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Charlie Capalbo '22 Leaves Lasting Legacy on Fairfield Community



Fairfield student Charlie Capalbo '22 smiles in his hockey gear. Capalbo was a beloved member of the Fairfield community who passed away on April 24 after a five-year battle with cancer, having inspired many with his strength and grace.

By Julia Lanzilotta
 Executive Editor Emeritus

Fairfield community member and Fairfield Stag Charlie Capalbo passed away on Sunday, April 24 after a five-year long battle with cancer. Charlie's first diagnosis came in 2017 during the hockey season of his senior year of high school. After treatment, he enrolled in the Charles F. Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University and later faced three additional bouts of cancer.

Charlie inspired the University and the town of Fairfield with his strength, sparking the "Capalbo Strong" movement and raising over \$500,000 for

his treatment and other expenses through a Go Fund Me page. Countless people across the country rallied to show their support for Charlie over the last five years, from professional athletes, to local firefighters, to young hockey players. Thousands have posted positive messages and words of encouragement, flooding social media with the hashtag #CapalboStrong.

Through the unimaginable, Charlie pushed through with grit, grace and a smile on his face. This is what it means to be Capalbo Strong. Just one month shy of 24 years old, the legacy Charlie leaves behind is immeasurable.

"Lean on me, and I'll lean on you. And together we'll get through... we always do", said Charlie's aunt, Rebecca Jarit, in a Facebook post to Charlie's supporters quoting Ray LaMontagne's "We'll Make It Through."

In the wake of this impactful loss, University students will have access to resources such as Campus Ministry and Counseling and Psychological Services. Charlie's legacy will continue to live on through the countless number of individuals his strength and story have touched.

He will be dearly missed by the Fairfield community and his fellow Stags.

"Out of the Darkness" Event Spreads Message of Hope to Community

By Max Limric
 Assistant News Editor
 By Anne Tomosivitch
 Assistant News Editor

The Psychology Club at Fairfield University emphasizes the message "you are meant to be here and you are so incredibly loved" for those battling with suicidal thoughts.

Students, staff, volunteers and members of the Fairfield Community came together and echoed this sentiment the morning of Sunday, April 24, when Fairfield University's Psychology Club partnered with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to host the annual Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention on campus.

"You are meant to be here and you are so incredibly loved."

- The Psychology Club

The course was roughly one and a half miles long and looped around Fairfield's campus, starting and ending at the Stag statue.

Co-President of the Psychology Club Lauren Adams '23 stated that "This is an event for those who have lost someone to suicide, those who struggle with suicidal thoughts or ideations, or those who have family or friends who struggle with suicide."

Adams was pleased with the turnout of the event. She stated that just under 100 individuals registered for the event, and that even more people arrived on the day of the walk to show their support.

This is the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that the club has been able to host the event in person, shared Treasurer of the Psychology Club Allie Mele '23. She further commented on the importance of the event being hosted in person, as opposed to being held virtually in recent years.

"It's really exciting that everyone's physically here to walk," Mele said. "The power of physically walking together is really important, then carrying that message on after the event," she continued.

The significance of student support was also brought up, and how important it is that the University's community gathers in support for good causes.

"I'm so excited to see everyone coming out to support such an awesome cause on campus," added Faith Waldron '23. "It's so awesome to see our school coming together for a really good cause. We don't do this nearly enough," she said.

Sophomore Kierston Nicolosi followed Waldron's comment by talking about the strength and unity of the Fairfield community.

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Students and Faculty Participate in 'Black Stags Matter' Walk

By Madeline West
 Editor-in-Chief

Fairfield University's Health & Wellness Committee hosted the Black Stags Matter Wellness Walk on Wednesday, April 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students and faculty gathered for the event and were able to listen to different speakers while visiting eight different spots across campus "that have connections to promoting racial equity at Fairfield," according to an email sent by HealthyU@Fairfield.

The walk began outside of the Barone Campus Center nearby the Stagbus shuttle stop. The different spots attendees visited included the Stag Statue, Wellness Center, Canisius Hall, Egan Chapel of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, DiMenna-Nyselius Library/Charles F. Dolan School of Business, Fairfield Jesuit Community Residence and Bellarmine Hall.

The Health & Wellness Committee is made up of different University departments within Student Life including Counseling and Psychological Services, Leslie C. Quick Jr. Recreation Complex, Campus Ministry, The Student Health Center, Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and the Office of the Dean of Students, etc.) as well as Human Resources,

Public Safety, The Kelley Center, The Murphy Center, Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, just to name a few.

Various members who attended the event shared their thoughts and reflections on their experience. Susan Birge, associate vice president for Health and Wellness and director of Counseling & Psychological Services, stated that the walk had "approximately 100 members of the campus community" in attendance.

Birge continued that the intention of the walk was "to continue to raise awareness that Black Lives Matter and that Fairfield University, through its mission and Jesuit values, calls on the community to work for social justice."

Clinesha D. Johnson, associate director for student support through the Office of the Dean of Students Psy.D says, "the march was amazing." Johnson continues, "the delivery of words expressed through song, poetry and from the heart really elevated and intensified the experience of walking for the purpose of uplifting Black lives within our campus community."

Johnson shares her biggest takeaway from the event is that "there are people who really care and value Black lives on campus."

Johnson states "our student body,

faculty/staff are open to experiencing ways that we can make our campus more inclusive, which will only lead to more dynamic and enriching experiences here at Fairfield."

It was salient for Johnson to attend because, "as a Black staff here at

"As a Black staff here at Fairfield University, it was important for me to stand in the gap for those students, faculty, and staff that look like me who feel that their voices are not being heard."

- Clinesha Johnson, Psy.D

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Questions? Contact **Sandy Richardson** at arichardson@fairfield.edu



Compiled by Max Limric
Information contributed by the
Department of Public Safety.

4/20

4:11 p.m.

A female student reported her laundry stolen from the Townhouse laundry room.

4/20

7:20 p.m.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in Regis Hall resulting from an activated smoke detector.

4/23

10:21 a.m.

Tables and chairs were reported stolen from a tent at the Walsh Athletic Center. This is currently under investigation.

4/23

12:59 p.m.

A student reported being assaulted while at the Flo Rida concert the previous evening.

4/23

9:44 p.m.

People were stuck in the 42 Langguth Road elevator. They were subsequently released without incident.

4/26

8:22 a.m.

A person was stuck in the Barone Campus Center elevator. The Fairfield Fire Department was requested and they subsequently released the trapped occupant.



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Students Satisfied With Return of FUSA's Spring Concert

By Peyton Perry
Head News Editor



Photo Contributed by Matthew Adamski

From left to right are Nick Calabrese '24, Matthew Adamski '24, Lauren Covello '24, Annie Mackey '24 and Peyton Ralph '24 posing in the front row of the Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater.

Flo Rida performed on Friday, April 22 for Fairfield University Student Association's annual Spring Concert event which was held at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater this year.

Earlier that morning, FUSA sent out an email to students with a schedule of the event, list of items to bring and venue policies. The schedule included that food trucks at Rafferty Stadium were to arrive at 5 p.m. and close at 7:30 p.m., and loading buses was to begin at 5:30 p.m. with the last bus leaving at 7:45 p.m.

FUSA provided eighteen buses and a limited number of Uber vouchers for transportation to the event.

Many students were pleased with the accessibility of transportation provided.

"The bus there was very organized and convenient," says Carina Kortick '24. Kortick took one of the first buses, which left around 6:15 p.m.

The doors to the venue opened promptly at 6:30 p.m. for attendees. Fairfield University students and guests were instructed in FUSA's

email to bring their StagCard, paper ticket and credit card as the venue does not accept cash.

Once arriving at the venue, Fairfield students and guests were granted green wristbands at the entrance in exchange for their paper ticket. These green wristbands later provided entry into the floor area, which was entirely rented out by FUSA for the event.

As reported by The Mirror last week, over 1,500 tickets were sold out of the 2,250 tickets bought by FUSA for students and guests. Everyone slowly filed in between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., gathering closely in front of the stage. D.J. Big Mike the Ruler opened from nearly 8 p.m. to a little before 9 p.m. with various mixes of pop and rap songs being played out for the crowd.

Flo Rida was welcomed on stage just before 9:30 p.m. with loud screams from the floor, as students and guests pushed against each other towards the front of the stage. The majority of students held their phones high in the air, in attempts to videotape his anticipated entrance.

The 2012 hit song

"Good Feeling" blasted throughout the amphitheater as the first song played and students screamed out the lyrics in unison. White strobe lights flashed every so often throughout the song, and multicolored lights danced around the floor.

At one point, Flo Rida welcomed a large group of female students onto the stage to accompany him throughout his performance of another hit song "Low." Elizabeth Viggiano '24, Maria Betancur '24 and Kelly Keating '24 were three of the larger group who joined him on stage.

"Being on stage with Flo Rida was an experience unlike any other," says Viggiano.

"Not only was I dancing with an artist who I grew up listening to, but I looked out into a sea of all my fellow Stags. It couldn't get much better than that!" Viggiano states.

Similarly, Betancur and Keating enjoyed their time on stage with the pop singer.

"Being on stage was such a fun experience that I was not expecting at all," Betancur said. "I'm so happy I got to share it with my closest friends and even made some new friends up there!"

"It was so much fun to be up on stage," added Keating. "I did not expect that at all but it was definitely a highlight of the night!"

This was not the only group to accompany Flo Rida on stage, however. After a few more songs were played by the pop singer, a group of male students were welcomed to the stage for another hit song "GDFR." Cameron Simmons '24 did not hesitate to leap at this opportunity.

"As soon as Flo Rida said to come on stage, my friends and I ran up," he says.

"It was very high

energy and a lot of fun... it was one of the most fun experiences I've had here at Fairfield."

At another point during the concert, Flo Rida tossed roses out into the crowd while performing the song, "Where Them Girls At." This captivated the audience's attention as students began to wave their hands high in the air, pushing again towards the front of the stage, in attempts of catching one of his many roses.

The concert concluded at roughly 10:40 p.m. and within seconds of Flo Rida exiting the stage, students and guests began running towards the buses. These buses were again provided by FUSA to transport students back to the University.

Although Kortick was pleased with her arrival to the concert, catching a bus on the way back to campus was far more challenging.

"The bus back was stressful because everyone rushed them at once," she stated. "Students were pushing each other to get on a bus and there wasn't much organization."

Overall, students appeared to be thrilled at this year's Spring Concert, enjoying their experience at the event.

"The Spring Concert was a great opportunity for students to come together in celebration after so much time apart," said Megan Murphy '23. "It was an event I've been looking forward to for three years!"

Sharing Murphy's excitement, first-year student Tristan Lee said, "The concert was an unbelievably fun event."

"It was amazing to see Fairfield students coming together as a community and just having a fun time after a long pandemic."

Three Fairfield Alumni Launch Alumni of Color Network

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

Fairfield University's Alumni of Color Network held its first General Body Meeting on Monday, April 18 via Zoom. Alums Kaadiana Barnes-Padilla '17, Sarah Gedeon '19 and Matthew Waldemar '20 are co-founders of the network.

The organization currently stands at over 40 members and is continuing to grow. Conversations in the aftermath of the University's response to the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests between Barnes-Padilla and Gedeon led to the creation of the Alumni of Color Network.

Barnes-Padilla was a part of the Alumni Response Team that created a petition titled "Fairfield University Must Say Black Lives Matter" which also included a list of demands from the response team. The petition has well over 8,000 signatures as of April 26, 2022.

Barnes-Padilla and Gedeon didn't want the momentum the 2020 protests sparked to die down, and in turn it led them to the development of the Alumni of Color Network as a positive addition for the BIPOC students at Fairfield in the wake of all that happened.

"We all felt like we needed to find a way to bridge the gap between current students and alumni," Barnes-Padilla said. "We [were] missing that connection between current alums and current students, especially during the pandemic, so I felt like that's why we created something to bridge that gap."

Barnes-Padilla mentioned some of the inspiration for the direction they took the network came from research done on other schools who have programs such as St. John's which has a Black Alumni Association and Colgate, which has a program called Mosaic for alumni.

And though the 2020 protests sparked a conversation that eventually led to the development of the Network, the network itself is not an activist group. The mission statement is as follows: "The Fairfield University Alumni of Color Network is an official affiliate group of the Office of Alumni Relations that serves to create a community and gateway to support Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Stags during and after their time at Fairfield. The network will host a variety of educational, professional, and social programs that cultivate personal and professional connections

“We all felt like we needed to find a way to bridge the gap between current students and alumni.”

- Kaadiana Barnes-Padilla '17, Co-Founder of Alumni of Color Network

and opportunities to support the University while demonstrating the strength and success that exists within the BIPOC community."

Waldemar clarified what the Alumni of Color Network is further.

"What happened in 2020 sparked a conversation, and I think that momentum of people gathering online got them talking and connected to Janet Canepa [director of alumni relations]," he said. "[Canepa] had always wanted to start this and she had touched base with some students before,

but it just hadn't hit the ground running."

