THE MIRROR

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Faculty Express Need for COVID Vaccination Mandate









Top Left: Fairfield University nursing students pictured with Norwalk Hospital's Chief Nursing Officer. They helped manage his hospital's vaccine clinic. Middle Left: Nurses pose in 3D Printed Masks created by Fairfield University students. Bottom Left: Fairfield students pose for photo after recieving the COVID-19 vaccine at Fairfield. Right: The AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Pin pictured. The AAUP is currently trying to get Fairfield University to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for the Spring of 2022.

By Brooke Lathe Vine Editor

By Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief

During the summer of 2021, many universities across the United States enforced COVID-19 vaccination mandates. Within the state of Connecticut, 37 out of 44 college campuses took part in this mandate, including Fairfield University's neighboring school, Sacred Heart University.

Fairfield University is one of seven Connecticut universities that has yet to enforce a school-wide COVID-19 immunization and is a part of an even smaller minority of Jesuit schools that has not.

Though Fairfield University openly shares that the campus has a 93.1 percent vaccination status, which is a statistic which includes the entire campus community (students, staff, faculty, etc.), many professors share their concern for the lack of a vaccine requirement.

David Crawford Ph.D., President of Fairfield's Faculty Welfare Committee/Association American Association of University Professors, and sociology/anthropology professor states how our lack of a vaccination mandate puts us in a small minority of Jesuit schools that doesn't have a mandate and thus, "makes us appear out of touch with the Jesuit values we so enthusiastically pronounce."

want to hire to come to Fairfield, we have to explain why we have decided to place ourselves in the small minority of schools who do not require this particular vaccine—but plenty of others.

With 28 Jesuit schools across the country, Fairfield University remains one of four that does not require a COVID-19 student vaccination. "For scholars we want to hire to come to Fairfield, we have to explain why we have decided to place ourselves in the small minority of schools who do not require this particular vaccine—but plenty of others. We have no explanation for that, and so the President's unilateral decision can impact far more than the spread of the virus," Crawford says.

-David Crawford Ph.D

He adds, "It also impacts our ability to recruit the most talented young professors." An additional issue Crawford points out is that "The refusal to require

a vaccine— even with exemptions for health or religious reasons— is interpreted by many as a political/ideological decision as opposed to a scientific [or] public health one. That casts a shadow of doubt over all other administrative decisions."

Crawford further explains his individual and fellow colleagues' shared beliefs.

"Our administration-appointed campus Public Health Advisory Team voted repeatedly to have a requirement, our Academic Council voted to have one and the General Faculty voted to have one," he said. "Especially since there are exemptions for medical or religious reasons, we cannot understand the President's intransigence. We require many other vaccines to come on campus. Why not this one?"

Anita Fernandez Ph.D., associate professor of biology and a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee added that the faculty support for the mandate came up in the general faculty vote in July, in two separate Academic Council votes, and in two cases where the Public Health Advisory Team made that specific recommendation.

She adds, "The President's policy choice is not in agreement with what most Fairfield faculty want." Jennifer Adair Ph.D., associate

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Stags Soccer Alumni Return to Serve Students in New Role

By Madison Gallo Head News Editor

Fairfield University alumni Jay DeGioia '80 and Joe Sandolo '81 were teammates on the men's soccer team when they were students at Fairfield. Nowadays, the duo still works together. Only instead of on the soccer field, they are business partners at the University's on-campus restaurant, The Levee.

At the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, the University did not renew its contract with Sodexo, Fair-field's previous food supplier. Another change within Fairfield's dining program is the change in ownership of The Levee. This change gave way to DeGioia, the current director of Stags Hospitality, and Sandolo returning to Fairfield.

Prior to their new role at The Levee, the duo has worked together in many restaurants throughout the state of Connecticut.

DeGioia said that he and Sandolo have "partnered in restaurants in Norwalk, Bridgeport, Stratford and Brookfield" for 15 years before he moved with his family to Florida to work for Walt Disney World.

Sandolo said these partnerships happened early in their careers.

"As time passed, we have always looked at a way to partner again," Sandolo said. "It is good to be back working together and especially special for me to support Jay and the Stags Hospitality team."

Outside of work, the duo are longtime friends, going on over 40 years of friendship. DeGioia shared that Sandolo is his youngest daughter Jamie's godfather, and the two families have "enjoyed

many family vacations together to the beaches in Wildwood, N.J."

Sandolo still runs a family company based in Norwalk the two started that includes a coffee plant and multiple restaurants. The coffee plant is Oasis Coffee and some of the restaurants owned include Ponza Italian Restaurant in Norwalk, Milford Sports Pub, John's Best Restaurants throughout Connecticut and Sage, a restaurant coming soon to Norwalk.

"When Jay approached me about supporting The Levee and the Stags Hospitality team, I couldn't have been happier," Sandolo said. "It is in true Fairfield spirit and tradition to support local business and the alumni network to provide support and products to the campus community."

When asked about their favorite memories during their time at Fairfield, both men talked about hanging out at the Snack Bar which preceded The Levee.

"It was a great community space where everyone would meet," DeGioia said. "It was well before cell phones, so it was important we had a place to start in the evenings. It was amazing to see students, faculty and staff all together enjoying the experience."

Sandolo was a commuter and therefore "it was important for [him] to have places to meet[his] friends and plan out our free time."

"I really enjoyed the game room, meeting up with everyone at the Snack Bar and building strong relationships, a few that continue to this day," Sandolo shared.

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The gate near Jogues Hall, pictured, will now be open from 6 a.m. until 11 p.m. everyday except for Friday-Sunday when it closes at 6 p.m.

Fairfield University opened all gates as of Monday, Nov. 1. Stag Cards will not be required to be scanned to enter campus except during the hours from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Between those hours, the only gate that will be open is the North Benson gate with DPS present as well. The officer at the gate will look for Stag Cards and Fairfield parking decals, as students have been used to doing in the past.

One more exception is that Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Townhouse and Jogues gate closes at 6 p.m.

Last year, Fairfield University closed all gates only allow-

Last year, Fairfield University closed all gates only allowing entrance from the main North Benson gate, as well as the gate near Faber Hall. This was to ensure only Fairfield students were allowed on campus and to monitor their in and out activity.



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A breakdown of the University COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

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Senior Malen Iglesias speaks on this year's field hockey season.

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Fairfield Alumni Become Future of the Levee

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On top of hanging out at the Snack Bar, DeGioia mentioned some of his favorite memories at Fairfield include beach parties, taking the train to the city with friends, concerts and "mostly being on the soccer field the entire time [he] was here.

In terms of working together from a business standpoint, Sandolo shared that the similar work ethics that they both have, have led to the success of the businesses they ran together.

"We have the same goal of giving the guests the best possible experience and will work tirelessly to make that happen," Sandolo said.

These goals can be seen in the principles that Stags Hospitality is founded upon.

"Stags Hospitality stands on the principle of working with local businesses and also

University alumni," Sandolo said. "When Jay approached me to support The Levee, I was excited to bring my products to campus, and hopefully elevate the student experience. We have always wanted a presence on campus and will do whatever possible to partner [with the University]."

DeGioia also mentioned the dedication he feels to "elevating the student experience" as stated by Sandolo.

"My favorite part of the job is providing a great guest experience and developing team members to reach their full potential," DeGioia said. "The team here works especially hard to make sure all students and guests are treated well and are always suggesting ideas on how we can improve or try different things."

The Levee currently has a pizza station, a grill and the

"We want to enhance the market and allow local restaurants to utilize the hot and cold buffet in the spring to give our students an onsite local restaurant experience," DeGioia said. "There are also plans for the summer to add a

market with prepackaged food in the front.

"There are also plans for the summer to add a four-season patio out front where the tent is and a large party pavilion where the parking lot is."

These plans, according to DeGioia, are in the beginning stages of being planned, but he hopes that discussions with the community and students will happen soon. In addition to this, The Levee will soon add kiosk and online ordering, and hopes to start making deliveries "once plans are finalized."

Sandolo hopes that this is "the beginning of a long term partnership" and that he is "truly excited about the local restaurant row feature The Levee will offer in the Spring [semester]."

"I can't wait to introduce our families' local restaurants on campus for the students to enjoy," Sandolo said.

DeGioia cited the near-completion of the Convocation Center as one of the reasons for the adjustments being made.

"The goal is to give the guests a seamless experience throughout campus and The Levee gives students more flexibility as they can now use their meal plans, Stagbucks and dining dollars," DeGioia said.

DeGioia wants The Levee to be a place where students can have a "few moments to relax during their busy schedules."

"I want each student to have a consistent and enjoyable meal while being served promptly with a smile," he said.

On returning to campus, DeGioia said that "Fairfield is home and you always feel welcome here."

"The administration is committed to providing the students with not only the best dining experience anywhere but to also provide that sense of community that makes this place so special," DeGioia said. "I was part of the team that developed the Tully renovation before I left in 2017, and I always wanted to come back and help it reach its full potential."



Pictured above is Alumni Joe Sandolo'81 and Jay DeGioia '80 at DeGioia's wedding. They are former teammates on the Fairfield University soccer team who now run the Levee together.

Sandolo reiterated the homey feeling DeGioia discussed.

"The minute you step on campus, you automatically feel welcome and in friendly and comfortable surroundings," Sandolo said. "As we watch the enormous growth, it is always fun to come back and see the excitement and sense of community."

He also mentioned that Fairfield is "well-known for its dining program" and as a proud alumni, he "really wants to be a part of Fairfield's exciting future."

"Fairfield has the full commitment of the entire community to provide a great dining experience and commits the necessary resources to ensure we have everything we need to do that," DeGioia said.



Fairfield Alumni Joe Sandolo'81 and Jay DeGioia '80 owned several restaurants together early on in the career. Now the duo have reunited at the Levee where they now work together.





Compiled by Madeline West Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety.

10/26

10:20 a.m.

A tree fell and damaged two parked vehicles in the Dolan North parking lot.

10/27

9:32 a.m.

A professor reported a small fire which occurred in one of the chemistry labs during a supervised experiment conducted by a student. The fire was contained and extinguished with no injuries.

2:17 p.m.

ITS staff reported that during a fire alarm evacuation at the Barone Campus Center its property was taken from the Oak Room. It is currently under investigation.

10/29

1:01 p.m.

A report was filed on an abandoned motor vehicle in the Kelley Center garage. The owner has been identified and arrangements are being made to remove the vehicle. 4:00 p.m.

A student reported being assaulted by another student in one of the residential halls. It is currently under investigation.

10/30

12:09 a.m

There was possession of drug paraphernalia in Loyola Hall. Suspects were referred to student conduct.

8:35 p.m

A live safe report was filed of a male destroying property in Campion Hall. Students identified were referred to student conduct.

10/31

3:32 a.m.

Five students fled into the woods upon entering through the Jogues gate. They were fleeing from public safety, but were caught and referred to student conduct.

