

HEY SENIORS!

The Countdown Begins Now!

14 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION



Have a Safe and Healthy Summer Break! See you all in August!

Meet the New 2021 - 2022 Spectrum Editorial Board on Page 2

COVID-19 Cases Spike in India

BY MARIO PEDERNA
Staff Writer

On April 30, the U.S. Air Force assisted in bringing supplies to India in the wake of the region seeing a large spike in COVID-19 cases.

An article written by the Associated Press highlights the recent outbreak and records some of the staggering numbers.

According to the article, “with 386,452 new cases, India now has reported more than 18.7 million since the pandemic began, second only to the United States. The Health Ministry on Friday also reported 3,498 deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 208,330. Experts believe both figures are an undercount, but it’s unclear by how much.”

The severity of this increase in cases is not to be taken lightly, as further information in the article noted that “India has set a daily global record for more than a week with an average of nearly 350,000 infections. Daily deaths have nearly tripled in the past three weeks, reflecting the intensity of the latest surge.”

The exact reason for this sudden spike is not certain at the moment, but according to information provided by the Associated Press, experts believe it is due to new variants of the virus that are more contagious, combined with mass public gatherings like religious events and political rallies.

Students at Sacred Heart University were notified of the crisis in an email written to the university by President Petillo, in which he let everyone know what the situation was and how the population of India should be in everyone’s thoughts and prayers, as well as remembering them in masses this weekend.

“Our hearts and prayers go out to those in India and to the students, faculty and staff who have family and friends there,” said Petillo.

The potential danger that comes with this second wave of COVID-19 in India cannot be understated, and the U.S. is taking action to prevent any further cases.

Along with sending supplies over through the Air Force to help India, the U.S. is also planning to place a travel restriction on India.

According to the Associated Press, “Biden signed a proclamation barring entry to most foreigners who have been in India in the past 14 days, with exceptions for legal permanent residents, spouses and close family members of U.S. citizens, and some others. He cited the spread of the virus and its variants.”

“It was kind of always in the back of my head as a possibility, but I didn’t have an idea of where it would be,” said sophomore Chris

Gallagher. “I hope it gets taken care of quickly before more lives are lost, and I hope we learn as much from this as we can to make sure it doesn’t happen anywhere else.”

The mass population of India was not anticipating an event like this to occur, but people are helping on their own and doing everything they can to try and get people into hospitals and get vaccinations.

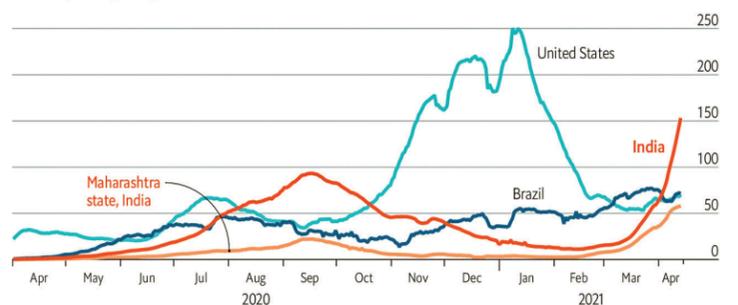
According to the Associated Press, “Three villages in Balaghat district have pooled money to convert buildings into COVID-19 care centers. They have purchased oxygen concentrators and started admitting patients. Government doctors are visiting the facilities twice a day.”

The Associated Press article also makes note of the fact that “India plans to step up a faltering vaccination drive by allowing all adults 18 and older to get their jabs from Saturday. It has so far administered 150 million vaccine doses, according to the Health Ministry.”

According to the Associated Press, as of January, almost 10% of people in India had gotten at least one dose, but only 1.5% had received both.

Subcontinental shift

Covid-19, daily new confirmed cases, '000
Seven-day moving average



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE

The Economist

THE ECONOMIST

COVID-19 CASES ARE INCREASING AT A RAPID PACE IN INDIA AS OF APRIL, AS SEEN IN THE DIAGRAM ABOVE.

“Skate With Heart” Scholarship

BY CHARLOTTE GRENS
Staff Writer

“I have been skating since I was six years old, being involved in individual skating and synchronized skating. This is my passion because I love to express myself on the ice. It serves as an escape for me from the outside world,” said senior Kiersten Keating, creator of “Skate with Heart.”

Sacred Heart University marketing student Kiersten Keating, Class of ’21, created a scholarship at Sacred Heart called “Skate with Heart,” raising money in partnership with the Diversify Ice Foundation in Maryland to help low-income families and underserved children across the country afford ice skating lessons.

“Hearing that Keating isn’t just a student athlete but also takes other time out of her life to help people who need it warms my heart,” said sophomore Gabriella Alonso. “I know first-hand being a student athlete is very vigorous.”

The scholarship Keating has created, which was her Welch Scholar project, set a goal of raising \$2,000, which, according to a Sacred Heart press release, is “enough to help five skaters afford lessons, skates, clothing, helmets and a transportation pass, if needed. So far, she has raised \$1,070 of her goal.”

“This semester, I was awarded the opportunity to become a Welch Scholar, which is a scholarship opportunity to create a year-long project of your choice,” said Keating. “I decided to create a scholarship because I knew that I wanted this project to make a difference in the community where Sacred Heart has given so much to me; I wanted to push that forward.”

According to the Sacred Heart press release, “Michael Frechette, assistant professor of marketing, said he has been one of Keating’s instructors and knows her level of work. ‘So, I was happy to be her faculty advisor for her Welch Scholar project. Skating is something that she is passionate about, which makes this a fit all around. She is a good example of what makes a Pioneer: a self-starter who has a passion and gives back to the community.’”

Originally, Keating was hoping to create her own nonprofit to bring ice skating to more children. Yet, the timing and costs that were associated with establishing a foundation altered the original plan, and she turned toward the Diversify Ice Foundation.

