

# THE MIRROR

Independent student newspaper

Week of November 30, 2022

Vol. 49 Iss. 10



The Levee is one of the main dining options for students on campus. Students can now use their meal swipes from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and has plans to expand in size starting summer of 2023.

## Changes to Come at The Levee: Meal Swipe Hours & Renovation

By Julian Nazario  
Assistant News Editor

By Madeline West  
Editor-in-Chief

The Levee, one of the main dining options for Fairfield University students, has recently been a large focus for both the Fairfield University Student Association Senate and Matthew Dinnan, vice president of auxiliary services as changes to meal swipe times and plans for renovations are in the works.

The changes to the acceptance of meal swipes at The Levee go all the way back to September 2022 when FUSA Senators started to pay attention to the issue at the dining location. In a Sept. 28 hearing, Speaker of the Senate Steven Burns '24 highlighted the

collaboration between FUSA and Stags Hospitality as an effort to provide students with more late-night food options.

"The Levee doesn't accept meal swipes past 9 p.m. but they are still open till 10 p.m.," Burns said. "Essentially if you are relying on the meal plan, which is the majority of first-years and sophomores, you can't get a meal after 9 p.m."

After months of working with Stags Hospitality on a compromise agreement that resulted in additional dining time covered by meal swipes, an announcement was made during a Nov. 11 General Senate Meeting by Senator Olivia Conkling '25, the senate chair of the Facilities, Auxiliary and Technology Committee.

"As far as The Levee goes, apparently the meal swipe option was less about having FUSA programming

in there and more about generally not having the space or enough workers to handle the amount of students in the Levee that late," said Conkling.

She also added that the University "would consider having the Levee accept meal swipes until 9:30 p.m., so that students getting out of their late-night turbos would still have the option."

Dinnan confirmed the meal swipe time extension at The Levee.

"One thing that can be rolled out beginning next week with the Levee was [an] extended meal plan [JNM1] swipe ... extending to 9:30," said Dinnan in a statement on Nov. 29.

In a separate statement, Jay Degioia '80, director of Stags Hospitality, also corroborated the efforts made by the FUSA Senators

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## IRHA to Host Charity Dodgeball Tournament

By Madeline West  
Editor-in-Chief

The International Residential Housing Association will be hosting their annual charity dodgeball tournament on Dec. 3 from 12-4 p.m. in the RecPlex.

The winner will take home a grand prize of \$500.

All proceeds will go to The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Junior and President of IRHA Lexi Roberts relayed that the idea for choosing to fundraise for The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention came from an organization-wide vote during September's general assembly meeting.

"When we voted, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention was presented by Loyola and had the overwhelming majority," Roberts explains.

Roberts continues to mention that, "I think college students know how important mental health is and know that it should be supported and I was very happy that this was a

cause that our members are very passionate about supporting."

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention was founded in 1987.

It is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death. AFSP has chapters in all 50 states and programs/events nationwide.

Their mission is "dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, including those who have experienced a loss."

AFSP engages in funding scientific research, educating the public about mental health and suicide prevention.

It advocates for public policies in mental health and suicide prevention.

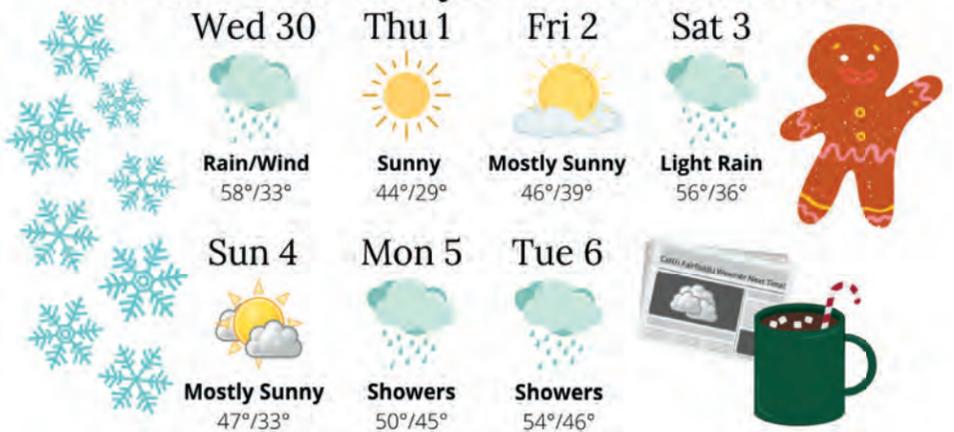
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## Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Monday December 5 at  
6:15 p.m.  
Where? Egan Chapel

## Fairfield University: December Weather



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Fairfield University

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Compiled by Jamie Holzmann  
Information contributed by the  
Department of Public Safety.

11/20/22

10:00 p.m.

A criminal trespass was reported in Townhouse 6 Block. Students reported that someone took their Christmas decorations. No suspects identified.

11/20/22

4:00 a.m.

A student found an individual sleeping in her room. The individual was reported to public safety, and they urge students to lock their doors.

11/23:

3:45 p.m.

A group of unidentified people were found sneaking into the Recplex. They were identified by DPS as Fairfield Prep students trying to play basketball. One individual was found to be uncooperative, referred to Fairfield Prep High School.



# Signature Element Requirements Changed for Class of 2023

By Madison Gallo  
Executive Editor

By Jamie Holzman  
Assistant News Editor

Elizabeth Petrino, Ph.D., director of the Magis Core Curriculum Committee, in a Nov. 18 email, informed students in the Class of 2023 of changes made to the Signature Element Graduation Requirements.

In the email, Petrino reflects on how the Class of 2023 is “the first class at Fairfield to graduate under the Magis Core Curriculum, [the MCCC is] especially aware of the distinction [the Class of 2023 has] achieved.”

In reference to the recent addition of the Core, Petrino stated, “as the Magis Core courses were being approved during your time at Fairfield, we also understand that many courses were not available to you.”

Another factor that could have hindered the completion of the new Magis Core includes “duress during the pandemic” that leads the MCCC to believe that “the Class of 2023 deserves special consideration as far as their graduation requirements are concerned.”

## Background on the new Magis Core

Regarding the introduction of what Fairfield students now recognize as the Magis Core, its journey to existence began through a discussion in 2014, according to Petrino. This Core did not launch until 2019, making the Class of 2023 the first batch of Fairfield students to experience it.

## Changes for the Class of 2023

The implications for how the MCCC encouraged Class of 2023 students to go about registration include first priority to already declared major/minor requirements and then electives to be used for Signature Elements.

The Signature Element requires three WAC/WID courses, three Social Justice courses and one Interdisciplinary course. Petrino quotes that the University, “realizes that it may not be possible for you, as the members of the first graduating class to complete.”

Specifically, Petrino relays that the Class of 2023 courses will count towards Magis Core Signature Element requirements: “WID courses may substitute for WAC (e.g., a student with three WID courses will satisfy the WAC/WID requirement).”

Furthermore, for the social justice aspect of the Core Petrino states that, “SJ2 or SJ1 may substitute for each other (e.g., a student with two SJ2 courses and one SJ2-R course will satisfy the SJ requirement). One SJ2-R course will still be highly desirable for graduation.”

Though the MCCC, in Petrino’s email, advised students to prioritize completing their declared majors and minors, her email maintained that it is “encouraged [for students] to do [their] best with remaining required courses in Spring 2023 to attempt to complete outstanding Signature Element requirements.”

There will be no changes to the other predetermined graduation requirements including GPA, minimum credit requirements, required major/minor/discipline coursework, etc.

Each dean’s office will review the Signature Elements completed by each senior and will “note the efforts to complete as many of them as possible.”

When asked about the purpose of the substitution strictly for the Class of 2023, Petrino explained that “the data [the MCCC] regularly review suggests that a number of students are completing many Signature Element courses, though not necessarily all the required ones.”

In order to accommodate for those among the Class of 2023 who “made great efforts but, through no fault of their own, were either unable to complete all seven requirements or able to complete multiple courses for a given Signature Element,” the

substitutions were introduced in order to “reflect all the work that members of the Class of 2023 have done, in their quest to gain Signature Element knowledge.”

## Senior Student Response

Following the email, Class of 2023 students shared their feelings about the changes made to the Magis Core graduation requirements.

Senior Communication major Kelly Haughey said she was initially “very excited about the core” before coming to Fairfield citing that she “felt there were a lot of cool courses to take.”

“However, it became stressful when certain courses weren’t available to take each semester and I was worried about falling behind on my Core,” Haughey said.

Senior nursing major Maeve Foley shared similar sentiments as Haughey.

“I think the Core is a good idea in theory because it is important to get a well-rounded education and not just take classes about your major,” Foley said. “But sometimes the class choices have nothing to do with what I am interested in, and I feel like I am wasting class credit.”

