

# THE MIRROR

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Bridget Keohane/The Mirror

Fairfield students and their guests gathered at the Townhouses on March 16 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. DPS and other security officials were also present in an effort to control the behavior of the crowd.

## Students Celebrate Annual Sham Jam Amidst Campus and Town Regulations

BY BRIDGET KEOHANE  
Assistant News Editor

On Saturday, March 16, Fairfield students gathered on campus and at the beach area in an effort to celebrate the annual St. Patrick's Day darty, commonly referred to by students as "Sham Jam."

In previous years, Sham Jam has been known to draw negative feedback from the University's Administration and local town residents who argue that the event causes unnecessary chaos and disruption. While Sham Jam usually takes place on a smaller scale than Fairfield's infamous "Santa Con," some argue its implications are the same and feature individuals violating the law and disrespecting the private property of local residents.

Last year, the Office of the Dean of Students took part in organizing the annual Sham Jam event at the Townhouses, only offering students who showed their Stag Card access into a designated Townhouse lawn area. Fairfield University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) was also present throughout the day, monitoring the crowd.

However, this year, there was no communication from the Office of the Dean of Students about organizing this year's Sham Jam, but rather an email sent by Dean Johnson on Tuesday, March 12 encouraging student attendance at other on-campus events taking place on Saturday. The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) led the efforts to draw students away from the Townhouse area by organizing a St. Paddy's Palooza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Campion basketball courts. The event featured music, popular food trucks, and a Beer Garden for those who are 21+.

In addition, given that the Stags

Men and Women's basketball teams both qualified for the MAAC Championship last week, OSE also advertised a pre-game event at the Levee on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. prior to tip-off, featuring a fry bar, pizza and mocktails. There was also a MAAC Championship viewing party at Elicit Brewery for both games. OSE also offered students the opportunity to sign up for free tickets to see "Wicked" on Broadway at 2 p.m. on Saturday, with transportation provided.

To keep students off the beach area, those 21+ were also open to attend the Sham Jam event at The Seagrape, which featured an open bar from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a tent, food, and student DJs and giveaways.

While Dean Johnson encouraged student attendance at these various events, he also addressed the anticipated crowd Sham Jam brings, stating "Unapproved, large student gatherings are not allowed on campus."

He continued, "Given the multitude of activities taking place, there will be additional security and Public Safety staff positioned across campus." This proved to be true, as DPS was present by the Townhouses as early as 9 a.m. Saturday morning, monitoring the lawn areas and advising Townhouse residents to contain their gatherings on their porches and inside their houses.

Despite this, around 12 p.m. a large crowd of students gathered on the lawn by Townhouse 9 block alongside DPS, who were monitoring open containers and other violations of community standards outlined in Fairfield's Student Handbook.

Many individuals on Fizz commented on the prominent security presence at the Townhouses, posting things like: "There was more security bordering

the townhouses yesterday than there is on our southern border," "They can't stop us all. Pack 9 block," and "My only goal is to not get written up today."

The beach area followed a similar theme, with significant staffing of G-Force Security, as well as Fairfield police. This proved to help mitigate the crowd but did not prevent all unlawful activity. On Sunday, March 17, the CT-Post reported that Fairfield Police issued eight infraction citations and arrested two individuals due to violations such as public urination and criminal trespassing. However, the two individuals arrested were not Fairfield students.

There was also a select number of staff and volunteers cleaning up any trash scattered on the beach property. This was likely to combat the high levels of trash found on the beach in the hours following Santa Con this past December.

Members of Fairfield's Club Ski and Snowboard Team decided to join these clean-up efforts Sunday morning as a part of their club's commitment to community service. Team member Brianna Mcaleer '25 reflected on the clean-up, stating "I would say that the beach was already very clean, so round of applause to all the students for being able to both party and look after our beach community and environment!"

Mcaleer's positive sentiment regarding this year's handling of Sham Jam was also echoed by News 12 who highlighted the "glowing reviews" the University and hired staff received by beach residents due to the mostly tame and clean Sham Jam.

Despite some isolated incidents, this year's Sham Jam proved to be a safer and more controlled celebration in comparison to previous unsponsored University events.

## Result of FUSA Election Raises Questions

BY SAMANTHA RUSSELL  
Executive Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Fairfield University Student Association (FUSA) announced Andrew Mejia '26 and running mate Bryan Santos '26 as the newly elected FUSA President and Vice President. In a shocking declaration after a one-sided presidential debate, Mejia and Santos made history as the first-ever write-in candidates to take FUSA office. Their victory, however, was not without pushback from the student body they look to represent.

The president-elect and vice president-elect were absent from the Feb. 22 FUSA Presidential debate, stirring a multitude of discussion when the pair won 356 of the 566 total votes. Because they did not attend the debate, Mejia clarified that they could not even declare candidacy, which created particular limitations for their campaign.

"Ideally, we both wanted to declare candidacy and go through all the steps, but given the circumstances, we just went with what we had," he explained.

Mejia attends Fairfield University on a full-ride scholarship and Santos attends the institution as a commuter student. Through their respective experiences, the sophomores convey undeniable gratitude for the support they have received from peers and faculty, and credit that support as substantial motivation for their presidential campaign.

"I [want to] give back,"

stated Mejia, later adding that he hopes to offer others the same support and opportunities he has received. For him, running for FUSA President has been a consistent thought since his first year.

Similarly, Santos discussed his strong desire to lead others towards wellness. "I always wanted to be in a position where I'm able to give back to the community," he said. "I can do more in this position than I can in Health & Wellness."

FUSA's Health & Wellness Committee stands as Mejia and Santos' first initiative within the association and a source of great pride for the duo. During their term, they plan to develop and expand its effect on Fairfield students. As an engineering major, health and wellness is specifically something Mejia looks forward to as a future profession.

Holding FUSA office has been a running joke for Mejia and Santos since their first year. And, the more they joked, the more people brought the idea up to them. The president-elect admitted that, to every joke, some truth exists.

Santos was Mejia's first ask to be his vice president. "Bryan is someone who, I think, is an advocate," he confessed. Their campaign and eventual victory was the result of an hours-long FaceTime call on one initially-regular night. Once the idea was pitched, the two sat for hours, fleshing out as detailed of a plan as possible.

"We [didn't] want to run

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SheaBurns/The Mirror

Students were out and about last week enjoying early signs of Spring. The first-year class in particular seemed to bring a new and more active atmosphere to campus compared to past years. Many first-years spent their warmer days playing frisbee in the Quad amongst other activities, such as Spikeball, soccer, and listening to music.

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## Author Idra Novey Encourages Students to Find Joy in the Humanities

BY MAX LIMRIC  
Editor in Chief

Idra Novey, Ph.D., author of “Take What You Need,” joined more than 40 faculty, staff and students for a “Conversation in the Arts” event hosted in the Library Multimedia Room on March 12. Novey’s panel was the Arts Institute’s inaugural event and marks the beginning of a rich partnership between the DiMenna-Nyselius Library and other departments on campus as it aims to collaborate and host enriching events.

In addition to Novey, the panel consisted of Gabrielle Jacob ‘24, Carilyn Rivera ‘24, Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics and Translation Studies Laura Gasca Jiménez, Ph.D. and Professor and Chair of Visual & Performing Arts Department Marice Rose, Ph.D.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literature “chose to host Idra Novey because it was an opportunity for students to become familiar with the work of an accomplished professional literary translator,” explains Gasca Jiménez. She continues, “the main purpose of the event was to highlight the many interdisciplinary connections that we often find in the humanities and the arts.”

Student panelists, Rivera and Jacob both felt honored to have



Photo Courtesy of Isabella Grey

Idra Novey—alongside four other panelists—spoke to an audience of over 40 members of the Fairfield community at the “Conversation in the Arts” to emphasize the importance of humanities and her experience as an multilingual author, poet, and professor.

been asked to be a part of the event and reflected upon the opportunity.

“Dr. Marice Rose reached out to me with the opportunity to be a part of the panel because of the overlapping themes covered in both Novey’s work and my artwork such as immigration, the pursuit of knowledge and beauty found in unlikely places,” states Rivera.

Similarly, Jacob was chosen for the panel because of her research as a Humanities Student Fellow. “Dr. Rose and the other professors involved in orchestrating this event thought that my perspectives during the HI seminar were insightful and that my own student research project would complement the themes of Ms. Novey’s novel quite well since they both focus on elements of underrepresentation, belonging and identities,” she reflected.

Novey is not only an author, a poet and a professor of creative writing at Princeton University, but she is also a translator as well.

The event began with questions from the panelists, which often referenced Novey’s multilingual identity, asking her about her writing process and how it is impacted by her identity as a multilingual author.

Novey explains that she finds writing or belonging to one culture impossible: “Your nature fights doing it,” she stated. To demonstrate how she experiences cultural dissonance, she offered an example from her novel.

She references the first line of her novel, which begins with a phrase about “quieting the mind,” a phrase not primarily used in English. “Even though the lines are in English, I imagined the family speaking in Spanish,” she explains, which is how the phrase “quieting the mind” opens her novel, as the English translation originates from the Spanish phrase “callar la mente,” which is more commonly used.

After learning about the writing process for multilingual writers, students in attendance note the power of being multilingual and its manifestations not only in writing professions but in other fields as well.

Spanish minor Jenna LaRochelle ‘25 touches upon Novey’s multilingual identity. “It was interesting to hear how translation and being multilingual helped Idra create scenes and characters representative of all types of people.”

Then, LaRochelle connects Novey’s conversation with her

personal life. “As I work in healthcare, knowing Spanish and being able to translate helps me make patients feel seen and heard,” she states.

Fellow Spanish minor Erin Resnick ‘25 believes in the value of learning Spanish “because it gives [her] the opportunity to communicate with more people and understand other perspectives on the world, especially because I’m going into the Education field.”

Resnick continues to make connections between Novey’s conversation and the benefits of translation. “Learning how to translate can help others have equal opportunities and make people feel more comfortable and confident,” she believes.

During her conversation, Novey stressed the importance and value of studying the humanities. “My students go on to inhabit many professions and have wide career choices,” she maintains that “studies show that humanity majors succeed in many occupations.”

She adds that one of the most important lessons she can teach her students is to “take a risk or take a seat. You have to continually ask yourself, what is the risk I am taking and why is it meaningful.”

Gasca Jiménez echoes Novey’s discussion of the importance of exploration and risk-taking in the context of the humanities and the arts. “I hope students left the panel energized to continue exploring what the humanities and the arts have to offer them professionally and personally,” she stated.

“

I hope students left the panel energized to continue exploring what the humanities and the arts have to offer them professionally and personally.”

- Laura Gasca Jiménez  
Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics and Translation Studies

Like Gasca Jiménez, Novey also knows students don’t only need the humanities for job opportunities or risk-taking, but for personal gain, as she believes “you need the humanities to seek joy throughout your life.”



Compiled by Kathleen Morris

Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety

3/15

3:20 p.m.

A student reported that they hit a vehicle in the Canisius lot. DPS was able to locate the owner of the car and the situation is being addressed.

3/16

1:25 a.m.

A nonstudent was found intoxicated in a bathroom in Campion Hall. The individual was identified as a minor and was transported to the hospital.

3/16

1:20 p.m.

A student was in the possession of alcohol as a minor. He was asked to leave the Townhouse 10 block area, but was found again by DPS officers 10 minutes later.

3/16

30 students were documented for alcohol violations involving minors. No one was sent to the hospital, but the individuals were referred to the Dean of Students.

3/16

3:30 p.m.

A group of five nonstudents were involved in a fight at the Townhouses. The individuals have been banned from campus.

3/16

4:40 p.m.

A Fairfield Prep student snuck into "Sham Jam" and was arrested for interfering with police officers. He was brought home to his parents and the Fairfield Prep administration will handle disciplinary action.

3/17

1:45 a.m.

An intoxicated student ran away from DPS officers and was later found passed out in a running vehicle at the Townhouses. DPS thwarted the drunk driving attempt and the individual was referred to the Dean of Students.



Ashley Devlin/ The Mirror

Dr. Timothy Snyder is joined by Fairfield faculty members for a Q&A regarding the current state of the world. He discusses the politics of the Russia-Ukraine war, potential tyranny in the U.S., and urges all to get out and vote.