Although she does not want this program to end when she leaves the university, Keating is planning to work with the foundation for another year, with the hope that

Sacred Heart’s ice skating team can make “Skate with Heart” an annual effort, being that the goal is to help more children nationwide experience the happiness of skating.

“I hope to one day hand this off to the Sacred Heart club figure skating team, where I will still be involved in this project,” said Keating. “This project has impacted my life in more ways than I thought. I hit a lot of obstacles along the way, but I am so happy where it has turned out today.”

Keating has been dedicated to this project, and she worked extremely hard on promoting “Skate with Heart”: reaching out to the community via social media and on her own personal media accounts and putting up flyers at Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport, Conn., the current home of Sacred Heart’s club figure skating team.

“I have actually gone to the Instagram page, being that I needed to do my project soon,” said junior Naseim Brantley. “Seeing the dedication and detail put in has pushed me to want to create a project that has just as much impact on other lives.”

“This project has also let me be my own Pioneer, creating something bigger than themselves with the resources that they are provided,” said Keating. “As I leave SHU in a couple of weeks, this project will be the highlight of my college career.”

For more information on Kiersten Keating and “Skate with Heart,” visit the GoFundMe “Skate with Heart Scholarship” and the “Skate with Heart” Instagram @skatewithheart21.



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

KRISTEN KEATING (PICTURED ABOVE) WORKED TO CREATE THE “SKATE WITH HEART” SCHOLARSHIP TO ASSIST LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN AFFORDING ICE SKATING LESSONS.

News

CVS Glitch Causes 318 New York Residents to Be Vaccinated in Connecticut

BY RYAN DOWNEY
Staff Writer

Day by day, more and more people are receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations throughout the country. As of April 6, according to Gov. Ned Lamont, every Connecticut adult over the age of 16 is eligible to receive their vaccination, but there are still guidelines.

Pharmacies and different testing sites across the U.S. have vaccinated those who have signed up, but one site in particular has seen some issues within the past few weeks.

According to the Associated Press, CVS of Waterford, Conn. has vaccinated 318 New York residents compared to 301 Connecticut residents, as well as residents from ten other states. The vaccination of New York residents in Connecticut was due to an online computer glitch that allowed individuals to enter Long Island addresses and be directed to the Waterford site.

Connecticut Health Officials would show up to the site and find 10 people at that time in line to receive their vaccines, none of whom were actually eligible according to state guidelines.

“We need most people to be vaccinated to tame the spread of COVID-19. However, at the time the New Yorkers were vaccinated at the Connecticut CVS, appointments weren’t necessarily easy to find. If the New Yorkers took appointments Connecticut residents could have had, that’s not okay,” said Christina Gunther, Program Director of Health Sciences at Sacred Heart University.

At the vaccination site, police were called when New York residents refused to leave the line after being caught by health officials. According to the Associated Press, no arrests were made at that time.

State officials instructed those at CVS not to allow for those who received their first shot at the CVS to receive their second one there due to the error. Those who wrongfully received their first shot in Connecticut were assisted in finding a second shot in their home state.

“Whether they realized they were taking advantage of a computer glitch or not is difficult to know,” said Gunther. “CVS responded by scheduling second dose vaccines in New York. That’s all they could do, really. Administering the second doses was a matter of public health. They had to be given.”

Health Officials urge those who would like to receive their COVID-19 vaccine to keep

an eye out for updates from nearby testing sites.

“I am very happy that people got vaccinated, but it is unfortunate that some Connecticut individuals were not able to receive vaccines because of the glitch, and New York residents took their spots. The bigger issue is that CVS accidentally allowed it, and I am glad it was corrected,” said sophomore Jayden Dean.

Since this incident, according to the Associated Press, the Waterford CVS has updated their eligibility requirements on their website and will be making sure those vaccinated at their site receive their other dose under applicable guidelines.



HARTFORD COURANT
DUE TO A GLITCH IN THE CVS SYSTEM, OVER 300 NEW YORK RESIDENTS WERE ABLE TO GET VACCINATED IN CONNECTICUT.



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Perspectives

Finals Week... Two Weeks Later

BY **IANNA HANKINSON**
Staff Writer

Has the change in the finals week schedule this year impacted you?
“I have noticed that finals week is later this year,” said junior Andrea Toth. “I actually had a Snapchat memory on Tuesday from two years ago posting that it was the last day of class.”

This year, due to COVID-19, the semester began later in February, as opposed to a normal start in January. Because of this, the last day of classes is May 10, and finals week goes through May 18, as opposed to the first week of May like in previous years.

Some students who have not experienced the previous finals schedule say they are unaware of this change.

“This is my first year here, so I don’t know how much later it is compared to other years,” said freshman Aryanna Argenzio.

Similarly, other students say they are not familiar with Sacred Heart University’s normal finals week schedule but have noticed a difference in the timing compared to other universities.

“Being a transfer student, I haven’t gone through finals at Sacred Heart,” said sophomore Jordan Borkoski. “But I did realize that it does seem a bit later than normal for finals.”

Many students say a later finals week has been a positive change for the end of their semester experience.

“Having a later finals week has positively impacted my mood,” said sophomore Natalia Shepherd. “It has allowed me more time with all of the material.”

Additionally, some students say that with a later finals week comes more time to study for exams and finish assignments.

“Finals are always stressful no matter what,” said Argenzio. “But I guess a later finals week gives us more time to prepare for them.”

On the other hand, some students say they are worried about their ability to stay dedicated to their schoolwork with finals being later in the month.

“There is just a large gap between my last class on May 6 to my last final on May 18,” said Toth. “During those days with no classes or finals, I feel as though I will lose motivation toward my last final since it is so far away.”

With the changes in the finals week schedule, many students say they enjoy an earlier end to the semester because it gives them more time to themselves for their summer break.

“I prefer ending the semester earlier than later,” said sophomore Sofia Brotto. “It was nice having a long winter break, but we didn’t get a spring break. Most of us work really hard during the year and ending the semester earlier means we get more time to enjoy being outside and relax with friends and family.”