Continuing, "Because I feel like when people say that it was out of reaction, then they think that we're an activist group, and we're not — we're connected by arm's distance."

The primary focus, as seen from the mission statement, is to connect BIPOC students with BIPOC alumni and Waldemar thinks "it will bring out a sense of relatability." "I think it would spark like a different idea [...] or at least a different idea of what professionalism is," Waldemar stated. "The University obviously pushes one idea of it, but [...] I work at a gallery now and it's a very corporate setting and you wear business attire, but when I look at my counterparts on social media and stuff, a lot of these kids are dressing however they want, and it's cool."

He continued, "I try to think of that in my own job — like the way I dress, the way I carry myself and just try to introduce the different aspects of professionalism that [aren't] so one-sided and one-way."

On top of being able to connect with alumni, this network really "highlights that there are some great alumni out there," said Waldemar who continued, "I would hope this would be a great tool for alumni themselves to connect and use the platform to help them professionally."

Echoing the mission statement, Waldemar said, "I think our intention is our mission statement: serving the needs of students during and after their time at Fairfield."

—He wants this to be representative for BIPOC students that, "I was in your shoes four years ago, and you can do this

CONTINUED ON
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Suicide Prevention Walk Doubles Fundraising Goal

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"After losing a parent to suicide, it's awesome to see the community come together and support everyone in such a great way and see the sense of unity in this community," she said.

In addition to the walk around campus, there were tables set up with different activities, and an assortment of honorary beads, each color representing a different connection to suicide and mental illness.

"These beads and these courageous people represent our dedication and strength as a community," said Adams in her speech at the event.

She continued, "The beads come in many colors, honoring the diversity of the cause." Each color represents a different way suicide or mental illness has affected one's life.

Other activities included a face painting station where students could get the suicide prevention ribbon painted on their face, as well as a "Hope Lives Here" poster that students could sign and write positive messages to show support to those struggling with suicide.

There was also a table with t-shirts for those who fundraised in support of the cause, free wrist-bands and a table with a representative from the AFSP, who was able to offer more information on the organization.

Aside from the prior fundraising efforts by participants, there was also a raffle included at the event to raise additional funds for the cause. Adams announced that the event raised nearly \$10,000 in total, doubling the Psychology Club's initial goal.

The event cultivated an uplifting feel, meant as a way to bring light to a difficult topic. Co-President of the Psychology Club, Logan Mascia '22 described it as a "great event."

"We always have a ton of fun and engagement, and we

“

The most important part of this is to spread the message long after this event, everyday going forward. Just because we walk doesn't mean that it ends here. We need to keep spreading the message and keep walking for each other and ourselves.”

- Co-President of the Psychology Club
Lauren Adams '23

raise a lot of money and awareness [for suicide prevention]," he said.

Additionally, this event featured guest speakers Jim and Kristen Kuczo, members of the Fairfield community, who recently lost their son Kevin Kuczo to suicide.

The guest speakers encouraged more conversation surrounding mental illness and depression in order to prevent suicide. They tell Kevin's story to educate others on depression and suicide through their foundation, Kevin's Afterglow, established after their son's passing.

Jim Kuczo talked about the motivation behind the organization, which is "to get people to talk." He continued that its "mission is to teach kids kindness, empathy, and the ability to listen to others."

"We want you to choose love," added Jim Kuczo, "suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem."

Jim ended his speech by saying, "You can make a difference in someone's life," and urging participants to spread Kevin's message: "to teach kids kindness, empathy, and the ability to listen to others..., give to others, educate parents and children on mental health, help address the pediatric mental health crisis, and get people to talk."

After their speech, Genuine

Skill Salcedo '23 sang "Head Above Water," by Avril Lavigne, a moving song focusing on continuing to fight for one's life.

Adams reiterated the importance of the event and spreading the message long after it ended.

"The most important part of this is to spread the message long after this event, everyday going forward. Just because we walk doesn't mean that it ends here," she said. "We need to keep spreading the message and keep walking for each other and ourselves."



From left to right are Faith Waldron '23, Kiersten Nicolosi '24, and Allie Mele '23. Students listen to Kevin and Kristen Kuzco's speech.

Wellness Walk Received Positively, Students Demand Further Action from University Officials

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fairfield University, it was important for me to stand in the gap for those students, faculty, and staff that look like me, who feel that their voices are not being heard."

She continues to express, "I believe that using my platform as the chair of the Mental Health & Wellness Subcommittee to contribute to impactful, positive and healthy work is invaluable."

Johnson explains the impact that this event had on her, to "stand on the shoulders of those Black colleagues who have come before me, and hope to inspire Fairfield to open the door wider for the Black people who have yet to come."

Johnson concludes, "It is also important to note that Black people on this campus cannot do the work alone. We need our white colleagues and peers to walk alongside us. They did that on April 20!"

With regards to the future, Johson relayed that "it is our [Health & Wellness Committee] plan to make this an annual event and continue to bring this important work to another level!"

Eli Olken-Dann, director of Recreation and Wellness shared a similar sentiment stating, "it was nice to see so many people from different areas of the campus community come together to support our community of color."

As a member of the Health and Wellness Committee, Olken-Dann expresses "it's critical we support events and programs like this, since the mission of the Health & Wellness Committee is to provide a positive, collaborative and inclusive environment, through mind, body and spiritual well-being."

Kathleen Byrnes, campus minister for social justice and community engagement, also attended the event.

Byrnes stated her biggest takeaway was "the gathering together of so many people and marching physically around campus."

Throughout the event Byrnes relayed that, "folks on tours, on their way to classes and just out enjoying the day could not help but stop and notice us. It made for some great conversations along the way!"

Byrnes also hopes there will be university run events in the future similar to this." This was an initiative of a subgroup of the Health and Wellness Committee because it is a critical part of how we view wellness on this campus," relayed Byrnes.

She shares, "I hope as a Jesuit institution we have many more events like this from academic and co-curricular perspectives that continue to challenge and engage us to do better."

Students who attended also shared their experiences during the event. Senior Erin Patten exclaimed "the

march was really well done...it was really special being able to walk alongside BIPOC students/staff/faculty and listen to different stories and hear what the university is doing to recognize and assist the BLM movement."

“ Those who don't want change to occur on campus are hoping that things will quiet down but people being at events like this shows that things won't be swept under the rug like some would hope.”

- Eden Marchese '23,
Director of Diversity &
Inclusion for FUSA

Patten states her biggest takeaway from the event was "seeing some of the significant members of the Fairfield University community who are taking action."

She explains how there have been emails, posts and signs that call for the support of BLM movement and BIPOC community, "but watching people take action and march together was something incredibly powerful."

Something that could have been done better according to Patten "would have been the presence of President Nemeč." Patten explained she was told Nemeč was not in attendance because he had an award ceremony to attend, but several other faculty/staff members who were attending the same event were present on the march.

Junior Eden Marchese, Fairfield University Student Association director of Diversity & Inclusion, also had positive remarks about the march stating it "was really beautiful."

Marchese states their biggest takeaway from the event is "that all of our voices will always be louder than that of a University President or those who try to silence movements like this."

Marchese continues to state that "even months after the event on Feb. 28, we are still united and fighting for change on campus."

Eden is referring to the "Community in Action Event" held

by the university relaying their diversity narrative just a week after University administration directed the removal of a Black Lives Matter flag from the front window of Counseling & Psychological Services. At the "Community in Action Event," student protests broke out in response to the administration's actions and the neutrality stance relayed.

"Those who don't want change to occur on campus are hoping that things will quiet down but people being at events like this shows that things won't be swept under the rug like some would hope," Marchese continues, "We're here to fight for a better campus and we're not going away."

Marchese concludes with their sentiment of the lasting impact of the event. "[The impact] may not be felt immediately and I think that's okay."

However, Marchese continues "the march brought together a lot of people like it was meant to and I think it encouraged them to keep fighting and only a small number of people are needed to cause change."

Senior Ruby Francis, president of Gender and Sexuality Alliance, said she enjoyed the march and it "was great to see everyone gathering to show that Black Stags Matter."

Francis says that her biggest takeaway was "from a faculty member who spoke about the paradox of our university being Jesuit and President Nemeč saying what he said during the event back in February."

Francis continues to mention that the professor told those in attendance to rise for what's right on this campus.

Francis stated that "the university needs to genuinely listen to Black students' needs and concerns so that they can thrive."

"Nemeč needs to say Black Lives Matter and forget about his rule of institutional neutrality because a Jesuit university cannot remain neutral on this issue," Francis continues.

Francis concluded, "At the end of the march, we said 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Black Stags Matter' outside of Bellarmine, I wish that Nemeč had been in his office to hear us."



Fairfield University community gathers outside Counseling and Psychological Services located in Jogues Hall during Black Stags Matter Wellness Walk on Wednesday, April 20, following shortly after Black Lives Matter flag removal.

Kyler Erezuma/The Mirror

Opinion

Editor: Madeline Hossler madeline.hossler@student.fairfield.edu

MY ONE REGRET...

Christian Mannino
Contributing Writer

As we each reflect on our academic year as it draws to a close, our seniors in particular have much to consider. Though we look to the future with a sense of enthusiasm, many of us find ourselves looking back on our time in Stag country with a handful of regrets as well. Having regrets is perfectly normal—even expected, given what a whirlwind four years university living can be—so, to help our younger Stags avoid similar pitfalls, I went around campus and interviewed a handful of seniors as to what their biggest regrets are as their time at Fairfield comes to an end:

ALLEN VO '22



“During high school, I was able to maintain a healthy balance between studying and having time to myself, but throughout college, I had lost that balance since a majority of my time was concentrated on completing school work which made me forget to take care of myself.”

JESSICA CUNTRERA '22

“My biggest regret is constantly forgetting that I joined my extra-curricular as stress relief. I regret taking it all too seriously and not having more fun—in classes, in extracurriculars, even the little things like doing homework and crying with your friends.”



JACOB MATALA '22



“One of my regrets is not getting more involved in clubs and organizations while also staying involved in the activities that I lost passions for. From that point I was just doing the position to do the position.”

TIM AMARANTE '22

“My biggest regret was not getting involved in different clubs throughout my time here. I only stayed with a single club and never thought to branch out to see something new. There are so many options too, so it was upsetting considering I only had so much time at Fairfield to begin with.”



Elizabeth Kabalian '22



“My senior regret is not fully utilizing the DSB career center earlier and to its full extent. I started reaching out to my career advisors around sophomore spring semester of 2019 to get some advice on applying for summer internships and I ended up getting so much more out of those meetings as the years progressed. I ended up being invited to some great marketing networking events and making great connections that eventually led to a well-paid marketing position for the summer after graduation.”

Katie Bacchi '22

“My biggest regret as a senior is allowing myself to neglect my hobbies. I had the idea that if I stopped putting time into things like art and music I would have more time to excel in school. But by doing this, I actually ended up losing a very big part of myself and became a bit lost. What I wish I learned sooner is that, if you wish to do well in school, you don't need to entirely sacrifice yourself and everything you love. It's actually a lot more beneficial to allow your brain time to be constructive both academically and creatively.”



Though I found it to be a common theme amongst the seniors I had the opportunity to speak with, my own biggest regret as I leave Fairfield is not doing everything I could. Though I gave many clubs a shot, I had a lot of trouble sticking with one. Whether it was from my habit of overthinking things or a certain pandemic, either way I feel as if I could've put more effort into developing my interests. So, if I were to give one piece of advice for our underclassmen, it's this: Go all in. Chances are, you'll regret the things you didn't do as opposed to the things you did. So give it your best shot, make the most of your time here in Stag country—it goes by quicker than you think.



Photo Contributed by
Billy McGuire

Happy Autism Awareness Month! It is important to respect and value autistic members of our community all year long.

The Importance of Autism Awareness

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

April is an important month for me and my family. And usually when people ask why, I have a simple answer:

Because it is Autism Awareness Month.

For those that don't know, I have a twenty-three year-old sister with autism. She is the only sibling that I have. To simply say that growing up with a sibling with special needs is different is a complete understatement.

In my experiences, it has been different but it has been wonderful at the same time. My sister is not someone that you are going to have a normal conversation with. She is verbal and she definitely likes to talk, but she does so in a different way. And that is not only okay, it is also wonderful. My sister enjoys talking about a variety of different things, such as our family vacations to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Disney, her friends at school and most of all, where my cousins are located at the current hour.

That is one example of a few unique aspects about Bridge, as my family calls her, that stand out to me.

She is smart in many ways. She is a big Disney fan, and she has seen most of, if not all, the old Mickey Mouse films that are almost a century old now. She's also very good with the calendar. Do you want to know when my cousin Peter's birthday is? Ask Bridge, she'll tell you. You want to know when my aunt Suzy and uncle Matt's anniversary is? Bridge will have an answer for you in a heartbeat.

She also is very optimistic about life. She is always looking forward to the next vacation. She is always looking forward to the next family gathering. She always looks forward to when our close friends, the Barry's and the Gray's, come over. And she is always looking forward to going to our favorite family restaurant, Marco Polo, in Summit, N.J.