As a nursing major, Foley also cited the already challenging course load she and other nurses have each semester as part of why she has struggled to complete the Signature Element requirements ahead of graduation.

“I feel I already have a full schedule every semester and then I have to worry about the Core on top of that and it packs my schedule to where it is overwhelming a lot of the time,” she added.

As for which Signature Element was the most challenging to achieve, both Jake Cartisano ’23 (Finance, International Business) and Alyssa O’Keefe ’23 (Accounting) agreed it would have to be MSJ2, with Cartisano saying, “MSJ2, no question.”

Cartisano continued by saying, “Every business major would likely agree that [MSJ2] was the hardest.”

However, Foley said she struggled the most to get the writing Core requirements and Signature Elements. Haughey mentioned she found the social justice courses to be most challenging to get and felt that “each semester it was unclear what was being offered in regards to the Core attributes.”

“There are so few classes offered for those and everyone is trying to take them that they fill up fast,” Foley said. “I know so many people including myself that I’ve struggled to fill and are worrying about graduation but just have no possible space left to fit any other classes with their major.”

Speaking on the issues many students saw while trying to fulfill these requirements, Cartisano stated, “I don’t believe the signature elements were ever properly conceived by the University and [the elements] were a constant source of issue for most students.”

Regarding what students feel could change about the Core, they provided multiple insights.

Foley relayed that many classes she has taken “would be great as Signature Elements but the professors either did not know how to sign up to make them count for certain elements or did not even know that they could” and added that “informing [the professors] more about the process could fix a lot of problems of not having classes to register for Core/Signature Elements.”

Both Haughey and O’Keefe expressed similar thoughts regarding minimizing the number of Signature Elements required.

“I think having one of each Core (history, philosophy, science, etc.) is perfect, so I wish I didn’t have to do two of certain classes,” O’Keefe said. “Then I could take more classes related to my major, minors and interests.”

Haughey echoed O’Keefe saying the Core “should have a lot fewer requirements and allow students to focus on major and minor courses by allowing them to take courses that peak their interests.”

Unanimously, though, the

students interviewed agreed with the University’s decision to waive some elements in certain scenarios.

“The Provost’s office should take heavy consideration of the fact that the Magis Core was new for the Class of 2023 and they did very poorly in describing what was entirely required of it and certifying classes to fulfill attributes and requirements,” Cartisano said.

At this time, no changes will be made to the requirements for all other class years.

“ We have dealt with much of the same curriculum issues involving the Signature Elements the past couple of years alongside the Class of 2023, it’s been a stressful time encountering the options for classes with these elements.”

-Lauren Covello ‘24

“All other class years are required to continue making progress toward completion of the seven Signature Element requirements,” Petrino said. “We would like to encourage those students to continue to be proactive in working with their advisors to fulfill all parts of the Magis Core curriculum.”

## Class of 2024 Raises Concerns

Students in the Class of 2024 spoke out about their concerns about the ability to fulfill the Core.

Junior Abby Grenier said “I feel stressed about the Signature Elements especially since there are not so many options for classes with these Signature Elements.”

Junior Lauren Covello mentioned the similar conditions the Classes of 2023 and 2024 have faced.

“We have dealt with much of the same curriculum issues involving the Signature Elements the past couple of years alongside the Class of 2023,” Covello said. “It’s been a stressful time encountering the options for classes with these elements.”

In response to her thoughts on the change in requirements for the Class of 2023 but not the Class of 2024, Molly Cotjanle ’24 said, “I feel like the pandemic had hindered my academic experience so much my first year here and these newer Signature Elements only further contributed to it as there are still changes being made to the curriculum.”

Petrino discussed whether or not concerns about the Core are a common topic between students and their advisors by saying that many of the topics discussed with advisors are usually ones that are not reported to any other faculty.

“Whenever I hear from students, I do my best to assist them in finding courses that will fulfill their Core,” Petrino said. “Discussions about fulfilling degree requirements are typically had between the student and her/his/their Assistant Dean, as the assigning of courses/sections comes from the schools.”

The Mirror will continue to update on the Core and Signature Element requirements as more information becomes available.

## THE MIRROR

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# Levee Expansion Expected to Begin Summer 2023

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that resulted in the additional meal swipe time at The Levee.

“As part of its focus on the student experience, the University is always open to ways to enhance dining options across the campus,” Degioia said. “In partnership with the Stu-

“ [...] re-envision The Levee and perhaps provide a venue where there is student entertainment, gathering space, game room space and part of that is identifying with the student senate a template to best address that.”

**-Matt Dinnan, Vice President of Auxiliary Services**

dent Senate, student meal plans were extended at The Levee.”

First-year Kevin Camy, who frequently visits The Levee, welcomed the time extension and described it as a way

for students to save money during the final weeks of classes.

“It’s definitely a good idea because I know people use their dining dollars after 9 p.m. to compensate for the meal swipe,” Camy said. “More time allows them to have late-night options for when the Tully or The Stag closes, so I think it is very helpful.”

According to Senate minutes, which are available to students on the Life@Fairfield FUSA website, the meal swipe extension will not be the only upgrade The Levee will receive.

Additional upgrades will include the demolition of the existing Levee structure and the construction of a new building during the summer of 2023. This new building will include space for indoor dining on the first level and additional space for a ballroom and catering, as stated in a Sept. 28 General Senate Meeting.

According to a Sept. 28 report from the FUSA Senate Chair of the Facilities, Auxiliary and Technology Committee, Olivia Conkling ‘25 states “The Levee is planning big renovations; they want it to be five or six times the size it is now.”

Conkling’s report to the general meeting also reflected on aspirations to make the new facility accessible to all students and community members, as the current facilities do not have the capability of being fully accessible. As part of the improvements, sidewalk connections between The Levee, McAuliffe Hall and Alumni House will be designed.

Currently, students walk from both halls walk on a dirt and rock path that connects the on-campus restaurant to those classroom buildings near the main campus entrance. That same path is also utilized by Fairfield Prep students who go to The Levee during their lunchtime.

The changes to The Levee were most recently discussed during a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Inter-Residential Housing Association on Nov. 7. It was the first occasion students learned that The Levee was scheduled to be “completely obliterated” to allow space for a new building, as Senator Tristan Lee ‘25 explained.

In an interview with The Mirror, Dinnan explained that The Levee’s expansion plan is tied to going back to its original vision of serving as a student entertainment center while

“ The Levee is planning big renovations; they want it to be five or six times the size it is now.”

**- Olivia Conkling ‘25, FUSA Senator, Chair of Facilities, Auxiliary and Technology Committee.**

approaching the increase of students using meal swipes at The Levee.

Dinnan also said that in the future, the university is oriented to “re-envision The Levee and perhaps provide a venue where there is student entertainment, gathering space, game room space and part of that is identifying with the student senate a template to best address that.”

“Now it’s about involving campus partners and Student Senate and trying to identify what the vision could be and the needs would be. This will be a few years down the road,” emphasized Dinnan while stating the importance of having the input of students at all stages of the process.

According to Burns, the prospect of a larger space will provide added entertainment at the Levee, with construction starting in the summer of 2023, which he hopes will renew the essence of campus life.

# IRHA Members Express Excitement for Annual Event

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The AFSP supports survivors of suicide and those affected by suicide.

For those who want to learn more they can follow AFSP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Students can sign up to participate in the event through “some monetary donation and a team of 5-7 people.”

Last year those who participated in the event were able to raise \$681 for Capalbo Strong.

There is no required set amount for each team’s donation and is at the discretion of the team members.

IRHA will accept donations through both cash and Venmo.

Roberts says students should sign up because not only is it “a lot of fun, it’s for a good cause [and] it also is very competitive for some because of the \$500 prize.”

Roberts is most excited for “all of our IRHA members to see their hard work pay off planning this event.”

Senior Emma Cindrich, co-director of programming explains how IRHA, “has been working hard over these past few months to ensure our second dodgeball tournament is a success.”

Cindrich continues to relay that, “we are

urging anyone who is able to, to come and play dodgeball on [Dec. 3]. We also want to welcome any spectators who want to watch their friends play.”

“We all get to see our community come together to have fun while supporting a good cause,” Roberts adds. “Also

“I feel that as college students this cause hits close to home for a lot of people, since mental health is a big concern on college campuses.”

**- Jacqueline Rigazio ‘25**

during the event I am excited to watch the final round because last year we had a big crowd and it was so much fun to be a spectator.”

Sophomore Jacqueline Rigazio is also looking forward to the event stating, “it’s going to be a super fun event that also supports a great cause.”

Rigazio continues by saying, “I find it really special how the student body always comes together to support charity.” With regards to AFSP, Rigazio states, “I feel that as college students this cause hits close to home for a lot of people, since mental health is a big concern on college campuses.”