Additionally, some students say they prefer an earlier end to the semester due to the difficulty in concentrating that comes with an online semester.

“Once the weather gets nice, it’s hard to get the motivation to go to class, especially since many classes are now online,” said Borkoski.

Other students say they are indifferent when it comes to whether they prefer ending the semester earlier or later.

“It’s a mix of yes and no,” said Shepherd. “I like that I have more time with my friends when ending later, but I also feel like the work is never-ending.”

Some students say they are hopeful that by next year the final schedule will resume as normal.

“We should go back to ending classes in April as soon as possible,” said Toth.

While some students may not appreciate ending later in May, some seniors say that they will savor every last minute they have left, even if it means being at school later in the month than usual.

“Being a senior, I’m happy to be getting a few extra weeks here,” said senior Alexa Irizarry.



CHARLOTTE GRENS / SHU SPECTRUM

DUE TO COVID-19, SACRED HEART HAS PUSHED FINALS WEEK BACK, AND SOME STUDENTS DON'T MIND THE CHANGE, WHILE OTHERS PREFER IT BE EARLIER AS IT HAS BEEN IN PAST YEARS.

Summer Break Plans

BY **FRANCESCA MCCAFFREY**
Staff Writer

As you close up your laptop to finish your last final, you feel a weight lifted off your shoulders. The stressful year you have powered through is finally over and the summer is yours. You start to pack up your dorm that you lived in for the year and head back home where you spend the next few months.

But what does your summer look like?

“My plans for this summer include working a lot, due to me having to pay for my off-campus house next year, working out and spending time with my friends and family. I also plan on relaxing due to the stressful school year that I’ve had,” said sophomore Jordan Bortko.

Whether it is vacations, working or simply relaxing, students have different plans for their summer break.

Due to COVID-19, many students were not able to enjoy summer to its full potential last year, and working their usual summer jobs was a struggle due to many businesses not being open because of the pandemic.

“I will be working in a medical office this summer, which was postponed last summer due to COVID-19,” said sophomore Juliana Beaton.

Not only did COVID-19 prevent students from working at their summer jobs, it stopped them from doing things such as going on vacations and gathering with family and friends, which are summer activities that many look forward to most during their months off from school.

“This summer, I am planning to go to Aruba with my family, which we couldn’t do last summer,” said sophomore Jenna Dimech. “My brother is also planning on having a graduation party that my whole family will now be able to attend.”

Some students say they will keep in mind that COVID-19 is still very active, as well as the precautions that come with it. Others say they want to enjoy summer the way it used to be but will still remember to consider the importance of everyone’s health.

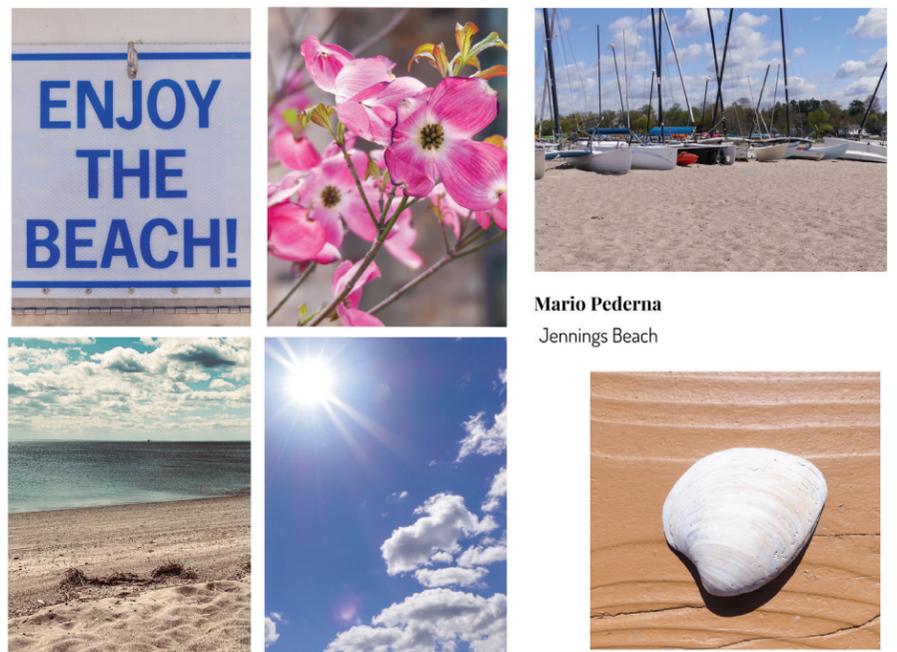
“I will still follow COVID-19 precautions during the summer by wearing a mask and keeping a safe six-foot distance from those who I am not associated with,” said sophomore Julia Cunningham.

In addition, leaving for summer break means leaving Sacred Heart for a few months. Students say they will miss many things while being away from campus for the summer.

“While home, I will miss SHU in general. I love the campus atmosphere, especially since it’s so pretty in the spring,” said sophomore Brianna Ramos. “I will also miss the independence and being able to walk over to my friends’ dorms.”

Since many students at Sacred Heart live in all different states, they will be separated from their friends they have made at college while home for the summer.

“I will miss being with all of my friends that don’t live by me because I see them every single day and over the summer I will not see them as often,” said Beaton.



Mario Pederna
Jennings Beach

MARIO PEDERNA / SHU SPECTRUM

WITH THE SEMESTER COMING TO AN END, SHU STUDENTS ARE THINKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENT WAYS THEY PLAN ON SPENDING THEIR SUMMER BREAKS.

Features

Bridgeport Rescue Mission

BY MAISY CARVALHO
Assistant Features Editor

In 2019, The Bridgeport Rescue Mission (BRM) purchased a former nursing home on 725 Park Ave. in Bridgeport with plans to renovate it into their new location for their “Renewed Life Residential Program.”

