses. They are God’s beloved children,” said Martin.

Martin outlined a few different points on how to help build a bridge between the Catholic Church and the LGBTQ community. A couple of his points included educating yourself as well as your school and standing with those who are a part of the LGBTQ community.

“We need to stand firm in our support for people that are really on the margins,” said Martin.



Rev. James Martin, S.J.  
Author of “Building a Bridge”

MADISON PELUSO/SPECTRUM

REV. JAMES MARTIN SPEAKS ON THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A PART OF HIS “BUILDING A BRIDGE: REACHING OUT TO LGBTQ CATHOLICS” COLLOQUIUM.

## Changes in Sacred Heart Dining

BY JULIA PORTOGHESE  
Staff Writer

According to the Sacred Heart University website, “The class of 2024 has 1,681 students -- the largest incoming class the university has seen.” With growing numbers of students each year comes expansions of campus size.

Sacred Heart’s campus has been growing since its opening in 1963. New developments have included on-campus housing, academic buildings and a new fitness center. The Upper Quad is set to conclude construction in August 2021, and with it, a new dining hall will open.

Upper Quad is a central location on campus and will be within a close walking distance to many dorms, providing easy access to the new dining hall.

“The new Upper Quad dining hall will be opening in the fall of 2021. Even though we are still finalizing menus and concepts, there will be plenty of dining options, including a wood burning pizza oven and house made pasta,” said Kayla Hawley, the Sacred Heart Dining Marketing Director.

Some students are excited for the dining hall to be a part of their undergraduate experience.

“I think the Upper Quad dining will add to the campus by making it more convenient for students and allowing students to have more variety and options in regard to their dining choices on campus,” said senior Anna Martinelli. “I wish it were finished being built so I’d be able to go and try it out, but I am happy that the underclassman and future students will get to experience this new dining hall.”

In addition to new spots to eat, Sacred Heart has also been updating current dining options.

“At the Linda’s salad station, they changed the layout,” said Martinelli. “They added new Greek toppings like artichoke hearts, Greek olives and tzatziki dressing. They also have pickled onions, which they never had in the past.”

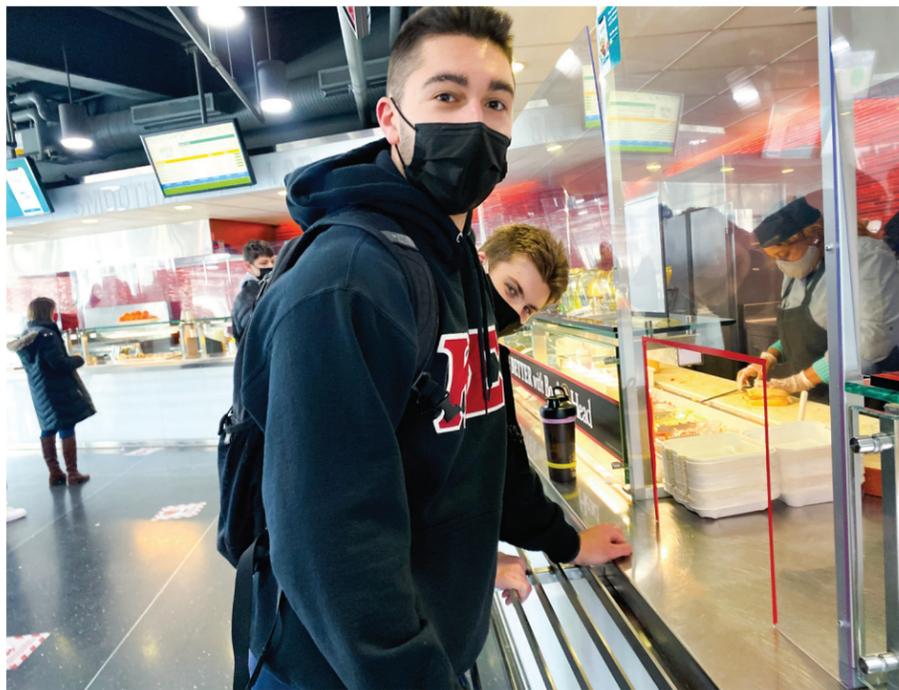
“We made quite a few changes and enhancements to the dining program this semester. Not only did we transition our salad station to incorporate on-trend Mediterranean dishes, we also rebranded our smoothie station and menu to offer new items,” said Hawley.