THE MIRROR

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Lack of Mask-Wearing on Campus Increases Call For Mandate

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professor in the history department and also a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee, added that "There has been clear and overwhelming faculty support in favor of a vaccine mandate over the summer and into this fall."

Crawford adds that the virus risk is not evenly distributed across all campus spaces or across all people in those spaces, "Some faculty have close to 100 percent vaccination in their classrooms right now, but others only have 65 percent."

"What is somebody supposed to do when a third of their class is unvaccinated and they are teaching in a small room with windows

supposed to do when a third of their class is unvaccinated and they are teaching in a small room with windows that don't open? Some of my colleagues have called that simply 'unacceptable.' I worry that the third of the class that is unvaccinated will get sick and the virus will spread from there."

- David Crawford Ph.D.

that don't open? Some of my colleagues have called that simply 'unacceptable.' I worry that the third of the class that is unvaccinated will get sick and the virus will spread from there."

William Abbot Ph.D., associate professor in the history department and member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee added, "The need for a vaccine mandate has increased this semester, owing partly to the failure of many students to use masks properly in open indoor spaces such as hallways and bathrooms. The danger from such non-compliance will only increase with the onset of cold weather."

In an email sent out by the Office of the Dean of Students on Oct. 8, William Johnson Ph.D. stated, "Even after being here for over a month though, I am struck by the fact that I (and many of my colleagues) still have to address students about wearing a mask indoors despite all of the very visible signage across campus."

He continued, "... at this point in the semester, there is no excuse for anyone to be walking into or inside of a building without a mask in their possession. And more importantly, it is unacceptable to ignore the request of a University employee to put a mask on or to wear it properly. For those of you engaging in this behavior, please do better."

Senior Olivia Burke says, "I'd say most people I see in the BCC [Barone Campus Center] are not wearing masks, whether they're walking around or sitting in one of the seating areas."

She adds, "I think everyone should wear masks indoors when outside of their room/housing especially in the BCC since it's an enclosed area where most students visit often, if not daily." Crawford goes on to explain how even though faculty can't set campus-wide policies, they are responsible for figuring out the risk in their own particular classrooms



Mask left abandoned outside of the Barone Campus Center. Fairfield University hasn't lifted their mask policy, but many students have neglected to follow indoor mask restrictions.

and coming up with policies to mitigate it.

Furthermore, Fairfield University students are not permitted an online learning experience like the opportunities offered during the 2020-2021 school year.

"We [professors] are expected to hold class in person if that is how the course is listed in the catalog," Crawford explains. "I know the professors all want to see our students again; we are just worried about how to do that safely." Furthermore, if a student contracts COVID-19, professors are barred from distributing Zoom links to the classes their students may miss, but instead must contact each professor individually.

Crawford shares, "Professors have a range of views, but many are worried about classroom issues, including absences. As far as I know, absences are going to be handled as they always have been. There is no special policy for Covid absences."

A Retrospective Look at Fairfield's COVID-19 Restrictions

Thomas Coppola Sports Editor

After a school year filled with uncertainty in 2020, the Fall 2021 semester is shaping up to be much more COVID-19 friendly on Fairfield University's campus. With widespread access to the COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, the spread of the virus has declined greatly

Compared to last year, the restrictions brought along by the spread of the pandemic have ultimately loosened with time. In the 2020-21 school year, multiple changes could be seen around campus, most obviously the usage of masks.

Last year, Fairfield University enforced a policy which required all students to wear a mask, inside or outside, unless they were inside of their own residence.

Looking into today's policy, however, the rules are not so strict. The 2021-2022 Student Handbook, which can be found on Fairfield University's website, outlines these rules; the "COVID-19 Student Directives" tab of the website states that "Students are required to wear a mask which covers the nose and mouth while indoors."

As the Pfizer-Bio-

tech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines became more available, the University overturned mask-wearing while outdoors, but emphasized in their directives that the indoor

mask-wearing would continue.

On Fairfield University's website as well is a page dedicated to "Frequently Asked Questions" about COVID-19 rules, which were updated for the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year.

According to that page, all students, regardless of vaccination status, were required to declare their vaccination status before coming to campus. Fairfield University did not mandate a vaccine, but strongly encouraged students to receive it.

As of Friday, Oct. 22, 2021, Fairfield University's campus community, which is made up of both students, staff and faculty members, is 93.1% documented vaccinated, with only 23 documents pending, according to the "Campus Testing and Reporting" dashboard found on the Fairfield University webpage. Including those pending vaccination statuses, the campus community would be 93.5 percent vaccinated.

On Oct. 30, 2020, a few days over one year ago, Vice President of Student Life Karen Donoghue sent out a message to all students stating that Connecticut was put on the list of "hot-spot states" which saw a rapid spike in the number of confirmed COVID cases.

In this communication, it was made clear that students who returned home to a hot-spot state for Thanksgiving break would not be able

to return for the remainder of the semester. The University eventually took away the option to return to campus after Thanksgiving break altogether due to a rise in cases.



"Mask Required" sign placed outside of the Barone Campus Center. Masks used to be required in both inside and outside spaces, but now are just mandated indoors.

Only a week before, the Office of the Dean of Students was in contact with students as well about the situation in Fairfield relating to the state as a whole. On October 22, 2020, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont placed the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk on a "red-alert" list to show the severity of the spread of COVID-19.

This same email

expressed Dean of Students William Johnson's concerns over the prospect of off campus gatherings for Halloween. Around this time last year, it appeared as though the spike in cases had passed, even though the university remained in "code orange," indicating a moderate risk of COVID-19 on campus based on case numbers.

While the number of positive COVID-19 cases continued to rise around this time last year, this year looks much different. "We will continue to evolve and plan as needed to adapt to the ambient environment, and are pleased to share that our current case count is at zero," Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Anderson stated.

For Fairfield University, the COVID-19 situation began to look much more promising around May 2021, where a campus-wide vaccination center was set up. As COVID-19 knowledge progresses, Fairfield University is "working through plans to host an additional vaccination and booster clinic this semester" according to Anderson.

In the "Campus testing and reporting" tab of fair-field.edu, archived data about COVID-19 can be found from each semester of last school year, as well as more information about COVID-19 in this current semester.

Questions Arise As Applications Continue to Increase at Fairfield

By Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief



Pictured above is the Fairfield University banner sent to accepted Fairfield students. Fairfield University welcomed its largest class of 2025 with 1,250 incoming first years.

Applications to Fairfield University are continuing to increase. For the 2003-2004 Application cycle, 7,655 "First-Time, First-Year" students applied, by the 2013-2014 cycle, it was 9,582 students and for 2020-2021, the number was up to 12,586 applications.

With that increase in applications, comes an increase in competitiveness. When the applications for 2016-2017 were at 11,055 the acceptance rate was 61.5%. With 12,586 students applying last year, the application rate dropped to 57.1%.

In September of 2018, Fairfield University hired Corry Unis to be the new vice president for strategic enrollment management. At the start of his career, Fairfield's acceptance rate was 60.3% and has dropped by 3% since then. In the press release announcing his arrival to the University, it was stated, "Mr. Unis will play a vital role in supporting the mission, growth, and continued success of Fairfield University, through efforts to expand the school's reach on a national level, to raise the academic benchmark for enrollees, and to shape future classes that are culturally, socio-economically, and geographically diverse."

The Mirror reached out to Unis regarding what changes he implemented to the admissions process.

He stated he would answer our questions, but the Mirror instead received a statement from Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Anderson.

In her message, Anderson stated that "Over the past year we

have welcomed our largest and most academically gifted first-year class in history and are witnessing record graduate and professional studies enrollments across our five schools."

She continued that with the class of 2025, in alignment with the University's strategic initiatives, "...we increased the yield (percentage of admitted students who enroll) of our diverse applicants, grown the geographic diversity, increased the academic profile of the class across several metrics and doubled the enrollment of students from Jesuit High schools."

By geographic diversity, Anderson may be referring to the students who are from outside of the state of Connecticut, as that number increased from 79% in 2018-2019 to 80% in 2020-2021. But, the international student

population is decreasing at Fairfield. In 2018-2019, 51 of the "First-Time, First-Year" students who enrolled were designated as "non-resident aliens," in 2020-2021, it was 15.

This is a national trend many universities are seeing due to, as reported by National Public Radio, the visa process, high tuition prices, the political climate and feeling "unwelcome." It was reported in December of 2020, that international student enrollment dropped by 43% nationally, Fairfield University's international student enrollment decreased by 71%.

Anderson added, "We continue to use data to help us refine our approach to recruitment. This analysis of trends allows us to target geographic regions and locations to help us find students who will thrive at Fairfield."

She continued, "We will continue to grow the diversity of our students and most recently announced a new program that will fund 12-14 students from Jesuit and Cristo Rey high-schools from underrepresented populations."

"It was reported in December of 2020, that international student enrollment dropped by 43% nationally, Fairfield University's international student enrollment decreased by 71%."

In 2018-2019, the number of "First-Year, First-Time" students who enrolled at Fairfield that year identified as "Hispanic/Latino" was 74, it increased to 84 students in 2020-2021. The students enrolled

who identified as "Black or African American, non-Hispanic" decreased from 24 in 2018-2019 to 14 in 2020-2021. The students enrolled who identified as "Asian, non-Hispanic" increased by one student, 34 students in 2018-2019 and 35 in 2020-2021.

Anderson ends by saying, "This, combined with additional marketing and recruitment initiatives will continue to meet the multi-variable goals of enrollment and the strategic goals of the institution."

Anderson and Unis did not provide an answer to The Mirror on whether a cap for enrollment was in sight, despite many students raising concerns about the shortage of housing on campus.

This year the University had to create triple rooms in the first-year dorms due to increased class size. Sixteen percent of the first-year class was placed in triple rooms at the start of the semester with hopes to "de-triple" and move them to double rooms later in the semester.

Meredith Smith, associate dean of students and director of the Office of Residence Life told The Mirror back in Sep. 2021, "From a Residence Life standpoint, we had more students accepted than we expected. It was a little bit of a surprise, but not uncommon."

At the time of writing this article the University has not announced any plans to increase housing, nor are numbers available for the ongoing 2021-2022 application cycle.

Co-Managing Editors Sheila McCombs and Tobenna Ugwu are both Senior Admissions Fellows in the Office of Admissions and thus did not read, edit or have any part of this article before publication.



STAGSHospitality

Meet Your Campus Dietitian Joanna Schipke



Joanna Schipke is a Registered Dietitian who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics from the University of Connecticut. She went on to complete her 1200-hour dietetic internship from Keene State College. Joanna started her nutrition career in K-12 working for several different school districts across the state and most recently was employed as the Food Service Director for Watertown Public Schools.

Joanna is available as a resource to students to provide one on one nutrition counseling, assistance with food allergies and other dietary needs, and help students find healthy options on campus. She looks forward to helping students form a positive relationship with food and teach them healthy habits they can take with them the rest of their lives.