## Expert in History and Global Affairs, Dr. Timothy Syder, Warns Against Tyranny

BY ASHLEY DEVLIN  
Head News

"The future of democracy depends on the things that we do after we get up out of these seats today" is what Professor of History at Yale University, Tim Snyder, opened his speech with at the Open VISIONS Forum on Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Snyder is a historian and active member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He delivers speeches across the globe, collaborates with organizations like the United Nations, acts as a specialist in certain crises on the news and has studied in Ukraine for years. As an expert on the Russia-Ukraine war that began in 2022, Snyder was asked to appear as a speaker at Fairfield University about a year ago. However due to his high stature and greatly demanded presence, he was difficult to acquire until this past week.

The Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University worked in collaboration with the university's History Department to book him. It took a great deal of planning and funding to achieve and their efforts were received extremely well, as the Quick Center's entire theater was filled, with people trying to catch part of the speech by standing all the way in the back. Robin Bennett Kanarek, a member of the board for the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies said that "it's amazing that we were able to get Tim Snyder to speak at Fairfield. He truly does great work and Fairfield students need to hear his message."

The Quick Center for the Arts hosted the event in its auditorium and Snyder delivered a 20-minute speech regarding the descent into tyranny that happened in Russia. As someone who studied in Ukraine and spoke with their president many times during the war, he has seen how tyranny can negatively impact the world. His speech centered around the high presence of propaganda and tyranny in the twenty-first century that many people cannot recognize.

Before he began his talk, someone shouted from the audience, "Is this going to be depressing?"

Snyder responded, "You may think it's going to be because of the nature of the topic. But my goal is for this to be hopeful." That sentiment echoed throughout his entire speech.

His actual speech started with an anecdote about his high school debate coach who told him that "your presentation is successful if when people leave the room they are somehow changed. And change in the sense that they might behave differently afterward. That is my goal tonight. The future of democracy depends on things that we do after we get up out of these seats today."

Since Russia is a fascist nation run by a tyrant who uses propaganda to control all of his citizens, their expansion threatens the livelihood of the entire world, Snyder warned students.

While many United States citizens and Fairfield University students may seem unconcerned about the Russia-Ukraine crisis, Snyder urges everyone to become more aware of the situation. "The Ukrainians are struggling and most people around the world don't care," he stated.

Students are specifically removed from the situation due to little access to cable news and low exposure to the real world, especially on a campus that is not very politically active.

Snyder explained that when the Russia-Ukraine war first started, "Our first reaction was to give up and other people showed us that you don't have to give up. You can win."

Ukraine fought back and has continued to do so over the past two years and the United States still has not intervened, Snyder discussed, pointing out that he believes this is part of the American nature, which take other people's efforts for granted.

"While this attitude may have sufficed for the past few decades, it needs to change before November," he continues, noting that the

United States is also in danger of falling into fascism. Snyder explains that we have all of the ingredients necessary for this to happen.

"We have the willing tyrant [Trump], we have the laws on the books that allow for emergency action and we have the precedent of a coup. In the history of coups, the failed coup is very often the precursor to a successful coup. All of that is ready. It's all lined up for us."

This may be a terrifying idea for many, but Snyder believes that it is necessary for students to understand what is happening so that they can try to change this trajectory before it becomes a reality.

He ended his speech by urging students, faculty members and others in the audience to remember the downfalls of former President Donald Trump; how many of his actions were fascist and how electing him in November could easily push the United States into tyranny.

"The point I want to make is that it's great to see you all here because in March of 2025 we will all be doing very different things. I sincerely believe that this November will be a turning point in the timeline," said Snyder.

This change in the timeline is avoidable if students get out and vote and Snyder urges every Fairfield student to vote against tyranny this November. "Even if you've never voted before, I encourage you to do so because it's fun. There are some things that you only do once because you're young, so try it. Tell your kids about it in Canada," Snyder joked.

However, "when we vote, we have to remember that there was an attempted coup d'etat in the United States three years ago. We have to remember that eight years ago there was a campaign by the Russian government to choose the U.S. president."

Begging for students and other audience members to remember the past and become more politically active in the near future, Snyder ended his speech and received an uproar of applause. The event then proceeded to have a Q&A section with three Fairfield University professors asking Snyder a series of questions. After this portion ended, the audience was able to ask Snyder questions, as well.

One student, Dimitri Skafidas '25, said that he "found the talk very sobering rather than inspiring. Tyranny and authoritarianism are often overlooked by Americans because they don't know about history or the international community."

Skafidas believes that tyranny and authoritarianism are on the rise across the globe and warns Fairfield students that they need to become more engaged in the topic to stop this from happening. He also said, "Snyder's talk was very good because he is extremely knowledgeable on the topic and Fairfield students should most definitely be exposed to more information about this and events like this because they often fail to know about the historical implications of authoritarian regimes and have a surprising lack of exposure to international media."

“

We can create our own history. We simply have to do something.”

-Dr. Timothy Snyder, Professor at Yale University

Skafidas shares the opinion of many of his fellow classmates when he stated that he hopes to see more influential figures, like Dr. Snyder visiting Fairfield's campus and encouraging students to become more involved in the political climate of the world. "We can create our own history. We simply have to do something," which Snyder shouted many times, hoping for it to sink in.

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# 10th Annual STAGiving Day Brings Fundraising Opportunities at Fairfield

BY ERICA SCHINDLER  
Assistant News Editor

Once a year, Fairfield University students find the Barone Campus Center decked out in red and white, with balloons and posters adorning the halls. This isn't in celebration of a national holiday, but another kind of day for the school community: a day of fundraising known as STAGiving Day.

This Wednesday, March 20 marks the 10th annual STAGiving Day at Fairfield. The yearly event is a designated 24 hours of fundraising for a variety of programs and initiatives within the campus community.

Among the many university programs, activities and offices that can benefit from donations is the Center for Social Impact. Melissa Quan, Director of the Center for Social Impact, expressed the center's STAGiving goals of raising money for two initiatives.

"This year, we are raising funds for our Center for Social Impact Fellows program – a paid fellowship through which students develop and apply knowledge and skills to address real-world issues through research, internships and leadership – and the Dream Fund – a scholarship fund for undocumented students enrolled at Fairfield University that helps ensure their status is not a barrier to achieving their full potential," Quan said.

Donors looking to give to a university cause, such as the Center for Social Impact, can contribute in a number of different ways to gain extra money for their chosen fund. As in past years, there are a variety of "challenges" that will match donations when completed. For the "New Around Here Challenge," two first-time donors will be randomly selected to have an additional \$250 donated to their chosen fund. Another challenge, "Parents Know Best," says that the 240th parent to donate during STAGiving will gain an additional \$500 added on to their gift.

In describing the purpose and importance of having a day dedicated to fundraising, the STAGiving Day website states, "A

tradition in its TENTH year, STAGiving Day is one day when the Stag community comes together as One Fairfield to support student scholarships, innovative research, athletics, diversity and inclusion, spirituality, service and other important University initiatives —and close the gaps not filled by tuition or endowment funds."

As outlined on the donation page and other university materials, those making donations can choose where they want their money to go. Rather than giving to one general fund, donors have the ability to select the specific cause they want to support from athletic teams to academic scholarships. A full list of giving opportunities will be available on the online giving page on March 20.

Current students looking to help with the STAGiving fundraising effort can do so by becoming an "advocate." By signing up as an advocate, stags will have access to an account through GiveCampus, allowing them to share a unique campaign link. This link, shared on social media or sent to family and friends, will take potential donors to that student's page where their donations will be tracked.

Students who become advocates can also create their own match or challenge initiatives.

"Offering a Match means that you'll give a number of dollars for every dollar or donor that the campaign receives up to your specified maximum gift amount," Fairfield's advocacy dashboard states. "Offering a Challenge means that you'll give a gift if the campaign receives a certain number of donors or dollars."

The third way for student advocates to contribute to the day of giving is by creating a personal plea for donations. Leading up to STAGiving, students can create a video message in which they share their excitement about the day and encourage others to give. Approved videos will be posted on the campaign page.

Even those who cannot make a monetary donation are encouraged to spread the word about STAGiving Day through

social media and other means. The university has provided a social media toolkit to make posting about the day of giving easier. Center for Social Impact Director Quan emphasized the importance of STAGiving for raising awareness in addition to money.

"STAGiving Day helps us to get the word out there about the Center for Social Impact's work," Quan said.

Aside from being an opportunity to raise funds, STAGiving provides students with opportunities to have fun and get involved on campus. Events on campus this STAGiving Day include trivia on golf carts run by Fairfield's Student Alumni Association (SAA). Six golf carts will be driving around campus bringing students to and from class. While riding in the carts, students will be quizzed by SAA members about funding and the importance of giving back.

Last year's STAGiving raised more than \$3.6 million dollars for the university community, with the average gift being around \$100. This year, the school hopes to raise even more money to make 2024 the biggest STAGiving Day yet.



Students, athletic teams, faculty and staff get involved on STAGiving on Wednesday, March 20. STAGiving is in its 10th year.

## Elected FUSA Candidates Articulate Their Commitment to Serve the Student Body Despite Sudden Win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just to run," assured Mejia. Santos further affirmed the relentless effort put into their presidential plan.

"It may seem sudden, but we definitely put a lot of reflection and thought into it."

Assigning great attention to student needs, a prominent area of focus for the newly-elected officials is commuter students. As a commuter student himself, Santos acknowledges the struggle those students face regarding campus involvement. "I can be a voice for them as well."

Uplifting campus sustainability and interconnection were expressed as additional goals for Mejia and Santos. Through their term, they not only aim to branch off from their Health & Wellness Committee but to implement more dorm and late-night activities through Stag Safety: Campus Culture & Nightlife.

This campus project works to ensure an inclusion of safety and enjoyment for all students, accomplished through reviving old campus activities and implementing new ones. Mejia describes this plan as "a safer way for a student to enjoy themselves without having to go off campus."

Regarding Health & Wellness, the president-elect highlighted current efforts to enforce a work order for more light sources outside of residence halls, particularly Meditz Hall and Faber Hall. According to Mejia, establishing strong campus lighting is essential to making sure students feel safe throughout their day-to-day.

With both Health & Wellness and late-night activities, a safe campus culture and nightlife can be promoted. Santos further confirmed the pair's commitment to accountability for and transparency with the student body going into their time as FUSA's leaders.

Nonetheless, and because of this year's unconventional election, students returned to the app Fizz to voice their concerns about, express opposition towards and stir argument over the results. Potential concerns of nepotism and favoritism from the current FUSA President were brought to attention, as was the suggestion of a re-election, and the phrase "not my president" stood prominently across numerous posts.

"Wouldn't a re-election be the most fair?" one comment asked. "If Andrew truly believes he is what the campus wants, he would win again." Another comment stated that if Mejia believed he could win, he would have declared his candidacy.

However, other comments were not as genuinely crafted or respectful, often shooting blame toward Mejia and current FUSA President Aliyah Seenaugh. Users proposed a possibility of unfair tactics and "scamming" between the president-elect and his personal relations with Seenaugh.

Additional comments were as simple as "Rigged" and "Gio is my president." A photo of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol was also

included to suggest similar behaviors be taken towards FUSA.

"Everybody can have their own opinion, that's what Fizz is for," Mejia retorted. "Once again, Fizz doesn't speak for the whole student body ... we're not going to let [those comments] dissuade us."

According to Mejia and Santos, the apparent comments on Fizz have not altered any plans for their term; good intentions will continue to pave the path for them.

"Actions speak louder than words," Mejia said.

When asked about the ethics of the election, which remain controversial, Santos declared their actions were conducted fairly, although they respect everybody's opinions. Moreover, their dedication to honesty and accountability soar above all.

"We're going to be able to show we are capable and dedicated leaders," Santos attested. In accordance with his point, Mejia confirmed that everyone experiences "bumps in the road," yet their mission continues to prioritize giving students the best experiences possible.

**"It may seem sudden, but we definitely put a lot of reflection and thought into it [the election]... we're going to be able to show we are capable and dedicated leaders."**

**-Bryan Santos '26  
Elected FUSA Vice President**

Making no appearance at the FUSA presidential debate did not stop Mejia or Santos from spreading awareness about their campaign. Working carefully to not violate the FUSA Election Code, the candidates utilized pure word of mouth to inform the public, knocking on dorm hall doors to connect with others and convey their visions.