“It is really awesome how these Fairfield students can support this cause while having fun and being active,” Rigazio concludes.

IRHA is accepting sign ups until the event’s start time at 12 p.m. the day of. If students are interested they can sign up on IMLeagues.

For more updates on the event and throughout the semester, students should follow IRHA instagram @fairfieldirha to stay in the loop.

(Editor’s Note: Copy, Vine Editor Brooke Lathe is a marketing specialist for IRHA and therefore had no part in this article before its publication)



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldirha Instagram

Pictured above are participants in IRHA’s Dodgeball Tournament last year. This year’s event will take place on Dec. 3 from 12 to 4 p.m. in the RecPlex.

# Opinion

## Still Waiting For Change: The Ten Year Anniversary Of The Sandy Hook School Shooting



The adorable artwork above is from Sandy Hook Elementary School students in my mom's art class. Even in the face of tragedy, it's important to look for the light.

By Madeline Hossler  
Opinion Editor

Two weeks after the publication of this issue will mark the 10-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. It was a day that forever changed my hometown and forever changed me.

I was 11-years-old when it happened. Too old to still be in elementary school. I was about three miles away at Reed Intermediate School. The lockdown announcement came at the start of my gym class. We thought it was a drill; for the first 10 minutes or so there was no reason to believe that it wasn't.

I still remember the exact moment I realized something was wrong. At the time, the door that led from the gym to the back hallway had a lock that used to stick. One of our gym teachers came out of the office with an aluminum baseball bat and sat in front of that door. I didn't know we even had aluminum baseball bats. I still wonder sometimes what he knew at that point, and what he was mentally preparing himself to have to do with that bat.

The parents were receiving just bits of information as the story unfolded. My mom said the first phone call they got just said that there had been a shooting at one of the Newtown schools. My brother and I were in two different schools, so she had no idea if it was one of ours.

She was with one of my friends' moms when she got the second call, confirming that it was Sandy Hook. She described feeling a split second of pure relief at the discovery that it wasn't her own kids, instantly followed by the horrifying realization that that meant it was someone else's.

And what they don't tell you about communities affected by gun violence is that it doesn't end for us when the national conversation moves on. There are some things you never get to truly heal from. This is one of them. Every waking moment offers new aftershocks.

Sometimes the lasting effects are outright horrifying. On his infamous show InfoWars, Alex Jones peddled the unhinged and inhumane conspiracy theory that the worst day of our lives was a hoax, staged

with crisis actors. His lies drew out followers that represent the absolute worst of humanity.

Our teachers received death threats. More years than not we've had bomb threats to the schools on the anniversary. One just a few years ago forced the evacuation of the school. It got so bad that we simply gave up; there is no longer school on Dec. 14.

Sometimes it's the smallest little details that hit the hardest. I volunteer with the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary, one of the many charities that emerged to honor a victim. Every year they host an animal adoption event called Catherine's Butterfly Party, on the weekend of her birthday. This year there was a special theme: Sweet Sixteen. This would have been her sixteenth birthday.

In a better world, she would be in high school right now. She would have been begging her parents to take her to the DMV to get her learner's permit. She'd be warding off everyone's questions about where she wanted to go to college. She would be going with her friends to pick out her prom dress. In this world, she's never going to get any of those things.

Mass shootings have only gotten more common in the years since Sandy Hook. Even just in the last two weeks that I've been working on this article, there have been two: the Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colo. and Walmart in Chesapeake, Va.

Education Week publishes a School Shootings Tracker. In this year alone there have been 46 incidents, with a total of 36 people killed and another 95 injured. The fact that a School Shootings Tracker even exists should be a sign that something is horrifically wrong with the gun laws in this country.

And every time there is a new tragedy, I'm 11 years old again, sitting in the dark gym, staring at that bat. Every time I get a text in the group chat with my home friends that says some version of "I love you, stay safe, maybe don't watch the news today." Every time I wait for the politicians to make statements, hoping against hope for policy change that never comes.

We should have been the last mass shooting in this country. The outrage over

20 dead children should have been all that it took to change the laws. In other countries, that's how it works.

Following a mass shooting at Dunblane Primary School in 1996, the UK banned semi-automatic weapons and private ownership of almost all handguns. That should have been our reaction. In the time since, the UK has seen roughly

**" Sandy Hook could have been the last school shooting in America. We should have been the last. But we weren't, because the National Rifle Association has too firm a grip on the Republican party, and some voters have a strong enough affinity for their weapons of mass destruction that they no longer have a heart. "**

**-Madeline Hossler '23**

30 gun deaths per year, compared to 19,384 in the United States in 2020 alone. That's what justice looks like.

Sandy Hook could have been the last school shooting in America. We should have been the last. But we weren't, because the National Rifle Association has too firm a grip on the Republican party, and some voters have a strong enough affinity for their weapons of mass destruction that they no longer have a heart.

All I can think about, every time, is how now there are hundreds more people that have to feel the way I feel. More kids that will never get to see their hometown the way they did before.

More parents who have to take a few deep breaths before waving goodbye to the school bus in the morning. More teachers that have to build up the courage to go back to their workplace. More people that have to relieve the worst day of their lives over and over again, each time watching the same thing happen to someone new.

For the past decade, there has been a cyclical reaction to gun violence in America. A mass shooting occurs, there is a week or two of 24-hours news coverage, victims and political pundits call for reform, cowardly opponents offer thoughts and prayers, no reform comes and everyone moves on. Except for the people who live and work in those communities who never get to be the same again.

So what can we do?

Firstly, it is imperative that we hold politicians accountable, and check the power of certain interest groups. Call your congressperson. Call your state representatives. Call your local representatives. Demand gun safety reforms from all those in power capable of enacting them.

The National Rifle Association issues grades and endorsements for politicians in current elections. Check the grades of your preferred candidate. If the NRA endorses your candidate, take a good hard look at every classmate, coworker and kid in your life, and ask yourself if you can really stomach voting for someone who refuses to protect them.

Secondly, find organizations working to prevent gun violence, and support them in any way possible. If you can, give them your money. If you can't, give them your time. Some of my personal recommendations are Everytown For Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action and Sandy Hook Promise, but there are many other amazing organizations doing important gun violence prevention work all across the country that deserve recognition.

And lastly, keep paying attention. We cannot only show up to fight against gun violence after a new community has faced the worst. Show up today. Show up tomorrow. And keep showing up until something changes.

I wish I could tell you that things have gotten better in the last 10 years. I wish I could tell you that there is no way that something like this could ever happen in a place that you love. I wish I could, but I can't. But if we work hard, if we defend each other, and if we demand justice, maybe in the next ten years we can make things better.

# Graduating Seniors Reflect On Their Time At The Mirror

MADDIE HOSSLER  
OPINION EDITOR

MADDY WEST  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MADISON GALLO  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I suppose your first week at any new job is going to be a little chaotic, but my first week here at the Mirror was more chaotic than most. I was a completely blank slate. I was just a small town gal stepping off the bus into the big city of news. And then the universe threw us all a bit of a curveball, because that was the week of President Mark Nemeč's "anti-anti-racist" comment debacle.

Well, I think you can imagine what kind of week that was for the editor of the Opinion section. I was getting emails left and right with letters to the editor, professors and students alike wanting to make their voices heard. I wrote my very first article ever published in this paper that week, and I was talking about the President!? The energy in the office was electric, the issue looked beautiful, and I was hooked.

I've gained so much from my time here. Amazing friends, a new confidence in my abilities as a writer, and more stupid short cuts for fixing bugs with InDesign than I can count. I'm proud of the work that was published in my section this year, and I'm so excited to see where next year's editor will take it. I love this staff, I love this paper, and I have loved this job.

Saying goodbye to something that you have put an immense amount of time and effort in is a very weird feeling. The Mirror is almost always on my mind whether it is my amazing staff, next week's issue, and thinking of all the little things to be done so our little ship of a newspaper stays afloat.

Being EIC has taught me so many things about myself, working with others, and the fact that if you care about something truly- you will put in all the time and effort you can regardless of how long it takes or how stressful it may be at times.

I never wrote a newspaper article before applying for the Mirror. I came in just wanting to be a part of something. I am so lucky to not only have been a part of it, but also to have been a leader of it.

We have done some amazing work, and I am so proud of my staff who will have my full and complete support and love the rest of the time I'm here. As much as I support them, the support I have felt in return from my staff, profes-

sors, and other members on campus has been incredibly appreciated- this semester especially.

I think that's another thing that has made my time here so special- the love and care for what we do. With all the articles we have written and all the tedious times we have examined layout- it is because we truly love what the Mirror can do and care for the stories, students, and issues we are reporting on.