Due to COVID-19, many students have turned to the Boost app and the Dine on Campus website to check out what is offered for the day. The website not only displays the exact food but the calories that go along with the meal.

“It was nice and quick to grab lunch and get back to my busy day,” said Martinelli.

The SHU Dining social media can also be used to obtain information. Weather-permitted closing times can be seen on the SHU Dining Twitter. Their Instagram provides pictures of new foods. Various videos can be seen welcoming students back to campus to catch them up with what’s new.

“Across campus at all of our dining locations, you can find new menu items added as well as a variety of weekly and monthly specials,” said Hawley.



FRANCESCA CAMPAGNO/SPECTRUM

A GROWING CAMPUS MEANS MORE PLACES TO EAT, WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW DINING HALL COMING IN FALL 2021 AND NEW VARIETY AT LINDA’S, THERE ARE MANY MORE DINING OPTIONS FOR SACRED HEART STUDENTS.

# Spotlight



## Finding a Safe Space

ANDREW KANE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Within the past year, COVID-19 has brought about unprecedented challenges. These include long- and short-term mental health struggles which may have existed before the pandemic or were created by it.

In a normal year, college students have to balance academics, social life, potential homesickness and personal struggles, to name a few. However, this past year has been anything but normal. Academic programs are now hybrid or completely virtual, social distancing is as common as apple pie, and in-person activities have either been postponed or severely restricted in terms of the number of people that can attend.

All of this has put a mental strain on students. Thankfully, there is an answer for those looking to make sense of their personal and pandemic-related struggles: the Sacred Heart Counseling Center.

James Geisler, the Acting Director of Student Wellness Services, offered some starting points.

“All of our services are currently virtual,” Geisler said. “If students want to schedule an appointment, they can contact our office manager Alyssa. They’ll get set up with an initial screening which lasts between 30-45 minutes. The purpose of the screening is to see if they fall within our scope of services, and then we’ll assign them to a weekly counselor.”

Among the scope of services offered is short-term care with possibilities for long-term care in which the center would help the student find a qualified therapist. According to the Counseling Center website, they will be given a list of local, outside referrals and will be responsible for all costs incurred.

“We follow this model because we are only here during the school year,” said Kara Pacewicz, a new counselor on the staff. “Our goal is to help students feel confident and comfortable to function well during their everyday life on campus outside of our sessions.”

For students, one benefit of having short-term counseling is going through sessions from the comfort of their own dorm room. Geisler says it eliminates all the traditional bells and whistles of therapy.

“If students are feeling overwhelmed and that getting across campus might be too much for them, they can just simply log in and log out and get right to their homework,” he said. “They don’t have to walk, fill out forms, ride the elevator, etc. It’s less intimidating for them.”

Even though modern technology can make therapy less intimidating for students, there are ways that students can cope on their own until they are more comfortable with the idea of seeing a counselor.

“I think coming up with a self-care routine is something that all of us as individuals should do, and it is helpful for coping with daily life stressors,” said Pacewicz. “Students should definitely look into developing coping strategies to help them manage any physical symptoms that they might be experiencing. Another idea is to reach out to members of their support system.”

Even if students decide to go their own way in terms of mental health, the Counseling Center will still be an option for them to pursue if they need a confidential, safe space.

Geisler is optimistic about the future of the center. He said, “My goal as the acting director is to reduce the stigma associated with seeking counseling. If we can create that culture here, I think we will be in a really good place to help the student body moving forward.”

If you would like to make an appointment with the SHU Counseling Center, please call 203-371-7955 and they will set up a virtual session with you. If no one answers, leave a voicemail and they will return your call.



CARLY JULIUS/SPECTRUM

WITH THE STRESS AND ANXIETY THAT COMES WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IT IS IMPORTANT TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO RELIEVE SOME OF THOSE ANXIETIES.