The program is designed to provide women and children who do not have a stable living environment with a place to call home.

The BRM website states, “Our ultimate goal is to help homeless and hurting women gain long-term stability and a better life for their families and to provide children with a safe, nurturing environment to prevent generational homelessness.”

With construction still underway, the BRM has a projected opening date by the end of the summer; however, one room with a story behind it has already had its ribbon cutting ceremony.

On Tuesday, April 26, Daniel Thomas and his wife commemorated the “Pamela Thomas Room.” A place that once almost stopped his mother from furthering her professional career will now lift others to take their next step.

“It’s her room,” said Thomas, who is a realtor broker and member of Sacred Heart University’s Board of Trustees. “It’s going to be named the ‘Pamela Thomas Room,’ there’s going to be a plaque on it, she’ll have her own quote there and forever she’ll be etched in this building as a part of her story.”

The story starts in 1987, when Pamela Thomas worked in the kitchen of the nursing home on 725 Park Ave. as her first job in Bridgeport. With four kids at home, she was taking night classes to get her Certified Nurses License (CNA). When she asked her boss for two weeks off to do her clinicals, she was denied. Nervous to make the wrong decision, Pamela Thomas took the two weeks and lost her job at the nursing home, but she received a permanent CNA position at a hospital.

Fast forward 33 years, and her son, Daniel Thomas, has been volunteering for BRM with his wife and children, donating canned goods and making financial donations. When he learned about the location for the “Renewed Life Residential Program” project, he had flashbacks from his mother’s time working there and the roadblock it caused in their life.

Thomas made the decision to donate \$12,500 to the organization to fully fund a residential room.

Rachael Lachowski is the Senior Development Specialist at BRM and helps with fundraising. She graduated from Sacred Heart in 2017 and lived in Bridgeport for her junior and senior year.

“I think I was blinded to the fact that I lived in Bridgeport but didn’t know how much of a need there was,” said Lachowski. “We hear about it, but we don’t see it.”

Women who go through the “Renewed Life Residential Program” will receive case managers to help facilitate their next step in life. A learning center and work-training program will be available to them as well.

“It’s going to be a home for them,” said Lachowski. “To be able to transition into hopefully a permanent home for them. Freedom from traumatic situations that they are going through and that hope that, ‘Okay, I can do this. I can get myself back on my feet with just a little help.’ It’s a safe haven for them to rest and move on to the next step.”

Frank Williams is the CEO of BRM and has dedicated his life to serving underprivileged communities.

“There’s going to be some wonderful opportunities here for students and others that are part of the Sacred Heart community to engage in,” said Williams. “We have a very robust volunteer engagement model on our website to see opportunities to engage in.”

BRM is committed to others seeing their donation in action. The “Renewed Life Residential Program” has packages available for anyone wanting to contribute to the project, from donating \$2.50 to buy a meal for one person and \$5 for a children’s toy to being a part of something greater, like partially or fully funding a room.

These opportunities are all available on the BRM website.

“As we get ready to become global citizens, we have to see the rest of the world,” said Thomas. “So if we can get more students to come into Bridgeport to come and see where other people are starting, and understand it, it will give them better perspective.”

Pamela Thomas plans to come at Thanksgiving time to see the room donated in her name. She says she wants to make dessert for everyone staying and working at “Renewed Life Residential Program.”

“Full circle wise, I know there is going to be another little Daniel Thomas who walks through this room, his mom will have a training center and won’t have to do 6 p.m. shifts while he’s at home with his sisters,” said Daniel Thomas. “He’ll be right here, and go to school across the street, and hopefully one day he’ll buy the next building for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. You never know.”



MAISY CARVALHO / SHU SPECTRUM

THE BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION WORKS TO HELP HOMELESS WOMEN GAIN LONG-TERM STABILITY, AND IN WORKING TOWARD THAT GOAL, THEY RECENTLY PURCHASED A FORMER NURSING HOME AS A NEW LOCATION.

IDEA Lab Week

BY MAI TAKAISHI
Staff Writer

From April 26 to 30, the Sacred Heart University IDEA (Innovate, Design, Engineer, Apply) Lab held virtual and in-person events.

The objective of the IDEA Lab is to challenge Sacred Heart students to learn more about the subjects they are studying. The lab gives opportunities to demonstrate innovation and design techniques while working with a team of peers.

“The IDEA Lab is a creative environment where students develop their ideas from concepts to realities. IDEA Lab week is a wonderful opportunity for students, teachers, family and friends to see some of the projects,” said junior Michael Ohara, one of the student participants.

According to Dr. Martha Crawford, Dean of the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology, in a video posted on the IDEA Lab website, “We have to help them to have the skills which make them career-ready tomorrow, but also the skills of how to continue to learn, how to continue to integrate these new technologies for the future.”

There are many kinds of themes in these events, such as industry and research projects, sensors and computation and 3D printing. The hosts introduce students and the projects they are working on, such as finding the best guitar sound and making robots.

Students who want to work on their hands-on projects are participating in these events. The IDEA Lab is also a place for encouraging students to learn about prototyping, which is a model version of a product.

The IDEA Lab has classes not only about engineering but also fashion and marketing. Many students share their ideas in this learning environment, which inspires them to express creative ideas and other interests.

According to the Sacred Heart official IDEA Lab website, “The IDEA Lab facilitates a transdisciplinary, problem-based, community engaged innovation environment through digital fabrication and advanced manufacturing.”

The IDEA Lab has a variety of equipment, such as 3D printers and laser cutters, for making the best learning environment for students. It is hard to use the equipment in their usual classes, so the IDEA Lab staff also serve to teach students how to use it.

The lab is designed to provide many benefits for Sacred Heart students because it encourages their knowledge and skills through these special opportunities and lectures.

“Students are exposed to project-based learning in the lab and encouraged to innovate. With the experienced lab staff, students are able to work on their own projects as well as getting help on their hands-on class project,” said Tolga Kaya, Director of Engineering and host of the events.