Our little office in the BCC will always be so special to me- paper chained with old copies, and lit with old Christmas lights along with the many, many random knick knacks accumulated throughout the years. I know the love and care in that office emulated by our amazing writers, people, and friends will continue to drive the Mirror's mission, cover university happenings, raise student voices, and be a place where the next student who has never written for a newspaper before can discover their potential to be a part of something so very special.

Two years ago, when I received a LinkedIn message from Editor-in-Chief Emerita Molly Lamendola when she was still just the Vine Editor, asking me to apply for a spot on the editorial staff of the Mirror I had no idea that I would 1) get the job and 2) love the Mirror so much. The Mirror has given me a plethora of things like some of my best friends, my fondest memories and albeit a few premature gray hairs, I would not change anything for the world.

I remember my first assignment as Head News Editor. Maddy, who was the assistant news editor, and I were meant to cover the FUSA Presidential Debate. Though I now consider Maddy to be one of my best friends, I didn't know her very well besides the fact we lived on the same floor during our first year at Fairfield. And even though we didn't know each other very well, she invited me to her room in Kostka Hall to watch and cover the debate. Thus, the start of our friendship. We stayed up all night writing this article, incredibly eager to please and to prove ourselves in our new roles after having never written for the Mirror before. I think we went to bed at 3 a.m. that night after writing our 3,400-word article. I like to think of that night as the precursor for all of the wonderful memories created and work completed during my Mirror tenure.

I'm so thankful to have been a part of such an important student organization and am incredibly thankful for everyone I have met and everything I have had the opportunity to do during my Mirror tenure.



Maddie, Maddy and Madi finish up their final issue here at the Mirror! Get ready for more wonderful things to come from next years staff!

*Good Luck  
To The  
2023  
Staff!*

*Signing Off, ♥  
♥  
Maddy, Madi,  
and Maddie*

## It's Okay To Be Mad At Taylor Swift

By Kaitlyn Conroy  
Contributing Writer

This month has been a hectic month for Taylor Swift fans. Swifties, as they call themselves, have been in an uproar recently over getting tickets for her latest tour. Last month Swift released her tenth studio album, "Midnights." The album is very different from her last two albums "Folklore" and "Evermore," since she returned back to the pop sound of her other albums. I myself enjoy the album, but in my opinion, it is not my favorite of hers. I'm more of a "1989" girl.

Just a few weeks after she released the album, she announced that she will be embarking on a tour in 2023. The "Eras Tour" will reflect on her entire music career. This is the first time she will be going on tour since 2018! Naturally, fans were eager to get tickets for this anticipated tour. Since the release of "Folklore," there has been an increase in Taylor Swift fans, so longtime fans of hers had to be prepared to battle for tickets.

On top of that, the re-release of "Red" also garnered new Taylor Swift fans. In order for her most loyal fans to be able to attend the concert, Taylor announced she will partner with Ticketmaster and Capital One to hold a verified fan presale on Nov. 15.

In order to get this presale code, you first had to register on Ticketmaster to possibly be chosen for the presale. Basically, registering on Ticketmaster did not guarantee a presale code. On Nov. 14, Ticketmaster sent out the codes to the verified fans.

This is where everything starts to get messed up. Some people received a code but no email and other people



Many fans faced obstacles trying to get tickets to the new tour. Disappointment and frustration are understandable reactions.

received an email and no code. The next day the presale queue opened up at 10 a.m., and then the complications started. Many people were in line for upwards of five hours. My mom waited in line from 10 a.m. to about 2 p.m. By the time we got to the seating chart the majority of the good seating was gone and the prices were incredibly expensive.

My family was one of the small number of registered presale fans that got tickets to the tour. Somehow, luck was on our side that day. For many other people, they were not as lucky.

As I said earlier, there were a lot of other complications. Throughout the day, the queue was paused because many presale codes were not working. Another complication was that when people input their information, the page refreshed and they lost their tickets. Ticketmaster also gave

away more presale codes than they should have, so many people with codes did not even get the chance to get tickets. The Capital One presale was moved to the following day, and even then there were not a lot of seats available for them. Ticketmaster also sold people nonexistent tickets, so some people received emails saying they were being refunded. Finally, Ticketmaster canceled the general sale on Friday, Nov. 18 because all the seats were sold out. In all, the whole ticket-selling process was a mess.

I am frustrated with how all of this was handled. There was no reason for this process to be so complicated and so misleading. Swift and Ticketmaster handled this situation in a terrible way.

First, the verified fan process was done in the wrong way. Basically, those who bought merch from Taylor's site had a better chance of getting presale than those who did not. I do not think that is a good method of telling who is a loyal fan or not.

Second, how did Ticketmaster oversell tickets and give out more presale codes than available? For all of the people saying Taylor did not have a part in how Ticketmaster did this, I disagree. Swift is the head of her team. She chose to work with Ticketmaster. Her statement did nothing to rectify the situation.

Many fans are upset and really angry with Taylor Swift. As a Swiftie myself, I am upset with Taylor too. I think it is okay to be mad at her. You can still enjoy her music while acknowledging a lot of her faults. She loves her money, and it shows. I do think it is a stab in the back for all of her loyal and longtime fans, since many did not get tickets. She should take better action in situations like this. So many people look up to her, and she really let people down.

The Vine



FAIRFIELD

Brooke Lathe

# How To Decorate Your Dorm Room for The Holiday Season

By Elizabeth Morin  
Contributing Writer

The holiday season is among us, giving us some light to look forward to at the end of finals season in December. Setting up some decorations around your dorm is a great way to get into the holiday spirit, but sometimes it can be overwhelming to pick what to put in your room. Here are some dorm-friendly holiday decoration options!

## Mini Christmas Tree

For all our Christmas celebrators out there, one of the best choices is a mini Christmas tree. They're about \$10 at any local store like Target or Walmart and are a great desk decoration. Usually, they're just big enough to put two or three ornaments on. This is an excellent choice if you don't want something that takes up too much space while clearly showing the Christmas spirit.

## Stockings

A fun activity that includes your roommate(s) is hanging stockings with some gorilla putty. This is a cute Christmas-themed decoration, and you and your roommate can fill each others' stockings with stocking

stuffers before break!

## Photo-Christmas Tree

For anyone that has a polaroid or a disposable camera that can give you a paper copy of a photo, you can create a photo Christmas tree! It's pretty simple: you just take your photo collection and make a bottom row of however many you would

like, and then make the next row one photo less, the next one less, etc. You continue until you have none left. For the stump of the tree, you can put one or two photos in the middle below the last row. This takes up even less space than the mini Christmas tree.

## Lighting

Fairy lights and Christmas bulb lights are additional easy and simple decorations! They are permitted in dorms with a few exceptions. They can't be in doorways, on ceilings, blocking windows or wrapped around piping. Keeping those in mind, you can hang those up, and they are relatively cheap and easy to purchase!

## Wreath

Making a cheap wreath is another fun craft you can hang up. Some people do it with solo cups and tie and ribbon around it but there are a ton of ways to make them online!

Using some of these ideas, hopefully, you are able to find ways to get in the holiday spirit!

Many of these are cheap and small so they do not take up too much space. Have fun!



# Ranking The Holiday Classics: Movie Edition



By Abigail White  
Assistant Vine Editor

With the Thanksgiving holiday finished for the year, it is finally time to kickstart the Christmas season! What better way to get in the holiday spirit than to cozy up on the couch and put on a holiday movie? There are so many holiday movies out there, whether they are newer movies or some of the more well-known

classics. Here are some of my favorite Christmas movies of all time ranked as well as some that you may not be as familiar with.

## 1. "A Christmas Story"

It is not Christmas without watching this classic at least once during the holiday season. This movie is a staple in my family, and we always end up catching it on Christmas day during its 24-hour broadcast on Turner Broadcasting. From the leg lamp to meeting Santa Claus to everyone telling Ralphie "You'll shoot your eye out," there is nothing to dislike about this movie.

## 2. "Christmas Vacation"

This is another popular choice for best Christmas movies, but it is one I felt I could not leave out of my ranking. This is another film that cannot be skipped at Christmastime and is often the first Christmas movie we watch at the start of the season. Just like with "A Christmas Story," my family and I quote this movie the entirety of the holiday season.

From the excessive amount of Christmas lights to Cousin Eddie's arrival to the dry Turkey on Christmas night, this movie is full of comedic scenarios that will have everyone laughing.

## 3. "Mickey's Christmas Carol"

Originally a novel written by Charles Dickens and first published on Dec. 19, 1843, this is a classic Christmas tale haunted by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Over the years, there have been countless adaptations of this tale and there is great debate centered around which version of the classic tale "A Christmas Carol" is the best. There's "The Muppet Christmas Carol" and Disney's "A Christ-

mas Carol" among many other versions. However, I have always been drawn to "Mickey's Christmas Carol." There is something I love about seeing Mickey Mouse and company portray the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his internal journey toward kindness on Christmas Eve.