To schedule a consultation with Joanna, email Schipke-Joanna@aramark.com. Opinion

Should Fairfield Lift the Indoor Mask Mandate? Yes or No

By Peyton Perry Opinion Editor

By Anne Tomosivitch Contributing Writer

With classes in-person and assignments ramping up, the hustle and bustle of campus life feels like it's in full force. The Tully is packed, and so are schedules. Weekends are often spent shoulder-to-shoulder at townhouse parties. Things are busy, people are social, and life is good.

Should you ask an upperclassman how this compares to any "normal year", things feel very similar, with one exception: the mask.

Loved and hated, depending on the person, the face masks we've all grown accustomed to have been used in various capacities this fall. Some students wear their masks over their mouth and nose, per university guidelines. Some go for the infamous "chin diaper" look, while other brave individuals go without one.

Regardless, the notion that most people are following mask protocol appropriately should be taken with a grain of salt. It's just not true.

Residential Assistant Pedro Garcia '24 points this out, saying "it's become really apparent that students and even faculty are completely burnt out on mask wearing. Whether it be walking out of the building on their way to class, or studying in lounges, students sometimes don't even bother to have a mask on them, never mind wear one"

The question remains: at this point in time, can we blame them? From the standpoint of comfort, it's obvious that mask-wearing is not preferred. But from a moralist perspective, what matters is how our choices affect public health. As the upstanding, service-oriented and Jesuit-educated students that we are, we need to honestly ask ourselves how our mask-habits affect other people.

Thus we need to examine the age-old question in context with the current state of the pandemic, with respect to our university, our area, and our vaccination status. Out of concern for those around us: do we need to wear masks?

Analysis into the data surrounding the areas prompted above give us a clear yet frowned upon answer: no. Before we provoke outrage, consider the following.

Per the most recent data provided by the university, Fairfield has zero active positive cases of COVID-19, of 708 people tested through the week ending on October 29. That boils down to a 0 percent positivity rate. May I also suggest that Fairfield University has a 93.5 percent vaccination rate, hugely diminishing both the likelihood and severity of contracting COVID-19.

Further, Fairfield County has 6.5 positive cases daily per every 100,000 people, according to data from Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, which is a marginal risk that the county has reacted to by removing the mask mandate indoors.

Should we consider guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: our majority vaccinated population ought to "wear a mask indoors in public if [we] are in an area of substantial or high transmission." Consulting the facts above, the level of transmission on our campus and in our surrounding area is close to none, and thus our vaccinated population (assuming one is not particularly at risk for other reasons) should not need to wear a mask indoors.

We must consider the argument that the reason for such low transmission is the fact that we are still wearing masks; thus, removing the Fairfield University's indoor mask mandate would be regressive, leading to high transmission. This, again, is not true. Aside from the already mentioned fact that students and faculty are not fully following and enforcing this mask mandate for it to be as effective as its being portrayed, it has been shown repeatedly through campus-held "outdoor" events that cases have not spiked when students have come into close contact during large gatherings; in other words, chaos has yet to break out.

The CDC says that wearing a mask outdoors is less necessary than indoors, assuming the outdoor location has "greater ventilation and air exchange, where you can keep at least six feet apart from others during the activity." It is not the commonly accepted notion encouraged by those who believe in the high effectiveness of the indoor mask mandate that any outdoor event or gathering is safe without a mask.

This is interesting then, because in this case we've all seen the lack of necessity for wearing a mask indoors. One large "outdoor" event that comes to mind is the Presidential Ball, which encompassed over one thousand Fairfield students for each time slot, outside in a large tent, pressed up against each other over the course of four hours, sweating, dancing and breathing on others. Nobody was six feet apart, and there was no need for them to be. Is this not why a majority of us got the vaccine to begin with?

According to the CDC, "the greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to get infected, and therefore transmit the virus;" this is referring to not just COVID-19, but the new Delta variant as well. The CDC also shares that COVID-19 vaccines in the United States are "highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant." Masks are mentioned as "layered prevention strategies to reduce the transmission of this variant."

Do we still need this "layered prevention strategy" with a 93.5 percent vaccination rate on campus?

Numbers aside, however, we must face the catalyst of our ever-present mask controversy: people would rather be safe than sorry.

But we can't ignore the other obvious truth that masks, besides no longer necessary, are another marker of social isolation. They keep us from expressing ourselves fully, literally covering our faces. Masks make us feel like we are to be feared and avoided. We don't want to feel that way. And considering the very safe circumstances we are so fortunate to enjoy right now, we shouldn't have to.

When will precautionary measures end? COVID-19 is not going away, variants are not going to stop mutating from the disease; that's how the science works. Vaccines have been available for long enough now that anyone who wants the vaccine and is a part of our campus community could have gotten fully vaccinated, unless of course the individual has underlying health issues preventing it, a religious conflict, or some other personal reason for their choice.

Are we going to be wearing masks forever just to "play it safe?" It seems scarier that we are still normalizing mask-wearing, something that when no longer necessary, should not be normalized or encouraged for the reasons mentioned above, even amidst a time where vaccination statuses are high.

Concerningly, of several students prompted for quotes, none felt comfortable voicing their opinions. That in it of itself makes it clear that the culture surrounding this issue is moving away from logic and toward mere compliance.

Security is valued; this is true. But we must weigh the consequences of the restrictions we impose. Once again, masks are isolating; they make us feel disconnected. And among an age group that is adversely affected by poor mental health, we need to consider the larger implications of a never-ending culture of fear and isolation. What is the bigger risk here?

A study from the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry notes that "social isolation and loneliness [related to Covid-19] increased the risk of depression, and possibly anxiety [among children and adolescents]", and the "duration of loneliness was [...] strongly correlated with mental health symptoms."

We can continue to hold off and wait to lift our mask mandate until some point in time when it is suddenly deemed okay to do so, but the facts suggest that the longer this Covid cottling goes on, the more our age group's mental health will be damaged.

Perhaps you disagree. Other opinions are welcome. But let us pose one final question: if we can't loosen restrictions now, when risk is virtually zero, will we ever?

By Thomas Coppola Sports Editor

Today, mask rules are one of the most confusing things to keep following; every day it seems like administrators, town council members and lawmakers are changing their perspective to keep them on indoors or not. The town of Fairfield recently lifted their indoor mask mandate, which delighted some, but bothered others like us. Thankfully, Fairfield University's mask mandate has stayed in place regardless of the town's decision.

Granted, Fairfield University is a private university; as a private university that can call the shots however they like, the administrators of our school are correct in defying the town's decision, since it will ultimately assist the health and wellbeing of our campus community in the long run.

As Thomas Hobbes famously stated in "The Leviathan," individuals in society need to give up certain rights in order for the total health of the society, which is called the social contract. However, if not every member of society is on board with a decision, then it simply won't work. The people who do not want to wear masks indoors will be the ones most likely to catch (and spread) COVID-19; the other part of people who do want to wear masks will still be affected negatively, as there may be more COVID-19 transmission around them by the people who choose not to wear masks.

A key reason we must continue mask-wearing inside of Fairfield's facilities is the growing worry over global variants. Over a year and a half after the outbreak of the original COVID-19 variant, worries have grown over the increasing spread of the delta variant, which, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, is the predominant variant in the United States since July 2021.

A separate page from the CDC Website claims that "Wearing a mask is one effective way to reduce the spread of Delta and other variants". Even though masks are not legally mandated outdoors

for fully-vaccinated individuals, the CDC still urges fully-vaccinated people to wear their mask if they are in an area where COVID-19 transmission may be high.

Editor Peyton Perry » peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu

And I would agree that masks do not necessarily need to be worn outdoors. We've learned through the darkest times of this pandemic that ventilation is key, so if you've received both vaccine doses, then there should be no reason you need to wear your mask outside, unless it is your personal choice.

But, as I take a look at the Tully Dining Commons at any given six o'clock dinner rush, it worries me. Everyone is scattered around, socializing with friends, with no regard for masks. It is one thing to forget, and it is another to willingly ignore the fact that you should probably be wearing your mask when you get up and move around.

The part that bothers me the most is the fact that we have almost nothing to lose by wearing masks indoors, but almost everything to lose by not wearing them. By keeping them on for a few more months, they might get annoying; they aren't the most comfortable things to wear on your face while trying to learn and work, and I do acknowledge that.

But, if we get rid of them now, we will unravel all the progress we have made. Fairfield University has been doing well with handling COVID this year, and the cases have been kept at a minimum. By letting go of the masks, we are letting go of how far we have come as a community.

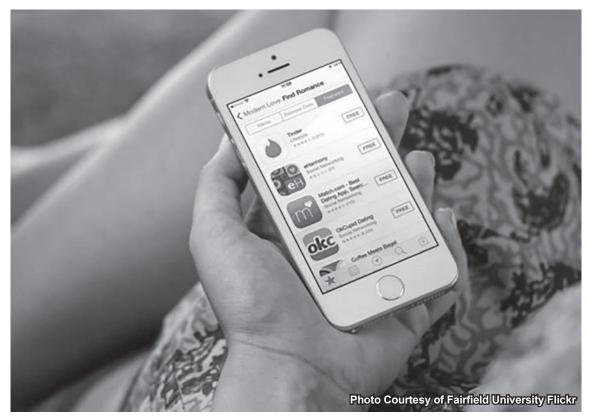
It is no secret that last school year was stressful; balancing schoolwork and keeping in mind the COVID rules was a challenge for all. With a whole lot of uncertainty, many students, like my fellow classmates in the class of 2024, were thrust into a new situation where fairly strict COVID-19 rules were enforced which hindered a normal transition into college. These rules were important to follow, however; to prevent a negative situation like that from happening again, we must be diligent in our mask-wearing around campus, because it is the least we can do for our campus community.





Hookup Culture Is An Entirely Personal Decision

By Brooke Lathe Vine Editor



A lot of people have different views regarding hookup culture. "It's great, it's horrible, it's this, it's that." Within a college setting, this controversial topic is incredibly common.

As a member of a relatively younger generation, I think that people

are entitled to choose how they go about their romantic life without any judgment. Many people don't want to commit to a full-time relationship during an experimental or stressful stage of their life, which is perfectly reasonable. This time period is for us to have fun and meet all different kinds of people without any rules! "Hooking up" also allows people to get a sense of what they like and dislike in future partners and even explore possible options.

However, with every good, comes some bad. And because the amount of

negatives clearly outweighs the positives in this case, I personally wouldn't participate in hookup culture.

As I previously mentioned, hookup culture can be a great way to receive attention without being committed, it's very often the main cause for hurt too.

Some people may think that they want something with no strings attached, but end up catching feelings and suffering when the feelings aren't reciprocated.

Oftentimes, people will fall into a pattern of hooking up because it means something to them, but it sadly won't to the other person. This creates a vicious element of toxicity and emotional harm.

An additional downfall is the disrespect that may arise. Because you may not be familiar enough with your partner, there is no mutual understanding to keep the interactions to yourselves.