# Fashion Sports in Style

BY ELIZABETH COYNE  
Assistant A&E Editor

The fashion industry and sports culture are often collaborative, with fashion playing a part in the creation of athletic clothing and sports assisting in the popularity of new styles and materials.

Uniforms are often worn during sporting events to ensure players are comfortable and efficient while participating. However, the clothing also works as a creative outlet for designers and athletes to communicate on what will best support the player’s performance.

Additionally, the uniforms may be crafted specifically to express the sport team’s identity with the use of colors, player’s names or even the team’s mascot.

Sacred Heart University staff and students commented on the example of uniforms being a way in which fashion and sports can effectively work together.

“I have watched with great interest how the basketball uniforms have changed in The National Basketball Association (NBA), from the league’s inception in the early 1950’s until today, and how the African-American players have driven the fashion and the culture,” said Prof. David Bloom, head of the fashion marketing and merchandising department at Sacred Heart University.

“I think sports and fashion can very well go hand in hand. I know when teams have good or attractive uniforms or make big changes to them, it draws a lot of attention and can positively impact the fan base and the viewers,” said sophomore Brian McNamara.

Collaborations between the fashion and sports industries are also often done for charitable benefit or promotion. For example, The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), a not-for-profit trade association of over 450 American fashion and accessory designers, has previously partnered with the NFL to raise money for charity.

Timed to help celebrate Super Bowls 48 and 50, The CFDA and Bloomingdale’s collaborated on the creation and auction of 48 custom football helmets and 50 custom footballs. These helmets and footballs were designed and decorated by members of the CFDA with 100% of the earnings going to the NFL Foundation.

Many students at Sacred Heart responded positively to this collaboration of sports and fashion culture.

“I think the fashion industry has become such a unique growing partner for the NFL by incentivizing equipment to promote numerous charities and create more opportunities to give back,” said senior William O’Connell.

Social media can also play a big part in the unity between sports and fashion, with many athletes using their online influence to promote or sell clothing. Often, the athlete is being paid via sponsorship to advertise certain clothing or companies on their social media pages. However, some players choose to freely share their own style at their audience’s request.

“With NFL players gaining more attention every year through social media, this has led to players using those accounts to express values they want incorporated into their brand,” said O’Connell.

Many athletes have built up a large following, resulting in them being closely looked at for sports inspiration as well as what is up-and-coming in fashion.

“Such players as Isiah Thomas, Hakeem Olajuwon and Michael Jordan have led fashion both on and off the court,” said Bloom. The shorts then and today have moved down to the tops of the knees, made of soft flowing materials, so that these amazing athletes can soar.”



THE TODAY SHOW

THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH FASHION AND SPORTS CAN BE COLLABORATIVE, THROUGH UNIFORMS, SHOES AND MUCH MORE.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Taylor's Version of "Love Story" & "Fearless"

BY JACKIE O'ROURKE & CARLY JULIUS  
A&E Editor, Staff Writer

On Feb. 12, Taylor Swift released a re-recorded version of her hit single "Love Story." The single is from Swift's sophomore album "Fearless," which won the Grammy for Album of the Year in 2010. "Fearless" is also the most-awarded country album of all time.

Swift has re-recorded the entire album and will be releasing it as "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" soon. The new album will also include six never-before-heard songs from the vault.

"Taylor Swift definitely saved 2020 with her multiple album releases," said junior Carly Niemiec. "She only continues to make 2021 better with her announcement of her re-recordings."

"I'm thrilled to tell you that my new version of 'Fearless (Taylor's Version)' is done and will be with you soon. It has 26 songs including six never-before-released songs from the vault," said Swift in an Instagram post on Feb. 11.

Swift has not announced a release date for the new version of the album yet. However, according to Mark Kennedy of AP, "A statement she posted on Twitter included a hidden message using only the capital letters which reads: April Ninth."

"I am excited for her to re-release her albums," said senior Rachel Bates. "I hope this shows young artists that are looking to be signed by record companies to be careful."

During the summer of 2019, Scooter Braun, who manages artists such as Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato and Ariana Grande, purchased Big Machine Records, which was led by Scott Borchetta. Taylor Swift was previously signed to this label and recorded her first six albums with them. Therefore, Scooter Braun now owns the master rights to Swift's first six albums.