## 4. "The Grinch"

Once again, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is another Christmas story that has seen various screen adaptations throughout the years. I am a huge fan of the original 1966 adaptation, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" as well as the Jim Carrey version, however, I have recently found myself drawn toward the newer, 2018 adaptation "The Grinch."

With its adorable animation and lovable portrayals of characters like Cindy Lou Who, Max the dog and more, this movie has become a favorite of mine. It is full of both humor and heartwarming moments that serve to create a perfect holiday film.

## 5. "Elf"

Again, another obvious one, as I am sure that most people have been fans of this 2003 Comedy Christmas movie. This is another Christmas movie that cannot be missed in my household.

I don't feel that I need to say much about this movie as I am sure many people love the story of Buddy the Elf in New York City

just as much as I do!

## 6. "Eloise At Christmas-time"

I know that this may sound like an odd choice, but this is a movie I have been watching since I was very young, and it simply is not Christmas if I don't watch this movie at least once during the holiday season.

Eloise is a character I grew up reading about and watching, so I love that I follow her and Nanny's (her caretaker while her mother is in Paris) crazy adventures during the holiday season.

## 7. "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"

This may not be one of my top favorite Christmas movies, but I had to include it as any version of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" is necessary to put me in the holiday spirit. I grew up dancing to the music of the Nutcracker and performing it in my high school's orchestra, so it screams Christmas to me. I have had the privilege of seeing the Boston Ballet's miraculous performance of this story, however, if you do not have time to go to the ballet this holiday season, this movie is a creative take on the plot.

These are just a few of my favorite holiday must-watch movies. Hopefully, with these suggestions, you will find the perfect Christmas movie to watch with your friends, roommates or family to get in the holiday spirit!



# Rockin' Around The Christmas Tunes

By Madeline Hossler  
Opinion Editor

What gives me the authority to render judgment on the quality of Christmas tunes? Well folks, let me tell you a story.

At my first job we had one supervisor with a bit of an unusual policy. Every time she supervised a closing shift, we celebrated the horrifying tradition of “Christmas Music Power Hour,” in which the only music that was allowed to be blasting through our speakers for the final hour of the shift was Christmas music. And the real kicker? This was a summer job. I have been subjected to literally hundreds of hours of out-of-season Christmas music. And all the trauma gave me exactly one skill: the ability to put together a spectacular Christmas playlist.

First off, there is only one correct way to begin any good Christmas playlist. That way, my good pals, is with Mariah Carey’s “All I Want For Christmas is You.” This is the only Christmas song I genuinely enjoy when it is played out of season. She is the perfect way to kick off your celebration. No one can resist the al-

luring holiday cheer of Ms. Mariah Carey, and why would you want to?

Next, we have to cover the classics, because Christmas is all about the classics. I probably don’t have to tell you what belongs in this section, you already know. “Silver Bells” by Dean Martin, “Last Christmas” by Wham!, “Feliz Navidad” by José Feliciano, “Wonderful Christmastime” by Paul McCartney and “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of The Year” by Andy Williams are just some of the things that should be appearing here.

“Jingle Bell Rock” by Bobby Helms is also an essential classic. A reenactment of the Mean Girls dance scene is technically optional, but highly encouraged.

I know there are about a thousand different artists who have performed “Santa Claus Is Comin’ To Town,” but the version you want to be listening to is Bruce Springsteen’s. It is simply the superior rendition.

The dominance that Michael Bublé asserts over the Christmas music industry is simply unmatched. Personally, my hot take of the holiday season is that he’s kind of overrated. However, if your playlist needs

the capacity to satisfy your middle-aged relatives, he has a few relatively good offerings. Both “It’s Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas,” “Holly Jolly Christmas” and “Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)” will provide you with some cheerful holiday vibes.

Now, let’s move on to a few more outside of the box additions. “Christmas Lights” by Coldplay is a very pretty, if slightly sad, element. Get a little Justin Timberlake in there with “Merry Christmas” and “Happy Holidays” by NSYNC. And my mother will never approve of a Christmas playlist that doesn’t contain “Christmas Wrapping” by The Waitresses.

For a fun wild card nostalgia element, throw in “Like It’s Christmas” by the Jonas Brothers. Is it good? The answer to that is a resounding indifferent shrug. But will it give you the same dopamine rush you got the first time you watched Camp Rock in 2008? Absolutely, yes. And if we’re really being honest with ourselves that’s worth even more.

As the final installment in this

epic saga of Christmas songs, I will be revealing my best-kept secret. This final song is, drumroll please, “The Cowboys’ Christmas Ball” by The Killers. Just imagine there are some flashing lights and maybe some jazz hands as you read this.

my father back when CDs were the most effective way to listen to music in cars. It has everything you could possibly want in a holiday song. It’s got a storyline. It’s got a vague illusion that the two main characters are not straight.

It’s got the kind of peppy country-ish dance beat that brings back the memories of that one gym class in high school where they decided to teach you how to square dance even though you are from Connecticut. You really couldn’t ask for anything more.

And there you have it folks, the perfect Christmas playlist. Go forth, celebrate and enjoy!

This song simply appeared out of nowhere one day on a homemade Christmas playlist CD created by



By Brooke Lathe  
Copy Editor, Head Vine Editor

Gift-giving is usually one of my strong suits, but it doesn’t make it any less stressful or overwhelming. If one of my friends or loved ones ever mentions anything they want or like, I immediately write it in my notes app. If my list is empty, however, my mind tends to draw a blank and I forget the simplest things about them even if I’m very close and know everything about the person. I’ve learned to dial myself back in situations such as this and stick to the basics. In that case, I ask myself the vital questions:

What are their hobbies?

Do we ever spend time together doing something we both enjoy? If so, where and doing what?

What are their passions?

Have they ever mentioned any problems where solutions can be bought?

Who are their favorite singers or bands?

What do they need?

By the time I’ve answered all of these questions out loud, I will either decide on gift cards for places that we can go to together or I will travel through numerous websites. Most of the time, I go straight for Amazon, Etsy, TikTok or Pinterest. I may have something specific in mind or my scrolling will lead to something that is somehow perfect. In most of these sites, you can also put a price budget in the filters.

If the brainstorming and constant scrolling still aren’t providing you with any inspiration, here are some ideas I’ve gotten a few family members or friends in the past:

For the “car” person:

My brother is a huge car guy, and since I barely remember the make and model of my own car, I had no idea what could be a good present for his dude-mobile. In an

online video, I saw someone with a car air freshener that looks like a record player, and your chosen album covers are scented. Since he loves Mac Miller, I got him three of his vinyls with different scents. I thought this was such a personal gift, while also being affordable.

For the “music” person:

Etsy is the perfect website when looking for artist merchandise. It is unlike any knickknack the celebrities team will sell and there is something for everyone. If your friend has a favorite artist, put them in the search bar and the results will do the rest for you. As a huge Harry Styles fan, with a friend who is an equally obsessed Harry Styles fan, there is an endless supply of items that can fit the needs of the person you are gifting. There are stickers, mugs, apparel, Christmas tree ornaments, jewelry, bookmarks, you name it. I got my friend a “Just Keep Driving” rear-view mirror sticker as an ode to her

favorite song; you may find that something similar is just what you need!

For the “sentimental” person:

Homemade gifts are usually the best for a sentimental person. One of the easiest and also sweetest items you can give is a scrapbook or at least the start of one. Print out a bunch of pictures of you and the person and write all over it. You can include smaller things like if you kept movie stubs or sporting event tickets; anything of that sort. Once you hand it over, you’re gifting them the start of a journey they will inevitably complete!

For the “fashionable” person:

Instead of buying your fashion icon friend a gift card to their favorite store, make them a fashion bundle. It’s almost like you’ll be their personal stylist. There are so many thrifting options nowadays that you can go into Goodwill or any other consignment store with a budget in mind and find a solid

outfit (accessories and all) catered to their taste. Go home, wash them, tie it all together with some yarn and top it with a nice card.

In the end, you can never go wrong with a homemade gift basket. A lot of the time if I’m ever stuck, I find a cute bin from Target and fill it with goodies I think the person will enjoy (both a mix of personal and general items). You may find that giving it a theme will help too! A seasonal basket with a blanket, fuzzy socks, holiday films and a candle is perfect. The possibilities are endless, as you could also do something geared toward movies, candy or even self-care.

It’s okay not to think outside of the box; honestly, any thought at all is what matters! You don’t have to feel the need to go crazy with spending, and just offer the other person your appreciation and undivided attention. A memory with a loved one is more valuable than any material present, in my opinion.