Whenever I am not around, my mom will tell me how often Bridge will ask the question: “where's Billy?” on repeat. It may drive her nuts, but she knows that she wants my presence to be felt. Whenever we are at a family gathering, and if one cousin is not present, Bridge will go on to ask my mom on repeat where that specific individual is located until there is a final answer.

It may make my parents and myself feel annoyed when we are peppered

with questions from her, she does want everyone to be around and to be together as a family.

One thing that I find amusing that Bridget does is that she assigns everyone a character name, mainly from The Muppets. She claims herself as Kermit, which she undoubtedly deserves. Whereas my Mom is Miss Piggy, my Dad is Fozzy Bear and I, with some degree of hesitancy, am Gonzo.

Instead of referring to my Grandparents as “Grandma” and “Papa,” she calls them “Hilda” and “Tiger” in their place. I don't know exactly where these terms come from, but she sure knows where.

This is a fun way for her to connect with others despite not being one hundred percent in the picture all the time.

Do you know what all of these things are? They are examples of unconditional love. Even though she may not function in the same ways that the rest of us do, I know that my sister truly cares about me and loves me. She would not ask about me if she didn't love me. She would not ask where my parents were if she didn't love them, and she sure would not be asking about the rest of the cousins if she didn't love them either.

Growing up is different with Bridge if you compare it with others, but it is a pleasure to have her as my sibling. She is down to earth, she is lovely and she really wants to enjoy each and every moment there is in life for her.

The type of person that she is is why this month is important to me and my family. She, along with many other people with similar disabilities, deserve to have their presence be known. These individuals may act differently from the rest of us just a little bit, but in the end, we all fall somewhere along the spectrum. Bridge falls a little further down than the average person, but she possesses qualities and traits that many of us may not have. This month is a time to make these people feel as if they are just like the rest of us, even though they may be a little bit different.

The world is a place filled with people who have different personalities, behaviors and personality traits. Everyone should be loved and treated the same way, regardless of where you fall on the spectrum. This month encourages people to do just that, and if you see someone who may act differently than your usual self, show them some love and kindness. That act will go a long way.

Happy Autism Awareness Month Stags!

Five Steps to Finals Essay Success

By Madeline Hossler
Head Opinion Editor

Finals season is now upon us. For anyone who is taking the majority of their courses this semester in the humanities or the social sciences that means staring down an insurmountable mountain of essays. But fear not, I'm here to help. I've been through several finals seasons where all five of my classes required a final research paper, and yet somehow I've survived. Whether you're a first year who's still adapting to the rigor of college finals season, or an upperclassman who's just on the struggle bus this semester, these tips are for you. This, my fellow students, is five tips for writing five essays at once.

First: start everything before you finish anything. The soulless void of a blank Google Doc can feel like a debilitating mental block. Before you settle in to put a significant amount of work into any one assignment, put a tiny bit of work into all of them. It can be a light outline, an intro paragraph, a few sentences, or even just a single quote you know you want to include.

Anything that takes up space on the page and sparks some ideas. That way whenever you need to start seriously grinding on that paper you already have a little something, and you aren't starting completely from scratch.

Second: switch projects when you're stuck. Staring at one essay for eight hours straight is a great way to get burnt out and frustrated. Instead, pick one project to begin with and let yourself stop the second you feel you're getting tired of it. Take a short break, regroup and pick up again with something different. This is especially important for marathon study days when you're planning on working for many hours. Switching up what topics you're thinking about and what sources you're looking through keeps you fresh. If you find yourself getting writer's block in one of your essays, switching to a different one may help overcome it. Sometimes all you need is a fresh topic to get focussed again. Building on this idea, write whatever is easy when it feels easy. If you randomly get a good idea for one of your essays don't hesitate to abandon whatever

you were trying to focus on and get that thought down while it is in your head.

Third: balance research time and writing time. For some research papers the amount of time it takes to find the right quotes can equal or even surpass the time you need to spend actually writing. Too much time spent just reading or just writing can get monotonous. Give some variety to the time you spend on work. Alternate research for one project with writing a different one and you'll avoid getting bored of just one task. This is especially good if you have paper books that you are using for the assignment, as it can give you a break from staring at the computer all day.

Fourth: don't be afraid of stream of consciousness writing. We all know by now the value of a good paper outline, with perfectly planned quotes and ideas. But don't let worshipping your outline be the thing that doubles the time it takes you to finish a draft. Don't be afraid to write exactly what you're thinking, even if it absolutely sucks. Don't be afraid to throw a mess of thought spaghetti at the wall and see

what sticks. Give yourself a bunch of content to work with, then decide what you hate after. This makes it easier to decide which quotes to include, and can make your transitions sound more organic.

Fifth: be nice to yourself. This is not just good advice for essay writing, it's also good advice for

everything else you do in life. Don't forget to take breaks when you work for a long time. Drink water. Stretch or go for a little walk. Make yourself a cup of tea or a little snack to go enjoy while you work. Be kind to your mind and body and listen to what they need. Your health is more important than any one assignment.



Finals season can be stressful and writing intensive for many students. It's important to manage your time and mental health in order to get through it.

Hot Take: Apple Music is the Superior Music Streaming Service

By Christian Manino
Contributing Writer

Spotify really isn't all that, and Apple Music has far more to offer than you probably think. Before you start booning, hear me out. As someone who is very familiar with both services, there are a few key differences that make Apple Music my go-to.

First, it's important to remember that Apple Music joined the streaming service game a fair amount of time after Spotify. Apple was still focused on iTunes and selling music through individual downloads. This gave Spotify an early lead in terms of building a dedicated user base, so many people haven't even considered Apple Music.

Both Apple Music and Spotify go for \$9.99 a month, or, with the student plan, \$4.99. Their interfaces are mostly comparable, but I find Apple's search and customizable organization features to be far more user friendly. Still, both offer enough similar features that it could be considered a matter of personal preference.

Where Apple Music really differentiates itself is in its music library. The reason why I initially chose Apple Music was because I already had years worth of music that I didn't have the heart to give up. Apple Music allowed me to combine my old song catalog with the new, even my songs from CD were synced and made part of Apple iCloud. And

these tracks aren't poor quality either, as Apple Music automatically replaces it with a high-quality version.

Though you can technically do the same with Spotify, it requires so many extra steps (that are non-intuitive, mind



Spotify is an incredibly popular streaming service. Apple Music is often overlooked and should be more appreciated.

you) that you might as well be back in the early 2010s. Even if you manage to get those tracks onto Spotify, they can't be accessed from the cloud like Apple Music—it just allows you to play what was downloaded locally to your device (which takes up precious storage space). Plus, despite what it may seem like, iTunes isn't dead. What this means is that individual songs are still available to purchase and download, which is convenient for people who may want to do other things with their music (or don't like the feeling of having to commit to monthly fees).

In terms of audio quality, choosing Apple Music is a no brainer. Apple's streaming service offers 256Kbps AAC (Advanced Audio Codec) in addition to lossless audio compression. I know, it's a lot of numbers and letters that don't mean much at face value (even to myself), but, to put it shortly, it means that it sounds good. Really good. As in way better than Spotify good. In fact, it's pretty much identical to the original studio recording.

Aside from all that, Apple Music differentiates itself from Spotify in smaller ways, such as integrated Siri controls and their Beats 1 Radio which features actual human DJs. By this point, I know this hot take sounds more like an ad read, but it's not, I promise. All I'm saying is that Spotify might not deserve all the hype—Apple Music has a lot to offer. Plus, the weird looks when I tell people that I don't use Spotify are getting pretty old.

EDITORIAL BOARD

WHAT I'LL MISS MOST ABOUT LIVING ON CAMPUS

MADDY WEST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My time living on campus is sadly coming to a close. It seems like just yesterday I was on my tour as a prospective student thinking about how amazing it is going to be to live on the beach. However, now that the time has come — leaving campus living is incredibly bittersweet.

From Jogues Hall, to Kostka Hall, to Townhouse 44 I have had the opportunity to live in what I think to be some of the best places on campus. However, there are other aspects of campus life that I will miss dearly.

One thing about Fairfield that is so amazing that no matter where you live you are always bound to bump into a friend. Whether it is the Barone Campus Center, a walk to class, or the trek to the library — a familiar face is likely to be seen. I have come to love the small campus being a literal community and a home away from home.

Another thing I am going

to miss is how easy it was to get to classes. I underestimate the luxury of being able to leave 10 minutes before class, while next year I will have to coordinate rides and take town traffic into consideration.

As a junior especially, the Townhouses are an incredibly close knit living environment. Recently, with the weather being nice outside, four block has been the epitome of college living with homework being done in the sun, footballs being thrown around, and sitting on porches to sunset. The best part is how close everyone is to one another and the bonds neighbors have made.

I am realizing that as I have gone through college you start to really appreciate what you had once it's gone. As a sophomore I missed how close I was to everyone in the Quad. As a junior I dearly missed the Tully and eating dinner with my friends every night. I think this is a sort of tes-

tament to life however - you live through the good moments that you don't realize how good they are till they are gone.

Perhaps the saddest thing about leaving campus is knowing that I'll most likely never experience college living again. The bathrooms shared by 20 girls in our first year and the small shared bedrooms are just a memory, something I will laugh about with my friends and tell my kids about in years to come.

Don't get me wrong, living on Fairfield Beach Road is going to be a dream! I am so incredibly excited. But just how I was excited to get out of the quad and then out of the village into the Townhouses- I am taking my senior year living excitement along with reflection and appreciation. Appreciation for my junior year, the memories I have made living on campus and be sure to take every single moment in next year.



Editor-in-Chief Maddy West (right) and one of her future roommates at her beach house next year, Tess Morrissey '23 (left).

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FAIRFIELD

EDITOR: BROOKE LATHE



Fairfield's Out For Summer!



By Emily Miller
Contributing Writer

Calling all Fairfield University students: summer is fast approaching!

With most of the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, Fairfield University students are ecstatic to return to some summer fun and normalcy.

I caught up with a few Fairfield students who were happy to share some of their summer plans.

Some Fairfield Stags are staying involved in campus life this summer, even from 3,000 miles away.

Students Lily Becker '23 and Kayla Amelung '23 are participating in the summer study abroad program at the Florence University of the Arts (FUA) from May 15 to June 2.

I caught up with the two juniors and what they planned to do for the rest of their summer.

Becker is excited for the summer to begin, saying, "I'm still waiting to hear from different internship programs for the summer, so my plans are not set in stone."

However, I will be starting my summer vacation in Florence, Italy for a three week study abroad session.

I hope to eat a lot of yummy

foods and make lots of memories.

When I return, I plan to be a waitress at the restaurant I worked at last year.

Any free weekends or days I have will be spent at the beach!"

Amelung explains, "I plan to spend the beginning of my summer in Italy."

I will be taking a course for credits and exploring.

Once I come back I will be working at my family restaurant on the weekends when I am not interning.

I will be spending the majority of my summer at the pool or down the shore with my friends and family."

I caught up with Chloe Balikian '23 who is currently studying abroad in Italy also at FUA.

Chloe is taking part in a semester-long internship program while abroad. She is ecstatic about returning for her senior year this fall, but cannot wait for the summer.

Balikian says, "I'm looking forward to spending time with my friends during the summer, finishing my internship abroad and traveling!"

The majority of upperclassmen are focused on internships and jobs as the end of college draws near.

I spoke with Michael Pagliaro

'22 who will be relocating after his time at Fairfield comes to a close.

Pagliaro says, "As graduation nears closer and closer, I am looking forward to this summer as I will be moving to New York City to start my career at Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG)."

I also had the pleasure of discussing summer plans with Melisa Dauti '23.

She details her next few months, saying, "My summer mostly will be working at

my family restaurant and internship."

Hopefully, I'll get to travel overseas and see my family in Albania. I also plan on spending a lot of time at the beach with my friends."

While many upperclassmen are focusing on internships and coursework, first-years have some time to explore their options.

First-years such as John Hatchadourian '25 are looking to find a steady income for the summer while still having fun.

Hatchadourian says, "This summer I plan to make the most out of my time away from school."

I plan to work at Lifetime Fitness as a lifeguard.

I am also planning to spend my time away from home on vacations in Michigan, Florida, Turks and Caicos, the Caribbean and the Jersey Shore."

While we will miss our campus, Fairfield students seem to have no worries about enjoying their summer break.



POST ROAD'S BEST: BARBEQUE EDITION

By Abigail White
Assistant Vine Editor

Fairfield is home to so many amazing restaurants: Quattro Pazzi, Flipside Burger and Colony Pizza just to name a few. However, every once in a while, it is fun to switch it up and try something new.

Luckily for Fairfield Students, a new restaurant, Post Oak Barbecue Co., has recently opened on Post Road!

With its grand opening on March 31, Post Oak Barbecue Co. serves authentic wood-fire smoked meats with a unique

Asian and southwestern flair, as described on their website. Partners Steve Garret, Elaine Chao and Eric Patterson combine their experience, aiming to source locally and bring the taste of Texas smoked meats to Fairfield Connecticut.