"I feel sad for Taylor Swift, she is so talented and inspiring, and her ownership of her music was taken away from her at such a young age," said Bates.

In a Tumblr post from June 23, 2019, Swift said, "When I left my masters in Scott's hands, I made peace with the fact that eventually he would sell them. Never in my worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scooter. Any time Scott Borchetta has heard the words 'Scooter Braun' escape my lips, it was when I was either crying or trying not to. He knew what he was doing; they both did. Controlling a woman who didn't want to be associated with them. In perpetuity. That means forever."

"This is so wrong; artists should be able to own rights to their creations. The record label owner would never be able to create something like 'Love Story,' so he should not be able to own any of it," said senior Shayna Finocchiaro.

"Fearless (Taylor's Version)" is just the first of all six albums that Swift plans to re-record and re-release so that she will own the masters to those recordings.

"This process has been more fulfilling and emotional than I could've imagined and has made me even more determined to re-record all of my music. I hope you'll like this first outing as much as I liked traveling back to recreate it," said Swift in her Feb. 11 Instagram post.

Even though the release date of the new version of the album has yet to be confirmed,

when you download the single of "Love Story (Taylor's Version)," you can automatically preorder the new album to your library wherever you listen to music.

"I like the new song better than I like the original and I do like the whole idea of her taking charge and redoing her old music and reinventing it," said sophomore Ellie Kiernan. "It seems like she's making it all for her. I also can't believe she made it even more catchy."

"'Love Story' was one of my favorite songs and her new revival of it has easily joined my favorite playlist," said Niemiec. "It's the first song I play when I get into the car and I can't wait for more to come."



PEOPLE MAGAZINE  
TAYLOR SWIFT HAS RE-RECORDED A VERSION OF "LOVE STORY" FROM HER SECOND ALBUM, "FEARLESS," AND RELEASED IT AGAIN AS A SINGLE.

## Gina Carano Let Go From Lucasfilm

BY CHLOE CURTIS  
Staff Writer

Actor Gina Carano no longer has an affiliation with Lucasfilm production company after posting a statement on social media comparing her experiences in the present-day political climate to those of a Jewish person during the Holocaust.

Carano, who played the role of Cara Dune on the Disney+ series "The Mandalorian," has faced no shortage of social media backlash over the past year from Instagram and Twitter users alike.

The most recent controversial statement was posted to Carano's Instagram story.

In the post, Carano said, "Because history is edited, most people don't realize that to get to the point where Nazi soldiers could easily round up thousands of Jews, the government first made their own neighbors hate them simply for being Jews. How is that any different from hating someone for their political views?"

Instagram stories disappear after twenty-four hours of posting; however, Carano deleted the post well before then due to the backlash.

In Sept. 2020, Carano wrote "beep/bop/boop" in her Twitter bio, and was accused of mocking the transgender community and usage of specific pronouns. Shortly after, she shared anti-mask-wearing memes relating to the COVID-19 pandemic on her Twitter account.

These controversial statements made by Carano have since led to the viral hashtag, "#fireGinaCarano." The hashtag was made to bring awareness to what Carano had posted and persuade Lucasfilm to fire the actor in addition to removing her from the show.

This hashtag and other similar actions contribute to the 21st century term "cancel culture," a form of online shaming that produces an unforgiving environment to specific targets. This can result in the target losing their fan base, career opportunities, and more.

Carano lost her TV role on "The Mandalorian" and plans for her own TV spin-off that was set to premiere on Disney+.

Carano is not the first celebrity to get caught up in cancel culture. She joins singer Lana Del Rey and YouTube star Shane Dawson, who have both been shamed for previous controversy.

Many debate on whether the actions taken against these individuals are too harsh, and if they are worthy of forgiveness.

"If they believe they did something wrong and they want to fix that, I believe there is always room for that in our society," said Sacred Heart University's Rabbi Marcelo Kormis.

After the comments made by Carano, many of her followers find it difficult to view her in the same positive light as they did before her statements.