Ohara is working to make the Compass Game, which is a device designed to help kindergarten students learn how to read compass directions. He dedicated a lot of time to making this project in the IDEA Lab.

“I really appreciate the developing and demonstrating that we do in the IDEA Lab,” said Ohara. “It prepares us for the next step, keeping a job and excelling.”

Currently, there are more than 100 students who use the IDEA Lab, and Kaya has plans to increase interest even more.

“We want to reach out to more students and faculty via workshops, events and classes,” said Kaya.

The IDEA Lab staff and students have put in much effort to improve the IDEA Lab, and they always have conversations for making the learning environment more attractive to Sacred Heart students.

“We have more training programs, access to more printers and more student experts,” said Ohara. “Within this environment, it is becoming easier and easier to learn and make things. There will always be learning curves. The payoff is worth it. We are becoming Artisans of Technology.”



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

IDEA LAB WEEK WAS HELD DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL, AND ITS INTENT WAS TO CHALLENGE STUDENTS AND DEEPEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS.

Spotlight



Appreciating Kindness through Graphic Design

JILL AMARI

MANAGER OF AUDREY'S CORNER

A common theme throughout this semester—for Audrey's Corner and in the general Sacred Heart University community—has been kindness: treating people with compassion, adapting acts of generosity to fit within pandemic guidelines and finding new ways to bring joy to others.

Over the past few months, we've presented creative works, informative pieces, helpful tips and opinionated articles. We've invited artists and photographers to share their talents with the community and broaden the range of topics in Audrey's Corner. We've also worked to remember and honor Audrey Niblo, whose kindness, positivity and passion for journalism continues to inspire all contributors.

As we wrap up the semester, we hope you have enjoyed what Audrey's Corner has offered. We are very excited to continue to expand and hope you will support our efforts in our journey forward.

For our final piece this spring, we are excited to present a few graphic design pieces that focus on our theme of kindness. We hope you enjoy these beautiful works and have a relaxing and refreshing summer filled with kindness.

Images created by Brendan Williams.



Fashion

The Academy Awards Fashion Report

BY ELIZABETH COYNE
Assistant A&E Editor

On April 25, the 93rd Annual Academy Awards aired live from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. The red carpet featured looks from a variety of designers, both classic and modern, and were all worn by the most popular faces in film.

In a New York Times article, Fashion Director Vanessa Friedman said, "The dress code was 'Inspirational and Aspirational,' and the theme of the evening was 'Bring your movie love.' Combine those two ideas and what do you get? Fashion derived from the event itself."

According to Haute Le Mode, Amanda Seyfried wore a custom take on an Armani Prive gown. The original gown, from the spring 2021 collection, was in a royal blue shade with additional accessories. The dress was customized in a bright red for Seyfried's Oscars look.

In a YouTube video, fashion critique Luke LaMarr said, "I actually like this color on her, most of the time she goes really sweet and petite and to me this is a little bit more out there. I like the tulle. I like the deep plunging neckline, I think it's very very sweet, it's very very lovely, and just a little bit daring for Armani."

"I like the red, I think it's bold and I think she looks good," said sophomore Paige Hall. "I think it compliments her skin tone really well and is a great match for her."

According to Marie Claire, Celeste Wait wore a take on the fall 2019 collection from Gucci. Wait's look disregarded the additional accessories and short hemline worn with the original look and opted for a more subdued long black skirt. The dress was paired with a Gucci x Balenciaga fall 2021 crystalized heart bag.

In the same New York Times article, Friedman said, "Both Carey Mulligan and Andra Day, best actress nominees, channeled the man of the night and dressed à la statuette, in gold."

According to Vogue, Carey Mulligan wore Valentino Haute Couture on the Oscars red carpet. This look was originally first shown as the finale piece in Valentino's spring 2021 collection. The entire piece is made up of gold piques, which assists in helping the gown catch light even when stationary.

In the same Youtube video, LaMarr said, "I have to say though, I feel like I'm missing just a little bit of something. Whether it's jewelry or gloves, there were a lot of gloves in that Valentino collection, and also because of COVID-19, I feel like this is the perfect time to do gloves."

According to Elle, Coleman Domingo wore a bright pink Versace full piece suit. The shoulders on the suit jacket and a portion of the shirt were embroidered with silver stitching. The whole look was paired with black leather shoes along with gold hardware

and accessories.

"I really liked this look, you don't normally see that bright pink color from men on the red carpet," said sophomore Hailey Morelli. "I also really liked the pink and gold combination."

According to Fashion Consultant Bibby Gregory, artist H.E.R wore a Dundas look inspired by a previous Prince outfit worn to the Academy Awards many years ago. The entire ensemble was done in a bright violet lace and incorporated many elements such as a pant suit, headwrap and long train.

According to CNN, "At a pandemic-era Oscars, it was never going to be business as usual on the red carpet."



LA TIMES
THE OSCARS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR RED CARPET AND RED CARPET LOOKS. BUT WHO WERE THE STAND OUTS THIS YEAR?

Arts & Entertainment

Falcon and the Winter Soldier

BY MADISON PELUSO
Staff Writer

The six-episode series on Disney+ called “Falcon and the Winter Soldier,” which started in March, has officially come to an end. This series is based on what happened after Captain America passed on his shield to the new Captain America and dives deeper into the lives of the characters.

The show introduces us to new characters and continues to explore old ones from the Marvel movie franchise. Old and new, they continue to get into thrilling battles as the show goes on.

“It wasn’t predictable where they were going to end up, how they get there is always the fun part,” said Prof. Keith Zdrojowy, M.A.T. Studio Manager, Martire Broadcast Center/Adjunct Instructor in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

“Sam Wilson, played by Anthony Mackey, is an Air Force veteran who was used on secret missions in which he used a wing-type suit,” according to Marvel. “He then continues to use this suit to help Captain America and the Avengers, where he earns the name the Falcon.”