After hearing of the opening of this restaurant as well as the mission of the founders, I knew that I had to give it a try. Unfortunately, in attempting to try out this restaurant's food, I struck out twice.

If you are planning to take a trip to Post Oak Barbecue Co. in the near future, do not make the same mistake as me. Check

the hours on the website ahead of time! On two separate occasions, I showed up just to find the doors locked, the lights off and the chairs stacked up on the tables.

The hours of operation can be a little tricky to work around, especially as a college student with a lot of homework and responsibilities. Post Oak Barbeque is open on weekdays from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

But do not let these limited hours deter you from trying out this restaurant. I was finally able to make it to Post Oak Barbecue Co. and have nothing but good things to say about my experience!

I brought some friends along with me on my trip to Post Oak Barbecue Co., not quite knowing what to expect from this new barbecue restaurant. However, after leaving, we all agreed that this was quite possibly one of the best restaurant experiences we have all had. From the food to the service, Post Oak Barbecue Co. exceeded all expectations.

Upon walking into the building, we were hit with the delicious smell of barbecue that left our mouths watering. We were seated right away and greeted with both a friendly waiter and the difficult dilemma of what to order. Everything on the menu looked incredible, making it extremely hard to choose just one meal.

To solve our problem, we finally decided on a sampler tray to split in which we were able to choose three different meats from the smoker as well as two different

sides.

As a college student, saving money is often a priority. I will admit that, for a college student, the menu at Post Oak Barbecue Co. may seem a bit expensive. However, with one bite of food, I can assure you that all thoughts of money will fly out the window. For the price you pay at Post Oak Barbecue Co., you can expect a quality meal. Splitting the sampler plate was also a great way to save money and split the price.

I cannot put into words how incredible the food was. The three meats we ordered (the pulled pork, the baby back ribs and the black angus brisket) were all delicious. It was in the sauces that I detected the Asian and southwestern flair that was described on the website. My friends and I even found ourselves fighting over the last few french fries proving that everything, down to the side dishes, was incredible.

One aspect of Post Oak Barbecue Co. that I found extremely inviting was the service. We were greeted with a smile at the door, given all the time we needed to look at the menu and were even allowed to add on some milkshakes after our check was generated. It was this friendly service that really made our experience at Post Oak Barbecue a great one.

I can confidently say that my friends and I have found one of our new favorite restaurants and we are already making plans to go back.

Be sure to check out Post Oak Barbecue Co. on 93 Post Road before the end of the semester!

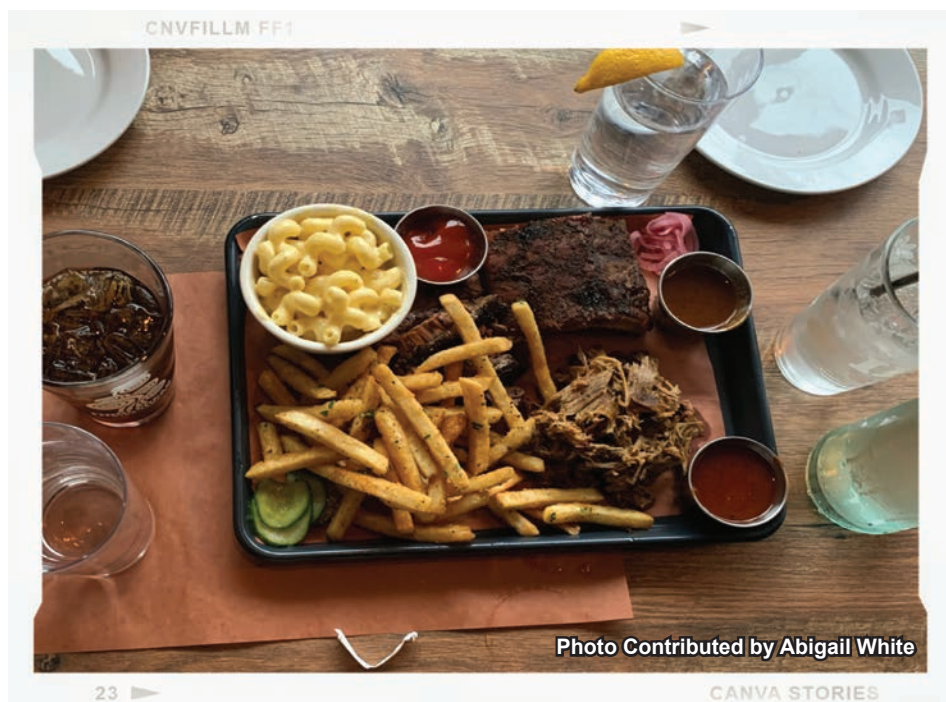


Photo Contributed by Abigail White

STAGS GOT A GOOD FEELING AT FLO RIDA

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

Fairfield University students gathered at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater to watch Grammy-nominated artist, Flo Rida, perform.

This event marked the long-awaited return of the Fairfield University Student Association's Spring Concert.

I was worried that having the Spring Concert off-campus would take away from the overall event, but I kind of enjoyed it.

My friends and I did not take a bus on the way to the event, so I can't speak to that experience personally as we opted to take an Uber.

However, we did attempt to get home on a bus which was an incredibly overwhelming experience that resulted in us taking yet another Uber. Masses of Fairfield students swarmed the buses and I would compare the first round of buses leaving to the Cornucopia scene from the "Hunger Games."

The concert itself was a really fun time, and I am glad my friends were able to convince me to go. I would never have purchased tickets to see Flo Rida perform if it

wasn't an event like this, but he knew how to get the crowd fired up! It was definitely a super fun concert.

The venue is outdoors and on the smaller side, but for Fairfield students in attendance, they all

made it special. One of the things I was worried about since it wasn't hosted on Fairfield's campus was how Fairfield-related it would be. He really made sure to get the students involved and even at the end of the concert put on a Stags bas-

artist of all time, or even top 10 - it seemed as though everyone in the crowd, including myself, knew the words to every song he performed.

Hits such as "Where Them Girls At," "My House," "Whistle" and "Low" had the crowd go-

made for a great concert environment and really kept the attention of the audience for the duration of his set.

Seeing him bring students up on stage including members of FUSA and other audience members near the front of the barricade made my night.

It was really fun to watch people I am friends with, have classes with, or have just seen around campus up on stage with him.

At one point, he even left the stage, riding on the shoulders of one of the security guards going to various spots near the edge of the pit.

Students ran alongside Flo Rida and gave everyone in attendance an unforgettable moment. I've never been to a concert where that happened before!

Personally, I wish the concert was longer than it was. I was having so much fun in the crowd with my friends.

It was so nice to be able to do something that we were unable to do for so long. FUSA's 2022 Spring Concert featuring Flo Rida was a hit and a strong start for the return of the event. I just hope next year we are able to have it on campus again!

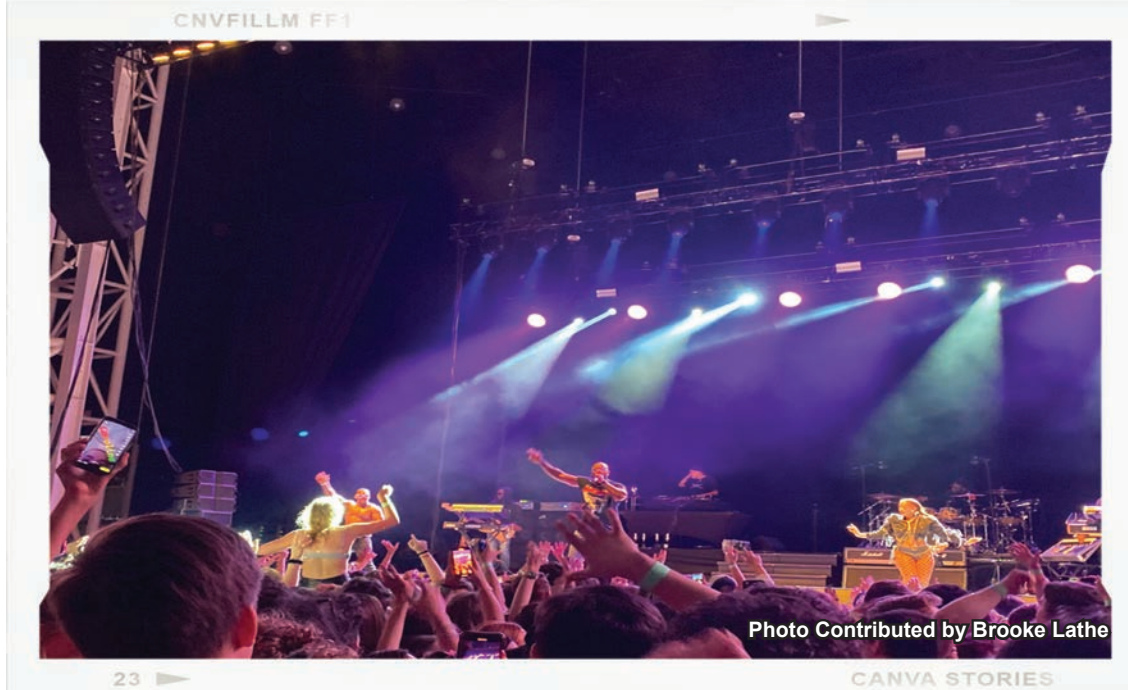


Photo Contributed by Brooke Lathe

had pit tickets. Students gathered close to the stage and watched as Flo Rida performed.

One of the highlights of the concert was how interactive he was with Fairfield students, which

ketball jersey with "Flo Rida" written on the back.

He also even substituted some of the lyrics for "Fairfield!"

Even though I wouldn't consider Flo Rida to be my favorite

ing crazy. Another fan favorite seemed to be "Who Dat Girl." It was really exciting to see everyone in the crowd just jump and dance along to his performances. The high energy nature of his songs

YOU'RE BOUND TO GO "BONKERS" FOR THESE CUPCAKES

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

A new dessert shop has come to town and you do not want to miss out — give Bonkers Cupcakes a try! Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Fairfield at 1618 Post Road, Bonkers finds its home next to some other top notch eateries.

A family-run business, Bonkers is owned and operated by Kris and Michele Stevens and their son Michael. Together, Kris and Michael began their journey to Bonkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this, the father-son partnership worked together at Kris's software company. But right before the start of the pandemic, they sold off the company's main product.

Computer and technology software to cupcake shop owners may not seem like a natural career jump, but for Michael, he always felt a passion for baking.

"So we've been bakers, we've always baked at home," Michael said. "We just thought, 'well, we're going to try something.' You might as well try something that people tell us we're good at."

Michael added, "Nobody ever said to me when I served them a cupcake, 'Don't quit your day job.'"

During the pandemic, the Stevens family brainstormed their next career moves.

"We were kind of trapped in the house during the beginning of COVID asking ourselves 'What should we do and what do we want to do next?'" Michael said. "What kind of business can we run that would make us happy?"

Luckily for the Fairfield community, this family's search to mix passion with career ended them up with Bonkers Cupcakes!

The menu at Bonkers changes each day with some signature staples you will always be able to order.

"I feel like the standard flavors are basically the chocolate, vanilla, red velvet and carrot cake," Michael said, adding that they

"usually have banana."

For frosting you can find flavors like chocolate, salted caramel, coffee and cream cheese.

But owner Michael likes to mix things up and finds his inspiration for new and fun flavors in his everyday life.

"Like you saw today, I had green tea [frosting], just because somebody walked in yesterday and ordered a green tea," Michael said. "And then I was like 'Ooh! Green tea frosting, it could be good.'"

He added, "That's all the thought that went into that one — and it ended up being pretty good."

Bonkers has big plans ahead. The idea of the cupcake shop for Michael was to be a late-night snack option and be featured on delivery apps such as Uber, with plans of having their own delivery truck — like their very own Bonkers cupcake cart.

"It's going to be like an ice cream truck, you're going to be able to download an app and then you'll be able to hail the cart if it's close to you," Michael said. "You'll be able to pick from a pre-curated selection and pick your cupcakes up from the back of the cart."

Adding, "We'll also have [coffee] in the back of the car, so if you're studying late at night, hopefully we'll be there for you."

He compared it to a cupcake version of Insomnia Cookies. "It's kind of our vision for the place to be a family friendly place during the day and to do late night delivery at night for when some people just want some sugar," Michael said.

One of the best parts of the job for Michael is getting to see his work make people so happy. To accomplish this, Bonkers has such a large variety of options to accommodate all different kinds of dietary restrictions and allergies. One of the main ones being that Bonkers is an entirely nut-free establishment.

Aside from this, you can find gluten-free and vegan options too! We tried the vegan chocolate buttercream and then compared it to the regular Italian chocolate buttercream — both were equal-

ly amazing and delicious. Bonkers makes sure that just because someone has a dietary restriction, they will not have to compromise flavor to accommodate their restriction.