Very frequently, rumors spread around about who did what with who and personal details are now known to the public. As someone who is a big advocate for privacy, I wouldn't want other people knowing my business, so this is definitely a huge deal-breaker for me.

Continually, hookup culture reveals an incredible separation within gender stereotypes. It's somehow normalized for girls to gain a negative connotation from hookup culture while men are idolized for it.

I'll never understand this, since if both parties are consenting and partici-

pating in doing something together, I'm not sure why some people are ostracized more than others. Why is that one person is chastised and the other is patted on the back?

However, one of the biggest problems that can arise from hookup culture is disease transmission, as one in four college students has an STD.

Due to this, it is imperative that every interaction is done so in a safe, protective way. But this does not always happen, especially in drunken, thoughtless encounters or non-exclusive relationships.

Even in sober situations, how are you to trust a person you don't know all that well when they tell you they are STD-free? Furthermore, the transmitter might not even know that they may have an STD due to lack of testing, because most 15–25-year-olds have never received an STI test.

So, even if one might think they are being told the truth, there is still a chance for them to be positive in one of eight sexually transmitted diseases, four of which are incurable.

With attachment issues, privacy breaches, gender stereotypes and possible disease transmission, hookup culture is definitely not for me.

But for the ones who do participate, I certainly bear no bad feelings. As long as you're staying safe and being considerate of the other partner, I say have fun and make the most of your youth!

Financial Literacy Should be a Required Course

By Julian Jamshahi Contributing Writer

Schools should be teaching financial literacy. There are too many scenarios of students in college, who don't understand how to properly use and save money, who don't know how to pay a bill and definitely a lot that have no idea how taxes even work.

This is crucial information for a person to survive in the world, you need to know how to do these things. However, based on most schools' curriculum, financial literacy seems to be the least important topic, and according to the numbers, it should be moving up the importance charts. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority did a study called the Na-

tional Financial Capability Study, finding that as high as 66 percent of Americans couldn't answer four out of five basic financial literacy questions.

Ideally, it should be taught in high schools, however, obviously, there is limited time in a day, and fitting in an extra class that doesn't have the same academic value as an English or math class would be difficult. Therefore, a mandatory financial literacy class, similar to the online alcohol course we had to take before moving in at Fairfield would be very helpful. Just as college students have newfound freedom when it comes to alcohol, with no parents to check in on them, there is newfound freedom to these students' saved money, with no parents or guardians to enforce good spending habits.

For most students, college is the first time that they are handling their own money, and many don't know what to do with this kind of privilege and power. They don't have restraint when it comes to ordering clothes online for example, because all they have to do is type in a credit card number and a cute outfit will come in a box within a couple of days. There are people with insane amounts of student debt, going out every weekend and dropping ridiculous amounts of money that they don't even have.

Personally, this has been a big challenge for me since starting college this September. During the week, I find it very easy to spend little to no money. However, when the weekend rolls around I find myself looking for ideas on how to have fun without spending any money, and the ideas are few and far between. This normally leads to me spending the money I didn't want to spend anyway because of something that most college students struggle with these days, the fear of missing out.

This is how college students fall into the trap of spending money that they don't have and I believe that if financial literacy were taught, it would become more common to be aware of the money issues that most college students have.

Obviously, in the business school, some classes go over how

best to spend your money, talking about bonds, stocks, real estate, etc. However, this is future-focused money spending.

What a financial literacy course would focus on, would be the money that college students have in their pockets and bank accounts right now. Furthermore, at Fairfield University specifically, students who are not in the Dolan School of Business don't get the finance course options that the Dolan students get.

All in all, a mandatory financial literacy class, similar to how we took an alcohol safety class online, would be extremely helpful in regards to limiting the problems that college students have in terms of bad spending habits.

Editorial Board

"Struggle for Internships is a Cause For Apathy"

MOLLY LAMENDOLA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I've been involved in The Mirror since the first or second week of my first year at Fairfield. In that time span, I've written over 100 articles and have probably read five times that as Vine Editor or Editor-in-Chief. I'd fail a quiz regarding the content of my own articles, not to mention all the ones I've had to edit over the years. But, despite this overwhelming blur in my memory, there are a few articles that I'll always remember.

One that always sticks with me is the article "COSO Causing Commotion in Student Clubs" by Executive Editor Emeritus Katherine Klima '20.

The article is largely about how club attendance is down, and the impact of the limited COSO budget. But, it seems like not just club attendance is down.

For years, attendance has seemed to be down at Fairfield sporting events, any events the Fairfield University Student Association has tried to throw or other Office of Student Engagement events.

The Mirror used to print 3,500 copies and we're down to just 800, which even all of those don't get

picked up.

Maybe you could say the clubs aren't engaging anymore, the sports teams aren't good, none of the events have been fun and the quality of The Mirror has gone down. But, I see all of this as a thread of apathy amongst the student body.

Further, I think it's all due to the dreaded internship.

My roommates are both nursing majors. They'll graduate with me next May, take the National Council Licensure Examination, commonly known as the NCLEX, in June and have full-time jobs nearly immediately after.

I'll be graduating next spring with a double major in politics and art history. With no immediate passion for graduate school, I'm stuck applying for entry-level jobs at different organizations. But, there's a tricky thing about these "entry-level jobs", they just don't exist anymore. Each company wants "experience" and a lot of it.

LinkedIn, the popular jobposting site, reported that of the entry-level available, 35 percent ask for "prior work experience."

The Wall Street Journal

discussed this phenomenon in their article, "A Wake-Up Call for Grads: Entry-Level Jobs Aren't So Entry Level Any More" and stated that because of software and automation taking the more rudimentary entry-level job tasks away, those who join the company as "entry-level" are thrown right into demanding skill-based work.

In the article Kurt Rathmann, founder of ScaleFactor, an Austin, Texas-based software maker added, "The employee comes in and they're doing a job that in the past it might've taken three or four years for them to get to."

I wouldn't say I'm an expert in the world of internships, but I'm close to master-level. I've probably applied for over 500 positions over my college career, I check LinkedIn like my peers check Instagram and have 15 different variations of my resume for different industries and what they find important.

So, I understand that though a student could easily apply for an internship to get the entry-level experience they need post-graduation, I know through my own applications that internships also require experience

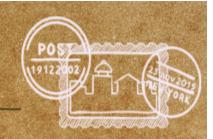
If you're applying for CNN, you need to have previous journalism experience, audio production or production experience and hopefully are trained on any of the Adobe Creative Cloud software.

Even if you have all the experience to get something like CNN, there's a whole secret process to getting there. You apply to an unpaid internship freshman or sophomore year.

By junior year, maybe you get an interview or internship somewhere slightly cool and maybe with a stipend of some sort. Then hopefully by senior year, you have an internship at a known company that pays hourly with opportunities to remain postgraduation.

But, none of that is guaranteed as the world of internships is polluted with the, "I knew someone at the company who got me the job." If you don't know someone you have to put in hours and hours of work to get to know people.

(To read full article visit www.fairfieldmirror.com)



STUDY ABROAD

FLORENCE, ITALY

Music Food Reviews Art



VINE 11-3



ARTS
FEATURES
ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR: BROOKE ALEXIA LATHE

4 Bit Of Time With Brittany!

By Brittany Misiora Contributing Writer

Ciao! Buongiorno dalla bellissima città di Firenze, Italia! I am currently writing to you all from a new location instead of my Fairfield University dorm room this semester because I am currently enrolled in the fall semester study abroad program here in



Pictured above is the Ponte Vecchio.

Since I was a little girl, my dream has always been to spend a semester in Italy and have the amazing opportunity to travel Europe along with some of my best friends and new friends. When the applications came out in the spring of my sophomore year at Fairfield, my best friend Jenna and I immediately applied, and decided we would be a part of the Florence University of the Arts

When we were finally accepted and the in all of Italy. Every night musicians line

program was given the OK despite some COVID regulations, the feeling was indescribable and still to this day, almost four weeks into the program, I almost can not wrap my mind around the fact that I am living in Florence.

Flash forward to Sept. 24, 2021, 10:00 p.m., about 35 Fairfield students are all huddled in JFK airport, wide awake and shaking with excitement as we are about to board our nine-hour flight to Zurich, Switzerland. The thought of nine hours on a plane was definitely intimidating, however knowing our final destination of Florence was so close, was enough to calm our nerves.

We landed in Switzerland at approximately noon and already, the cultural differences were very apparent walking around the airport. One of the first things my friends and I noticed was the way the travelers were dressed, extremely fancy with blazers and heels on, compared to the "lazy" American culture of flying.

Next, to much surprise, there was a smoking lounge in the airport! I think this was the most shocking concept because of the strict laws back home.

Landing in Florence and finally stepping off the plane finally smelling Italian air was breathtaking. Compared to the dirty and smelly area that surrounds New York City airports, the scenery was already magnificent, as I could already spot the red roofs and brightly colored buildings filling the

So far living in Florence has been a dream come true. Our apartment sits directly outside of the Duomo, so as I open the windows in my room I have a birds eye view of one of the most stunning churches

the streets singing local Italian music and groups of tourists circle around singing and clapping.

One of the more cultural differences my friends and I have noticed is the deep appreciation for the more simple things in life here. At home the constant hustle and bustle, always focusing on what's next in life and how to make the most money the quickest, consume daily thoughts. Yet here, locals sit in local cafes sipping cappuccinos, eating sweet croissants and appreciating the scenery.

Of course, the food has been one of the highlights of the experience so far. I've had the creamiest burrata I have ever tasted, every pasta you could ever imagine with the freshest of ingredients, homemade Chianti wine and cheese plates filled with cheese from every region in Italy. My roommate Jenna and I consider ourselves to be quite the food fanatics, so this has been a dream come true. So far our favorite restaurant has been La Giostra, which is one of the most famous restaurants in Florence.

There, we received five-star service. The ceiling of the restaurant was filled with lights and the overall ambiance was incredible. This spot is definitely a must-visit if you are spending the weekend and want quality food, away from the tourist attractions!

Because our apartment is located directly in the center of the city, all the famous monuments in Florence are within close walking distance. The famous David statue is less than a mile down the road from the building I have classes in. The Ponte Vecchio is the closest bridge and is only about a ten-minute walk away. The Tuscany countryside, which is filled with rolling hills and quaint wineries, is a short thirty-minute

So far we have toured two different wineries which are famously owned by two prominent families who have been creating wine for hundreds of years. There, we toured the cellars where the wine is created in giant barrels, learned about the process of making Chianti wine and finally was able to taste the various types. Chianti wine is created in the Tuscany region and is one of the best red wines produced in Italy.

Overall, the Florence experience so far has definitely been one for the books. Being a student in one of the most beautiful cities in Italy with two of my best friends has taught me so much about what I am capable of, what in life truly matters and excited for what adventures are next!

Stay tuned for my next travel journals to the cities of Milan and Rome!



The sun sets over the Tuscan countryside.