Despite a perceived lack thereof, both the president-elect and vice president-elect confirmed a considerable intake of support throughout their candidacy, particularly through the circle of people they had around them. Returning that support to the university and creating unity in light of controversy stand at the forefront of their minds.

As aforementioned, unity can be established through more late-night activities, in which the entire campus can come together as one and eradicate the creation of division or "sides" within the student body, exacerbated by comments on Fizz that favor one candidate over another. As a voice of the whole student body, Santos declared that there could be no sides to this issue.



FUSA candidates Andrew Mejia '26 and Bryan Santos '26 celebrate their win in the 77th FUSA Presidential Election. As write-in candidates, they affirm their devotion to the student body.

Furthermore, both Santos and Mejia are looking to empower their community. "It may be a little corny," Mejia stated, "but we're all just one big family." Enjoying university activities together stands as just one of his desired end goals.

While the newly declared winners are only sophomores and thus underclassmen, they hold no fear about this upcoming opportunity.

"I admire [the upperclassmen] who have more experience... something we want to strive to," Mejia expressed. Santos added that working collaboratively with upperclassmen is certainly a part of their plan.

"I'm very excited to serve the student body," he admitted. And, following his running mate's comment on harnessing a family atmosphere, Santos added that he is a "big family guy as well."

Filled with shock, excitement and "good feelings," the sophomore elects cannot wait to get started on serving their student body. Mejia and Santos claim they "worked tirelessly" for this opportunity and, now that it is here, Santos relates a need to "kick it up and do the best we can."

# Opinion

Editor: Roisin McCarthy  
Assistant Editor: Natalie Dripchak

## Even with the Stags Success, The Student Body Lacks

By **DANNY McELROY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The concept of “school spirit” is a foundational pillar of the American education system, particularly in high school and college. The term brings to mind images of packed student sections decked out in school colors, cheering on their fellow classmates as they try to take home a win in a variety of sports. But is that image a reality at Fairfield? Unfortunately, I’d have to say no.

In some aspects, I think our underwhelming level of school spirit isn’t entirely surprising. As a smaller university, it’s probably not fair to expect our fan engagement to be on the same level as the raucous crowds you often see at the football or basketball games of big state schools.

Our athletics programs also play in a conference, the Metro Atlantic, that matches our size, so while we have some good rivalry matchups to look forward to every year like Sacred Heart and Quinnipiac, it’s not like we’re well positioned for College Gameday to roll into town and stir up a frenzy.

Regardless, these qualities don’t change the fact that there is still plenty of opportunity for our sports teams to perform well and bring some life to campus. The only problem is that, even when they do, most students tend to be ... unreceptive.

I don’t think there’s any greater example of this right now than our women’s basketball team. In case you’ve been living under a rock somewhere, they’ve just completed a 31-1 season where they went undefeated in conference play and earned themselves a bid to play in March Madness later this week. They’re now nationally ranked in the AP poll for the third straight week after reaching the milestone for the first time ever on March 3, and oh by the way, head coach Carly Thibault-DuDonis did a live interview on SportsCenter a couple of weeks ago. For a school like ours, it doesn’t get much bigger than that.

And yet, at just about every women’s basketball home

game this year, there weren’t even enough students present to fill up half of our section in Mahoney Arena. It took Coach Carly giving out free meal swipes at the Tully, for one of their last home games of the year, in a rivalry game against Quinnipiac, for there to be a moderate student turnout, and even then there were still Bobcat invaders sitting smack dab in the middle of the student section that night with essentially zero resistance.

The issue doesn’t stop with women’s basketball though. Our women’s volleyball team also captured a conference title this fall, dominating throughout the regular season in a fashion somewhat similar to the basketball team. And while our students definitely showed up for the championship game, I could probably count on my fingers and toes the number of people in the arena for basically any other contest the whole season.

Now, there’s something to be said for having a weak turnout for games with a 7 p.m. start time on a Wednesday or Thursday night. I get it, we all can have a lot going on between our workload and our own extracurriculars, and some students may even have night classes that physically prevent them from making it to those games, even if they want to. But if you really try to tell me you’re so busy during the month of February that you can’t spare two hours on a Sunday afternoon to support your school’s historic basketball team, I’m calling your bluff.

So what can the university do to fix this problem? For starters, I think the promotions and advertising for games could be made a little more prominent. Some of the benefits for student attendance this semester have been great (who doesn’t want a free gift card to Chick-Fil-A?), but I think students are likely to miss that information if it’s only included in emails from The Red Sea that get buried under Blackboard notification spam and other inbox mainstays. Finding an additional means of getting those messages out to students could help in attracting a larger crowd.

Second, I think it’s time we start seriously working towards expanding our sports offerings, starting with hockey. I’m not even a hockey fan, but the fact that we don’t

have a Division I team while being a New England school with a giant arena 10 minutes down the road in Bridgeport feels like a massive missed opportunity, and the pace and excitement of the sport makes for a great spectator experience, especially in a college environment.

Beyond that, of course, is football. I mentioned it a little bit earlier, but there’s a reason that football often seems to be the most unanimously supported sport by students at bigger schools, unless their team is completely awful or they’re steeped in basketball tradition. Between tailgating and actually watching the game, there’s nothing quite like a good college football Saturday, and I think the presence of that experience is something Fairfield sorely needs. The Mirror actually covered this very issue a few weeks back, but it shouldn’t be that far-fetched to reimplement the sport into our athletics department given the university’s obvious and ongoing attempts to expand in recent years.

Ultimately though, there’s only so much that can be done to combat the relative student apathy towards our sports programs beyond changing our attitudes ourselves. So this spring, when you catch wind of a lacrosse or baseball game happening on campus, maybe think twice about spending the day in your room and choose to show a little bit of your own school spirit instead.



The Fairfield Women's Basketball team is playing Indiana in the NCAA March Madness Tournament.

## Is The Magis Core Useful?

By **NATALIE DRIPCHAK**  
Assistant Opinion Editor

Everyone had that subject in school that they hated so much that they never wanted anything to do with it ever again. That was me with math. I hated math and planned to never take a math class ever again until I learned that Fairfield had what they call The Magis Core.

The Magis Core is rooted in Jesuit practices and allows students to take classes of every discipline to be able to be “well-rounded” students.

I personally am a fan of The Magis Core, even if it meant I had to take a math class again. I have always been interested in many different subjects growing up and

it’s a way to take classes that you wouldn’t normally think of taking, especially if a class is not required for your major.

Not only does The Magis Core have the ability to make students well-rounded and expand their horizons, but it also helps people with what they want to study. When going to college many people have no clue what they want to study and having a core where you are required to take so many different kinds of classes can help people understand what they are interested in!

I personally knew what I wanted to study when I came to school but taking classes like Italian and Philosophy has made me interested in possibly minoring in these disciplines. I would have never

thought that I would be interested in these courses if I never took them!

Although I have high regard for The Magis Core, one thing that I wish could be altered was the selection of classes. There are so many different courses that I see in the course catalog that seem interesting and fun to take. The only problem is they don’t offer these classes when you try to register.

Other students have the same concerns. Junior Erica Adams contributes her point of view. “I feel that if these classes were widely available and accessible the pushback from students would not be as strong,” she adds.

Many students enjoy The Magis Core and believe that the idea of it is important to fostering student learning but the class selections seem to be slim which can be disappointing for a lot of students who are very interested in certain classes.

The Magis Core for me has been one of the most exciting aspects of being a student at Fairfield. For me, I like to learn about many different things and taking different kinds of classes makes my academic semester more enjoyable.

I love my major but if I only took classes for my major for four years it would get pretty repetitive and I think a lot of people would agree.

Without the core, I would have never taken a math, philosophy, religion or even science class ever again if I didn’t have to. The core has encouraged me to go outside

my comfort zone which I think is super important for all college students to learn how to do.

Yes, some of these classes could be challenging and you may think “this class doesn’t matter, it isn’t even for my major” but these classes matter because they make you a better person and allow you to learn more not only about the world but yourself.

Not everyone will agree with me on the importance and praise of The Magis Core but for me, I think it is essential for all college students to be exposed to so many different things.

These different classes will help us prepare for the rest of our lives in many different ways and learning is something one should not take for granted. Learning is a privilege and I think that The Magis Core embodies that idea.



The Magis Core is inspired by Jesuit Ignatius Loyola and his vaules.



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield University

Students must fulfill all The Magis Core requirements which consists of two tiers of courses. This includes religion, history, math/english, sciences, and language.

# Fairness of FUSA Election Questioned Summer Courses Are Too Pricey

By NOELLE GORI  
Contributing Writer

The 77th Fairfield University Student Association (FUSA) Presidential election took an interesting turn this semester. Write-in candidates Andrew Mejia '26 and Byran Santos '26 won the election by gaining significantly more write-in votes. Giovanni Young '25 was projected to win, as he was running unopposed. Young even stood on the stage at the FUSA presidential debates, with no candidate up against him.

This poses the question, is it fair that Young lost the election to two write-in candidates? The question of fairness is tricky because FUSA is run as a democracy and the students of Fairfield University deserve to vote for who they want to represent them. The students fought for who they wanted to see as their 77th president. Along the lines of fairness, the study body voted for what they wanted which can be deemed as fair.

That doesn't discount the confusion of how two write-ins won the election. I know many students who were at a loss trying to figure out how the only candidate in the race didn't get elected.

What I find most interesting is how Mejia and Santos had enough time to get as many votes as they did. It seems like a very short amount of time to campaign in an effective way. They never even officially declared a run for candidacy. FUSA sent out an email after the election with the official number of votes counted. Mejia and Santos gained 63% of the votes with Young with almost half of that, coming out of the election with 31% of the votes.

Although some people might see this as unfair and somewhat sneaky, this is a democracy. The students vote for who they want to lead them. It doesn't necessarily matter if Mejia and Santos didn't have an official presidential campaign, they still came out on top. The ballots speak for themselves. Numbers don't lie, and in this case, there is no debate that this was a fair election. It doesn't matter that both Mejia and Santos didn't have an official campaign, they racked up more than half

the votes and efficiently won fair and square.

I can understand why people would be very frustrated and shocked with the results of the FUSA 77th Presidential election, but Mejia and Santos found a way to fairly promote their campaign regardless of not declaring their candidacy. Since this is a democracy and there is an option for write-in candidates, it was completely fair that Mejia and Santos won since most people wrote them in as their desired choice.

Even though most people voted for Mejia and Santos through write-in and word of mouth despite not officially running for candidacy this counts as fair.

I know many people who were in shock when Mejia and Santos won since they were write-in candidates, but I also knew others who told me that they were running. So when I found out that they won I wasn't too surprised because my friend told me to vote for them as well.

Both Young and Herson had a great campaign that mentioned lowering the price of textbooks, building career opportunities, late-night food trucks and making it known that everyone is welcome at Fairfield University, but they sadly fell short to both write-in candidates, Mejia and Santos.



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield University Instagram

The FUSA Presidential debate and election were held this week and a winner was announced on February 26th. Mejia and Santos won the presidential election on write in votes.

By ROISIN MCCARTHY  
Opinion Editor

Fairfield's summer courses are a great way to knock out some credits and get a Magis Core class out of the way. Online summer courses are offered to both undergraduate and graduate students with classes that come from all different disciplines.

However, these classes come at a high cost. Tuition for Fairfield University's summer courses is \$885 per credit. A majority of courses are three credits sums up to a total of \$2,655. They also slap on a \$50 registration fee.

This price tag is something that turns many away from taking summer courses, including myself.

What I find most frustrating is that scholarships and financial aid are not considered by the bursar's office when registering for summer courses

Sometimes taking an extra class can help substantially in completing your degree, and Fairfield should do a better job of offering financial aid to those who want and or need to take a summer course.

Many of the courses in the summer are online but there is also the option to be housed on campus which comes at a cost. For a shared room, students must pay \$240 per week but if a student prefers a private room, it is \$340 per week.

Residential Life also tacks on a \$100 application fee. These numbers add up to a hefty bill during the summer.

To me, these prices seem steep. I also understand that there are many private colleges in the surrounding area. Summer courses at Connecticut College also have a pricey bill. For a four-credit course, the cost is \$4,025 whereas a two-credit course is \$2,415. However, Connecticut College does offer financial aid for all their summer classes.