"If I ever failed to manage to get one of those [dietary restrictions accommodated] on the menu, and then a little kid comes in and can't have a cupcake, I have to immediately jump into action," Michael said.

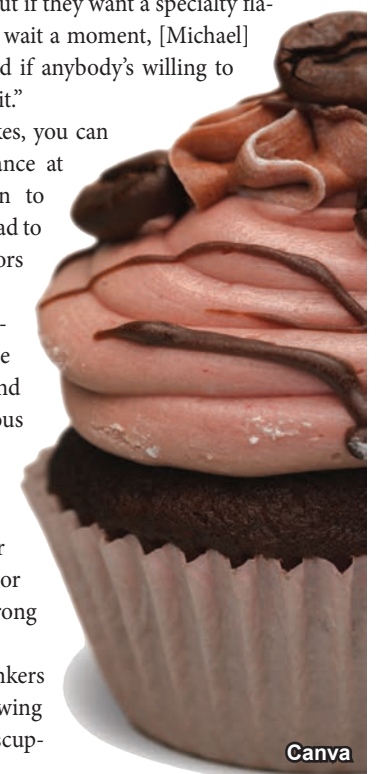
Michael noted that they have vegan buttercream ready to go if someone would like that, but if they want a specialty flavor, "and they're willing to wait a moment, [Michael] can usually whip it up, and if anybody's willing to wait, then I can usually do it."

In addition to cupcakes, you can order sheet cakes in advance at the store, with pies soon to come. You can also call ahead to the store to see which flavors are available that day.

Bonkers is open every-day from noon to 8 p.m. Be sure to stop into the shop and try out one of their delicious cupcake flavors.

Whether you go for a classic flavor or jazz it up by choosing one of their unique speciality cupcakes or frostings, you can't go wrong here.

Learn more about Bonkers on their website or by following their Instagram @bonkerscupcakes.





By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor

Every year, I feel like most students try to live up to this unwritten standard of having a jam-packed summer of fun events, parties and trips. Personally, I think the best summer ever means taking advantage of this extended period of time with no homework or exams to do whatever you want. This might mean something as simple as visiting your town's local ice cream shop or reading a book by the pool. Although, I try to go into my summers with a bucket list of things I want to do with my time off even if it doesn't necessarily mean I'll get to check them all off. Maybe some of my ideas will inspire you to do the same and

make this school break a time to remember!

Locate the Nearest Body of Water

With warmer weather, it's an absolute must to play in some sort of body of water. For those who have a pool, try to take advantage of this refreshing luxury and swim a few laps every morning. Or, better yet, lay on a gigantic floaty for a good amount of time while listening to some music. If you don't have a pool, beach days are also the perfect summer day activity. You can set off at sunrise to soak up an entire day of sun or just play in the waves for a few hours. You're never too old! What one of my favorite water activities has become is river tubing! Since I live in Connecticut, I love getting together with my friends to float down the Farming-

ton River. It's super serene, fun and a unique experience that I feel not everyone knows about. If you don't live near the Farmington River, there might be a business similar to this one near you, just do some digging around on the internet!

Find Creative Lessons

Try and use this free time to take classes on hobbies you don't normally partake in! There are pottery classes all over every state or even a wine and paint night where you can dish in a little money to go home with a beautiful project made by yourself. A cooking class might also be a fun, yet important night to look into since we have to feed ourselves once the Tully is no longer an option as upperclassmen. I would recommend searching around nearby towns for a creative night such as these,

because you never know what may come out from it: new friends, unforgettable memories, a budding hobby or just a new story to share.

Take Advantage of the Weather

The best summers are always the ones spent a majority outside. Try and enjoy the warm weather by setting up a bonfire in your backyard or laying out a picnic at a nice scenic area. If you're an adrenaline seeker, an amusement park might be the place for you too! More than anything, try to use the outside world as your gym. Go hiking, ride your bike around your neighborhood, walk to an ice cream shop or try out jogging! Maybe you can convince your friends to play a basketball scrimmage or hit the tennis courts for an hour as well.

At the end of the day, it

doesn't matter if you had a day full of back-to-back activities or laid in bed all day doing nothing except bingeing a Netflix show. Just try and enjoy these next few months off before you are catapulted into the real world where summer vacations no longer exist, and that will make this summer the best summer ever. I once read that free time cannot be fully processed with the lingering feeling of guilt, so allow yourself this time to relax and breathe. With that being said, leave this semester behind with an open mind and a weightless chest. I wish you a happy, healthy and sunny summer break!

Are you seeking any advice? Email Brooke at brooke.lathe@student.fairfield.edu or direct message our Instagram @fairfieldmirror to be featured!

Best Beach Reads To Kickstart Your Summer Reading

By Abigail White
Assistant Vine Editor

Summer is fast approaching and the excitement that surrounds this season is already kicking in: more free time, trips to the beach, long summer nights and seeing friends from home. However, my favorite summer activity has to be reading for fun! During the school year, I find that I do not have any free time to pick up a book as I am swamped with school work and activities. However, when the chaos of final exams is finished, when I am home for the summer and can finally take a deep breath, I find myself drawn to my bookshelf. Most summer days, you can find me sitting at the beach with a good novel in my hand.

If you have not picked up a book in a while, summer just may be the perfect time to get back into reading. I have compiled a list of some of my favorite summer reads that will hopefully help get you started with your reading this summer.

Any Novel by Jane Austen

I find that the period of transition between spring and summer to be the perfect time to crack open a Jane Austen novel. I love being whisked away from the real world and transported to the English countryside everytime I dive into "Pride and Prejudice," "Emma" or "Mansfield Park."

"Emma" is by far my favorite of Austen's novels. The protagonist, Emma Woodhouse, an upper-class citizen of Highbury, England plays match-maker for those in her community. But all does not go well. With witty characters, subtle humor and beautiful language, "Emma" is such a fun read.

"Sense and Sensibility" is on my list of Austen novels to read this summer. It is one of the few Austen novels I have not yet read, and a beloved classic that I am excited to dive into.

The word "classic" may deter you

from picking up a Jane Austen novel, however, I urge you to put aside any preconceived notions and give this incredible author a try. With more free time due to a lack of schoolwork, this summer may be the perfect chance for you to dive into some of the classics. Austen will pleasantly surprise you with her romantic plotlines and subtle comedy, often pointing to the absurdity of gender roles and upper-class English society.

"The House in the Cerulean Sea" by TJ Klune

If you are looking for something a little lighter, something that feels a little less academic or something a little more modern, then "The House in the Cerulean Sea" is a book I recommend picking up this summer. This story is the perfect summer read, its fantastical plot providing the perfect escape and its setting appropriately by the sea.

The story follows Linus Baker, an orphanage case worker who has been assigned to a case on an island in which six potentially dangerous, magical children reside. Following a theme of finding family in

un-likely places, this book has something for everyone: romance, hu-

mor, LGBTQ+ representation and lovable characters. Coincidentally, this novel was Fairfield's pick for this year's One Book One Town event. Author TJ Klune joined the town of Fairfield at the SHU Community Theater to discuss his book with the community. If you choose to pick up "The House in the Cerulean Sea" this summer, I would highly recommend watching the live recording of this event on the Fairfield Public Library's YouTube channel as well. I find that discussion surrounding a book can only make it more enjoyable.

"Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier

Yes, another classic! Again, don't let this word deter you from picking up this book as it is one of my all time favorite reads. Like "The House in the Cerulean Sea," "Rebecca" is set by the ocean. However, du Maurier takes a darker approach to summer by the sea. Set in the 1930s, our unnamed main character impulsively marries the great Maxim de Winter and enters the seemingly magnificent world of the upper class. It is a world she is not familiar with herself as she was not born into wealth and had previously worked as a lady's companion. As she adjusts to her new role as lady of the house, she finds that she is haunted by the spirit of Maxim's late wife, Rebecca.

The mysterious and chilling atmosphere of this novel will have you on the edge of your seat throughout its entirety and may even alter the way you perceive the ocean.

"Along for the Ride" by Sarah Dessen

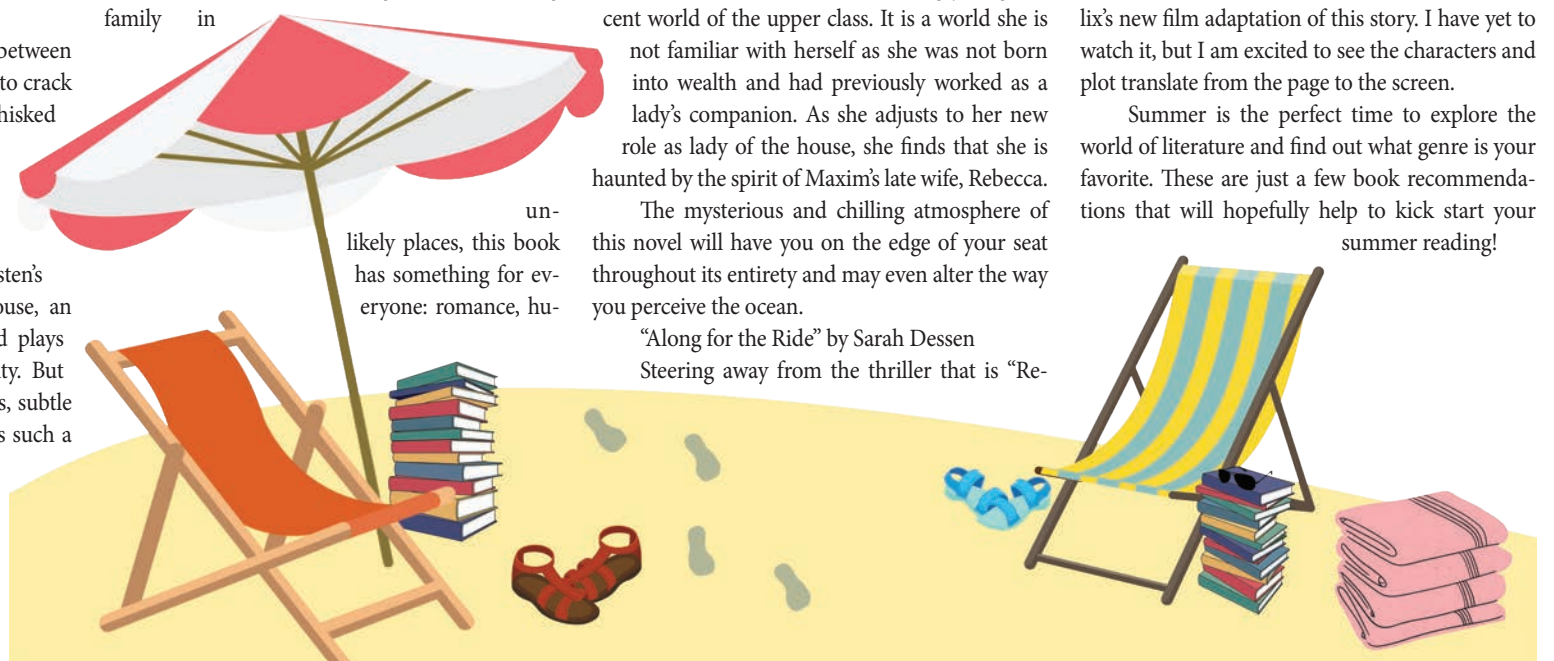
Steering away from the thriller that is "Re-

becca," my next recommendation is one that I consider to be the ultimate beach read: "Along for the Ride" by Sarah Dessen. If you are looking for a publication that does not require such deep analysis; a story that can be read and enjoyed anywhere at any time, then this is a book I would highly recommend.

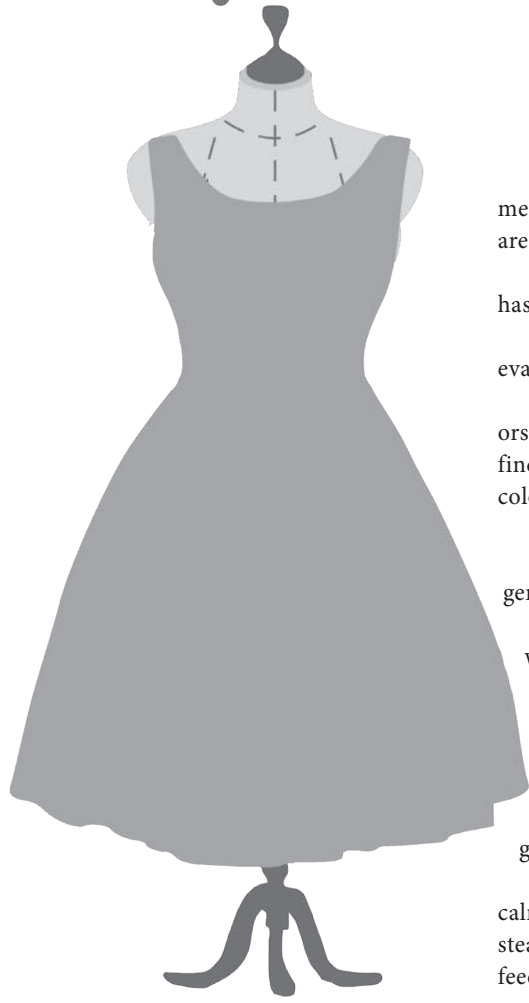
Like many of the others I have discussed, this novel takes place at the beach, the scenery of the ocean often described in beautiful language. The plot follows the main character, Auden, an insomniac as she moves in with her father for the summer. Having been held to such high academic standards by her parents her entire life, she finds this summer to be a time to explore new friendships, new experiences and new relationships.