FAIRFIELD RESTAURANT WE

By Brooke Lathe

Vine Editor

One of the many things I love about going to school in the town of Fairfield is the seemingly endless choices of delicious restaurants to eat at. And luckily, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 7, the state of Connecticut is hosting its annual "restaurant week," which 28 Fairfield restaurants are participating in.

Within these 14 days, all dine-ins will offer varying features such as reduced prices or special menus for all customers!

As for fee changes, Beijing Restaurant is implementing 10 percent off with a purchase of \$20.00 or more, while Malibu Taco created a "Malibu Family Feast". This menu item feeds four to five people for only \$59.99, but is available for take-out only.

A Fairfield resident and student favorite, Colony Grill, is offering a two-person increment dinner special. For only \$30, two customers can get two pizzas with the choice of two toppings and two draft beers!

If you're craving a Mexican palette, Puerto Vallarta has a choice of one appetizer, one entree and one dessert at both lunch (\$20) and dinner time (\$35). At lunch (Monday through Friday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) appetizers include mini taquitos lindos, mini nachos or four vallarta wings, while entrees include arroz con pollo, chimichangas or fajitas. Churros are the only option

When it comes to dinner, you can choose one of the following appetizers: mini taquitos lindos, mini nachos or mini ceviche. For entrees, customers can pick steak oaxaca, mole poblano or a vallarta special. Lastly, you can eat either mousse cake, flan or tiramisu for dessert.

For an Indian taste, Taj Indian Cuisine offers a limited-time lunch and dinner menu. For \$20, customers can choose between a mulligatawny soup or garden salad, a range of curry options (tikka masala, saag, vindaloo, chettinadu or korma), a choice of protein (chicken or mixed vegetables) and buttered or garlic naan and rice pudding for dessert at lunch (Monday through Friday 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 12:00

During dinner, customers can pay \$35 for the same thing but with a few additional choices. In appetizers there is an added choice of vegetable samosa or chicken cutlet, in protein, you can



Malibu Tacos' Family Feast includes rice or a super green bowl, 12 build your own tacos, two cheese & salsa quesadillas and dessert.

pick shrimp or lamb (as well as the chicken and mixed veg.) and either pick for naan. For dessert, Taj Indian Cuisine offers carrot halwa or gulab jamun in addition to the rice pudding.

As for Italian food, Sonia's Gourmet Kitchen provides customers with a menu that comes to \$35 for the choice of one appetizer, one entree and one dessert. For appetizers, you can choose salmon tartar, crispy artichokes, crispy calamari, caesar salad, SGK house salad, butternut squash soup, buffalo wings or crispy mozzarella. The entree menu includes chicken francese, chicken marsala, NY strip steak, salmon, mah mahi, cauliflower crust green forest pizza, cheeseburger or Mediterranean spicy spaghetti. For dessert, you can order either tiramisu or mixed

Bella Sera is another restaurant that has a price fix of \$35 for the same routine but different options. For appetizers, you can eat arancini with pomodoro sauce, a salad with poached pears, walnuts and gorgonzola or caprese salad with fresh tomato, mozzarella and basil. As for entrees, Bella Sera serves pumpkin and mascarpone ravioli, rosemary chicken and mushroom risotto or pork chop milanese. Lastly, dessert includes creme brulee cheesecake, limoncello cake or tiramisu.

For readers with dietary restrictions, The Stand Vegan Cafe has one lunch and one dinner special. During the day, the "TLT" is served for just \$15. This meal includes a hearty sandwich with tempeh bacon, lettuce, tomato and avocado on toasted sourdough with a side of fries and Cross Culture Kombucha. For latenight meals, customers can try grilled delicata squash with lentil bolognese, lemon-roasted broccolini with garlic confit, toasted sourdough, parsley oil and Cross Culture Kombucha for just \$25.

These are only a few of the numerous restaurants you can visit in the next few days! All dine-in locations have a large selection of mouth-watering items that are low-cost, for a limited time only. You definitely don't want to miss out on these tasty

By Abigail White Contributing Writer

A common question that many Fairfield students, including myself, may find themselves asking as the weekend approaches is, "What can I do on the weekends if I don't have a car on cam-

It can be hard at times to think of creative ways to have fun on the weekends here at Fairfield when you don't have a car. But I'm here to tell you that even though you may feel stuck on campus without your own mode of transportation, there is plenty to do both on and off campus!

Here are just a couple of on-campus opportunities you can take advantage of to get involved on the weekends:

Check out Fairfield@Night:

One of my favorite programs on campus is Fairfield@Night. This program puts on a variety of late-night social events ranging from arts and crafts to game nights to movie showings. I have found myself at a Fairfield@Night event almost every weekend this semester, especially during the Halloween season. I have enjoyed carving pumpkins, playing Halloween Bingo and watching "Hocus Pocus" with my friends, all in the past month! You are guaranteed to have a fun time and meet some new friends when you attend a

Fairfield@Night event! Make sure to follow their Instagram or keep up to date on Life@Fairfield so you don't miss out on future late-night events.

Attend an Athletic Event:

Head over to Lessing Field or Rafferty Stadium to enjoy a variety of sporting events. Catch a game of soccer or field hockey, without even leaving campus. Wear your Fairfield colors and support your fellow stags in the stands. Make sure to check out the schedule of your favorite sports team so you never miss a game!

While there is always something happening on campus, if you are itching to get off campus, don't worry! There are plenty of ways to have fun off campus even if you don't have a car. Here are some ideas for you:

Take the Stag Bus into Town:

Fairfield provides free transportation by bus to all students and stops at various locations across town including the Fairfield Bookstore, Stop and Shop, CVS, Whole Foods, Marshalls and more. Take advantage of Stag Bus to get some of your chores and shopping done on a quiet weekend or hop off at the Bookstore to shop for some merchandise or enjoy a bite to eat at one of the local restaurants. Enjoy a casual lunch at Colony Grill or Flipside Burger and Bar or go out for a fancy dinner at Quattro Pazzi Cafe. There are

so many great restaurants to try in Fairfield and I have yet to find one that disappoints. Don't forget to grab some desert at Milkcraft while you're at it!

Go For a Walk to the Beach:

One of the selling points of Fairfield for me was its close proximity to the beach. I know that it can sometimes seem like a far walk, but believe me, the exercise is well worth it! The beautiful scenery of Penfield or Jennings Beach can be enjoyed at any time of the year. Grab some friends for a seaside walk, go for a swim in the ocean or pick up some food and en-

joy a beautiful sunset. Hop on Train into the City:

Another one of the benefits of Fairfield University's location is its close proximity to New York City. If you need a change of pace, head into the bustling city for a fun day trip. You can enjoy great food, entertainment and much more in New York. A day trip to the city may be something to keep in mind, especially as the Christamas season approaches. Just imagine all the festive decorations: the twinkling lights, the evergreen trees, the skating rinks and the promise of snow in the air. Conveniently enough, the Stag Bus makes its first stop at the Fairfield Train Station. Hop on the train and you'll find yourself in New York City in just over an hour!

Whether you want to stay on campus or seek out a new adventure elsewhere, you will never be "stuck" on campus on the weekends. There is always fun to be had!



Soft winds blow through the sand of Penfield Beach.

Stags Showcase Exhibitions in Lucacks Gallery

By Molly Lamendola Editor-In-Chief

On Monday, Oct. 30, two student artists opened their shows in the Lucacks Gallery, which is the show space in the basement of Loyola Hall at Fairfield University.

Senior Jared DiPietro will be showcasing his photography project titled "Inner Space" and Leslie M. Gasper '22 will showcase her multimedia project "Directional Shifts."

DiPietro is an integrated marketing communications and studio art double major.

He states, "I was eager to take this class because I have never had my own exhibition.

In fact, I've never had any sort of showing before. It's been really closest friends. great to hone in on a singular series and spend an extended period of time on it."

In thinking about his project, he wanted to focus on capturing the relationships he has with his

"In most cases, the most meaningful experiences I have with my friends are the conversations we share. I wanted to depict this through my work. For this series, I felt like taking simple portraits of my friends didn't convey a message." - Jared DiPietro '22

"In most cases, the most meaningful experiences I have with my friends are the conversations we share. I wanted to depict this through my work.

For this series, I felt like tak-



Senior Jared DiPietro captures a moment with his friends.

ing simple portraits of my friends didn't convey a message," DiPietro said, continuing on, "I wanted to be part of this work as I am part of the discussion, so I included my-

In all of the images, the viewer is able to see me as a reflection in a mirror, or some other part of myself in the foreground."

He continues that he wanted to keep a common background to see how his friends would interact "with the stage set for them."

He set up a studio light in his living room, and just tried to take photos of his friends who were in the living room, attempting to "document it in real time."

He adds that he shot exclusively at night, and then retouched all of the images with matching color corrections, so they'd all have a "cooler tone" to emphasize the nighttime.

"The cool tones give a dreamlike quality, while the faded colors are reminiscent of the present already becoming the past; the "now" fading into memory" DiPi-

Gasper is a long-time, nontraditional student and states she's, "... just loving everything about my studies."

Her project, "Directional Shifts" sees her using the process of cyanotyping, a photographic process where chemicals and light create prints of images.

Gasper states in her artist's statement, "Just as nature creates seemingly random beauty with chemicals, sunlight, water and time, unique worlds appear when

I apply chemicals and natural materials to paper to make Cyanotypes..."

Her exhibit can be seen in two parts. Her first, "Directional Shifts: Micro View" features photographs that, "...capture the

She adds that these images become abstract and are "evocative earthscapes viewed from space."

Then in her other section "Directional Shifts: Macro View", the cyanotypes can be viewed, as she creates her art with "the last



Leslie Gasper catches a moment in which chemicals react with sun and paper, creating a unique piece of artwork.

"Just as nature creates seemingly random beauty with chemicals, sunlight, water and time, unique worlds appear when I apply chemicals and natural materials to paper to make Cyanotypes"

- Leslie Gasper '22

evolving reactions between chemistry, sunlight and paper."

clearing wash of water" on the cyanotype paper.

"The multi-colored micro views of the earthscapes become macro vistas of blue and white galaxies or oceans of moving water," Gasper adds, continuing that, "This directional shift in focus in both sections creates a sense of intimacy and expansion between the viewer, the beautiful little planet we live on, and the vast universe

The exhibition will be open to the public in the Lucacks Gallery until Nov. 14, 2021.

Though closed on the weekends, it will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the week.

By Tatiana Ryan Contributing Writer

As we approach November and the weather is getting colder, a good fall playlist is nearly imperative for every moment.

Whether it's walking through campus to get to class, waiting for the Stag bus or driving to get weekly dinner with your roommates, you need the perfect music to match the tone.

Here is a list of songs that make you appreciate the beauty in the changing of the leaves and be able to tolerate the brisk fall

"Angela" by The Lumineeres

You could choose any song by The Lumineeres to set the mood for fall, but "Angela" just happens to be perfect.

There's something so poetic in the poignancy of its lyrics and the slow build to the bridge, that makes this song special and you never get tired of listening to it.