Although a summer course at Fairfield could help immensely in gaining credits, there is a money-saving solution that is also beneficial. Many state and community colleges offer courses at a cheaper cost.

At a Connecticut State Community College, a three-credit course costs \$659, considerably less than a summer course at



Summer Courses are offered at Fairfield University, but they come at a price. Many students are turned away from courses due to the hefty costs. Financial aid and scholarships are not used for summer courses. r

Fairfield. However, it may be tricky to get the credits from a different college or university transferred back to Fairfield.

Looking at all these prices, I feel turned off by taking a summer course. The extra cost seems somewhat daunting like stepping back and looking at the bigger picture.

It is possible to finish all your credits in the fall and spring semesters, and the extra cost of a summer course may not even be worth it in the long run.

Other budget-friendly options can help knock out some credits. I understand private colleges and universities are overall pricey, but summer courses can draw people from all over the country with different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Fairfield University can do a better job of making summer courses affordable and accessible for all.

Disregarding the prices for a moment, I like having summer as a time to make money and be with loved ones.

A summer course can cut into that precious time that should be spent saving pennies for our upcoming semester at Fairfield University.

## Does Fairfield University Prepare Students For Post-College Life?

By TJ CRIARES  
Contributing Writer

As the last few weeks of classes approach for college seniors, many are still in the process of mapping out their post-graduation plans. Whether they're seeking career experience or pursuing further education, this period can bring about considerable amounts of stress due to all of the uncertainties.

As this annual period comes around, universities must assess their efforts in guiding students toward making decisions that align with their best interests. With that in mind, how successful is Fairfield in achieving this?

Drawing from personal experience, the university provides ample resources to support students in their career pursuits. One aspect often overlooked, even by myself during my early college years, is the importance of students taking personal accountability and pushing outside of their comfort zone.

Opportunities are not simply handed to students, whether it's navigating job interviews or making connections beyond the classroom, it requires proactive effort.

That being said, it feels as if the university offers us the closest thing to handing us these opportunities through all of the resources it provides.

The Fairfield Career Center takes pride in its approach of avoiding a one-size-fits-all model. In other words, there are counselors based on the specific career paths of students, ensuring that each student receives tailored guidance from a counselor with specialized knowledge.

For instance, there are individual services for the College of Arts and Sciences, Dolan School of Business, and Egan School of Nursing.

According to the Career Center section on the university website, "The Career Center aspires to be an innovative and integrated unit dedicated to the personal and professional development of all students. The Center seeks to support and enhance the student experience through a comprehensive, holistic and collaborative approach committed to ensuring equal access while empowering individuals on their journey of self-discovery and lifelong learning."

The Career Center is open to all students at any stage of their college journey, underscoring their commitment to this claim of equal access.

The Career Center also includes events and resources such as career fairs, mock interviews, 'Senior Launch', and 'Sophomore Success'.

While some students may be inclined to seek employment immediately after college, many individuals contemplate graduate school as an option. The Career Center assists students on this path as well.

According to the university website, "Fairfield offers over 50 graduate programs and certificates across our five schools. But it's what our students do with these degrees that makes Fairfield such a unique academic environment."

The university's statement here strongly correlates with its Graduate Student Outcomes Report from 2023. In the report, 98.2% of students believed "that the graduate program prepared them for their current activity/occupation and ultimate career goals", 91% believed that "achieving the degree has put them on the right path to obtaining their career goals", and 89.1%

believed that "their current employment path is in line with their career goals."

Additionally, there was a 97.6% employment rate among the 68% of the class included in the report, indicating a credible sample size.

As each student navigates their unique journey during college, it is important to remember that post-college life is just as much of a trial-and-error process, if not more so. However, Fairfield equips students with top-notch resources to help kick-start their journey in the real world.



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield University

Graduating is such an exciting moment. Fairfield University sets their students up for success for after graduation.



# THE VINE

Editor: Caitlin Shea

# STUDENTS DISH ON THEIR SPRING BREAK ITINERARIES

BY MAX LIMRIC  
Editor in Chief

Returning to Fairfield University on a rainy March day felt torturous even though I went nowhere and dealt with this weather all throughout break—I simply can't imagine how those who went to warmer climates felt coming back!

I'm sure bathing suits were traded for winter coats again; however, now with a spout of warm weather giving us hope, let's reminisce and indulge in the experiences of our fellow Stags and see what spring break Stagtivities they got up to.

Spring break wouldn't be complete without numerous (and I mean numerous) friend group trips to Florida.

Sophomore Marina Chiaro took a trip to Venus, Florida with Ashley Lawrence '26 and got sunburnt and fell off an electric scooter.

Seniors soaked up what is probably their final spring break.

Specifically, Melissa Fernandez '24 spent her break in Key West with Stephany Herrera '24 and other friends and snorkeled their time away!

Some members of the soccer team traveled to Miami and enjoyed a break from workouts and whatever other sports-related

activities they usually get up.

Senior Raz Amir felt the post-spring break blues upon arrival to a soggy campus compared to the sunny Miami that he got used to for a week.

"We were only a 15-minute drive from



downtown Miami." With a dazzle in his eyes and maybe the beginnings of a reminiscent tear, he continued, "then we went to West Palm Beach to visit a friend who goes to Palm Beach Atlantic University. It felt like a dream. There was life off-campus."

Others traveled to Florida with family and took a calmer approach to spring break.

Junior Trent Ouellette went all around Florida and played shuffleboard in The Villages (a retirement community in Florida), got kicked out of the clubhouse at the PGA Tour and loitered outside of the Magic Kingdom gates.

Compared to Ouellette's break, his sister Kallie '26 did the opposite.

She spent her week at home and "hung around, only leaving the house to pick up [her] sister from school."

International travel proved to be a hit as well.

Junior Samantha Flores went overseas to Mao Valverde in the Dominican Republic.

During her stay, she had a boat day and went to a "little private island that was beautiful"

Local travel tended to be a fun (and

cheaper) alternative to extravagant Florida spring breaks.

Junior Anna Tizzio went home to Long Island and while there, her boyfriend visited her from Connecticut. "He got to meet all my friends from home!" she exclaimed.

Stags living in Massachusetts took advantage of their proximity to Boston, making a stellar vacation out of trips with friends.

Senior Olivia Demircan went to Boston for a long weekend because a lot of her friends go to Northeastern and Tufts.

After her long weekend, she relaxed: "A staycation at home was much needed," she confirmed.

Still, the break was not sunshine and rainbows for all. Sophomore Lola Hom '26 moved houses over break—from a house in Queens to another house in Queens and she's still getting settled, she said with a sigh.

Finally, the academic grind did not stop for all students, though, as Julián Nazario Mártil '26 went to a reporter's conference in Baltimore.

There, he met a couple of fellow journalist students and engaged with high-profile reporters.

Whether you caught up on homework lounging around the house or did not even open your computer over break, I'm certain every single one of us is looking forward to Easter break.

## Style Showdown: The Best and Worst Dressed Celebrities at the Oscars

BY FIONA WAGNER  
Assistant Vine Editor

Last Sunday marked the 96th Oscars Award Show. With the Academy Awards came a kaleidoscope of unique fashion, where celebrities dazzled like stars in their own right. From sleek tuxedos to voluminous gowns, every ensemble was a masterpiece, setting the stage for a night of glamor and style. There were many stand-out fashion choices throughout the red carpet that sparked my eye.

One look that came to mind was Amer-



Photo Courtesy of ELLE  
America Ferrera stuns in Barbie pink Versace look.

ra's beautiful pink Versace look. She was draped in a sparkly pink sleek gown that looked amazing on her. Ferrera was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Barbie." I thought this look was perfect for her and I love how she tied in elements from "Barbie."

Another stand-out for me was Zendaya's gorgeous look. She was dressed in a lovely pink and black gown by Armani Privé. Her elegance throughout the night was giving old Hollywood vibes and I thought she looked stunning.

While he did not attend the Oscars, Chris Evans attended the Vanity Fair Oscars Afterparty and looked amazing. Evans wore a suede red suit styled by Dolce & Gabbana. It's not often you see a man in a bright bold color, but Evans pulled it off extremely well. Even though it was just the Afterparty, his looks were memorable.

Another memorable look was Margot Robbie's beautiful black gown by Versace. This past year, Robbie has worn looks inspired by Barbie but this one was a little different. This elegant black look was not inspired by any Barbie however some say it's a nod to her not being nominated. Everyone was shocked when Robbie did not receive a nomination for Best Actress for her role in "Barbie." People believe this all-black look was her response to not being acknowledged.

While Margot Robbie didn't get nominated for "Barbie," Billie Eilish did. Eilish was nominated for Best Original Song for her performance of "What Was I Made For?" She won this category and looked stunning in a black-and-white Chanel look. She wore a black blazer and an old-school tweed Chanel skirt. Eilish looked sleek and mature in this look and I loved it.

Emma Stone was the talk of the town at the Oscars this year, for she took home a win in the category of best actress in a leading role for her portrayal in "Poor Things." Stone wore a gorgeous light green Louis Vuitton gown. She accessorized her outfit with a beautiful diamond necklace that pulled the look together. Stone looked classy and beautiful, perfect for an Oscar winner.

Even though most celebrities looked amazing, some looks did not hit the mark for me. One in particular was Dwayne Johnson in his satin Dolce & Gabbana suit. The suit was an odd gray color but the reason it looked so bad was it was very wrinkled.

This might be an unpopular option, but I did not like Ariana Grande's pink puffy look at the Oscars. Grande wore a custom Giambattista Valli gown that was a nod to her character Glinda in her upcoming film "Wicked." I thought she looked beautiful and her hair and makeup were great, but the gown looked like a sleeping bag. The puffy sleeves were very oversized and I'm just not



Photo Courtesy of ELLE  
Oscar winner Emma Stone graciously accepts Best Actress award in a stunning Louis Vuitton gown.

sure it looked right.

One last look that I did not enjoy was Andrea Riseborough's plaid Loewe dress. To me, the dress was not flattering and sort of just looked like a quilt. It didn't seem elegant enough for an award show such as the Oscars.

The Oscars red carpet showcased a plethora of fashion statements, with some ensembles stunning in their elegance and creativity, while others missed the mark with questionable choices and mismatched styles. Nevertheless, the diverse array of fashion choices contributed to a memorable and wonderful night of achievements.





# One Local Woman's Tie to the Women's Suffrage Movement



BY CLAIRE DEMARCO  
Copy Editor

On my travels home for spring break, I had the privilege of making the acquaintance of the woman sitting next to me on the train. In striking up a conversation about her train read,

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's "Address to the Legislature of New York 1854", she revealed that she is not only the head of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust, but Stanton's great-great-granddaughter.

Related on her mother's side, the grandmother of her grandmother is none other than the trailblazer and women's rights icon. Coline Jenkins, a native of Greenwich, Connecticut, was kind enough to share with me both her wisdom and her humor on our shared train ride, as well as answer some of my questions about her work so that I might share them with Fairfield University students.

Coline's great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was born in Johnstown, near Albany, New York in Nov. 1815. Though the Cady family could not have imagined the greatness and infamy Elizabeth would one day reach, they nurtured her in an environment filled with education and law. In Coline's own words, she grew up in a "soup of law." Ingrained in her from the very beginning, her judge father and relatives brought her up in a home where she was quickly able to "connect women with their legal rights," as she described.

As she grew and watched the new nation of the United States continue to shake the reins of their former autocratic King George III, she watched as women continued to be oppressed by the autocratic rule of men in America. Stanton was adamant about attaining equal rights, and, specifically, the right to vote. Despite what was, at the time, seen as "asking for too much," she demanded elective franchise. In the same way the new United States government was formed on the basis that one citizen should not be ruled by

a government in which the citizen had no say, so too did women deserve a voice.

Stanton's lifelong commitment to stating this hypocrisy plainly and boldly, oftentimes on public platforms, catapulted an era of feminism that bore the suffragists who eventually got the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution ratified. Furthermore, in this path of amending the Constitution, future generations of feminists continue the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, the 38th Amendment.

Coline, who began this trust in the late 1990s to honor her great-great grandmother's work in not only their family but American history, sees the value of living history. This cause fell into her lap when she was approached with a collection of historical items and ephemera created, used and owned by suffragists and women's freedom fighters. In buying the collection, Coline saw the opportunity to give these objects that were once so integral to change a new life, both in educating and inspiring new generations.