# Three Stimulating Off-Campus Study Spots for Finals Season



By Madison Gallo  
Executive Editor

With finals season quickly approaching, it's a good time to figure out the best spots for you to get all your hours of essays, projects and studying done. The library quickly fills up during finals week, so good luck trying to book a room there or even manage to get a spot at any of the tables on any floor. Don't worry, though, the town of Fairfield houses so many great study spots for you to pick from!

## Las Vetas

Starting off with a fan favorite that you probably have heard of: Las Vetas. This coffee shop creates the ideal atmosphere for all kinds of paper-writing and project-doing. The music playing in the shop ranges from classic rock to typical coffee-shop to even holiday music during this time of the year.

To ensure you can be your most productive self while visiting Las Vetas, make sure you get there early and scope out the seats near outlets (an absolute must during finals week). My favorite spots are either the two-seaters by the front windows or a table tucked in the

back near the piano.

When studying it is so important that you are able to fuel up and continue to refuel, so that your focus remains. Las Vetas ensures you can do just that with its wide variety of food and drinks! I typically get there early and will have the pancakes for

breakfast along with a Nutella hot chocolate before I work for a few hours and return to the counter for a grilled cheese and iced coffee for lunch. Something that also makes studying here fun, is that

when you order a hot drink during the

winter months, you might even get some cute latte art like the fun Santa I got on my hot chocolate last year! Depending on the hours in which you study, you may have a different take than mine, but I am my most productive in the morning. Therefore, Las Vetas is favorable to me and all early-birds since they typically close around 2 p.m., but the shop usually open at 7 a.m.

## Candlewood Market

Nestled behind Local, you'll find Candlewood Market, an until-recently hidden gem to me! I have frequented here a few times after class to get some work done. Behind all the retail they sell, you can find a plethora of tables to choose to sit at! Once again, I value access to outlets incredibly high on my list of priorities, so just beware that there are not too, too many seats near an outlet here.

However, for a few hours of work, this is a great spot to be. There is a vast menu of food and drinks to choose from. I definitely recommend the Grilled Chicken Pesto sandwich for lunch — it is delicious! The music at Can-

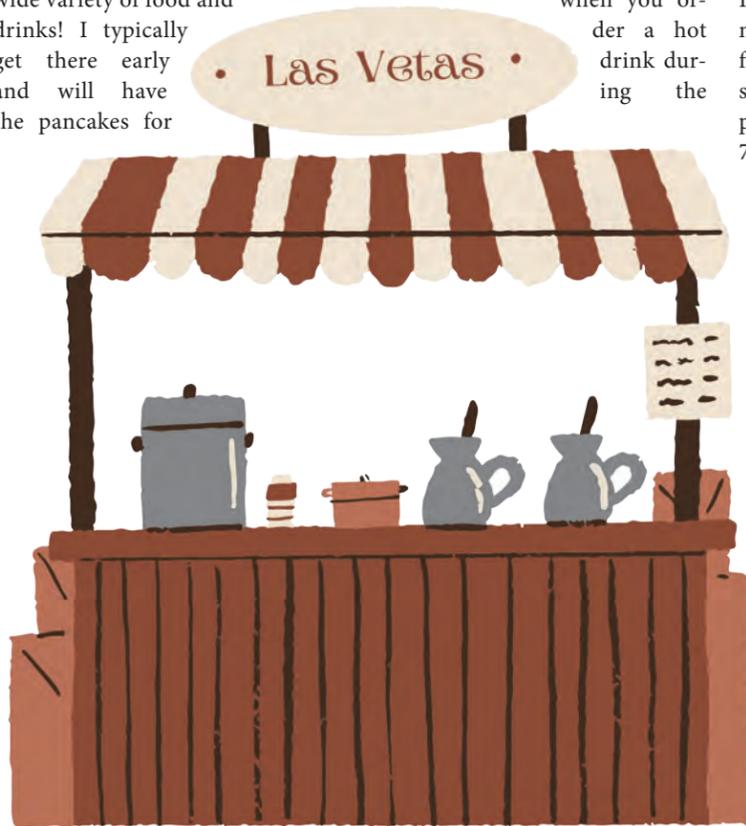
dlewood Market is just enough that you are still able to focus on your work while providing a nice background noise. I would definitely recommend going here for a midday-afternoon study since Candlewood Market closes at 7 p.m. during the week and 6 p.m. on weekends.

## Wake-Cup-Coffee

A slightly newer addition to my coffee-shop-study-spot rotation includes Wake-Cup-Coffee. They are not lying with the name, so if you need to get A LOT of work done, GO HERE! Their coffee will most certainly wake you up. It might make you so awake that you don't sleep for the next three days, but hey! You could definitely get a huge bulk of studying out of the way during that time!

The food there is amazing, and I have to recommend you don't start studying or writing any papers until trying their Avalanche Chocolate Croissant, which is to die for. Definitely get a spot in the back of the shop near the couch if you try this place out!

Hopefully you will try out one of these places during finals week, Stags. Good luck during finals week!



By Brooke Lathe  
Copy Editor, Head Vine Editor

Move aside Thanksgiving, it's time to turn up the holiday tunes, bake cookies and eat them until we're the same size as Santa Claus! My mom has always been the queen of Christmas cookies. Every December, she fills up our kitchen with racks upon racks of different flavors of treats. And although it's hard to choose between her seasonally-shaped sugar cookies or her peanut butter blossoms,

I think my favorite cookie will always remain the seven-layer bars she recreates from allrecipes.com. If calories didn't exist, I would eat the entire tray. It might be an obsession. The butterscotch and chocolate chips paired with roasted coconut and graham crackers... I mean, what could be better?

### Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Crush up the graham crackers and

place into a bowl.

3. Melt the butter and pour it into the bowl with the graham crackers. Mold it together with your hands.

3. Pour the mixture into a 13x9 dish, making sure to spread the crust on the sides and bottom of your pan equally.

4. Spread the chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, and walnuts across the crust. Pour the condensed milk over the toppings and dust it with the shredded coconut.

5. Bake for approximately 25 minutes or until the coconut is golden.

6. Wait until the tray is cooled before cutting. Most desserts are best served warm, so make sure to dig in after they're ready to cut. Eating them fully cooled the next day, however, is just as amazing.

Either way, make sure you add these to your annual holiday cookie menu because these are number one on my list and I have no doubts they'll score highly on yours too!

## Ingredients

- 1 1/2 C butter
- 1 1/2 C graham crackers
- 1 C chocolate chips
- 1 C butterscotch chips
- 1 C walnuts
- 14 oz. can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/3 C shredded coconut

# Fashion Tips To Keep You Warm This Winter



By Liana Giacobbe  
Contributing Writer

As many things change with the start of any season, most notably our next anticipated day of celebration and festivities, there comes a change in weather.

In order to accommodate this shift, we obviously must find ways to switch up our fashion and dress more appropriately for the coming season.

The cold is already upon us, despite the technical start of winter still a few weeks away, meaning we have to act fast to ensure that we will have all the outfit essentials for the coming months.

This can be a costly process, and while shopping is a great deal of fun, there are so many ways to revamp pieces you might already own or alter things you wear at different times throughout the year to keep you warm and cozy all season long.

For this year's winter fashion guide, look no further.

This article will provide you with all the inspiration you need to stay merry and bright for months to come.

Arguably the most important element of winter fashion is layered basics.

While they may not be the most exciting pieces to shop for, they are absolutely essential, as it creates the basis upon which the rest of an outfit can be curated.

Basics should not break the bank, but you also want to ensure that you are investing in pieces that will last you quite a while,

too.

There are so many places to find plain long sleeves, bodysuits and sweaters in neutral colors, such as Abercrombie and Skims.

But don't shy away from thrifted options or pieces that you may already own.

You will surprise yourself with how much wear you get out of these pieces, no matter the price point that you choose to allocate to these garments.

Quality pants are another wholly necessary aspect of any winter outfit, no matter what level of formality or comfort you are choosing to dress for.

A lesson that has taken me years to learn is that you truly do not need many pairs of jeans, as long as you own ones that will stand the test of time in a variety of styles.

I personally can not get enough of low-rise jeans this season, though this is not always practical for when the weather really starts to turn.

Additionally, despite my love of jeans, trousers and leather pants, all of which make for incredibly stylish looks, I truthfully turn to sweatpants and leggings for most of my outfits during the week.

Brands like SET Active and Alo Yoga have amazing (though certainly pricey) options within this category, but I own plenty of activewear from less expensive brands that get the job done just fine.

As long as you have pants that keep you warm and make you excited to get dressed each and every morning, you are on the right track!

Outerwear and winter accessories are the final pieces to the chilly weather fashion puzzle.