"Million Years Ago" by Adele

We are so used to Adele and her piano that for a moment it almost feels strange to hear those minor guitar chords pierce through (even though that was the sound of most of "19").

"Million Years Ago" is the surprise track on Adele's album "25,"

as it's a song about the

fraught reality of adulthood. This song does what Adele does best, which is to pull your heartstrings when she sings, "Sometimes, I feel it's only me/Who never became who they thought they'd be".

simplistic days of youth juxtaposed with the

"Cover Me up" by Jason Isbell

"Cover Me Up" is one of the best country love songs of all time and though it's been covered by nearly every country artist out there, none do justice to Isbell's original.

The song shares Isbell's journey after getting sober, detailing the tragic days and the process of being saved by the woman he loves when he sings, "Home was a dream, one that I'd never seen/'til you came along".

"James" by Maggie Rogers

In "James," Maggie Rogers sings about all that she hopes for and the want for someone she used to love.

Rogers' folksy voice and strumming guitar set the scene for lyrics full of wondering and questions without answers, but that's okay.

Maggie Rogers makes you feel hopeful about your own life when she sings, "Just know in the city you'll always have a place to stay".

"Rivers and Roads" by The Head and The Heart

Maybe save "Rivers and Roads" when it'll be okay if you shed a few tears (or a hundred). "Rivers and Roads" details the sad simplicity of the universal experience of life moving forward and moving away from people you love. The song does a wonderful job of saying that no matter what, you will still love them; but nothing prepares you for when they sing, "They're goin' to better places/But our friends will be gone".

"Hot & Heavy" by Lucy Dacus

An album full of nostalgia and acceptance is set up to be perfect with "Hot & Heavy" as the first track.

"Hot & Heavy" refers to Dacus' "hot face" at being back home and "heavy memories" weighing down her mind. A mosaic of past memories and growing up and growing past someone you grew up with.

"Stay Gentle" by Brandi Carlile

Off Brandi Carlile's new album "In These Silent Days", "Stay Gentle" is a beautiful guitar ballad anchored by her once-ina-century voice and whimsical songwriting.

Carlile begs the listener to never harden their heart at the hands of the world and soars when she sings, "Stay gentle, the most powerful thing you can do".

"Scott Street" by Phoebe Bridg-

All of "Strangers in the Alps" details a quiet, introspective point of view, but none does it better than "Scott Street".

Phoebe Bridgers' soft voice floats through this guitar background and talks about the somberness connected with returning to where you grew up and speaking with someone with whom things have changed.

"Work Song" by Hozier

Hozier's rich, deep voice soars through this love song where he sings, "When my time comes around, lay me gently in the cold dark earth/No grave could hold my body down, I'll crawl home to her".

"Right Where You Left Me" by Taylor Swift

"Evermore" in its entirety is a perfect fall album, so picking just one song from it was nearly impossible. However, when you listen to "Right Where You Left Me," you don't want to do anything else.

The song tells the story of a woman stuck in her own mind in a heartbreak that happened years ago. The storytelling is so perfect and precise that you can completely see the woman sitting in a restaurant for all of eternity, silently begging the one who broke her heart that "If you ever think you got it wrong, I'm right where you left me".

Carve your pumpkins, do your Trader Joe's shopping, and put flowers all over your room to feel the fall season in its entirety; but make sure to use these songs as an anchor.

Happy listening!

By Matthew Adamski Contributing Writer

One of my favorite things about living in the North-East is the history of our region. We're called New England for a reason -this is where the pilgrims landed, established the Jamestown colony and set into motion an irreversible domino effect of settlement that led us. to modern-day America.

And with such a long, and rich history also come sweeping waves of stories. Halloween brings out the best in folklore, especially haunted tales; but one doesn't have to look towards myth to find original haunted stories from our own local history. Salem, Massachusetts offers us one of the most endearing tales of witchcraft 400 years later.

Salem in and of itself is nothing special in particular. It's your typical colonial style, New England village with wooden houses, few windows, brick chimneys that stem from the center and ominously creaking floorboards.

But Salem sticks out for a reason: it was the site of the infamous Salem Witch Trials that lasted from 1692 to 1693 and resulted in the deaths of 19 people. Although Salem Village's name was changed to Danvers in 1752, and the town of Salem is about five miles south of what we know historically as "Salem," currentday Salem is rich in history. It is one of the best examples of mass hysteria in the continental United States, as it stole a sense of reasoning

from people and resulted in the social elimination of people who did not fit, or were consid-

There could be no better backdrop for All Hallows' Eve than a real story such as this one and modern-day Salem lives up to it. Here are some of the top sights and events to see there:

1) The Salem Witch House is a mandatory visit for anyone touring Salem. It was the former house of Jonathan Corwin, who was one of the judges during the trials. I can only imagine the stories those walls would tell if they could speak. Imagine being a sitting judge on one of the largest examples of mass hysteria in colonial America. That was history in the making and that man's decisions directly affected the lives of the so-called witches who were brought to the stand. While touring the inside of the house, you can find historical pieces of furniture, art and documents that date back to the 1690s. The walls are lined with informational graphics and facts that give context to the witch trials.

2) The Salem Witch Museum will offer another way to experience and understand the events. Inside you are shown a short, narrated film depicting the village life and trials of 1692. The film is immersive and will drag you back by the heels to the colonial courtroom 400 years ago. Be careful, lest you too be accused.

3) The Salem Burying Point is the cemetery where some of the judges who sentenced the witches to death were buried. Cemeteries



The Salem Witch House is the only building you can visit in Salem, Massachusetts that has a direct connection to the witch trials of 1692.

alone can give you a crawl up the spine, but combine them with the dark shawl of the night, and centuries of a haunted era, and you have yourself a stew of fear. The chipping, old stone graves that lean to one side, or are half-buried in the dirt give Salem another overtone, one of mystery and intrigue.

Imagine yourself walking under the

changing leaves of the oaks, the crunch of the dry leaves and twigs under your branches and that authentic autumn air in a sleepy New England town-you have the perfect way to spend Halloween. Next time you need an October weekend excursion, try Salem, Massachusetts and go in for a "spell".

By Julia Lanzillotta **Executive Editor**

Season three of "You" premiered on Netflix on Oct. 15, just in time for the Halloween season. The show, based on Caroline Kepnes' book series, follows the life of sadistic serial killer Joe Goldberg [Penn Badgley] as he navigates fatherhood and wealthy suburbia for the first time in his life.

Goldberg's modus operandi is hyper-fixation and obsession. In seasons one and two, the objects of his affection were Guinevere Beck [Elizabeth Lail] and Love Quinn [Victoria Pedretti], respectively.

In season one, Beck, an aspiring writer, catches Joe's eye as she begins to frequent the used book store that he works at in New York.

This attention quickly turns into an all-consuming passion, and Joe begins to stalk her, learning all of her ticks and interests. He then uses this information to draw her in under false pretenses, and ultimately begins to date her.

Once Beck becomes aware of Joe's obsession with her, she panics, causing her psychopathic boyfriend to lock her in the basement of the store and eventually murder her.

The subsequent season Joe moves across the country to Los Angeles to start a new life, free of the skeletons in his closet (or, in this case, the body in his base-

Right out of the gate, he meets Love, a L.A.-based chef. Their love story develops relatively organically, with just minor stalking on Goldberg's end.

Any progress is good progress, right? Although their quasinormal romance seems indicative of a fresh start for Goldberg, he still cannot escape from his violent background, killing all who get in the way of their budding relationship.

As their relationship develops, Love's true identity comes to light, and Joe realizes they have more in common than he had originally thought.

It is revealed to Joe that Love dug up his past, memo-

rizing it to tactfully lure him in. She admits towards the end of the season that she, too, has a hallowed past, full of murder, jealousy and hyper-posession. When Joe realizes that his role has shifted from the hunter to the hunted, he fears Love and what she is capable of.

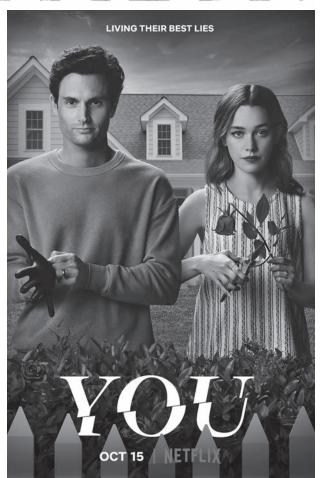
He finally gets her into a compromised position, and attempts to kill her, but stops in his tracks when Love informs him that she is pregnant with his child. Immediately, Joe's icy exterior thaws to a more human version of himself, and he quickly adapts to the role of "future father". In the last scene of the final episode, Joe and Love are seen in their new home in the suburbs of California, and Joe swiftly finds a new fixation; his neighbor Natalie Engler (Michaela McManus).

Season three picks up where we left off, and (spoiler alert), Natalie doesn't live much longer once Love realizes that her husband, and father of her child, has eyes for another. In a fit of rage, she exterminates the only distraction in the way of her picturesque family unit.

It doesn't take the Goldbergs long to realize that no freshly manicured lawns or luscious lifestyles will pull them away from their hallowed history, and they fall back into their own ways rather quickly. The all-consuming jealousy that was one of Joe's Hallmarks is inherited by Love, and throughout much of the most recent season, the couple begins going to therapy to work on their relationship.

Joe tries to clear his head and keep his distance, and he takes up a job at their local library. Falling back into his own bibliophilic ways, Joe uses his job as an escape; an escape from Love, from his son, Henry and from the lingering stress of his childhood trauma which has come to light since the birth of his child.

At this job, he meets a coworker who becomes the new subject of his affection. Shockingly, Love finds 'love' in unexpected places, too! You'll have to watch to find out more.



Penn Badgley and Victoria Pedretti poses for 'YOU' season three poster.

FOUR CREATIVE CLASSES TO CONSIDER DURING SPRING REGISTRATION

By Thomas Senesac Contributing Writer By Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief

Even though there has always seemed to be a focus on the Egan School of Nursing and Health studies and the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield, the University is still a Jesuit school and thus the push for students to graduate as "holistically educated" people is threaded throughout the mandated core classes.

But, even if it's not part of that students utilize the multitude of more creative classes offered at

Especially for the more quantitatively based majors like Biochemistry or Nursing, creative classes in the College of Arts and Sciences provide a welcomed break and a diversity of skills your major classes won't give you.

Since registration for the Spring 2022 semester at Fairfield is coming up, I want to recommend a variety of creative classes for you to take.

However, as a guiding principle for this article, it is important first to lay down a definition of 'creativity,' specifically the 'creativity' of the Dionysiac influence.

born from a preceding destruc-

When seen through this fo-

ing realm of painters, poets, and writers and instead encompasses all academics in every field.

This definition would presumably, then, lead us to think that all courses are intrinsically creative because they teach of previous constructions in that subject; however, what separates this group of classes is that each of these deals with destruction, using old ideas in your service to create new ones inside the classroom, not only to be experimented with after college.