This series not only goes in-depth about the story of the new Captain America, but it also brings in a story of growth for Anthony Mackie and Sebastian Stan as the characters Sam Wilson and Bucky Barnes.

Part of Bucky’s background is him finding his way back from all the people he killed when he was the Winter Soldier and finding forgiveness in himself.

“I feel like the story was about two men finding new purpose in their life,” said senior Erin Rondi. “They were always Captain America’s friends, but his death almost helped them find a new independence and discovery within themselves.”

Along with the lesson of growth, there is also the exploration of race throughout the series.

According to the Associated Press, “Malcolm Spellman said the series will explore ‘the conflict for a Black man confronting those stars and stripes.’”

“Huge social justice, racial equality tone throughout the whole thing, with Sam Wilson being the Black Captain America,” said Zdrojowy.

At the end of episode one, titled “New World Order,” Sam gives the shield back to the U.S. government for a memorial to be put into place for Steve Rogers. The shield is taken from there and given to John Walker, who is now named the new Captain America.

“I enjoyed the twists and layers they had to the story. It was very well done and weaved perfectly into the Marvel world,” said senior Devin Gavigan.

Since the Marvel world is so unique, each movie or series leads into the story that comes next.

“Julia Louis-Dreyfus’s character is really not clear what she does,” said Zdrojowy. “In the whole show, she is part of an organization. Maybe she is part of the government, we don’t know, which leads to something else in the future.”

According to Deseret News, “Sam finally took on the role as Captain America and Bucky made peace with the fact that he can start a new life as the Winter Soldier, bringing

an end to the two running storylines of the series.”

As a result of Sam becoming the new Captain America, new possibilities open within the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) for Sam going forward as he takes on his new role. This could include the production of new films and TV series.

“I think they ended the show nicely and the end credit scene set it up nicely so there can be a second season or movie to follow,” said Rondi.

“In any Marvel thing, it never fully resolves everything, and wisely so, because if everything was resolved there would be no reason for the next thing” said Zdrojowy.



ASSOCIATED PRESS
FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER, A DISNEY+ ORIGINAL, IS BASED UPON WHAT HAPPENED AFTER CAPTAIN AMERICA PASSED HIS SHIELD ON TO THE NEXT CAPTAIN AMERICA.

SET Presents Derrick Knopsnyder

BY ELIZABETH COYNE
Assistant A&E Editor

If you peered into the Edgerton Theatre on the night of April 25, you would have seen the smiling faces and squinting eyes of laughing students. The room was dark, the stage was bright and the show had just begun.

Organized by Sacred Heart University’s Student Events Team (SET), the event featured comedian Derrick Knopsnyder, who performed an hour-long live show for Sacred Heart students. All audience members were socially distanced in their respective seating arrangements.

“I’ve been here to Sacred Heart three times before and it’s a great campus,” said Knopsnyder. “The students are always super friendly and it’s great to be here when it’s not negative 40 degrees.”

According to Neon Entertainment, Knopsnyder started doing stand up comedy after his first year of college at the age of 19. Since then, “Derrick has become one of the fastest rising comedians in Pittsburgh, and is the youngest comedian to be a regular feature act at his home club, the Pittsburgh Improv.”

“I always love a good comedian, and Derrick Knopsnyder was hysterical. I was glad we were able to get him back to campus,” said Nicholas Piselli, Office of the Student Union Graduate Assistant. “He was here a few years ago and I enjoyed him, so seeing him again was a treat.”

According to Talent Network Inc., “Derrick uses his boyish charm and quick wit to connect with audiences, but it’s his awkwardness that keeps them laughing and makes him a fan favorite wherever and whenever he hits the stage.”

“He would joke around with us based off of what he thought each of us would find funny,” said sophomore Paige Hall. “I think that experience made it more fun for everyone. Everyone was super happy when they left and laughed the whole way home.”

The show started with Knopsnyder warming up the crowd by asking for students’ names and majors. From there, the audience chuckled along as they were lightly laughed at in good fun.

Knopsnyder then went on to cover topics like relationships, drinking, college myths and the life of a McDonald’s employee. The show ended with students having the option to come up to the comedian and talk one-on-one before taking home a custom mask.

According to Knopsnyder’s personal promotional website, DKComedy.com, Knopsnyder frequently performs at other universities, including Carlow University in Pennsylvania and Washington College in Maryland.

Sacred Heart students commented on how they enjoyed the smaller show on campus in comparison to a larger event.

“I liked the experience of the comedian because it was very personal. Everyone got spoken to, and it was really fun because he was able to cater to our specific senses of

humor,” said Hall.

According to Neon Entertainment, Knopsnyder has previously received “the Stand Up To Cancer Comedy Competition in Huntington, W.Va., and was most recently named a finalist at the Cleveland Comedy Festival.”

“I think the most important thing that you can take away from life is to never take yourself too seriously and never take too many serious selfies,” said Knopsnyder.

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
ON APRIL 25, THE STUDENT EVENTS TEAM PRESENTED COMEDIAN DERRICK KNOPSYDNER FOR A LIVE AUDIENCE OF SOCIALLY DISTANCED STUDENTS.

Sports

Football Season Recap

BY **GIANNI OCCHIPINTI**
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart University Pioneers football season came to an end on Saturday, April 24, in Newark, Del. The University of Delaware Blue Hens came away with a 19-10 victory over the Pioneers and will advance to the second round of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs.

“They battled for the whole 4 quarters,” said head coach Mark Nofri. “The fact they went toe to toe with the #5 ranked team in the country and didn’t flinch makes me proud.”

The Blue Hens got an interception on the first series of the game and were able to turn it into a touchdown for a 7-0 Blue Hens lead.

The Pioneers were able to answer, tying the game with a Julius Chestnut score, and were only trailing 9-7 at the half.

“I’m proud of everyone. We had a few mistakes in the beginning, they scored first but we didn’t let it stop us. We kept fighting until the end,” said Pioneers junior quarterback Marquez McCray.