One of the major achievements Coline has had through her trust is her work with Monumental Women, a nonprofit that works to "write all women back into the historical record" and pushes US organizations and municipalities to not only recognize but celebrate, the achievements of people of color. Her first mission with this organization was to erect a statue of inspirational women in New York's Central Park- which previously depicted no women in all its 167 years, aside from the fictional Mother Goose and Alice in Wonderland among the male heroes.

On the importance of this effort and this location, Coline states that "Statues are an inspiration. We look at statues and think that we could be whatever they are, and do what they did for democracy."

After a huge campaign of donations, research, design and education, the Women's

Rights Pioneers Monument was unveiled on Aug. 26, 2020, on the 100th anniversary of the Amendment that granted women the right to vote. Depicting Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony strategizing at a table (modeled after Stanton's own writing desk, which now resides in Coline's home), Coline states that "In a way that they're bringing themselves to the table. The way that they combine their abilities is interesting, and makes them each better as a group, and just individuals."

The statue made history as the first depiction of historical females in Central Park, and they're not stopping there. Coline speaks with pride about the woman whose legacy she was able to celebrate, both inside and outside of her own family. She also emphasizes that the mission is deeper than just getting a statue erected, but the fact that we



Photos Courtesy of Monumental Women

Amazing women come together to honor and celebrate Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

are beginning to recognize a history that includes women, and all people, and truly celebrating them.

"Women have real names, real paper trails, real accomplishments, and they should be celebrated". Sharing artifacts and

statues is just one method of mainstreaming American history. When it comes to explaining the need for initiatives like this, a statue is more than just the landmark itself, but the recognition and pride behind it. Coline keeps it simple, saying, "Their stories matter."

Speaking of these three women, to whom her own history is so intimately tied, she says, "They're not just entities unto themselves, they come out of a cultural tradition, a societal tradition. It gives strength to know what came before. I know that I stand a lot higher in society, law, religion, government, and economics because I am standing on the shoulders of those who came before me and made it better for generations to come."

Coline spoke with me at length about the importance of not just learning and acknowledging, but making history. If we cannot see the work of those before us, then we cannot understand how and why they did what they did. Knowing how they enabled the lives we lead today, we can in turn create a better world to leave behind.

We spoke about all the simple things that we, as women, can do today, thanks to the women before us. She reminded me of the fact that simply being in college, able to write my thoughts and experiences here today, is in part thanks to the women of all races, cultures and ages before me who pushed women into all spaces – legal, educational, scientific, literary and political. When we lift up others, we in turn lift up ourselves. Coline makes this point, "It's important that everybody figures out how you can be the shoulders for generations to come. And that applies to women and men. It's not just for women, it's for equality".

Elizabeth Cady Stanton has the final words, "All men and women' are created equal. They are endowed with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty and happiness."

## Love in Full Bloom: Spring Date Ideas

BY ABBY WINEY  
Contributing Writer

There is nothing better than when the weather starts getting warmer in Fairfield. The cherry blossoms on campus start blooming, the beach off campus looks more enticing and everyone's moods go from zero (winter depression) to one hundred (spring happiness yay).

Rightfully so, in the winter months, most couples' perfect date ideas sound like ordering in, watching movies, and cuddling under a blanket. But in the spring after being cooped up for months, outside dates sound AMAZING! Here are some fun spring date ideas to do in Fairfield!

The special thing about these ideas is that they not only work for romantic relationships but friendship relationships too! It's important to go on dates with all special people in your life whether they are your romantic partners or besties!

### FFLD Beach Picnic

When you live off campus sometimes it's easy to forget that we live on a beautiful beach with perfect sunsets. What is more romantic than a picnic on the beach? Enjoy the warmer weather by either packing your own snacks and or meals or even ordering a Colony pie to enjoy together! Lay out a blanket, relax, and enjoy each other's company. Pro Tip: Bring sweatshirts! And for the gurlies, bring a hair elastic...Sometimes it gets windy/chilly at night.

### Walking Outside

Okay, so I know this might sound extremely boring. But, walking together and actually spending quality time communicating with each other is super important when it comes to a healthy relationship. Whether it's with my girlfriends or my boyfriend, walking sparks conversations like

no other. Walking outside is a great way to enjoy the fresh air, take the beauty of Fairfield in, and bond over shared outdoor experiences. Pro Tip: Keep your eyes out for deer! They are everywhere in Fairfield and so beautiful to see walking around!

### Day Trip To NYC

As a senior here, I can admit that I have not taken advantage of how close we are to the Big Apple! We have a train station here in Fairfield that will bring you right to New York City in a quick train ride. It is so special that we go to school close to a place with amazing restaurants, views of the stunning skyline, museums, concerts, Broadway, and so much more. There are a plethora of date ideas within NYC itself so I'll let you and whomever your date is to explore that together. The best part is you can take the train and have an amazing day together and still

be home to snuggle up and watch a movie together at 10 pm. Sounds like a perfect day to me. Pro Tip: Wear extremely comfortable shoes! NYC is the city of WALKING, so it's important to choose comfort over fashion for this date.

Whether you are taking in the sun as a couple, or with your besties, these ideas are sure to create some everlasting memories!





# A Stag's Study Abroad Guide: Day Trips Out Of Florence Italy



BY JACQUI RIGAZIO  
Contributing Writer

Being abroad for about two months now has given me plenty of time to partake in some exciting excursions. While some have been more of a trek than others—like when I flew to Amsterdam, London and Edinburgh for spring break—some of my favorite days have been spent taking day trips throughout Italy. Italy is so versatile and beautiful, and I definitely want to take advantage of everything that my host country has to offer while I can! For anyone considering studying abroad in Florence, here are my rankings of day trips I have taken throughout Italy.

#### 4. Siena

My friends and I took a trip to Siena on a rainy Saturday. While I can imagine that Siena is gorgeous in the sun, the rain is probably why it falls at the bottom of my list. Despite the gloomy weather, we still enjoyed our entire day in this town. With no real plan, we just walked around all day and explored sights that we came across. The highlight of this trip was definitely going into the Duomo di Siena. This is a beautiful cathedral, from the inside and out, and only costs five euros to enter and walk around—totally worth it! This was definitely the most beautiful cathedral I have ever been in. Everything from the floors to the ceilings is decorated in the most stunning art and architecture. Truly a highlight of the trip and a must-see if you find yourself in Siena!

#### 3. Pisa

While most people will tell you that Pisa is overrated and only half of a day trip, I completely disagree! My day trip to Pisa was one

of my favorites and I honestly wish I spent more time there. While it is small, Pisa has a bunch of shopping attractions, restaurants and pop-up markets. We stumbled across a very cool store called Vlab Vintage and spent so much time there looking through all of the vintage clothing and accessories that they had. Of course, the majority of us didn't leave the store empty-handed. After this, we grabbed pasta for lunch and ate it on an outdoor patio with the sun shining down on us. Truly a picturesque Italy moment!

I was anticipating that the Leaning Tower of Pisa would be overrated, but it was actually stunning to see in person. We spent a lot of time here admiring the tower and the surrounding buildings, and of course taking the classic touristy photos with the tower. This was overall a great day and I would definitely recommend it!

#### 2. Bologna

My day trip to Bologna was my first excursion outside of Florence that I took during my second week abroad and it set a pretty high standard! Only a 40-minute train ride out of Florence, this city is so accessible and convenient. Bologna is beautiful, especially because it was a very bright and sunny day for early February. There are so many adorable colorful buildings, gorgeous churches and piazzas and a lot of places to shop around.

Of course, we couldn't come to Bologna and not try the food that they are known for. My friends and I got tortellini for lunch and had lasagna bolognese for dinner, which was without a doubt the best bolognese sauce I

have ever tasted!

Something unexpected that made this trip so special was stumbling across a street performer called Walking Francis. He was incredibly talented and had a similar vibe to Hozier and Mt. Joy, who are two of my favorite artists. My friends and I stuck around for his entire hour-long set, singing and dancing along with him and the crowd. It felt so special! Overall, Bologna was so charming and I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a quick excursion out of Florence.

#### 1. Livorno

The long-awaited number one! This might be a hot take, considering this town is very small and not a frequent day trip destination, but it was the most gorgeous place I've seen in Italy so far. My roommate and I made a last-minute plan to take a trip here to fill our day and I could not have been happier with the location we picked. We came in with zero plan, with the only goal of seeing the water. We found a pasta place for lunch (thanks to TikTok) and I had such delicious shrimp and zucchini pasta for so cheap!

After this, we shopped around for a while and walked to Terrazza Mascagni to see the Ligurian Sea. Terrazza Mascagni was one of the most beautiful, picturesque places I have ever been to. It is a huge tiled walkway right along the water, and a man was playing the piano right in the middle of the piazza! The ambiance was stunning as the sun was setting and I truly felt like I was in a movie. The only downside was that the water was an hour-long walk from the train station, but it

was completely worth it for that view. I'm still in awe!

No matter what day trips you embark on, you really can't go wrong in Italy. Each place was gorgeous for a different reason and I feel so grateful to be able to explore such beautiful new places every weekend! If you ever find yourself looking for a day trip out of Florence, keep these recommendations in mind!

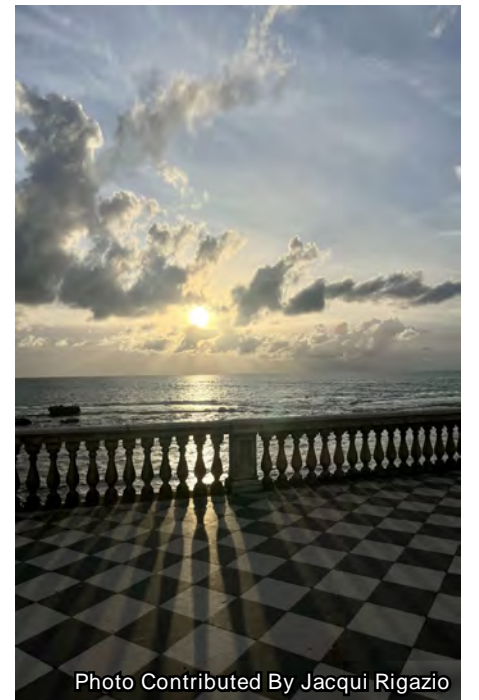


Photo Contributed By Jacqui Rigazio

Study abroad student Jacqui Rigazio has an incredible time visiting new cities!

## Beyond The Sand: Dune 2 Movie Review

BY BROOKE LATHE  
Contributing Writer

Denis Villeneuve has done it again. Making its theater debut on March 1, "Dune: Part Two" not only gave audiences an exhilarating 2.5-hour-long performance but also set the tone for our upcoming generational stars.

Alongside veteran Dune performers, Timothee Chalamet (Paul Atreides) and Zendaya (Chani), iconic names such as Flor-

ence Pugh, Austin Butler and Anya Taylor Joy joined the sci-fi franchise and their deliveries were nothing short of perfection. There are so many good things to say about such a strong cast, such as the clear off-screen friendships, but the solo stand out for me was clearly Butler.

In only eight minutes of screen-time, Butler made a distinct impression by transforming into a role that was practically never before for him.

How is this the same man who played Elvis Presley?

As Feyd-Rautha, Butler was almost entirely unrecognizable both physically and mentally, playing the unstable and vicious antagonist.

Surprisingly, my favorite scene of the film was Butler's birthday fight scene that resembled a match in the Roman Colosseum.

Additionally, Javier Bardem

gave a fantastic rendition of Stilgar by serving as the comedic relief.

I didn't expect to laugh so much when buying my ticket for the action/fantasy, but much like the entire room, Bardem was on fire even in times of the darkest and most serious moments.

Starting from where the first film left off, Part Two opens with Paul and his mother, Lady Jessica, fighting with the Bene Gesserit people he comes to lead.

Although many members of the group doubt Paul's rise and leadership capabilities, he proves his strength repeatedly through winning countless battles, and drinks the Water of Life which results in the belief that he is truly "The One" from the prophet.

The audience is left with yet another plot twist, which is to be expected when you have to wait numerous years for the following film, and has consequently sent me into a spiral of making predictions with my friends of what is to come.

Will Paul continue to stay at the top?