Introduction to

Introduction to drawing is a perfect first introduction to the world of art creation for students whose last lesson was from a High School or even Middle School level instruction.

The course guide states that "Students explore the formal elements of drawing, such as line, Media value, composition and form, and how they can be used to express an awareness of one's self and the world around one."

Furthermore, students will then critique their projects and others and thus "develop a language of aesthetic awareness and a sense of artistic quality."

The class will be held in two sections on Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. Creativity is any construction - 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Creative Writing: Fiction I - ENGL 1805

For many students who cus, creativity escapes the restrict- haven't written creatively before, it can seem like an impossible task.

Especially for students who may be used to writing analytically or more plainly, throwing out nearly all constructs to think Wednesday 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 'outside of the box' can seem challenging. But, "Creative Writing: W Fiction I" is a great place to start.

In the course description, it states, "This course for the student who seeks an intensive workshop approach to fiction composition emphasizes the short story and focuses on the analysis of student manuscripts.

It includes some discussion of the work of significant authors (past and present) as a way of sharpening student awareness of technique and the literary marketplace for fiction."

It will be taught by lecturer Jill Bodach and will be held Monday 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Film Editing and Construction - FTMA 1130

Knowing how a story is constructed in pieces can be incredibly helpful in all different walks of life.

If you're an English major, this can aid in your writing or a Non-English-Major student's essay creation, or if you're just a student who loves filmmaking.

The course description states, "This course explores how filmmakers create meaning through the assembly of images and sound, ranging from the classical-Hollywood narrative film to more ex-

perimental modes of time-based storytelling."

"Film Editing and Media Construction" will be held

Digital Marketing MK 2241 & Social Media Marketing - MK

For students already in a creative field in the College of Arts and Sciences, classes to further explore your imagination may lead you to trying out a course outside your discipline and trying something completely new.

Further, if you want to have a career that sells your creative work, classes involving marketing may be helpful post-graduation as you may have to do your own marketing if you do any freelance

The course description for "Digital Marketing" states that, "In this course, students will undertake an applied perspective towards marketing on current digital platforms (company's website, social media platforms, etc) and will learn how to adapt the traditional marketing strategies onto the digital space..."

"The course is designed to get students to think like a digital marketing professional, and to give them experience with industry-relevant hands-on assignments and exercises."

It's noted that the class will also cover topics in website design, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), online advertising, social media marketing, email marketing, mobile marketing, and web analytics.

The course description for "Social Media Marketing" states that "The primary focus of this course will be on understanding social media as part of a brand's marketing communications, how to build strategies and tactics to help brands differentiate and rise above the noise on the social web, and how to track their effective-

This class will cover topics like constructing a brand strategy on social media, engaging influencers, content development, social media analytics and measurement, as well as social media

It's important to note that both of these classes involve a prerequisite of the "Principles of Marketing" - 1101.

"Digital Marketing" will be taught Tuesday 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Social Media Marketing" will be taught Tuesday and Friday 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 3:15

Whether you're a creativeleaning major or just looking for some creative inspiration or fun and useful electives, I hope these help in your decision-making pro-

I wish you the best of luck on course selection!



Coffee Break

SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

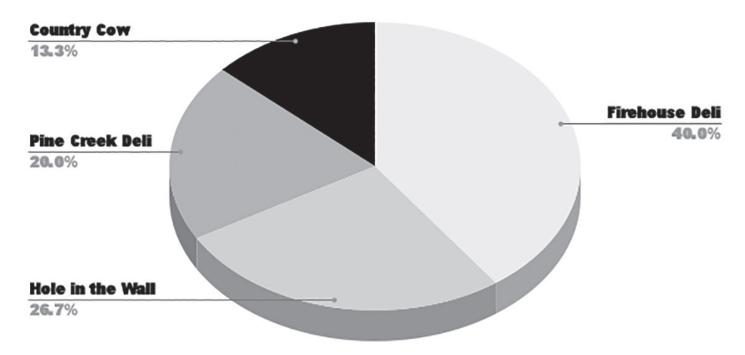
Editor: Tristan Cruz tristan.cruz@student.fairfield.edu



The Mirror's Takes

Coffee Break is proud to introduce a segment new to this semester called The Mirror's Takes! Every week, we will put out The Mirror team's opinion on a new topic each week and we encourage you to carry these debates conversations on with your friends, roommates and classmates!

This week's poll was: Best Deli / Sandwich / Breakfast Sandwich Location in Fairfield



Do you agree? Disagree? Let us know what you think, because this infamous topic can be debated on for hours!

If you have any interesting things you would like to hear The Mirror's take on, DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to let us know, and look for your poll in the Coffee Break section!

Famous Quotes

Can you guess which famous person said these quotes? This time, we provided an answer key, so try and match up the quote with the famous individual!

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall". "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing".

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor".

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn".

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light".

"Whoever is happy will make others happy too".

Nelson Mandela

Eleanor Roosevelt

Walt Disney

Benjamin Franklin

Anne Frank

SPORTS

Sports Editor: Tommy Coppola >>thomas.coppola@student.fairfield.edu



Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9
Men's Soccer vs. Marist College Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.	Women's Soccer at Monmouth University 2021 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship West Long Branch, N.J. 6:00 p.m.	Men's Tennis at Yale University Invitational New Haven, Conn. All Day Field Hockey vs. Rider University 2021 Northeast Conference Championship Staten Island, N.Y. 11:00 a.m.	Men's Tennis at Yale University Invitational New Haven, Conn. All Day Men's and Women's Rowing Fall Metropolitan Championship New Rochelle, N.Y. All Day	Men's Tennis at Yale University Invitational New Haven, Conn. All Day Volleyball vs. Marist College Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.		Women's Basketball vs. Brown University Bridgeport, Conn. 7:00 p.m. (Season-opener) Men's Basketball at Providence College Providence, R.I. 7:00 p.m. (Season-opener)
			Men's and Women's Swim and Dive vs Marist College Fairfield, Conn. 11:00 a.m. (swim), 1:00 p.m. (dive) Volleyball vs. Siena College Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.	FAIR CO		

Swimming & Diving Find Success in Weekend's Events

By Thomas Coppola Sports Editor

This past weekend, both the men's and women's Swimming and Diving teams travelled to the College of the Holy Cross for an event, and returned home the next day to host Providence

College in the RecPlex pool.

The weekend's events saw the men's swimming and diving team take home wins against both the Crusaders and the Friars, whereas the women's team ultimately fell to Holy Cross. Regardless, they were able to pick up a monstrous 206-91 win over the Friars on the home front.

The men's and women's team both improve to a record of 2-1 after their respective events this weekend. The Stags will host Marist College on Saturday, November 6, in the RecPlex pool; afterwards, they will have a short break until they travel up to Boston, MA, where Boston University will host them for the Terrier Invitational.



The Fairfield University men's and women's swimming & diving teams saw success in this past weekend, picking up wins against the College of the Holy Cross and Providence College.

In this week's issue...

- Cross Country Teams Gear Up for MAAC Championship (Page 14)
- Braves and Astros Battle to be the Best in Baseball (Page 15)
- Iglesias Leads Charge to NEC Playoffs (Page 15)
- Stags Send Purple Knights Home In Playoff Nailbiter (Page 16)

Cross Country Teams Gear Up for MAAC Championship

By WIlliam McGuire Contributing Writer

Both the Fairfield University men's and women's cross country teams competed in the 2021 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship this past Saturday at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, finishing ninth and eighth respectively.

In the 8K, the men's team was led by Robert Dillon '23, who ran a time of 26:34 and finished 55th out of 139 qualified runners, along with

Jacob Bornstein '25, finishing at a time of 27:15 and 82nd out of 139 eligible runners.

In the 6K race, on the other hand, the women were led by Danielle Grosso '24, who finished 35th out of 132 runners with a time of 23:02, as well as Mia Melao '22 and Courtney Kitchen '23, who ran an identical 23:16, finishing 44th and 45th respectively out of 132 eligible runners

Despite not achieving the results that they wanted, there is a lot to look forward to down the line for the Stags.

Head coach David Scrivines touched on the current state of the team, as well as how the team is staying focused despite the growing pains they are going through this season.

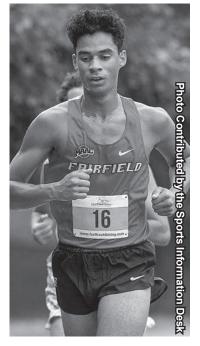
Coach Scrivines acknowledged that the development of the first-year and sophomore runners, as well as the leadership from the upperclassmen, is very important to how the team will progress moving forward.

"We have no seniors on our men's team. So we're definitely on the inexperienced side. Robert [Dillon '23] has done a great job from a leadership standpoint, conveying a consistent message and having everybody ready," Scrivines said.

Dyllon leadership has not gone unnoticed to the members of the team. "He has done a great job as a first-year captain, you know, helping establish routines for a lot of inexperienced runners because the reality is, on the men's side, our freshmen are first year college runners, but are juniors are really just second year college runners because they only had one year of competition before then," Scrivines commented on the experience of the team. "So we're essentially first and second year runners on the men's team."

The women's team, however, features a greater number of seniors who have experience as a Stag. "On the women's side, Jane Frawley has done a great job as our senior captain, you know, we have more momentum on that side and our routine is a little bit more established on the inside but we have also have more numbers on the women's team which with the higher numbers you have, the more challenging it is from a communication and leadership standpoint," Scrivines mentioned.

He also views the trip to Walt Disney World as an opportunity for the team to compete in a unique environment, better preparation for the upcoming NCAA Regional meet, as well as building team camaraderie and memories outside of running. "We're excited that we're having the Disney trip. The whole point of the Disney trip is that every student athlete on the Cross Country team gets a Disney trip during their four years so to get one this year is exciting," Scrivines



First-year Alexandre' McMillian is a new runner from East Hampton, CT.

nentioned.

Scrivines also pointed out the significance of this race, and how much it means to his student-athletes. "Our athletes have had this circled on their calendars since July when we knew we were going down to Disney. So it's a big, big, big need for us, it's our number one priority ahead of the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] regional meets, so it's important," Scrivines said.

The cross country teams, both led by Scrivines, are in a bit of a transitional phase at the moment, but the difficulties in the present will ultimately allow the team to flourish in the long run. Even though they are not quite where they want to be, the things that the team are doing right now will help them in the future.



The men's and women's cross country teams at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Weekly 5x4

Your 2021-2022 5x4 Columnists: Tommy Coppola, Molly Lamendola, Julia Lanzillotta, Tobenna Ugwu and Sheila McCombs

Because we have witty things to say ...

How was your Halloweekend?

How do you feel about the basketball teams playing at Webster Bank Arena this year?

Now that "spooky season" is over, what are you looking forward to for the remainder of 2021?

Which section editor would be most likely to fall asleep while doing layout?



Tommy Coppola Sports Editor

It was a blast!!