Both teams traded field goals in the second half, making the game a stand still at 12-10 Blue Hens for the majority of the half.

“We were being counted out, the media saying we were going to get beat by 20 points, but we know that’s not us,” said Pioneers junior defensive back Lamar Evans.

According to the University of Delaware Sports, the Blue Hens came into the game at 5-0 on the season and were averaging over 355 offensive yards a game. They were held to 199 yards on Saturday.

“The defense did a tremendous job, holding them to under 200 yards of offense, which hasn’t happened to them all season,” said Pioneers junior running back Julius Chestnut.

The Blue Hens came away with a fourth quarter score to make it 19-10 and essentially close the game.

Looking back, the Pioneer players view their season as a successful one.

“It’s the first time we made it to the playoffs since 2014, and it’s also the first time there was an NEC (Northeastern Conference) championship game, so for us to be the first winners of that ever is a huge accomplishment,” said McCray.

The NEC title and playoff bid is traditionally handed to the team with the best record at the conclusion of the regular season.

“Us being quote on quote ‘an NEC football team’ just shows how hard we work and how much dedication this team has,” said Chestnut.

Moving forward, the Pioneers have bigger goals than an NEC Championship.

“Usually we want to just win the NEC, but now after having that experience in Delaware, I think we raised the bar a little bit higher,” said McCray.

The 2021-22 football season is set to be played in the fall, as it typically is, and will feature an 11-game schedule, compared to this season’s modified four-game schedule, according to the NEC.

“There were a lot of hurdles we had to go over, and just going back to something maybe

close to normal, it’s relaxing and exciting,” said McCray.

According to Coach Nofri, preseason camp begins Aug. 7. This will mark the shortest turnaround the players have ever experienced.

“There’s always concerns about the player’s health and safety,” said Nofri. “We have to be smart about how we train, practice and make sure the students take care of their bodies.”

Despite the challenges, the Pioneers are ready to embark on another season.

“Going into next year, we are now conference champions, so I want to play like a conference champion,” said Evans. “I want to be a national champion.”



SHANNON SZEFINSKI / SHU SPECTRUM

THE SACRED HEART PIONEERS WRAPPED UP THEIR SPRING 2021 FOOTBALL SEASON WITH A LOSS AGAINST THE DELAWARE BLUE HENS IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE FCS PLAYOFFS, FALLING 19-10.

Cheer Team Becomes Two-Time National Champions

BY **ALEX MARCINIAK**
Staff Writer

On April 28, the Sacred Heart University cheerleading team won the 2021 Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Open Girl Game Day Nationals hosted at Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Fla. The Pioneers are two-time national champions after winning the 2020 UCA Division I All Girl National Title in 2020.

After the spread of COVID-19, which made all sporting events unlikely to happen going into the 2021 season, the tournament’s fate was questioned by the entire college cheerleading community.

However, after being postponed from its usual date in January, Sacred Heart cheer was able to come out on top with a first-place trophy.

“It’s an amazing accomplishment,” said head coach Christina Sereno. “We never thought one national title was attainable and to have achieved two is truly indescribable.”

Schools such as Morehead State and the University of West Georgia used to control the tournament in past years before the Pioneers’ championship run in 2020, with Morehead winning in 2015, 2016 and 2018 and with West Georgia winning in 2017 and 2019.

Among this year’s competition, the Avila University Eagles were a potential threat for the Pioneers when trying to achieve their second national title.

“Our biggest threat at nationals was Avila University,” said junior Christina Capito. “Going into finals, we knew what areas we needed to improve in to keep our lead in first place. Our scores with them were very close, and watching them motivated us even more to perfect our routine.”

According to the UCA, Sacred Heart defeated Avila in the finals by achieving an event score of 94.0167 with zero deductions, edging out the Eagles, who received a score of 93.4334.

The year prior, Avila was not in Sacred Heart’s division, so the Pioneers only needed to focus on competing against West Georgia and Morehead.

COVID-19 was responsible for the lack of practice that the cheer team was able to have in the spring of 2020 and how prepping for nationals this year had to be modified immensely. Like other teams at Sacred Heart, if a cheer team member was exposed to someone with the virus, they had to be quarantined for two weeks.

“This season we have had to overcome a lot of adversity with COVID-19,” said junior Tori Hanuschak. “Between not knowing when we would be able to practice again, if someone would be contact traced, so we really had to take advantage of every second of practice we had.”

The UCA hosts a number of different division-separated competitions in Orlando, Fla. After winning the Division I All Girl Title in 2020, the Pioneers decided to move divisions and compete at the UCA Open All Girl Game Day Division.

When switching divisions, the team had to compete against even better prepared squads

than the year previous.

“This year’s national title was special to us because it was the first year we entered into the game day division and even crazier that we won that division,” said Sereno.

Ending their season as national champions yet again, the cheer team will graduate 11 seniors at the end of May.

The seniors have gone through the challenges of COVID-19, won two national championships and built the program together here at Sacred Heart for the last four years.

“To be a Pioneer on the cheer team means to never back down in face of adversity,” said senior captain Victoria Jordan. “We faced a lot of challenges this season with COVID, among other things, and the girls on the team pushed through it all and chose to put in the extra time to work toward our goals and put out the best routine possible at nationals.”



@SACREDHEARTCHEER INSTAGRAM

THE SACRED HEART CHEER TEAM IS NOW TWO-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AFTER THEIR WIN AT THE UNIVERSAL CHEERLEADER’S ASSOCIATION OPEN GIRL GAME DAY NATIONALS.

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Summer... Summer... Summer

THEO HAUBRICH
PR / MULTIMEDIA MANAGER

I don't know about you, but the beginning of my summer breaks has always been defined by the iconic movie "High School Musical 2." If you have never seen this film, you are surely missing out.