This is a book that I found myself reading primarily at the beach last summer, the setting of the ocean providing for a much more pleasant reading experience. If you decide to pick up "Along for the Ride" this summer, be sure to check out Netflix's new film adaptation of this story. I have yet to watch it, but I am excited to see the characters and plot translate from the page to the screen.

Summer is the perfect time to explore the world of literature and find out what genre is your favorite. These are just a few book recommendations that will hopefully help to kick start your summer reading!



Stunning Summer Style Tips



By Sophia Spinelli
Contributing Writer

The days are starting to warm up which means that arguably, the best seasonal styles are in tow.

The trend of strictly wearing neutrals has been on the rise for the past year.

It's time to revamp our closets and re-evaluate our aesthetic.

After a winter marked by neutral colors and minimalistic accessories, many are finding themselves innately drawn to bright colors with the change of seasons.

Well...brighter.

Last spring we saw lots of vibrant magentas, exuberant oranges and intense blues.

Perhaps this flashier style was an outward reflection of wanting merrier times after another winter bogged down by COVID anguish.

Now that we've experienced a more lighthearted fall and winter, it's apparent that we don't feel the need to garb ourselves in neon.

Instead, muted sea blues, greens and calming shades of beige are beginning to steal our hearts and take over our Instagram feeds.

Now that colors are covered, let's move on to what styles are in store.

It's safe to say that Anthropologie and Free People have been patiently waiting for this next trend.

According to Vogue, the dreamiest dress to wear this summer is the prairie dress.

Long yet lightweight, these dresses create the perfect mixture of femininity and comfort for torrid summer afternoons.

Not to mention, the detailed embroidery and billowy sleeves are accessories within themselves.

Following the theme of flowy and free, it's become apparent in the last year that linen is the most versatile material for practically every season.

Lately, a popular trend consists of grabbing a basic linen button-down and pairing it with a surprise: a pair of linen pants!

To spice things up, many influencers are opting for lowrise linen pants and leaving their midsection exposed by only buttoning the top portion of their shirt.

Throw a bikini on underneath, a jeweled belly chain and a pair of platform sandals, and you have transformed your linen "sweat-suit" into a work of art.

Lastly, upon analyzing the token ac-

cessories for this upcoming summer, I have found that those pops of color from last season are now being manifested in bags and jewelry.

Many are stylizing their fits with small spirited purses and funky earrings or necklaces.

Asymmetry is also on the rise, as we see with the mini Dior Saddle Bag and acrylic earrings.

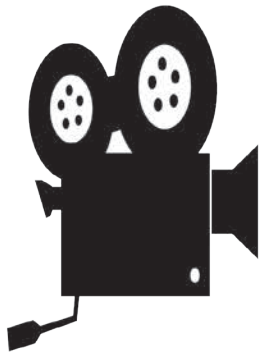
@Feltatelier on Instagram is a great small business that has amazing statement pieces. I also recommend checking out @Brunabear on Instagram to see how she's styling these accessories.

This summer is going to be one to remember, not only for a newfound sense of normalcy, but for the exquisitely elegant outfits we're going to be seeing.

All this being said, it's important to make trends your own and to shop sustainably whenever possible.

Take what you're seeing in stores and on social media and turn it into a reflection of your personal style.

All these tips will hopefully equip you with a quintessential summer wardrobe that will keep you looking sophisticated and feeling ultra-comfortable.



A STAG'S ADVENTURE AT SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

By John Bizub
Contributing Writer

You thought the festival was over?

Sundance Film Festival experienced many changes throughout the course of this year.

When the yearly festival was announced, it was going to be in-person as well as maintain online screenings for selective films.

However, weeks prior to the festival's launch, the COVID-19 variant had other plans.

Due to this, the festival made the switch to be completely virtual, making it accessible to the press and public through its easy-to-navigate user interface.

In addition to my two previous film reviews from the festival, here are some more!

"After Yang" (2022)
Dir: Kogonada

Almost four years after Kogonada debuted the wonderful meditative drama, "Columbus," the South Korean filmmaker is back with a science-fiction tale.

The film follows a family (played by Colin Farrell, Jodie Turner-Smith and Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja) and their adopted robot, Yang (played by Justin H. Min).

A mystery soon follows within the mind of Yang after his systems have crashed and are in need of repair.

What always strikes me about Kogonada's films is how he man-

ages to find beauty in a depressing world.

In "Columbus," it follows a pair of friends discovering life's meaning through architecture. In "After Yang," Kogonada reaches new heights and offers themes of loneliness, the ability to feel within a body that cannot and how much family values one another.

Similar to "Columbus," "After Yang" is a beautifully shot film that is even more well-crafted thanks to stunning effects work and minimalist world-building.

Kogonada swings for the fences here it is almost a home run outside a few pacing issues that slog the film down within the second half.

Kogonada tells the story of our world not too distant from now and continuously keeps it bleak, real and self-contained.

B+
"Dual" (2022) Dir: Riley Stearns

There is something about Riley Stern's energy to make dark comedy genre films that I find very fascinating.

After surprising me with the hilarious "Art of Self-Defense," Sterns returns with "Dual," and no, it is not a remake of the Steven Spielberg classic.

"Dual" stars Karen Gillan as a woman who finds out that she is stricken with a life-ending illness. In this world, her option is to clone herself in order for her family to keep her memory alive.

However, after the illness is benign, she must fight to the death with her clone.

While the story is fascinatingly presented and Karen Gillan is great as well as Aaron Paul, I found myself to be mixed on "Dual."

At times, the dialogue reaches the heights of a Yorgos Lanthimos film and at times tries to be a fun B movie cult film.

This combined with the ill-conceived tone difference kept me confused, as well as an abrupt and unsatisfying ending that left me asking more questions than leaving with answers.

C+
"Sharp Stick" (2022) Dir: Lena Dunham

Lena Dunham has left a divisive impact amongst people as of late. Through her allegations, she has seen herself in more work and now has created a directorial debut with "Sharp Stick."

The debut follows a young caretaker who has an affair with her employer and discovers her bound for lust and power. This film stars Denham, Jon Bernthal and Kris-

tine Froseth.

While I went in with moderate expectations, I could not tell you how much "Sharp Stick" annoyed me.

From the shallow characterization to its creepy subject matter and meandering story, this film could not find a footing in terms of tone or thematics spread throughout.

Sure, the acting is serviceable. In fact, Jon Bernthal is the best part of this film.

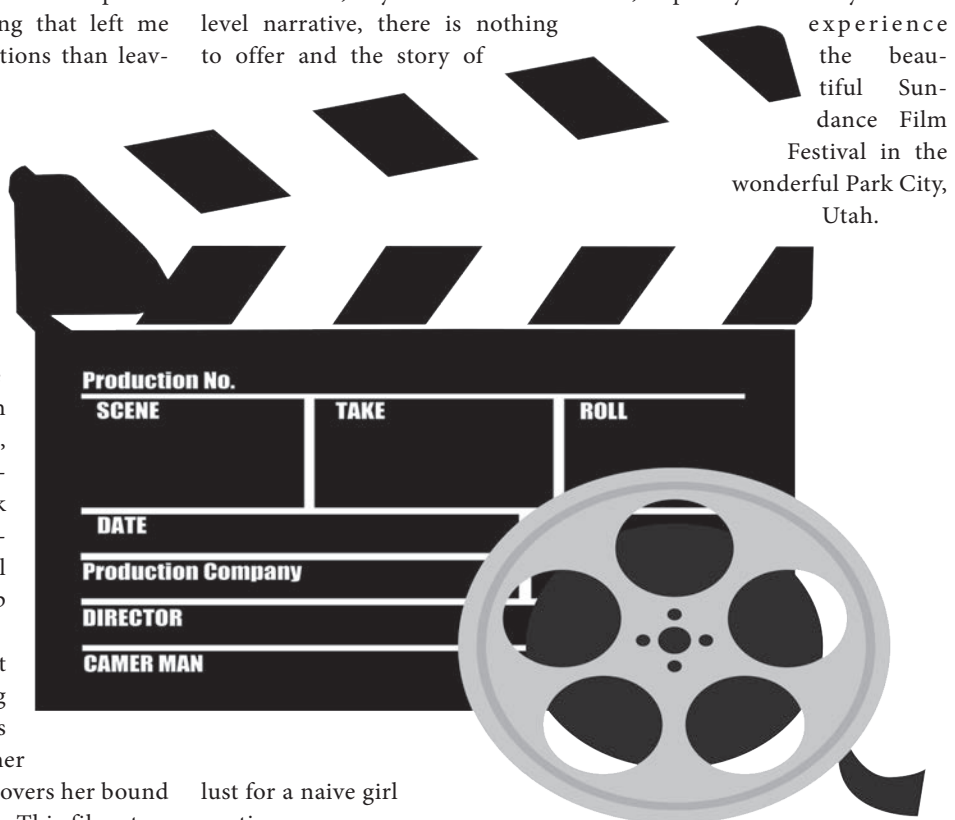
However, beyond its surface-level narrative, there is nothing to offer and the story of

Even though I saw a smaller amount of films at the festival unlike the plethora I was able to see last year, Sundance Film Festival truly is the prime place to be for any up-and-coming filmmaker or film critic to get your start.

From small to large filmmakers presenting their work, these are people who offer meaningful advice, who are working in the industry themselves and are not afraid to answer those questions.

Though the festival was virtual, hopefully someday I can

experience the beautiful Sundance Film Festival in the wonderful Park City, Utah.



lust for a naive girl continues.

D-



COFFEE BREAK



SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editor: Tristan Cruz
tristan.cruz@student.fairfield.edu

NBA Playoff Team Word Search

- Bucks**
- Grizzlies**
- Jazz**
- Nuggets**
- Seventy Sixers**
- Warriors**
- Raptors**
- Timberwolves**
- Bulls**
- Hawks**
- Mavericks**
- Pelicans**
- Suns**
- Celtics**
- Heat**
- Nets**

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F is for... Finals? Fairfield? Flo Rida?

Nick Silvia, Contributing Writer

Here we are, Stags: our final issue of the year, and to celebrate, this article will be on the front page (your move, editing team). Though I'm sure we all wish that we could stay on campus year round and receive parking tickets for being two spots past the correct lot (all jokes - we love you DPS), the year is officially coming to a close. But don't worry: there's still a lineup of fun events to attend before the university shuts down forever. Will some of these events have already happened by the time this article is published? Yes. Will I include them anyway because I'm not creative enough to hit the word count otherwise? Also yes.

FUSA has planned a spring concert on the 22nd, so for all you wild ones who are trying to get low with Flo Rida, make sure to dust off your apple bottom jeans and boots with the fur to see the hottest artist of 2009 (all jokes - we love you FUSA). And for any upperclassmen who don't want to get down in Flo Rida's house, you can spin right round to Clam Jam and see NOTD, the hottest artist you've never heard of (all jokes - we love you Tobias Danielsson and Samuel Brandt).

"I love NOTD, I've been following them since the beginning," said a liar.

Rounding out the year is the dreaded finals week, and since NOTD was under budget for Clam Jam, the duo will also be DJing EDM through every classroom during the week, which is only slightly more disheartening than the experience the editors have reading my articles every week.

Good luck with finals, Stags, and have a great summer!

SPORTS



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| April 27 | April 28 | April 29 | April 30 | May 1 | May 2 | May 3 |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--|
| Baseball vs. Stony Brook University Fairfield, Conn. 3:30 p.m. Softball at United States Military Academy West Point, N.Y. 6:00 p.m. | FAIRFIELD | FAIRFIELD | Men's Rowing New England Championships Worcester, Mass. All Day Women's Rowing New England Championships Worcester, Mass. All Day Men's Lacrosse vs. University of Delaware Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. Canisius College 2022 MAAC Chamopinship Fairfield, Conn. 5:00 p.m. | FAIRFIELD | FAIRFIELD | Softball at. Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. (Away) 3:30 p.m. Baseball vs. University of Massachusetts-Amherst Fairfield, Conn. 3:30 p.m. |

Women's Soccer Selects Trio of Captains



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Left to right: First-year Reagan Klarmann, junior Olivia Homan, and sophomore Caroline Kelly have been named the three newest captains of the Fairfield University women's soccer team.

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor

Junior Olivia Homan, Caroline Kelly '24 and Reagan Klarmann '25 have been selected to be the next trio to lead the 2022-23 campaign as captains for the women's soccer team.

Homan, an Allendale, N.J. native, was part of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference All-Academic team in 2021 and was an integral part of Fairfield's defensive production on the field. Being the most tenured of the three, Homan will step into this leadership role for her senior season next year.