Whether you opt for a puffer jacket or vest, a blazer or a comfy hoodie, there are very few ways to go wrong. Matching sets are another great way to maintain an effortlessly chic look, all while

staying warm, especially when other garments are layered underneath.

I have declared this winter to be the season of earmuffs and scarves, two perfect accessories to spice up any plain look, while also amping up functionality.

The accessories that you meticulously pair with your outfits truly can shift the entire aura of any look, while staying within a reasonable budget.

These things do not have to be expensive to be cute and add a certain dimension to any look that otherwise might not exist.

Many of these accessories you might already possess, make this step that much easier and more fiscally conscious.

Combined with the perfect pair of Uggs or other such boots, these outfit ideas are sure to make heads turn.

While the cold may seem drab and unpleasant, winter brings with it the ability to layer and accessorize in a multitude of ways, simultaneously increasing the practicality of any look.

Whether you plan on shopping at stores or in your own closet, be sure to refer back to this style guide for plenty of warm wishes and delightful advice!



## STAGS STUDY ABROAD IN SALAMANCA, SPAIN

By Abby Grenier  
Contributing Writer

Studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain was one of my best experiences to date. When applying to travel overseas for the summer, I was unsure if I really wanted to go or if I just liked the idea of going. The reality of me leaving the United States for a whole month and being an eight-plus



Photo Contributed by Abby Grenier

The Cathedral of Salamanca -- The Young Cathedral is one of 34 churches in Salamanca!

hour flight away from all of my family and, frankly, anyone I knew, didn't entirely hit me until I landed in Madrid. I had never been this far away from home for so long by myself.

Even though I knew another student from Fairfield that was a part of the same program, I had never met her and felt incredibly alone. However, all of that changed the minute I met my señora, the woman who was kindly hosting me for the month. Although there was a huge language barrier because at the time I spoke very little Spanish and a lot of English, and Tere spoke no English and only Spanish, she made me feel right at home.

She explained that she had hosted students through the American Institute for Foreign Study for many years and loved doing it. The food that my señora made was exquisite and so different from any meals I have had here in the United States. Not only did I enhance my Spanish speaking skills, but I also strengthened my knowledge of Spanish culture. After all, there is only so much one can learn in the classroom.

While studying in Spain, I met so many different people from all over the world such as Dubai, France, Belgium, other parts of the USA and more. We all shared a desire to learn more Spanish and more about the Spanish culture which is what brought us all together. In our classes at the University of Salamanca, we could only speak in Spanish because that was mainly the most common language. Granted, many people spoke a bit of English, but not everyone! Many of the people I met in my courses quickly became my close friends. After class ended, we always went out to lunch or to various popular locations in Salamanca at night.

The classes at the University of Salamanca are tailored to you and your knowledge. Before getting your class assignments, you take a placement test, which directs you to the appropriate level based on your performance. I could not have been happier with my classes, for all of the lessons I took were perfect for me. While I was always learning new

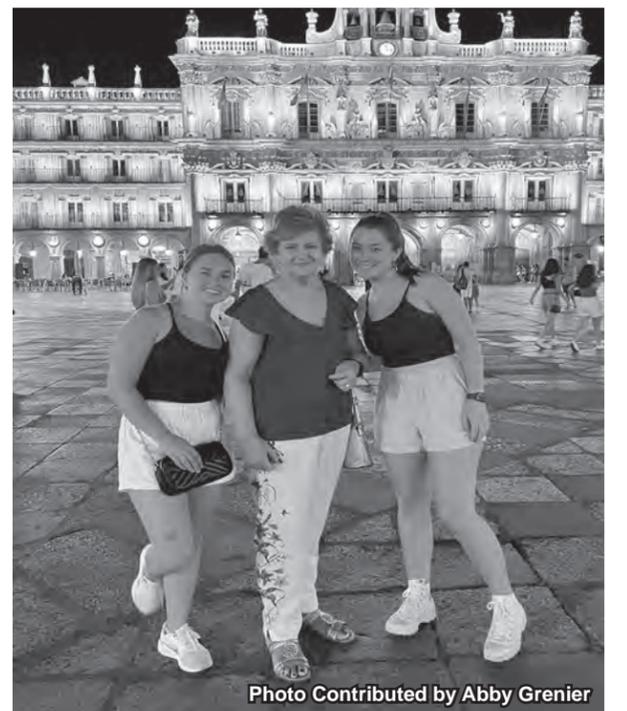


Photo Contributed by Abby Grenier

Pictured left to right: Victoria West, Senora Tere, Abby Grenier '23.

things, I understood what was going on (which is one of the essential qualities to have in classes, in my opinion).

Studying abroad and being "on my own" for five weeks in a foreign country was life-changing for me. Although it was such a short time, I am dying to go back. I learned so much about myself, my language learning skills, the Spanish culture and the other surrounding countries I visited. If you are even remotely thinking of studying abroad this summer in Salamanca, I could not encourage you more to go -- it is so worth it!



# COFFEE BREAK

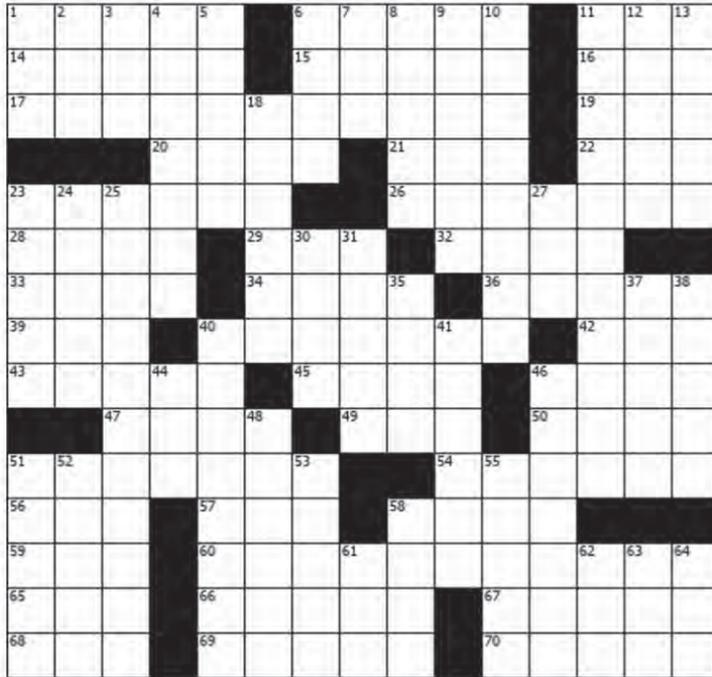


SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

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

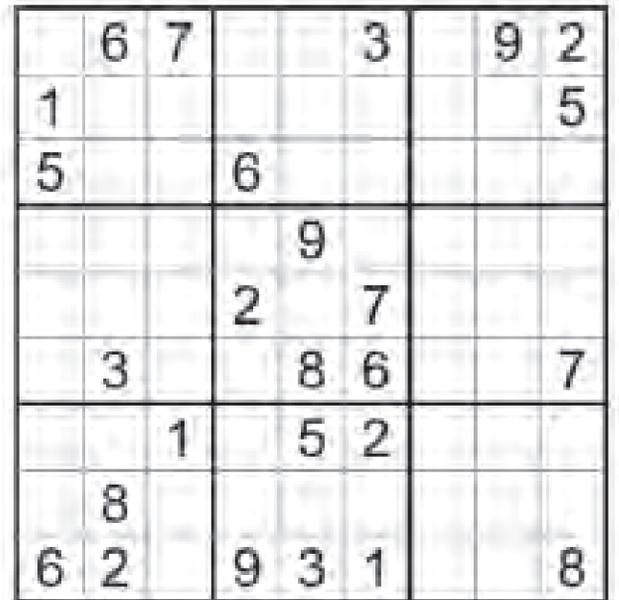
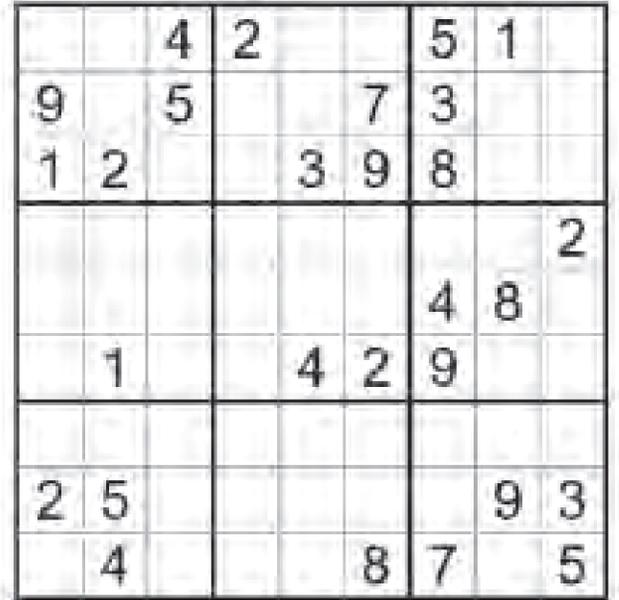
**Across**