According to IMDb, the plotline is as follows: "School's out for summer and the East High Wildcats are ready to make it the time of their lives after landing jobs in a wealthy country club owned by Sharpay and Ryan's family." Being the second film in the High School Musical trilogy, we follow the same characters that we met in the first film. They include Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, Chad, Taylor, Kelsi, Zeke, Martha and Jason.

There is so much more to this film that would be impossible to cover in less than 600 words. From the iconic song "What Time Is It?" that made our generation silently chant at the clock on the last day of school to the short Miley Cyrus cameo in "All for One" to Ashley Tisdale's killer acting skills as Sharpay, this movie has it all.

Seeing that the word "musical" is quite literally in the title of this film, I think it's only fitting to go through some of my favorite songs and express my thoughts. The first one that stands out to me is none other than "Fabulous," sung by Ms. Sharpay Evans. Aside from being catchy, the performance of it within the film is top tier. The piano in the pool that Ryan plays always makes me laugh, as well as when Sharpay sees Troy at the end of the song. She then goes

on to realize that his entire Wildcat friend group is now working at the country club, much to her dismay. I also love how the bright colors work together in the scene, from the dominance of pink to the yellow umbrellas/lounge chairs to the blue pool. Overall, 10/10.

Another song I absolutely love in "High School Musical 2" is "You Are the Music in Me," sung by Troy and Gabriella. I've always shipped their characters, so this one definitely made my 7-year-old-self swoon. Even now at the age of 21, I still thoroughly enjoy this song, and while listening to it would belt out all the lyrics in a heartbeat.

Another duet they did that will always have a special place in my heart is "Everyday." As I mentioned previously, I've always shipped Troy and Gabriella, so of course this reunion song at the end of the movie would make me emotional. From the beat to the lyrics to the beautiful blue and white color scheme, I always feel a sense of joy watching them mend their relationship after (spoiler!) briefly breaking up earlier in the film.

To conclude, "High School Musical 2" will always kick off each summer season for me, even when I graduate from SHU next year. I can't wait to watch it after my last final exam next week, and I hope my editorial has inspired you to do the same. Until next time, Wildcats!

The Power of Pets

MIA SANSANELLI
COPY EDITOR

If you know me, or at least follow me on Instagram, you know I love animals. I grew up with dogs and cats my entire life, and I currently have three snuggly cats - Cricket, Blu and Ollie - and two fluffy dogs - Ellie and Mo. I have such a big place in my heart for all animals, but dogs and cats are my most common occurrences. Pets share a bond with you that is unlike anything else. I have learned so much about life from having pets and have loved them more than anything else in this world.

Starting in January of 2019, I posted a daily Instagram story of a dog-related picture or video with the text, "DailyPupperPost." I rarely ever missed a day, and for two years straight I consistently posted a cute, heartwarming, funny, silly or emotional picture or video for my followers to enjoy. I started reposting these on my story from other dog accounts I followed or saw on my explore page at first for my own enjoyment. But I got such great feedback from my followers that I continued the trend and started to post other people's dogs, my own dogs and any tweets that appeared to be written from the perspective of a dog.

I've had four dogs in my lifetime, two that unfortunately had cancer and passed way earlier than we had hoped. They taught me so many things; patience, love, understanding, how to be gentle, how to sneak food off the table, how to have fun, and how to say goodbye. They brought me some of the best memories of my life, and I am forever grateful for their lasting legacies. They also made me realize that time is precious and to never take your loved ones for granted.

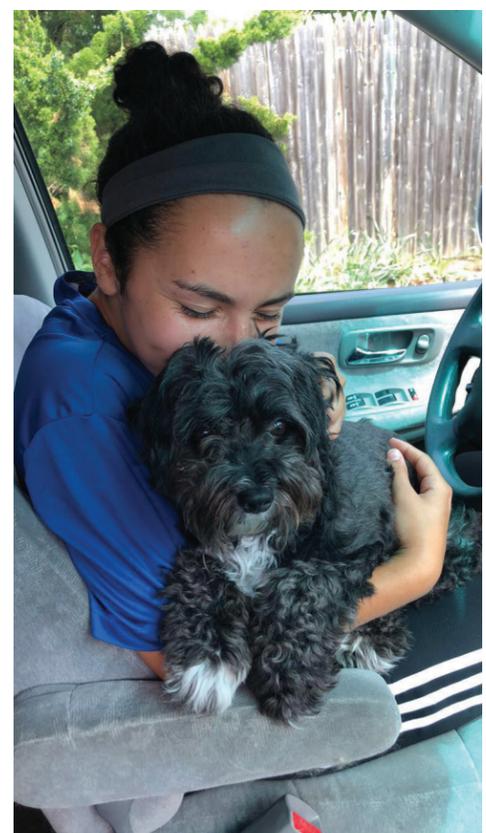
The nine cats I've had throughout my childhood have given me the pleasure of being a cat person. Cats get a bad reputation because they are not as immediately friendly as dogs for the most part. But they have also brought me so much joy and good times during my childhood.

They can recognize when you are upset, and I remember several times where my cats comforted me when I was really going through it. They have an incredible healing ability and express their love through purring, snuggles, slow blinks, meowing and kneading. They are great companions and never fail to make me laugh.

This past winter break, I was lucky enough to volunteer my time at a local cat rescue on Long Island called Golden Paw Society. These amazing people rescue cats from high kill shelters and take care of them in this reimagined house, which is perfectly suited for cats, until they can find their forever homes. Every Tuesday, I got to

spend two hours with anywhere from 30-50 cats. My siblings and I took the feeding shift, so we had the responsibilities of feeding the cats, getting them fresh water, changing their litter, cleaning the bowls and as much of the house as we could. It felt so rewarding to help out a great organization and give some love to cats that may have never experienced love before. Every time one of our feline friends got adopted, we were equally overjoyed for their second chance at life and sad that we would not get to spend Tuesday nights with them anymore.

And although animals will always be moving through my life, I will never underestimate the power they possess. There is truly nothing better than the unconditional love of a dog or cat.



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