Shuttling to games might be annoying now, but Arena 100 will be worth it in the end.

Thanksgiving break. I'm so burnt out as it is, but we only have three more weeks to go.

My vote is Brooke. I feel like it's bound to happen at some



Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief

Broken ankles, but Drag Queen spectacular.

I have never been to a basket-ball game.

Moon phases.

Tristan Cruz.



Julia Lanzillotta Executive Editor

It was fine, nothing too exciting.

In all honesty, its inconvenience deters me from wanting to go!

I'm excited to begin to figure out my future.

Maddy West gets a mention for the second time this year from me. Love that girl, but she's my best bet!



Tobenna Ugwu Managing Editor

It definitely was a weekend..

How am I supposed to feel?

I just want to go home.

I am gonna say Tommy, just cause.



Sheila McCombs Managing Editor

Even as someone who hates Halloween, mine was pretty good!

I have been to a couple of games at Webster Bank Arena and it wasn't my favorite thing, but it'll do for now!

I am the biggest fan of the holiday season, Thanksgiving and Christmas, so this is my time to shine!

This is a hard one but I think I am also going to go with my perfect girl, Maddy West! (love you, Maddy!)

Braves and Astros Battle to be the Best in Baseball

By Thomas Coppola Sports Editor

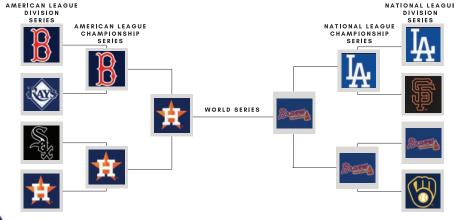
The Major League Baseball playoffs are entering their close, with the World Series matchup finally set as the Houston Astros vs. the Atlanta Braves. Both teams were able to beat out the rest of the competition to punch their ticket into the championship round.

Representing the National League is the Atlanta Braves, who ran a successful 88-73 campaign against their NL East foes. In their last two World Series appearances in 1996 and 1999, they lost to the New York Yankees both times. The year prior to this string of poor championship performances, however, the 1995 Braves were able to take the win back to the city of Atalnta with a 4-2 series win over the Cleveland Indians (who are now known as the Cleveland Guardians).

Within the last two decades, however, the Houston Astros have had much more recent postseason success. The 2005 season saw the Astros getting swept by the Chicago White Sox in the final round. The Astros won the 2017 World Series in a seven-game battle against the Los Angeles Dodgers, and fell to the Washington Nationals in 2019's championship round. Compared to the Atlanta Braves' recent playoff performance, the Astros are clearly more battle-tested in the high pressure atmosphere of the World Series.

Many fans of the league see this storyline shaping out like a children's story, where the hero saves the day and is able to thwart the plans of the villain. In reality, that case can be made about the Braves and Astros, respectively.

The Astros have Dansby Swanson plays shortbeen in the spotlight stop for the Atlanta Braves.



of Major League Baseball ever since their 2017 win, because many feel as though the legitimacy and integrity of the game was ruined in such a scandal. According

to an article

written by NPR, the Astros were able to create a system that effectively stole pitchers' signs that their catcher used for calling a certain type of pitch; for example, if the catcher called a fastball by signaling the correlating number, the Astros dugout would bang on a trash can for that call, letting the batter at the plate know what was coming.

This gave the Astros a clear advantage over the Dodgers when they won the World Series in 2017, and it seems as though the cheating scandal still looms over them, even to this day. According to an article by the Washington Post, fans should

not be so quick to forgive the Astros for this incredible lack of integrity. It seems as

though the dust has settled with the scandal, however, and the league is attempting to move past that part of its history.

In the regular season, the Braves looked like an average team at best, hovering around second and third in the NL East division for most of the season. It was not until the latter half of the season that they began to pick up steam.

According to an article and graphic by CBS Sports, through the playoffs, the Braves have only allowed a few quirks in their play as they confirmed their spot in the League Division Series (NLDS) without playing a wild card game (which is an opportunity given to lower-

sweep of the Milwau-

the Dodgers, the Braves earned their spot in the World Series.

In the American League, the Astros had very little trouble outlasting the competition. Similar to the Braves, the Astros did not play in a wildcard game, and routed the White Sox in a 4-1 series. The Astros needed only one extra game to do the same to the Boston Red Sox, who they finished off in the semifinal round of the playoffs to advance to the World Series.

An article by SportingNews.com outlines the calendar of each game's date and start time, as well as the scores of each game after they finish. The series has seen the Braves take charge early on, with the team winning two games in a row after splitting the first two games to make the

> series 3-1. On Halloween night, the Astros were able to secure a 9-5 come-from-behind win which put pressure on the Braves, but the Astros remain on the brink of elimination regard-Game 6 will be played

on Tuesday, November 6 at 8:09pm, where the Braves will look to send the

Astros home and bring a title back to the city of Atlanta.



teams). After a clean Chas McCormick is an outfileder for the Houston Astros.

Iglesias Leads Charge To NEC Playoffs

By Madison Gallo Head News Editor

By Cameron Strojny Contributing Writer

Senior captain of the Fairfield University field hockey team Malen Iglesias has played an integral role in the success of the team this season. So far, the team has an overall record

After wrapping up their regular season with two final es on Oct. 29 and Oct. 31, the team will be participating in the Northeast Conference championship during the first weekend of November after winning the regular season title 5-0 at Merrimack College. The Stags remain 6-0 in conference play.

Iglesias started playing field hockey when she was seven years old in Argentina. She shared with The Mirror some of her favorite memories during her time playing field hockey at Fairfield.

"My favorite memory is beating American University in the opening round of the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] tournament in 2019 after winning our conference championship," she said. "It was the first time we won an NCAA game in program history and we were lucky enough to host that game."

Iglesias sees the Fairfield field hockey program as family.

"To me field hockey means family," she said. "I have met my best friends playing this sport and I will always be thankful for the connections I've made while playing."

This feeling of family has supported Iglesias throughout her time at school as she had not seen her dad in nine

months. However, this past week, her dad surprised her during a practice. During his visit here, he was able to see her play field hockey in a Fairfield uniform in person for the first time.

"Having him in the stands during the game was very comforting and motivating," she said.

During her time playing, Iglesias has found that "playing field hockey here at Fairfield is feeling like [she's] a part of something bigger than [herself]."

"I get to step on the field, every day with my best friends and I get to do what I love," Iglesias said.

The tie she feels to Fairfield field hockey will remain with her even after she graduates from Fairfield and one

of the things she will miss most will be "the adrenaline [she gets] when [she] steps on the field in a Fairfield uniform."

The field hockey team is led by head coach Jackie Kane and assistant coaches Steve Dennis, Dani Brown and Euan Brown. This season is the first full season the team will have played since 2019.

Conditioning during preseason over the summer had been crucial for the team and served as a quick turnaround after their last season finished in April.

Iglesias felt as though the adjustment period for the team was a bit difficult at first while everyone adjusted to their new course schedules.

"The first few weeks of the semester were a little rough

as we had to get back into the swing of things and get used to our busy schedules," she said. "As we got closer to conference play, we were able to turn it around and we are now back to the level we wanted to be at."

Junior Madison Hoskins shared a similar sentiment to Iglesias.

"I feel like we play even harder due to the fact we lost a year and we want to win the championship," Hoskins emphasized.

The team's roster consists of one graduate, nine seniors, five juniors, five sophomores and seven first-years.

As the team has been cohesive this season on and off the field, they will continue to play to the best of their ability in the upcoming NEC

playoff matches. Their first playoff game will be Friday, Nov. 5 against Rider University on Staten Island.



Senior Malen Iglesias is a captain of the field hockey team.

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SPORTS 16

Stags Send Purple Knights Home in Playoff Nailbiter

By Julia Lanzillotta Executive Editor

The Fairfield University women's soccer team has officially begun their race to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship title, with one win under their belt in the postseason (9-6-4 overall, 5-4-1 MAAC). In a Halloween matinée against Niagara University (13-4-1 overall, 7-3-0 MAAC), the Stags fought hard to make it through the MAAC Quarterfinal game on top. At the very last minute, the Stags tied the score at one point, forcing the game to be decided in a penalty shootout. Fairfield shocked everyone and came out on top to advance to the MAAC Semifinals.

The Stags had played the Purple Eagles just once this season, earlier in October, and they lost 3-2. In the first period of play, things were rather quiet. Fairfield out-shot Niagara 7-5, however, neither team managed to put the ball in the net. Felicia Grufman, of the opposing team, made two saves in the first half but acted as a wall against Fairfield.

Following halftime, Niagara seemed to have regrouped, applying more pressure on Fairfield's defense. They tallied 11 shots, forcing Gena Pike '23 to make four saves in the 45 minute stretch. In the seventy-fourth minute of regulation time, the Purple Eagles caught

the Stags off guard, sneaking in a goal to give them the upper hand.

Though this goal could have been detrimental for the Stags, they displayed an immense amount of perseverance, taking advantage of every second they had on the field. A ball from Stephanie Tsangaris '22 ricocheted off of the arm of a defensive player on the opposing team, drawing a penalty kick for the Stags that would keep them in the game. Graduate student Gabby Diodati stepped up and miraculously tied the game 1-1 with just three seconds left. This would be her seventh goal of the season, putting her in sixth place in terms of goal-scoring in the MAAC.

The fight wasn't over yet, as although the Stags pulled themselves to level ground, they now had to fend off the Purple Hawks in overtime. The first overtime was silent, as neither team registered any shots, and neither goaltender was forced to make any saves. Fairfield, however, was handed out three fouls all in the last half of the tenminute bonus period. This is indicative of the desperation in the air for both teams to prevail. The second overtime began, marking the start of another extra period. It droned on agonizingly for all parties involved, and each goalie made saves to keep the game at a stalemate before heading into a shootout.

In the shootout, Fairfield showed up to compete in a way that they hadn't all after-

noon. Hanley Courter '22, Diodati, Reagan Klarmann '25, and Maddie Kiely '24 sealed the deal in one-after-the-other successful penalty kicks. Though Niagara made four shots, Pike was able to stop one of their five attempts to carry Fairfield to victory.

The weekend's performance earned some Stags conference honors. All-MAAC teams are chosen by a committee made up of the MAAC's 11 head coaches. First-year Reagan Klarmann received honors on the All-Rookie team. Diodati and Elle Scott '24 were named to the first team, and Josie Horosky '23 was chosen to the second team.

Now, the Stags will move on in the post-season to the MAAC Semifinals, an accomplishment that has been made in two of the past three seasons under head coach David Barrett. Fairfield will travel to Monmouth University on Thursday, November 7 to play in enemy territory in West Long Branch, N.J. Kickoff is slated for 6:00 p.m., and the game will

be available for

streaming on ESPN+.



Junior Gena Pike made five saves in 110 minutes of play.



In a match against Niagara University on Sunday night, the Fairfield University women's soccer team was able to walk away with the win after a back-and-forth penalty shootout.