Does Chani ever forgive Paul for his betrayal? How does Alia Atreides come into the larger picture?

Looks like I'll have to start reading the books like most people I spot have been doing on the train these days.

It's just that good!

Overall, the 2024 feature blew Part One out of the water.

While both films had a brilliant and emotive score, vibrant cinematography and breathtaking production design, the original movie merely laid out the exposition, tone and foundation for what the rest of the franchise will be.

Part Two causes the viewer to hold your breath and gasp alongside your peers—much like me—and forces you to see it for a second (or even third time!)—much like my friends.

The hype leading up to the film's release brought into question whether or not the final product would live up to expectations.

But I can certainly agree with the crowds of people online showering it with love!



Photo Courtesy of British GQ

Timothee Chalamet and Rebecca Ferguson amaze audience with this long-awaited sequel of a cult classic



# Kung Fu Panda 4:

## A Kicktastular Film



BY CAITLIN SHEA  
Head Vine Editor

Who would have thought that eight years later the Dragon Warrior would be back for more?

I know I certainly didn't! Released on March 8, everyone's favorite crime fighting and dumpling loving panda is back for more.

This time, with a whole new cast of butt-kickers.

As the fourth installment to the beloved Dreamworks Animations franchise, "Kung Fu Panda 4" takes audiences on another epic adventure as Po, alongside his new sidekick Zhen, begin a quest to take down the power-hungry Chameleon.

This highly anticipated sequel sees the return of Jack Black as the Dragon Warrior, who is now faced with the challenge of becoming the Spiritual Leader of the Valley of Peace.

Black's quick wittiness and quips about what snack Po can get his paws on next are sure to make audiences of all ages laugh.

A stellar performance as always, Jack Black is able to bring the Kung Fu Master to life on the big screen once more.

Newcomer Awkwafina portrays a cheeky gray fox, who with guidance from the kind-hearted panda, starts to realize that a life of crime may not be the path she has to take.

Known for her pick-pocketing skills and ability to get by on her own, Zhen is able to

realize that friendship is worth more than any other prize.

An amazing performance, Awkwafina is able to take the world of Kung Fu by storm.

James Hong and Bryan Cranston return to reprise their roles of Mr. Ping and Li Shan respectively.

In this installment the two fathers leave behind their kitchen utensils for more useful battle weapons. In order to help Po, they find their own bravery when it is needed most.

Phenomenal performances from each, Hong and Cranston create a loveable dynamic duo that leaves audiences not only wanting a bite of their delicious dumplings, but wishing for more!

The incredible Viola Davis also makes her mark on the masterful world of Kung Fu Panda with her portrayal of the infamous Chameleon.

A revengeful reptile, the Chameleon utilizes her shape shifting abilities to trick and steal from others, running Juniper City from underground in hopes to one day rule over every land. Davis' skillful performance creates the perfect formidable foe.

Dustin Hoffman provides an amazing performance as he returns as the wise Master Shifu.

The pessimistic red panda provides the



Photo Courtesy of Collider

Kung Fu Panda 4 came out on March 8, 2024. In this new installment, main character Po must become a Leader of the Valley of Peace and train a new Dragon Warrior.

perfect counterpart to the happy-go-lucky goofball Po.

Guiding the Dragon Warrior to choose his successor, Master Shifu is always armed with a great lesson and a peach pit.

America's sweetheart Ke Huy Quan finds himself joining the world of Po in this fourth installment.

Portraying Han, an auspicious crime leading armadillo who acted as Zhen's mentor, Quan is able to give a spectacular performance.

Lori Tan Chinn and Ronny Chieng also join the cast as newcomers. Chinn's performance as Granny Boar, the manager of a cliffside tavern is incredible, as she shows her

kung fu skills are not to be messed with.

Chieng plays a knife-wielding fish, well, sort of. Trapped in the beak of a pelican, this Captain is able to give Po and Zhen a much needed ride, albeit bumpy ride, to Juniper City.

Fast paced, hilarious, stacked with a wonderful cast and with a beautiful animation style, the fourth movie in the series was an all around fun watch!

Co-Directed by Mike Mitchell and Stephanie Stine, "Kung Fu Panda 4" is definitely not the best film out of the franchise, but will leave everyone Kung Fu Fighting! In the words of the Dragon Warrior himself, "Skadoosh".



## Happy Reading! Must-Have

# Book Recommendations



BY SOPHIA COSSITT-LEVY  
Staff Writer

If there's one thing to know about me, it's that I'm obsessed with books. I love reading, am known to have overflowing bookshelves (to be clear, this is because I don't have enough bookshelves, not because I own too many books), and diligently track what I read on Goodreads. So, here's a list of some recent books (from Jan. 2023 until now) that I've read and loved, as well as some books I'm not so patiently waiting for.

### Recent Books I've Read and Loved

"The Brothers Hawthorne" (The Inheritance Games 4) by Jennifer Lynn Barnes – This book focuses on Grayson and Jameson Hawthorne, two of the four Hawthorne brothers we meet in "The Inheritance Games" (Start here if you haven't read the series! We follow a girl named Avery as she finds out she is the sole heir to a billionaire's fortune – a billionaire she's never even met.). Grayson must solve a mystery to protect his sisters, and Jameson has to break into a secret club to fulfill a favor from his father. I absolutely loved reading this book and getting the brothers' perspectives. As with any Jennifer Lynn Barnes book, it's a total page-turner. I was hooked, and I can't recommend this book (and the series!) enough.

"Barbie: The Screenplay" by Greta Gerwig and Noah Baumbach – I'm not totally sure this counts as a book, but I bought it at Barnes & Noble, so we'll say it does. This is the screenplay for the iconic "Barbie," and it comes with a note from Gerwig and Baumbach about the writing process. I really enjoyed reading the script, especially after seeing it come to life a few months prior. It was a very quick read, as most screenplays are, and I highly recommend it, especially if you're into films and screenwriting.



"The London Séance Society" by Sarah Penner – Set in 1873, this book follows Leanna as she travels to Paris to gain insight into her sister's death through Vaudeline D'Allaire, a talented spiritualist. However, Vaudeline is called away to work on a high-profile murder, and Leanna must go as her understudy. The women must team up with the men of The London Seance Society, and when they do, they begin to realize just how shady the Seance Society is. I loved this book. Sarah Penner is incredible at writing gripping mysteries with tons of historical detail. I can't recommend it enough, and if you haven't read "The Lost Apothecary," Penner's debut, add it to your list as well!

### Anticipated Releases

"Funny Story" by Emily Henry (April 23, 2024) – I've read all of Emily Henry's previous books, so this is a release I'm super excited about. In this book, we follow Daphne who moves to a new town after her fiancé Peter leaves her for his childhood best friend Petra and winds up becoming roommates with Petra's ex. Together, the two devise a plan to make Petra and Peter jealous.

"The Reappearance of Rachel Price" by Holly Jackson (April 2, 2024) – Any book

Holly Jackson writes, I will read. She is the queen of the mystery genre. Every book she writes is a total page-turner, and I love them all. In her upcoming novel, we follow Bel, whose mother Rachel disappeared when she was just two years old. Sixteen years later, filming for a documentary on Rachel's case begins, and Rachel reappears with a strange reason for her disappearance. So, Bel takes it upon herself to investigate her mother and try to uncover the truth.

"The Familiar" by Leigh Bardugo (April 9, 2024) – This is Leigh Bardugo's first standalone fantasy novel, and since she usually writes longer series, I can't wait to read this one. In this book, we follow Luzia, a servant who has magical powers. Her mistress finds out about the powers and orders her to help the family with them, which gets Luzia noticed by Antonio Perez, a former secretary for the king of Spain. He wants to use Luzia to help the king against the war against England and get back into the king's good graces. But, with all the attention and fame, things become dangerous for Luzia.

I hope this list gives you some new reads to look forward to as well as some new books for your to-read list. Happy reading!



# COFFEE BREAK

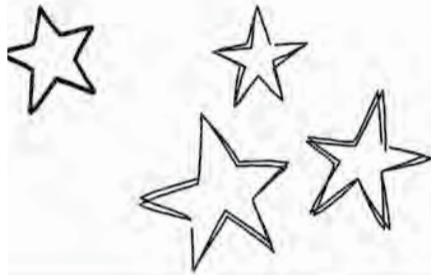


GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editor: Matthew Robles



## MIRROR COLORING



# STAGS

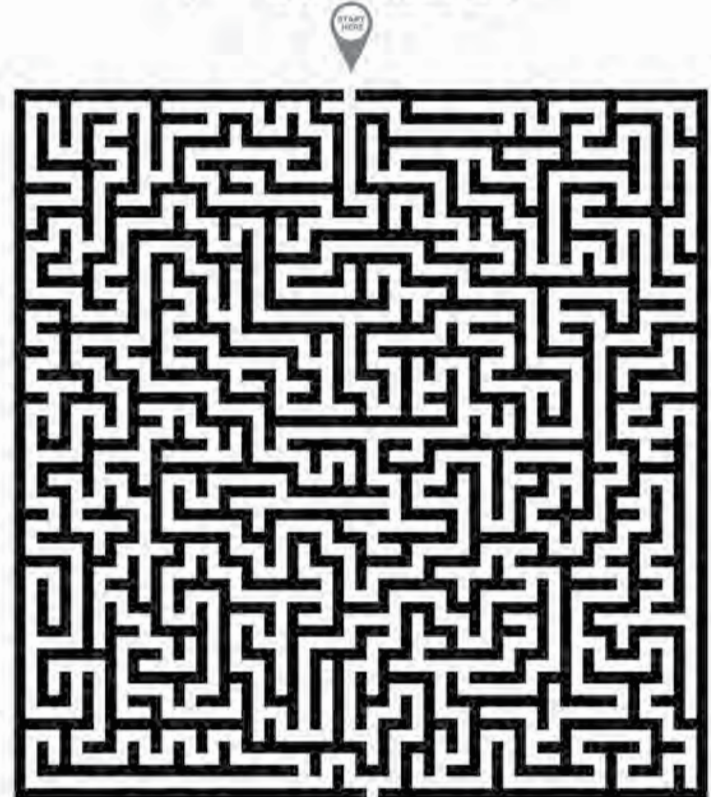


## MIRROR WORD SCRABBLE ACTRESSES

- ANYZDEA \_\_\_\_\_
- AESLTCRT AHNNSJOOS \_\_\_\_\_
- RENENIFJ NNOTASI \_\_\_\_\_
- MRAINLY ONOMRE \_\_\_\_\_
- LAAINNGE JIELO \_\_\_\_\_
- INERFJNE ECERLANW \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER KEY  
 ZENAYA  
 SCARLETT JOHANSSON  
 JENNIFER ANGSTON  
 MARILYN MONROE  
 ANGELINA JOLIE  
 JENNIFER LAWRENCE

## MIRROR MAZE



# SPORTS

Head Sports Editor: Ryan Marquardt  
>> ryan.marquardt@student.fairfield.edu



## Baseball Turns Weekend Triple Header Into Home Run Derby

By CRYSTAL ARBELO  
Assistant Sports Editor

The satisfying cling of bats sending baseballs over the outfield fence was a welcomed part of the soundtrack for Fairfield University's baseball team this past weekend. In a three-game streak that saw 11 home runs in total, the Stags have signaled to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference that they're over the early-season jitters and ready to compete.

First up against Fordham, graduate student RHP Kyle Lesler took the mound against the Rams and got run support as early as in the bottom of the 1st from a 2-RBI homer from graduate student catcher Ethan Hibbard. The Stags' defense kept the Rams at bay enough to score another two, thanks to a double from graduate student center fielder Ryan Strollo to bring home graduate student second baseman Zach Selinger and sophomore shortstop Luke Nomura, who had both stolen bases. Up by four runs, Lesler gave up an RBI double and then an unfortunate sequence of pitches led to the bases loaded on either HBP or walks, to which one last HBP brought another runner in, making it 4-2. Senior RHP Colin McVeigh was put in to get out of the jam, and the last two outs came from fly-outs that brought in another two runs, leaving the score even at the top of the 3rd.

The bottom of the 3rd was productive for the Stags, as senior first baseman Matt Bergevin took advantage of inaccurate pitching

and walked, setting up Hibbard for his second 2-RBI home run of the day. Sophomore right-fielder Matt Bucciero wanted in on the action and smashed another to right field, making it 7-4 Stags.