Hailing from New City, N.Y, Kelly began her Fairfield University soccer career at the beginning of last season and started three games according to her official page on fairfieldstags.com. The midfielder gained lots of experience over this past year and will be a valuable leader for the team.

As a first year midfielder from Upper Saddle River, N.J., Klarmann has been able to make a big splash in MAAC soccer in just her first year. She rarely came out of games as she had a handful of 90+ minute contests, proving herself as a key endurance player for the team in each of her 20 starts.

Although there is no schedule available to fans at the current, you can see the Stags back in action when the season starts back up in the fall.

In this week's issue...

- Noviello Pilots Stags Over Peacocks in Perfect Game (Page 14)
- Opinion: Drawing Up the NFL Draft (Page 15)
- Women's Lacrosse Winds Down Season With Two Wins (Page 15)
- A Complete Look Back at the Spring Season (Page 16)
- Softball Team Sees Successs in 7-1 Run (Page 16)

Noviello Pilots Stags Over Peacocks in Perfect Game

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University baseball team's season is in full swing. They are in the midst of a hectic stretch, facing the likes of Hofstra University, Fordham University and Saint Peter's University in the last week.

As far as their record stands, the Stags are 23-15, with some very thrilling performances as well as coming up short on other occasions. To say that it is time to put the pedal to the medal is a complete understatement.

In the game against Hofstra last Tuesday, April 19, inconsistent hitting and multiple errors on defense doomed the Stags, as they fell 9-3 to the Pride.

"I think the biggest thing that we learned from that game was, you know, it's a midweek game and in April things are going to happen," Matt Bergevin '24 says. "I think in the end, we didn't do enough at the plate. We made a lot of mistakes in the field with errors. We let Peter [Ostensen '24] down."

"Yeah, we just came out and didn't have our best game," Mike Sansone '22 explains. "You're not always going to have your best game here and there. We didn't hit much outside of that first inning and we had a decent amount of errors on defense. So really, it was just an all-round poor display from all of us. We're just going to shake this one off and move on."

The next day, on Wednesday, April 20, the Stags traveled down I-95 to take on the Fordham Rams. Although the Stags would struggle early on, falling behind 3-0 by the end of the second inning, they would go on to play resilient baseball the rest of the way by barely squeaking past the Rams, 6-5. Key contributors to the win included outfielder Matt Zaffino '23 and pitcher Jack Erbeck '23. Zaffino had an impressive performance at the plate, going 3-4 with a home run and four runs batted in (RBIs). Erbeck tossed three shutout innings to go along with three strikeouts.

Their teammates were very pleased with the all-around performance shown by the two players and the rest of the team.

"We knew what we were coming into, you know, against another non-conference opponent after a loss," Bergevin states. "We knew we needed to bring it a little in those first two innings, and we did come out a little flat but I thought we did a really good job as a squad turning it around. Jack [Erbeck], Mike [Marella] '23 and Colin McVeigh '24 did an overall really good job for us."

"It was a lot better than it was the day before, that's for sure," Sansone says. "I thought we started off a little slow but I think we did a really good job after that second inning. Overall, I thought we did a really good job adjusting and coming together as a team by minimizing our mistakes towards the end, which I think we still need to work on more as a team."

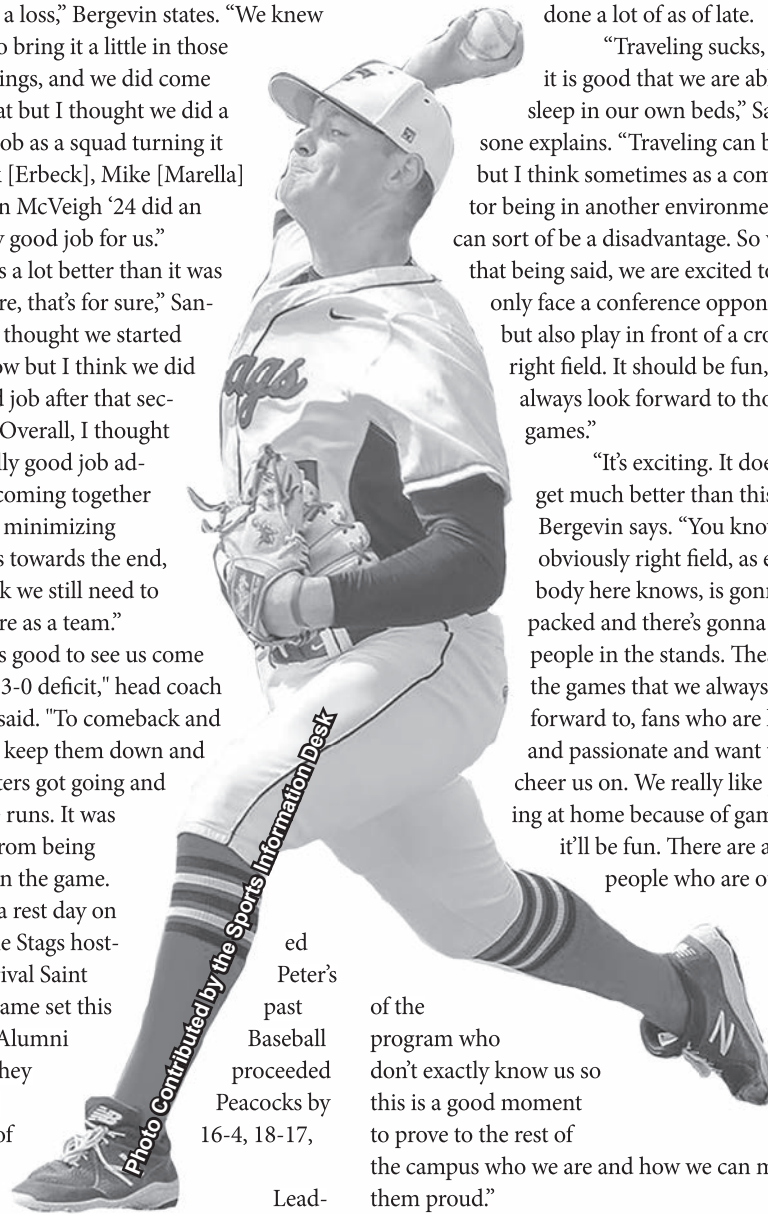
"It was good to see us come back from a 3-0 deficit," head coach Bill Currier said. "To comeback and pitch well to keep them down and then our hitters got going and scored some runs. It was good to go from being down early in the game."

After a rest day on Thursday, the Stags host-conference rival Saint Peter's for a three-game set this weekend at Alumni Diamond. They to sweep the final scores of and 10-0.

ing up to the series, both Bergevin and Sansone were not only excited to take on a conference rival at home but also because of the strong home-field advantage as well as not having to travel anywhere, which the team has done a lot of as of late.

"Traveling sucks, so it is good that we are able to sleep in our own beds," Sansone explains. "Traveling can be fun but I think sometimes as a competitor being in another environment can sort of be a disadvantage. So with that being said, we are excited to not only face a conference opponent but also play in front of a crowded right field. It should be fun, we always look forward to those games."

"It's exciting. It doesn't get much better than this," Bergevin says. "You know, obviously right field, as everybody here knows, is gonna be packed and there's gonna be people in the stands. These are the games that we always look forward to, fans who are loud and passionate and want to cheer us on. We really like playing at home because of games, so it'll be fun. There are a lot of people who are outside



Junior Jake Noviello pitched the first perfect game in Fairfield's history on Sunday, April 24.

After going through a slump in the games against Hofstra and Fordham, the offense exploded against the Peacocks, with the Stags scoring a combined forty-four runs across the three-game series. The biggest contributors on offense included outfielder Paul Catalano '24, who had two home runs and twelve RBIs in an impressive performance, as well as Bergevin, who had a home run as well as ten RBIs that helped the Stags to an easy sweep of the Peacocks.

Furthermore, the pitching also played a big role in the series, with Jake Noviello '22 pitching the first perfect game in program history on Sunday, as well as graduate student Bryson Cafaro, who pitched six innings of one-run ball to go along with nine strikeouts on Friday.

Noviello's dominant performance drew praise from his head coach.

"I'm so happy for Jake," head coach Bill Currier said. "He has gone through rehabbing in the summer and fall and came out today and just put it all together. He had great command of his fastball and slider. He was ahead in counts all day. I'm just really happy for his outing today with everything he has been through."

"It's obviously a special thing but in a way it means even more knowing what I've been through the past year," Noviello said. "At one point last summer I didn't know if I would be able to throw a baseball again. But now, I can say I've been perfect which is pretty special. Thanks to plenty of run support and terrific fielding I can say I'm a part of Fairfield history."

After a well-deserved rest day on Monday, the Stags will head across town to face Sacred Heart University on Tuesday, April 26 before facing Stony Brook University back on campus on Wednesday, April 27. Follow more updates on the baseball team by visiting fairfieldstags.com.

Weekly 4x5 Your 2022-23 4x5 Columnists: Tommy Coppola, Maddy West, Madison Gallo, and Brooke Lathe

Because we have witty things to say ...


What are you most excited about this upcoming summer?


What was your favorite song that Flo Rida performed at last Friday's concert?


Where would you like to go on a vacation: a beach or a lake?


Name one hobby that you enjoy doing that many people don't know about.

Who was the most famous person you have ever met?

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|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Tommy Coppola Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor | I can't wait to go on vacation. I need to see something other than CT. | The way he performed "My House" with the live band was so cool. | "I only say morning now, because it'd be a good morning if I was fishing on a lake" - unknown | I play a bunch of geography quizzes online when I'm bored - it keeps me sharp. | I shook NHL legend Martin St. Louis' hand at Chelsea Piers before a hockey game. No one believes me. |
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|  | Maddy West Editor-In-Chief | To be outside and at the beach with my family. | I didn't attend the concert but by Tommy's response I definitely would have loved the live band! | The beach of course. | One hobby people don't know that I enjoy is fishing. | I met Kevin Garnett when I was little and had an obsession with the Celtics. |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|--|--|

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|  | Madison Gallo Executive Editor | Working & visiting my friends! | "Where Them Girls At" is unbeatable. | Beaches are superior. | Hmm. I don't think I have any secret hobbies, so cooking & reading. | I met LL Cool J at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in D.C. |
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|  | Brooke Lathe Head Vine Editor | I know this sounds crazy, but working! I love my coworkers and job so much. | This shawty was getting low to apple bottom jeans, boots with the fur. The whole club was looking at her, respectfully. | Heading down to the shore as we speak! | I'm pretty much an open book, so it's not hidden, but I love to bake. | I took a picture with Nick Cannon at a school event, but I've been in the same room as Octavia Spencer and Luis Guzman. |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|

Opinion: Drawing Up the NFL Draft

By Ryan Marquardt
Assistant Sports Editor

The NFL draft this year is one of the most complex in recent memory. Analysts and draft experts across the league are torn and have no idea exactly who is going where. With that being said, here are my predictions as to what each team should do with their pick in this year's draft.

Jacksonville Jaguars: Aidan Hutchinson ED Michigan

Aidan Hutchinson has been the consensus for the number one overall pick since he dominated Ohio State University in November. Even though there are rumors that the Jags have eyes on Trayvon Walker, I think they stay safe and take the best player in the draft right now. He has elite technique and can feel where the tackles' leverage is when rushing and use that to his advantage. He holds up well in the running game and he always gives you the effort you love to see.

Detroit Lions: Trayvon Walker ED Georgia

Trayvon Walker has shot up draft boards over the past month or two since the combine, which he shined in. Many are speculating that he will be the first pick over Hutchinson because he has more natural talent and the dimensions that are ideal for an edge rusher. He is not as refined as Hutchinson, but he has the potential to be the best player in this draft; especially with Dan Campbell coaching him and his elite athleticism.

Houston Texans: Ikem Ekwonu T NC State

Ikem "Ickey" Ekwonu has surpassed Evan Neal on most draft boards as the top tackle in this draft. Along with that he is extremely versatile and has

succeeded at both guard and tackle in college. He also has something that every NFL coach wants and that is that he is mean and plays nasty football. He punishes defenders and loves putting people on their backs. He is not a perfect pass blocker yet, but he is elite in the run game. If he cannot be a great tackle in the NFL, he could always slide into the guard spot and dominate.

New York Jets: Ahmad Gardner CB Cincinnati

Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner is big. He is tall and long for a corner at 6'3" and 200lbs, yet he doesn't let that stop him from having elite hip movement and great closing speed if he is out of position which happens rarely. He is also aggressive and has elite ball skills, however, he is not the best tackler but he shows no fear when going in for a hit. He can do it all and succeed at a high level in the NFL.

New York Giants: Kayvon Thibodeaux ED Oregon



Kayvon Thibodeaux of Oregon and Aidan Hutchinson of Michigan are two sought-after NFL Draft picks.