"I think what Carano said was wrong, but I try to look for ways to forgive people who have made mistakes," said freshman Isabella Bodak. "I think that if she can realize

what she said wasn't right and genuinely apologize, she can still be successful on the big screen."

While the effects of cancel culture are usually long-lasting, there are multiple instances of celebrities who have made comebacks. An example would be TV personality Jimmy Fallon, who was seen wearing blackface in footage from 2000 that went viral in 2020. Fallon apologized on Twitter and has since been able to keep a supportive following for "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

"I think that we live in a time where people are less inclined to accept discrimination," said Kormis. "People are more prone to speak up and step up against it."



CBS NEWS  
AFTER POSTING CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, GINA CARANO IS NO LONGER AFFILIATED WITH LUCASFILM AND HER ROLE ON DISNEY+'S "THE MANDALORIAN."

# Sports

## Lance Tan Selected to International Olympic Committee Program

BY TOMMY KOUREBANAS  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 1, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) selected sophomore fencer Lance Tan to their Youth Leadership Program. A pre-med student, Tan and 24 other student athletes around the globe will be guided toward starting their own businesses, using sports as a catalyst to promote positive social change in their communities.

Out of 350 applicants, Tan is among 12 men and 13 women selected from five continents to earn this honor. According to the IOC, youth leaders have centered 116 sport-related projects on education, social inclusion, sustainability and well-being for over 300,000 people worldwide.

"It's like being a tiny pebble in the pond," said Tan. "The biggest thing for me is just inspiring not only this generation, but the future as well."

The program, which is entering its fifth year, has extended its annual model to a four-year experience. For Tan, his plan is to benefit underprivileged athletes in the Philippines through educational and athletic mentorship.

"As a dual-national, I am in this unique position that I am a Philippines national, but also grew up and trained here in the States," said Tan. "I would love to find a way for my network and background to help others and to provide others the same opportunity."

During the program, Tan will have access to experts on a wide array of topics to support him and his business. He will also be funded with 10,000 Swiss Franc, which translates to nearly \$11,160 dollars.

The Olympic partner, Panasonic, as well as Adidas Sports Hub will also be funding the young leaders.

Compared to the program's initial six-week learning sprint last November, Tan will participate in weekly modules remotely.

"Obviously, I'd love to do it in person. That would be the biggest goal," said Tan. "But with COVID right now, I guess the safest option would be to do it remotely for the time being, which is what a lot of the program was learning for the IOC."

The Young Leaders serve as ambassadors of Olympism, a philosophy that blends sport, culture, education and social responsibility.

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, Tan discovered Olympism when he qualified for the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2018).

"The Olympics and Olympism are more than sports," said Tan. "It is also about the Olympic values and helping the world become a better place through the power of sports, which value excellence, respect and friendship."

With this addition to his schedule, Tan remains confident in his time management skills.

"I think the biggest thing is staying organized," he said. "I always believe in schedules, and then sticking with the plan and making sure that you've committed the right amount of time to everything."

Tan placed 21st in the foil at the 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

Regional and earned a gold medal for the Pioneers at the New England Intercollegiate Fencing Conference Championship. Internationally, Tan participated in two World Championships, one in Wuxi (2018) and one in Budapest (2019).

"He's a great fencer, plus he started very well," said head coach Yury Molchan. "He can show his experience with his teammates, especially ones who aren't rated, who just started fencing."

Molchan recognized the impact Tan could have with his selection.

"I think it's a great opportunity to develop some sport and contribute to this and everything in his country, the Philippines," said Molchan. "It's great for many generations."

Tan and the fencing team will compete at Boston College against several other schools on Saturday, Feb. 20.



NYU ATHLETICS  
SACRED HEART SOPHOMORE FENCER LANCE TAN WAS SELECTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO PARTAKE IN THEIR YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

## Women's Soccer Begins Season With High Expectations

BY ROBERT FINIZIO  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 10, the Northeast Conference (NEC) Coaches' Preseason Poll projected Sacred Heart University women's soccer to finish third overall in the division behind Fairleigh Dickinson at number two and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) as the unanimous favorite, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

Junior captain Hannah Busch believes that the polls are an accurate preview to the upcoming season, but she still believes they will exceed the expectations of many.