By the time it was the 6th inning, Hibbard sent another ball out past the center field fence, earning his third home run. Bucciero then singled to center field, stole second, advanced to third on a wild pitch and was brought home by senior left-fielder Paul Catalano who singled to right field.

The score was 9-4 going into the 7th, and the Rams fought back by scoring another run after a sequence of a double, stolen base and a fly-out.

At the bottom of the 7th, first-year designated hitter Matt Lussier had a productive at-bat

and walked, advanced to second on a ground-out and was brought home by a Strollo double. In the next two innings, the Rams tried to rally up a tied ball game but were capped at seven runs by the time sophomore RHP Kevin Kell was put in to relieve McVeigh, to which they only managed to scrape up another run, making the final score 10-8.

Game two the day was against Army West Point, and the power of the Stags' bats did not die down. The offense was not the only impressive display, though, as senior left-handed starting pitcher

cushion to the score.

In the most perfect opportunity, the Stags loaded the bases for Bergevin, and he thanked them for their hard work by ripping a grand slam that carried past the left field fence. Following the party that was thrown in the dugout, Hibbard wanted in on the festivities and homered again to center field. By the time the party died down, it was 9-3 Stags at the bottom of the 4th.

In the bottom of the 5th, the Stags were once again with bases loaded due to walks and a HBP from a pitcher fresh out of the bullpen. Bucciero took advantage of the fresh arm in front of him and hit a grand slam to left field that revived the party in the stands and dugout. The score was 13-3 going into the 6th.

Army remained silent on the scoreboard with three runs but tried to keep spirits up to rival the energy coming from the Stags,

but Fairfield's energy propelled them to score another run on a wild pitch and two consecutive passed balls. The final score was 14-3 in the 7th.

In the last game of their lively weekend, the Stags faced Fordham once again, this time in the Bronx.

First-year RHP

Sophomore outfielder Matt Bucciero is batting .262 so far in the 2024 season with one double, two triples and five home runs. His home runs rank third on the team and his batting average ranks eighth.

Ben Alekson took the mound to start and only slipped up to give a 2-RBI double in the bottom of the second.

The Stags did not leave Alekson unsupported, though, as the offense woke up in the top of the 3rd. With impressive baserunning, Selinger made it to third and set up junior third-baseman Dean Ferrara for an RBI single, opening scoring for the day. Ferrara then made it to third on a Bergevin double, followed by the first home run of the day that was rocketed toward right field for three RBIs. By the time the side retired, it was 4-2.

Fordham managed to scrape up a third run in the bottom of the third but was stuck there for the rest of the game.

However, for the Stags, the offensive machine just kept on running.

Hibbard worked his way out of a 1-2 count to pick up an RBI single, runners advanced due to an error and were rushed home during a Catalano 2-RBI single, Catalano stole second and made it home off a ground-rule RBI double from Nomura. The score was 8-3 at the top of the 5th.

Sophomore outfielder Payten Wawruck was put in as a pinch hitter and hit a double down the right-field line, advanced to third on a fly-out and was brought home by a Bergevin single. Hibbard joined in on the action and also singled, advancing Bergevin to second. Bucciero then collected his third home run of the day and sent the Stags up by another three runs. Selinger capped off the scoring with one last RBI single. The final score was 13-3.

Following this three-game win streak, Hibbard earned his second-straight designation as MAAC Player of the Week. Hibbard batted .750 this weekend, going 9-for-12 and tying Fairfield's record for single-game home runs with three. He currently leads the MAAC and ranks third nationally with a .500 average.

The Stags return to action from home at Don and Chris Cook Field in a three-game series on Friday against NJIT. First pitch is scheduled for 3 pm.

Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Blake Helmstetter went all seven innings with a solid final line of 7 IP, 3 H, 3 ER, 4 BB and 8 K.

Egged on by Sham Jam participants and loyal fans in the stands, the Stags opened up, scoring in the bottom of the 3rd with yet another 2-RBI home run, this time from a straight-shot past left field from Bergevin. Hibbard then singled to right field, to which Bucciero got in on the action with a moonshot to right center field. The score was 4-0 Stags by the time the side was retired. Army fought back, scoring three runs on two RBI singles and a sacrifice bunt.

Left with only a lead of one run, the Stags decided to add some

### In this week's issue...

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- Men's Basketball Loses Sight of MAAC Title (Page 15)
- Stags Hold Off Hofstra in Weekend Nailbiter (Page 15)
- Women's Basketball Punches Ticket to March Madness in OT Thriller (Page 16)

# Softball Steals One Win in Weekend Tournament

By **BILLY MCGUIRE**  
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield University softball team partook in the University of Maryland Tournament this past weekend in College Park, Md. The crew played a total of four games, with two being held on Saturday, March 16, and with the remaining two taking place on Sunday, March 17.

The extravaganza commenced at 1 p.m. on Saturday, with the Stags taking on Purdue University Fort Wayne in the first set of the doubleheader. After a ground out from infielder Martina Gutierrez '26 sent catcher Delaney Whieldon '26 home to make it 1-0 at the top of the second inning, the Stags took things a step

further in the third. Singles from infielder Morgan Sylvestre '25 and pinch hitter Allie Bridgman '24 put Whieldon in a very comfortable position. Whieldon did not become too comfortable, belting a shot to deep center field for her first long ball of the season to make it 4-0 Stags. The Mastodons scored a run of their own at the bottom of the third, trimming the Stags lead to 4-1 heading into the top of the fourth.

Fairfield delivered another three-run rally at the top of the fourth. A double from Gutierrez started things off. A triple from outfielder Charli Warren '25 sent home her compadre to snag back the Stags four-run lead. A Sylvestre single allowed Warren to take a full run around the bases to make it a 6-1 game. A hit-by-pitch from teammate

and outfielder Quinn McGonigle '26 advanced Sylvestre to second, while then running back to home plate after another single from graduate student and outfielder Megan Forbes to make it 7-1. The Stags did not score again throughout the rest of the game, but held on to defeat the Mastodons 7-4 after seven innings of play.

There was more softball to be played, as the Stags next took on Lafayette University at 3:30 p.m. Three scoreless innings of softball were held thanks to the efforts of pitcher Chela Kovar '27, who struck out two Leopards and only one hit in the process. Lafayette scored the first run of the game at the top of the fourth to make it 1-0 before Fairfield quickly responded with one of their own. With no runners on base, Sylvestre

sent a deep ball over the left field fence for her first homer of the campaign to tie the game up at one run apiece.

A pitching duel continued to follow between Kovar and Lafayette's Kailee Sawai for the next two innings, sending the game to the top of the seventh inning remaining tied, 1-1. Unfortunately, the Leopards found a way to break through, as a four-run rally placed them firmly in the driver's seat with a 5-1 lead. The Stags then made a spirited effort at the bottom of the seventh, scoring two runs of their own, but it was not enough, as Lafayette stole victory with a 5-3 triumph.

The Stags returned to play for day two of the tournament the next day on St. Patrick's Day, beginning with a 10 a.m. tilt with Bryant University. A five-run rally by Bryant at the bottom of the second inning doomed the Stags in this contest, as the club suffered a 7-1 defeat at the hands of the Bulldogs. Bridgman was the only Stag to register anything on the box score, as she sent a deep shot to center field at the bottom of the fourth for her second homer of the season. Following the Bryant tilt, the Stags played the hosts of the tournament, the University of Maryland at 12:30 p.m. The Stags did get off the ground running in this contest though, as a Warren walk eventually set up Bridgman to send a shot over the left centerfield fence to make it a 2-0 Fairfield lead at the top of the first. It was all Maryland after that sequence, however, as the Stags departed home for Fairfield falling short, 10-2.

The Stags will travel across town to take on Sacred Heart University on Wednesday, March 20 at 3 p.m. before kicking off their conference season by hosting Iona College this weekend from March 22-24 at Alumni Softball Field. For more information on the Fairfield University women's softball team, please visit [www.fairfieldstags.com](http://www.fairfieldstags.com).



Sophomore catcher/first baseman Delaney Whieldon has one home run and three runs batted in 31 at bats so far this season.

## The Weekly 5x4

Five People. Four Questions. Because we have witty things to say.



Thoughts on Irish food?

What's the best dog breed?

Who won the NFL free agency?

Who's winning March Madness?



**Max Limric**  
Editor-in-Chief

Shepherds Pie ... disgusting, sorry Nannie.

You know those crusty white ones ... not those. Also sorry Nannie.

Don't have the first idea. Ryan just told me it was the Giants though.

Also couldn't tell you. Hopefully the Fairfield Stags!



**Samantha Russell**  
Executive Editor

Honesty not really sure what counts as Irish food, but potatoes are pretty good.

Hardest questions ever!!! I can't choose one.

Uhhhh

Fairfield, please!



**Kathleen Morris**  
Managing Editor

I just devoured homemade Irish bread... shoutout to my mom and overnight shipping!

I'm partial to the wheaten terrier, soft-coated and full of spunk!

It was a Joe Schoen masterclass.

Fairfield will make a surprise entrance and win it all.



**Claire DeMarco**  
Copyeditor

Will have to try some and get back to you!

I have always wanted a bloodhound.

No clue...Go Steelers!

My money's on the Stags (Sorry, Emilia).



**Trent Ouellette**  
Paper Boy

It's fine, but I have little to no opinion on the matter.

They're all funny.

I know the Patriots are trying their hardest to keep losing.

In the absence of Providence, I'll pick Iowa State.

# Men's Basketball Loses Sight of MAAC Title

By **BRADY CARTER**  
Contributing Writer

The conference championships are what college basketball teams long for all year in their quest to reach the coveted NCAA March Madness Tournament. For the Fairfield Stags Men's Basketball Team winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference would have been a way to secure a spot in the tournament. Their first test was on March 13th, 2024, against the Iona Gaels. Even though the Gaels were a seven seed in the MAAC Tournament they had beaten Fairfield twice in the regular season so it wouldn't be a walk in the park.

The first half was close as the Stags were only up three but when Senior Guard Jalen Leach started to light up the scoreboard there was

no stopping him. Leach scored 15 of his game-high 22 points after halftime and Caleb Fields added 20 to push Fairfield University Men's Basketball past Iona, 68-63, in the MAAC Championship Quarterfinals on Wednesday evening at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

With the win, Fairfield improved to 21-11. Seventh-seeded Iona wraps up its 2023-24 campaign at 16-17. The win snaps a seven-game losing streak for the Stags against the Gaels and marks Fairfield's first postseason win over Iona since 2012.

Leach's 22 points came on 8-for-16 shooting from the floor and a 6-for-6 day at the free throw line. The All-MAAC First Team selection also hauled eight rebounds and had four of Fairfield's 11 steals. Fields' 20

points included two three-pointers to move into second place on the Stags' single-season list with 96 made triples this season. He also pulled in seven boards with two assists and two steals.

MAAC Sixth Player of the Year Brycen Goodine '24 came off the bench and contributed nine points and five rebounds. Graduate student Alexis Yetna made his first start as a Stag and finished with seven points and five boards in 31 minutes of work.

For Iona, Jeremiah Quigley led with 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Joel Brown added 13.

The next test for the Stags was against Marist who had recently beaten Fairfield 58-55 on March 1, 2024. Marist is known for their strong defensive play led by the Sophomore Center Max Allen II.

This game showed the tenacity and resilience of the Stags as they were faced with a 57-48 deficit with 9:44 left in the second half of the MAAC Championship Semifinals. Fairfield held Marist to just one field goal for the remainder of the game flipping the nine-point deficit to a 65-61 win.

With the win, the Stags advanced to the MAAC Championship Game for the first time since 2021 in search of the program's first conference title since 1997. Their record improves to 22-11 on the season while Marist, who reached the MAAC Championship Game last season, slips to 18-13.

Fields paced the Stage scoring 22 points, his second consecutive 20-point game in the tournament, and Jalen Leach scored all 13 of his points after halftime. Peyton Smith '27 provided a spark off the bench with nine points, with Jasper Floyd '25 adding eight and Yetna netting six.

Marist was led by 14 points from Javon Cooley, who shot 4-for-4 from three-point range in the first half. Max Allen II added 12 points and Jadin Collins scored 10.

The 2024 MAAC Championship Game tipped off from Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City against the Saint Peter's Peacocks.