Kayvon Thibodeaux has fallen victim to the recent "great Oregon player who falls in the draft because of qualities you cannot see." It happened to Penei

Sewell last year and Justin Herbert the year before. This year it is that Kayvon, according to reports, "doesn't care or try." The bottom line is that he has the talent, size, speed and technique. He doesn't have elite flexibility or bend when rushing but he has the tools to succeed. He can be a great player and in new Giants defensive coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale's defense, he could give him a solid option to give a lot of opposing quarterbacks' nightmares.

Carolina Panthers: Evan Neal T Alabama

Evan Neal went in every week and went up against some of the best pass rushers in the nation. He is an elite player and will likely be able to lock down a side and compete with any edge rusher there is. He can be a little impatient at times but has the size and ability to be great. The Panthers are in a win-now scenario as Coach Matt Rhule's seat is beginning to heat up, since no quarterback in this class will help them win now the way Evan Neal can.

New York Giants: Charles Cross T Mississippi State

Charles Cross is the best pure pass blocker in this class. He is exactly what the Giants need, and that is someone that can fill the tackle position for the first time in seemingly an eternity. They can finally have two book-end tackles to defend quarterback Daniel Jones or whoever they choose to replace him. He doesn't have all of the natural traits that Neal and Ekwonu have, but he has the technique and ability to

hold his own against anyone. The Giants here are also a prime trade back candidate as they are in a very tight cap situation and could also look to acquire some capital in next year's draft if they need to move up for a QB.

Atlanta Falcons: Garrett Wilson WR Ohio State

There is no way the Falcons are willing to roll into week 1 this season with Ollidade Zaccheus as their number one receiver. They need someone to put next to Kyle Pitts who can compete and draw some attention away from their fourth overall pick last year. Wilson is an elite route runner and has great run after the catch ability.

Seattle Seahawks: Jermaine Johnson II ED Florida State

Jermaine Johnson II has been all over draft boards going anywhere from five to twenty-one. Recently, he has been moving further and further up as he dominated this past year for the Seminoles. He has the natural ability and size to be a great rusher. He is a little tight at times but has a chance to be a really great player early in his career.

New York Jets: Drake London WR USC

The Jets, having invested their second round pick in receiver Elijah Moore last year, still need some more depth at the position. Having seen what Ja'marr Chase did for Joe Burrow last year, adding an elite wide-out could have a similar effect and help Zach Wilson progress to be the franchise guy the Jets are hoping he will be. At 6'5" London adds some much needed size to the Jets offense and could give them an elite wide receiver

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Women's Lacrosse Winds Down Season With Two Wins

By Alexander Vulcano
Contributing Writer

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor

The Fairfield University Women's Lacrosse team defeated the Manhattan Jaspers' by a score of 14-6 on April 20, 2022, to secure a spot in the 2022 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship which begins the weekend of April 29.

In a complete team win, the Stags capitalized on a high-scoring first half in which the Stags exploded for five goals in the second quarter to take an 8-2 into the half, which ultimately proved too much for Manhattan to overcome.

The Stags were propelled by Maggie Fort'24, who led the team in scoring with a career-high four goals on four shots. She was followed by a group of seven players that also put the ball in the back of the net. Sophomore Elizabeth Talluto had three assists and got in on the

scoring action with a hat-trick of her own to lead the team in points. Defensively, Nicollette

Lavista '22 won a team-high six draw controls out of fourteen total by the team. Co-captain and senior Caroline Mangan vacuumed up a team-best seven ground balls to lead eleven Stags in that category. Both co-captain graduate student Kelly Horning and Julia Rigolizzo '25 forced three turnovers each, the most of any player, as Fairfield forced 17 total turnovers by the Jaspers. In the net, Casey Collins '24 made six huge saves throughout the game.

"I think we had a really strong defensive day," said Head Coach Laura Field after the game. "This was probably [the] most comprehensive game we've

played, from offense to defense, goalkeeping, and draws."

On Saturday, April 23, in their final home game, the Stags hosted Canisius College. The game was their senior day, and they were able to topple the Golden Griffins by a final score of 21-

11. Lavista had a team-high eight draw controls on the game which helped control the momentum from the get go.

The women's lacrosse team sits in fourth place in the MAAC and will begin their MAAC championship campaign starting April 29.



The Fairfield women's lacrosse team celebrates their victory against Manhattan College.

A Complete Look Back at the Spring Season

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor,
Head Sports Editor

By Maddy West
Editor-in-Chief

Softball

The Fairfield University softball team has had their work cut out for them this season. With a full schedule and very little breaks in between games, the team has seen nonstop action; their season will continue through May 8, 2022. With tournament play in the beginning of the season, the Stags were unable to perform in the Wolfpack Classic, but nearly split the differences in the USF Tournament, Thundering Herd Invite, and the Rutgers University Tournament. In the regular season, a 9-1 victory over Yale University was surrounded by losses. However, the team has been picking up incredible steam, going 10-1 in their last eleven games. They will take on Sacred Heart University at home on April 26.

Baseball

Out of the floodgates, the baseball team was able to open up their season with a big series win over Elon University. The team went back-and-forth until sweeping both games in the 2022 Russmatt Central Florida Invitational over spring break. The team hit their stride later on, winning eight straight, which included in-state victories over the University of Hartford and Central Connecticut State University. In recent news, the team was able to sweep Manhattan College, move past the Fordham University Rams, and go perfect against the Saint Peter's University Peacocks.

Men's Lacrosse

The men's lacrosse team, after going 2-9 during last season, have had an important turnaround year. Coach Andrew Baxter and his squad have taken home massive wins in es-

sential games against the likes of Sacred Heart University, Providence College, Hofstra University and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. They are currently 7-6 and will take on Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) competitor University of Delaware in their final stand of the season, which will take place on Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium on April 30 at 1 p.m. Young stars such as Luke Okupski '24 and Jack McKenna '25 have proven themselves as key cogs in the continuance of the Stags' success.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team has remained strong throughout the entire season. Looking to make yet another Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship run and repeat their success of last year, the team has been gearing up for playoffs. During the season, they have seen some of their fellow MAAC competition get the best of them in games against Siena College, Monmouth University, and Niagara University. Regardless, they have toppled many in-conference foes, closing out their season with two wins against Manhattan and Canisius College. The higher seed in the MAAC playoffs will host the championship, and the playoffs will get underway on April 30. They will last until May 8.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team had a season split right down the middle. With a .455 win percentage and a 15-18 overall record, the Stags were unable to triumph against some of the more nationally-recognized programs

such as Providence College and Boston College. From late December to late January, the team underwent a losing skid of seven games against five MAAC teams and two out-of-conference teams. The team eventually reimagined their footing in a clutch 69-66 win over Marist College and went roughly even for the rest of the season, winning some and losing a similar amount. In the final two months of the season, the Stags took on the Saint Peter's Peacocks twice before the opposition would gain widespread national attention for their Cinderella-story run. They would

College, Niagara University, and Manhattan College to take home the trophy. With this, they punched their ticket to the Round of 64 of March Madness, where they would be taking on the #7 seeded University of Texas at Austin. In head coach Joe Frager's final game before stepping down, the Stags lost 70-52, but still made it farther than in previous seasons. This historic ending to the magical season paved the way to Fairfield University eventually hiring Carly Thibault-DuDonis as the newest head coach, a former assistant coach at the University of Minnesota.

Thibault-DuDonis and her team will be back in action next winter at the brand new convocation center being built on campus.

Men's Golf

Men's golf definitely left their mark this spring season with two tournament wins, and an impressive 2022 MAAC Championship performance at Disney's Magnolia Golf Course. The Stags game in third overall at the end of the weekend with impressive scores across the board. Killian McGinley '23 and Jason Salemeno '22 carded 73 in the final round. Patrick Ryan '22 and Patrick McCarthy '23 finalized the tournament at six over par. Seven out of the ten players on the current roster are set to return in the Fall and keep the momentum going.

Women's Golf

Women's golf had an impressive season, capping it off by taking home sixth place in the MAAC championship, with three Stags earning top-fifteen finishes. Additionally, head coach Doug Holub was named MAAC golf coach of the year for the second season in a row. During the MAACs Sydney Nethercott '24 led at +19 overall to take a share of 12th place out of

forty-five players competing. Next year, five out of the six players will return to continue to compete in another strong season.

Men's Tennis

Men's tennis had an exceptional season and an exciting conclusion when the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) announced the end-of-the-year awards, with five Stags taking home seven awards from the league. Kaya Gore '22 was named the MAAC Player of the Year and finished 4-1 at No. 1 singles, while finishing 18-4 overall in the top flight for the season. Gore has now taken the last two Player of the Year honors and in addition, was also named unanimously to the All-MAAC First Team roster at both No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles. Will O'Brien '25 took First Team All-Conference at No. 2 doubles. Andrew Immink '25 and graduate student Charlie Morkel earned First Team All-MAAC honors at No. 3 doubles after going a perfect 8-0 this season, including six wins in six conference matches. Finally, Sam Hodges '25 won Second Team All-Conference honors at No. 4 singles. Fairfield men's tennis concluded the 2021-22 regular season campaign last weekend, with a shutout win over Rider at the Walsh Athletic Center Tennis Courts.

Women's Tennis

After a successful run and victory in the semifinals, women's tennis was defeated Sunday by Quinnipiac in the 2022 MAAC women's tennis championship match. Fairfield women's tennis concluded the 2021-22 season with a 10-11 record, which included three wins in MAAC play. Seven players brought home 10 All-Conference awards for their play. Their impressive run makes them a team to watch come next season.

Continued on www.fairfieldmirror.com



face Saint Peter's once more, falling to them a third and final time in the MAAC quarterfinals to close out their season.

Women's Basketball

Who isn't talking about Fairfield women's basketball? With a 25-7 overall record and a near-perfect 19-1 in-conference record versus MAAC schools, the Stags were able to dominate the league and even make a March Madness push. Big wins over schools like Brown University were able to push the Stags forward and eventually helped them gain the traction they needed to breeze through the MAAC playoffs and take home a championship for the first time since 1998. In Atlantic City, N.J., they took on Iona

Softball Team Sees Success in 7-1 Run

By Zachary Stevens
Contributing Writer

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor

The Fairfield University softball team traveled to Poughkeepsie, New York, on April 20 where they faced a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference foe, the Marist Red Foxes, in a highly anticipated doubleheader.

In the first contest, the Stags' bats came out very slow, failing to create any form of momentum or pressure on the Marist defense. The Foxes on the other hand were just the opposite, as they came out aggressive and took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning.

The score would remain at 2-0 until the fourth inning, where the Stags finally broke down the door of the tough Marist pitching and started a rally of their own.

Graduate student Lauryn Rhinehart and Megan Forbes '23 both reached first base with singles, which ultimately culminated into a Fairfield run due to an error in the Marist

infield, putting the score of the game to 2-1 in favor of the Red Foxes.

Marist would immediately take back their two-run lead in the following inning, after a Red Fox scored on a sacrifice fly ball to right field. With a score of 3-1 and time slowly running out for the Stags, Fairfield only had to strike a back, exactly did.

After a 6th inning fly ball to center field from Kasey Sekula '24 that scored Kaitlin Hoffman '22, the Stags only trailed by a run

heading into the final inning of the game 3-2.

Fairfield continued with their momentum from the previous inning and instantly loaded the bases with only one out in the top of the seventh inning. This was set up perfectly for Forbes, who hit a two-run double that would lead Stags

bring home and lead Stags to take the 4-3.



Sophomore Kasey Sekula posted a season high 3 hits against Hartford this week.

Fairfield was not done there, as Sekula would bring home Hoffman on a sacrifice fly ball to center, expanding their lead to now two. Katie Kudlacik '22 would be awarded the victory, as she tossed a gem of a game, pitching seven innings on two earned runs and two strikeouts.

In the big comeback win for the Stags, it was a perfect start for a doubleheader series and a win that brought an enormous amount of confidence in the clubhouse.

On Thursday, April 21, the Stags took on the University of Hartford, which was the first installment of a six-game home stand. Pitcher Sam Lindsay '23 picked up her second win of the season against Hartford, who the Stags were able to shut out by a final score of 9-0 according to the official box score.

Two days later, on Saturday, April 23, the Stags hosted a doubleheader against Canisius College. In the first contest, a three-run homerun from Hoffman created a dramatic finish, as the team was able to take home the 4-3

walkoff win. The second game did not go as smoothly as the first, with the Golden Griffins walking away with a 4-1 victory.

Similarly, the Stags welcomed Niagara University to Alumni Softball Field for another double header on Sunday, April 24. Senior pitcher Kudlacik only allowed two hits in the first game of the two, and shut out the Purple Eagles by a score of 4-0 to seal the Stags' victory.

Following the same trends as their other come-from-behind wins against Marist and Canisius, the Stags were able to topple the 3-0 lead that the Purple Eagles held in the fifth inning of the second game to turn it into a 4-3 victory. Their four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning pushed them past the Griffins in scoring, while their defense in the field confirmed the win.

The Stags will travel to West Point, N.Y. to take on the United States Military Academy on Wednesday, April 27 at 6 p.m.