"I think the poll is appropriate because of the work we put in last season," said Busch. "The polls fuel our fire to do better than anticipated, and we are ready to prove everyone wrong."

According to Sacred Athletics, last season the Pioneers finished fourth in the NEC with a 9-8-2 record, earning them a bid into the playoffs. The Pioneers were taken down in the first round by the championship favorite CCSU.

The Pioneers hoped to bounce right back in the fall the following year, but their season was postponed until the spring due to COVID-19.

It had been 461 days since the Pioneers played their last match before they played a 0-0 double overtime draw against Fordham University on Feb. 10 in the Bronx, N.Y. Sophomore goalkeeper Elyssa Kipperman registered four saves.

"Playing that first game, we were all really high-intensity," said senior Hannah Proodian. "We were all really excited and just ready to go back out on the field."

The Sacred Heart Athletics program allowed the women's soccer team as well as other sports to work out and practice during their vacant season in the fall. Coach Matt Micros, in his third year as the head coach, made sure his team was ready to go in the spring.

"Coach wanted us to be in the best shape and to play as much as possible during the off season to be prepared for the spring season," said Busch. "We all had the right mentality to work as hard as we could in the off season so that we could have a successful spring season."

According to Sacred Heart Athletics, the structure of the NEC playoffs has been changed as well. Instead of the top four teams qualifying, just the top two teams will qualify and face off in a single elimination championship game on the weekend of April 16.

A slew of young talent and depth will be brought to the field this year at Sacred Heart with 31 players returning this season, as well as 13 freshmen being added to the squad.

"I think it's amazing how much talent and range we have on this team," said junior Mia Nikolakopoulos. "As much of a struggle it can be sometimes with such a large roster, it is incredibly motivating and impressive to know that you are surrounded by a lot of talented young females."

On Feb. 18, the Pioneers will head up to Storrs, Conn. for a matchup against the University of Connecticut Huskies. Then, Sacred Heart has one more non-conference game against St. John's University on Feb. 25 before beginning conference play against

Fairleigh Dickinson on Mar 2.

"We want a ring. That's an overall goal for the team. Win every game, every conference game, make it to the conference again, and just beat everyone," said Proodian.



SACRED HEART ATHLETICS  
THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE PRESEASON POLL PROJECTED THAT SACRED HEART WOMEN'S SOCCER WOULD FINISH THIRD OVERALL IN THE DIVISION.

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## *A Glimpse into the Life of an Aspiring Author*

**JILL AMARI**

MANAGER OF AUDREY'S CORNER

Those of you who have read my previous editorial may remember that I'm passionate about protecting the environment, but something you may not know about me is that I am equally passionate about writing.

Maybe that's obvious because I'm writing for The Spectrum, but my passion has been growing since long before I entered college. For as long as I can remember, I've had a proclivity for reading and writing. I can't go anywhere without a book and some pen and paper in case I get any bursts of inspiration. My writing journey started with song lyrics (I was quite the little pop star when I was in kindergarten), then grew to include short stories, poems, and the beginnings of books.

Even though I've wanted to be a writer since a young age, that passion hasn't always been easy to remember. As I write this, I'm winding down after a night of several meetings, all of which involved writing of some kind. One was for my internship (I'm an editor for MUD Magazine), another was for my local library's monthly writing group, and the last was for the English Club here at SHU. All three are absolutely wonderful, and I love being a part of them, but I must admit that being a writer can be tiresome and difficult at times.

For one, writing is very lonely. What begins as an eager journey to have my voice heard through writing can quickly become a long and solitary one, especially because not everyone understands why I enjoy reading or writing so much. When I tell people I'm an English major with minors in French and writing, they usually give me a wide-eyed response that goes something like, "Wow, good for you. I could never be an English major" or "I can't imagine how hard that must be. I hate reading."

To some, reading and writing are chores that they'd rather not do. And here I am, doing both for fun.