March Madness is the greatest show in sports and for the Fairfield Stags, the only thing that stood in their way was the Saint Peter's Peacocks. The Peacocks were unknown before the 2022 NCAA March Madness Tournament but their Cinderella story that got them to the Elite Eight will go down in history as one of the best runs of all time. They are the only 15-seed to make the Elite Eight and now everyone knows their name.

The Stags have matched up well against Saint Peter's this year, having defeated the Peacocks at Mahoney Arena on Jan. 19 and in Jersey City on Feb. 10. The Peacocks were 18-13 on the season after upsetting top-seeded Quinnipiac, 62-60, on a buzzer-beater in Friday's first semifinal matchup.

The story of this game was

Corey Washington who dominated the second half of the contest. Washington scored 20 of his 24 points in the second half to rally fifth-seeded Saint Peter's to a 68-63 victory over No. 2 seed Fairfield in the championship game of the MAAC Tournament on Saturday night, earning the Peacocks a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

The main reason why the Stags weren't able to defeat the Peacocks was likely their 3-point and FG percentages. The Stags shot 5-25 (25%) from beyond the arc and Peacocks shot 6-13 (46.2%) from three. As for field goals, Fairfield went 23-65 (35.4%) and Saint Peter's went 23-44 (52.3%). It is difficult to win when there is as big a difference in shooting percentage as there was in this game. Typically, the Stags are the ones running up the scoreboard and have great shooting splits, but they just didn't have it against Saint Peter's.

Caleb Fields totaled 17 points, nine rebounds, and five assists to pace Fairfield (22-12). Alexis Yetna added 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Brycen Goodine scored 10 off the bench.

As unfortunate as it is for the Stags to miss March Madness, they had a tremendous season with an overall record of 22-12. Even though the Stags are out of the NCAA Tournament, they have qualified for the CBI Tournament. They are the 7-seed and will take on Little Rock on March 24, 2024, at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, Florida.



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

Graduate student Caleb Fields led the Stags with 17 points in their loss to St. Peters.

# Stags Hold Off Hofstra in Weekend Nailbiter

By **SEAN BELLAMY**  
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield University Men's Lacrosse team beat Hofstra University last Saturday in a very close game. The game was played at home on Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium, with the Stags just barely beating the Pride 12-11.

The Stags (4-4, 1-0 Coastal Athletic Association) have now won four out of their last five games. Hofstra (3-5, 0-1 CAA) has lost four straight games after starting the season 3-1.

Fairfield was led by sophomore duo midfielder Will Consoli and attackman Jake Gilbert, with Consoli scoring four goals and Gilbert getting a hat trick and an assist. Graduate student and midfielder Dean Ford and first-year attackman Keegan Lynch also both notched a pair of goals in the victory.

The Pride was led by graduate student and attackman Sam Lutfi who scored four goals, junior midfielder John Madsen who got a hat trick, and junior midfielder Griffin Turner who scored two goals of his own and added four assists as well.

The game was a back-and-forth battle, with Lutfi opening the game up for Hofstra, scoring an unassisted goal just a minute into the game. However, the Stags would not take long to respond, as Ford and senior midfielder Reilly Sullivan would score the first two goals for Fairfield. Consoli would also score

his first goal of the game with under ten seconds left to go in the first quarter.

Fairfield would hold a 4-2 lead going into the second quarter. However, this lead would not last long. After a man-up goal from Gilbert, Hofstra would score three goals in a row to take a 6-5 lead.

Thankfully, the Stags would take the lead back, with goals from Ford and Gilbert. Going into halftime, the Stags held onto a 7-6 lead.

The third quarter was a much quieter affair than the first half had been, as only 3 goals were scored. Heading into the final 15 minutes of play, Fairfield held a two-goal lead (9-7).

Following back-to-back goals from Consoli, Fairfield extended its lead to four. However, the Pride would not go down without a fight.

Madsen kicked off a fourth-quarter surge with a man-up goal at the seven-minute mark. Hofstra would then quickly add 2 more goals, making the score 11-10 with six minutes to play.

In just a minute of play, Hofstra scored three straight goals and now looked to tie the game up. The tension of the fans in attendance on the Fairfield side was palpable.

On the very next possession, Lutfi had a shot bounce off the crossbar, hit the left post, and then bounce back out in front of the net. Madsen got the ball and went wide on a turnaround shot right in front of the net. All the Fairfield fans in the stands breathed a huge sigh of



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

Freshman attackman Keegan Lynch was named CAA Rookie of the Week with two key goals in conference play.

relief.

Fairfield got possession back after a nice save from first-year goalie Owen Hirsch, who came in relief of sophomore Will Synder for the second half. Once the Stags had the ball, Lynch scored off a nice feed from senior midfielder Luke Okupski, making the score 12-10 with three and a half minutes remaining.

This would not be the end of the Stag's fears however, as Turner found the back of the net with a minute and a half left to play in the game.

This would ultimately be the final score of the game (12-11), but the Stags very nearly lost a game that they should have dominated. Part of the reason was certainly due to the performance of Hofstra goalie Sean Henderson, who finished with 15 saves on the day.

Another key to Hofstra's fourth-quarter resurgence was that they dominated the faceoffs in the final minutes of play. Hofstra won seven out of the eight faceoffs in the fourth, which allowed them to continue their offensive push.

However, when Hofstra gives

the ball up 19 times and you get seven more ground balls than they do (33-26), the score should not have been as close as it was.

The Stag's offense has certainly improved since the beginning of the season, but it could definitely be better.

The Stags will celebrate Senior Day prior to next week's game against the Towson University Tigers, who currently sport the best record in the CAA at 5-3. The game will be played at home on Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium at 1 pm this Saturday.

## Women's Basketball Punches Ticket to March Madness in OT Thriller

By **DANNY McELROY**  
Assistant Sports Editor

As the buzzer sounded to end the first half of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship Game in Atlantic City last Saturday evening, the somewhat stunned contingent of Fairfield faithful did their best to shout words of encouragement down to the sideline.

Over the shoulder of each Stags player as they made their trot into the locker room was the jumbotron of Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, displaying the result of a demoralizing first 20 minutes of play. The second-seeded Niagara Purple Eagles led by a score of 33-22, the 11 point halftime deficit the largest faced by the Stags in any game throughout their historic then 30-1 season.

"The frustration and the excitement of the moment I think got to us a little bit," said assistant coach Erik Johnson.

Despite their rampant success throughout the 2023-24 campaign, moments of adversity and unease haven't been completely foreign to the Stags. Most notable was their February 17 road trip to Mount St. Mary's, where the team trailed for almost the whole game before a last second layup from Emina Selimovic '25 sealed a 61-59 win.

But that game simply didn't compare in magnitude to the situation staring down the Stags on Saturday, with a conference title and a trip to the NCAA Tournament on the line. And it maybe shouldn't have been such a surprise, either. At 28-1 to start the week, and nationally ranked as the number 25 team in the country for the first time in program history, the target was squarely on the back of the Stags heading into Atlantic City, during the time of year where every win gets that much tougher to take home.

"Everybody gives us their best shot," Johnson said. "We know that because of our record, and all that, we're gonna get everybody's best game."

There was perhaps no greater example than the Stags' tournament opener against Rider on Wednesday afternoon. Just four days after dismantling the Broncs in an 83-54 win to close out the regular season, Fairfield found themselves in a dogfight with the conference's number eight seed.

After a slow start in the first 10 minutes, the Stags opened quarter two with three straight baskets, including back-to-back three pointers from Meghan Andersen '27, and looked to be well on their way to a comfortable win after taking a nine point lead into the locker room. The Broncs had other plans.

The underdogs hung around early in the second half until a series of miscues kick started what would go on to be a 13-2 run, punctuated by a Jessika Schiffer three to knot the game at 40 several minutes into the final period.

Of course, as the Stags have managed to do all year, they dug deep and battled back, reeling off 10 straight points of their own before a flurry of free throws from Kaety L'Amoreaux '27 iced the 57-51 win. The victory came in spite of the team's single worst shooting performance of the entire season, including just 14 percent from three, over 20 points below their season average.

"Playing the first game in a new arena like that, we didn't shoot the ball very well," Johnson said, "but I thought we actually played well. We generated a lot of open shots, and I think if we had shot a more normal percentage for us the score would've looked a lot different."

Instead, the Stags leaned on their signature suffocating defense, holding a conference opponent under 60 points for the 18th time in 21 games. Leading the way in that department was Janelle Brown '24, who had three steals and a block to go along with 16 points on the offensive end. L'Amoreaux led all scorers in the game with 19.

"We won because we defended," Johnson said. "We really worked like crazy, I thought our pressure was excellent, our discipline was quite good, and our team's built to be able to win in different ways."

That led to Friday's semifinal matchup with Canisius. Far and away the Stags' least stressful outing of the week, they used a balanced performance with much improved shooting and more lockdown defense, controlling the game from start to finish in a 77-64 win.

Most notable was their defensive game plan against Golden Griffins star forward

Sisi Eleko. A unanimous first team all-conference pick, Eleko led the conference in both scoring and rebounding in the regular season. On Friday though, the Stags held her to just four points and four rebounds, and she fouled out of the game midway through the fourth quarter.

"Our defense really changed the game in terms of being able to pressure the perimeter and swarm the interior," Johnson said, "and because we don't have as much size, and [Eleko]'s bigger than our players, we have to be able to do both."

The better shooting numbers on the offensive end helped five Stags reach double figures, led by Brown with 19 points. Andersen chipped in with 16, followed by Selimovic and Kendall McGruder '25 with 11 apiece. Graduate student Nicole Gallagher rounded out the quintet with 10.

So as the team exited the locker room Saturday afternoon, they faced their deficit head on with one thought in their minds: they had faced adversity before, and they would conquer it again.

Shots that didn't go down in the first half finally started to fall, with Brown in particular hitting two big threes to jolt the crowd back to life. They were much more methodical in dissecting Niagara's overwhelming defensive pressure, surrendering just 10 turnovers after giving up 17 in the first half.

Slowly, bucket by bucket, they crawled their way back into the game, and with just under two minutes left in regulation, Brown split two defenders in the paint for a layup that gave the Stags their first lead of the game at 57-56.

After an exchange of free throws tied the game, the Stags had an opportunity to run out the clock and take the last shot. But then, disaster struck. Brown was called for an offensive foul while driving to the rim, resulting not just in a turnover that gave Niagara a chance to win, but in a fifth foul for Brown, knocking her out of the game.

The Stags would prevent the Purple Eagles from getting a shot up to end regulation, but they were now entering overtime with the conference player of the year and their de facto leader on the bench.

"That was something we struggled with last year. If you look at our overtime

losses, most of them were when [Brown] fouled out," Johnson said. "But what makes her the player of the year in the conference is that she has learned to be a really good point guard, she's unselfish, she found ways to be able to contribute to our win even though she fouled out of the game."

Brown's impact was evident in every huddle and timeout on the sideline, showing no frustration or anger and instead using her energy to pump up the team.

The result was a statement overtime performance to cap off what was a statement year for the Stags. They scored the first nine points of the extra period, including a cold-blooded corner three from Gallagher that had Boardwalk Hall ready to explode.

Just a few minutes later, the game ended in a final score of 70-62 for the Stags, and the celebration at midcourt was well underway.

"It's really hard to win 29 games in a row, I mean, it's remarkable," Johnson said. "I think the narrative people are worried about is, 'Oh you won all these games but you can't do it on the big stage'... so being able to do it is validation that this team's for real and this team can do it on the big stage."

Now, the Stags find themselves in the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in program history and the second time in the last three years. There, they'll match up with the fourth-seeded Indiana Hoosiers out of the Big Ten.

But no matter what the outcome, they'll still have a new championship banner to hang in the rafters of Mahoney Arena to commemorate what is undoubtedly the greatest season in program history.

"Playing selfless basketball, supporting each other, working together, getting each other in the gym extra," Johnson said. "The consistency of the wins is a byproduct of the consistency of the effort and the togetherness, and it's fun when you get to see that from our seats as coaches every day."

The Stags will attempt to keep their dream season going just a little bit longer when they play the Hoosiers on Saturday. Opening tip is at 1:30 P.M.



The Fairfield women's basketball punched their ticket to March Madness for the sixth time in program history with a MAAC championship win this past weekend.