Being a writer can also mean it's hard to fit in with or make time for others, especially if they're not used to my sudden bursts of inspiration when I scramble to find a pen and paper (or a napkin...or my hand), or when I tell my friends to wait just a moment because I'm at the conclusion of a gripping scene and just have to finish it (and then rant about it to anyone who will listen, of course).

Fortunately, the writing journey doesn't feel like that all the time. Mostly, it's fun and exciting and rewarding.

I'm lucky enough to be able to call myself a published author

in the sense that several of my works have been in literary magazines, The Spectrum and MUD Magazine. But I'm still optimistic that I can reach the ultimate goal of publishing a book, which, in my eyes, would make me a "true" published author.

I want to be able to make a positive impact on people's lives through the words I write on a page and the characters I create. I get ideas for new stories all the time, but I've tried to focus on one series that I started writing the summer after eighth grade graduation. That's over five years of hard work, and despite how far I've come since then, sometimes it feels as though I've made very little progress.

It takes a lot of time to write a book, but it takes even longer to get it published. First, I have to decide if I want to self-publish or find a traditional publisher. Both require a lot of time and effort (and money), but I'm opting for a traditional publisher.

However, to get to that point, I need to find a literary agent... which requires networking, going to writers' conferences, and joining writing groups like the one at my library. Not to mention having a completed manuscript that's been edited about a million times, asking beta readers to give it a test read, and writing a query letter.

Maybe that's all meaningless gibberish to you. For a while, it was to me, too. In fact, I never wanted to be published in the first place. I just wanted to write a book by myself, for myself, so I never paid much attention to the publishing process. It wasn't until my book really started to expand and some of my friends read excerpts that I realized I wanted to share it with the world.

While I'm confident that I can achieve my goal of becoming a "true" published author, I know that there's a long and bumpy road ahead of me. Even though attending all these writing-based meetings and working as a writer and editor are great places to start, they also remind me of how much more work I need to do and how much I have yet to learn.

I'm nowhere near reaching my ultimate goal, but I'll keep going because I'm doing what I love. And I hope that with more hard work, dedication and imagination, I can someday introduce myself as Jill Amari, author.

## *What Sports Have Done for My Life*

**JOE SCIANCALOPORE**

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

My entire life has revolved around sports. If you ask anyone close to me, whether that be family or friends, they will probably say that I have a crazy sports obsession. For the first 18 years of my life, my daily routine after school was watching SportsCenter and other ESPN shows as I ate afternoon snacks and did my homework, then going to my practices or games.

When I wasn't watching or playing sports, I was researching: finding stats and understanding sports and their athletes more. I started playing soccer when I was three and still play it to this day; I played baseball and football until I was 12, and I casually play basketball and lacrosse with my friends. I have played in games and tournaments in over ten different states along the East Coast, as well as been blessed with the opportunity to play soccer internationally in Italy and the Philippines. Physically, sports have helped me not to look like a scrawny frail person who can go flying with the wind at any moment.

Running for hours almost every day has not given me the stamina it should, but it allows me not to feel sore or tired after a couple days of running. And for a lot of people, they think sports only help your physical strength and make you more active when you get older, but for me, sports have helped me with the mental side of my body exponentially more than my physical side.

Sports have given me such a strong and motivating mentality and have given me the confidence to do anything I put my mind to. That constant running and being pushed to the limit allows

me to not feel overwhelmed when I have deadlines to meet with assignments because, in my mind, I have been through much worse. I credit the mentality I have of meeting those deadlines and being on time for class, meetings, or interviews to sports because if I was late for a game or practice, there would be consequences.

If I missed an assignment or any important meetings or classes, I knew there would be bigger consequences than missing a sports event. I have been a part of teams that have finished last place, lost in tournament finals, and lost in the most embarrassing ways, and most of the time, we end up on top the next time we go against those same teams.

With that being said, sports have also taught me that there will be times when you will get knocked down, whether it's getting a bad grade on a project or having a tough time completing a task (like figuring out what to write for this editorial), but it's about how you recover and get back up.

Most importantly, sports have given me lifelong relationships and memories I will never forget, like going on endless road trips and losing tough games but then going on to win championships. Those are moments that always stay with you and make you feel nostalgic when you talk about them with the people you experienced them with.

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