- 1. Electricity, slangily
- 6. \_\_\_ nova (Brazilian dance)
- 11. With it, '40s-style
- 14. They're given in court
- 15. Sacrificial spot
- 16. Long-term investment
- 17. "Beddy-bye"
- 19. Shoe type
- 20. Imply
- 21. Have regrets
- 22. Sault \_\_\_ Marie
- 23. Talisman
- 26. Roman forum participant
- 28. "Sis boom bah" preceders
- 29. Flee hastily
- 32. Word with whip or tongue
- 33. Architectural molding
- 34. A party to
- 36. Remain stationary at sea
- 39. Bird beak
- 40. Dozes off
- 42. One way to follow a pattern
- 43. Bird warble
- 45. Culinary directive
- 46. "The one that got away," e.g.
- 47. Departs
- 49. New Haven collegian
- 50. A lot of land?
- 51. Part of New York
- 54. Writing with this could be permanent
- 56. Blood brother, e.g.
- 57. Org. whose members are packing
- 58. Lost no time, in a way
- 59. Vein glory?
- 60. Get a bit of shut-eye
- 65. Born, on the society pages
- 66. Of some benefit
- 67. Pianist and fiddler
- 68. Psychic power, briefly
- 69. O'Neal of "Paper Moon"
- 70. Smile derisively



**Down**

- 1. Alcott's "\_\_\_ Boys"
- 2. Union in Detroit, initially
- 3. Suffix with Israel
- 4. Woman's shirtlike undergarment
- 5. Adlai's 1956 partner
- 6. Livestock abode
- 7. Matador's cheer
- 8. People people?
- 9. An Adams
- 10. Weaponry caches
- 11. Beds down
- 12. Wordsworth's muse
- 13. Bag choice
- 18. Showy flower
- 23. Kind of runner
- 24. Not merely ready
- 25. Chandler's first novel
- 27. "Unaccustomed \_\_\_ am ..."
- 30. Echidna's snacks
- 31. Three-card \_\_\_
- 35. Get but good
- 37. \_\_\_ Haute
- 38. Proprietor
- 40. Wholesome
- 41. Dresses with care
- 44. Realtor's offering
- 46. Railroad workers
- 48. Social levels
- 51. Barely ahead in volleyball, maybe
- 52. Uses a small kitchen knife
- 53. Weird Al Yankovic parody
- 55. Forever and ever
- 58. Genesis son
- 61. Actor Gulager
- 62. Palindrome center
- 63. Pulitzer dramatist Akins
- 64. Soviet inits.



## Winter Wonderland

Nick Silvia, The Goat

Do you hear that? That sound in the distance? It sounds so faint, but it's growing louder. There's yelling. Bells smack fiercely against the side of their aluminum prisons. You cannot run. There is no escaping. The noise has become deafening. Snow is falling, suffocating your every last scream. Blinded by the white you stumble to your door. You jiggle the handle but it won't open. Finally you are able to jar the door open. You think you are safe, but you are not. There she is, standing right in front of you. The lethal queen of winter. Mariah Carey.

Happy winter, Stags! It's the most wonderful time of the year, so bust out the Christmas music, the decorations and the ugly sweaters with a picture of your least favorite person at Sacred Heart. Or, better yet, tape a mirror to your sweater, walk around Sacred Heart's campus, and watch the entire student body descend into madness.

Personally, I'm marking the start of the Christmas season by hanging lights around my house on the beach, but only on the inside, because even though everyone here has a net worth of at least \$20 million, for some reason if you leave literally anything outside there is a 100% chance that it will be stolen within the hour, probably by a guy in a sports jersey for a team he doesn't root for who had too many Busch lights or a girl in a Patagonia vest after she drank a single wine cooler.

Even though it's a little early, let's also hope for some snow to really make it feel like winter. And if we do get some, you can catch me shoveling it into Gonzaga, which was my freshman dorm, because the first years have it too easy with their fancy Zaga 2.0, and if I can't have nice things, then no one else should be allowed to either.

# SPORTS

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Assistant Sports Editor: Billy McGuire  
>> william.mcguire@student.fairfield.edu



Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6						
Men's and Women's Swim & Dive Greensboro, N.C. US Open	Men's and Women's Swim & Dive Greensboro, N.C. US Open	Men's and Women's Swim & Dive Greensboro, N.C. US Open	Men's and Women's Swim & Dive Greensboro, N.C. US Open	No games scheduled.	No games scheduled.	No games scheduled.						
Women's Basketball at Fordham University Bronx, N.Y. 5:30 p.m.	Men's Basketball at Manhattan College Riverdale, N.Y. 7 p.m.		Women's Basketball at Binghamton University Vestal, N.Y. 2 p.m.	 <p>Photos Contributed by the Sports Information Desk</p> <p>The men's basketball team recently capped off the Hostilo Hoops Community Classic event hosted in Savannah, Ga. They played three games, going 2-1 on their three-day slate. The results are as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Friday, Nov. 25 vs. Towson University</td> <td>W, 74-69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday, Nov. 26 vs. Mercer University</td> <td>L, 60-58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday, Nov. 27 vs. University of Evansville</td> <td>W, 63-56</td> </tr> </table> <p>Leo D. Mahoney Arena will be hosting their first men's basketball game in its history on Dec. 3, when they will host Saint Peter's University.</p>			Friday, Nov. 25 vs. Towson University	W, 74-69	Saturday, Nov. 26 vs. Mercer University	L, 60-58	Sunday, Nov. 27 vs. University of Evansville	W, 63-56
Friday, Nov. 25 vs. Towson University	W, 74-69											
Saturday, Nov. 26 vs. Mercer University	L, 60-58											
Sunday, Nov. 27 vs. University of Evansville	W, 63-56											
 <p>Photos Contributed by the Sports Information Desk</p> <p>The men's and women's swim and dive teams recently wrapped up the Terrier Invitational this past week, which was an invitational event hosted by Boston University. The Stags are currently gearing up for the U.S. Open, an event being held in Greensboro, N.C. Junior Alexey Belfer (left) and Alison Sposili '25 (right) both performed in the Terrier Invitational for Fairfield. Although the U.S. Open caps off the end of the fall season, the two teams will start back up again at the beginning of the spring semester.</p>			Men's Basketball vs. Saint Peter's University Fairfield, Conn. 7 p.m.									

## Stags Outlasted By Bobcats In MAAC Championship

By Trevor Russell  
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield University women's volleyball team's season came to a close on Saturday, Nov. 19, when they lost a hard-fought battle against Quinnipiac University in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship game. The Stags gave it their best, but the Bobcats managed to fend them off with a score of three sets to one, winning their first MAAC championship in program history.

The number six-seeded Bobcats had been surging in the playoffs and now have won seven straight games heading into the national tournament. They were led in this game by Aryanah Diaz, whose ten kills and nine digs led her to be named Championship MVP. Damla Gunes also contributed 48 assists, leading to five different Bobcats reaching double figures in kills. Fairfield's Sabria Cooper '23 and Kyla Berg '24 played well for the Stags, earning themselves places on the All-Championship team. Quinnipiac will go on to play Wisconsin on Friday, Dec. 2 in the national tournament.

The loss was disappointing for the

number one-seeded Fairfield team as they had hoped to bring home their 13th MAAC Championship to the program. However, they still had an excellent season, going 17-1 in conference play and capturing the MAAC regular season title for the 21st time in the past 27 seasons.

The Fairfield team often has high expectations heading into the season due to the tremendous success they have experienced over the past 27 seasons. Despite the loss, Fairfield outside hitter KJ Johnson '23 was named MAAC Player of the Year for the second straight season, and head coach Todd Kress was named MAAC Coach of the Year for the ninth time. Off the court, the Stags also received some praise.

Berg and Ella Gardiner '23 were both named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team, a prestigious award to receive.

The Stags will move on from their loss and look to come back stronger and better than ever next season and look forward to a bright future ahead.



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The Fairfield University volleyball team finished with an overall record of 25-7 on the season.

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

- Leo D. Mahoney Arena's Inaugural Game Sealed With Win (Page 14)
- Men's Basketball Picks Up First Two Wins in Peach State (Page 15)
- Matt Turner '17 Turns Heads in World Cup Qualifiers (Page 15)
- Opinion: How Will The Rest of the NFL Season Shake Out? (Page 16)

# Leo D. Mahoney Arena's Inaugural Game Sealed With Win

By Tommy Coppola  
Managing Editor

The Fairfield University women's basketball team began their home campaign in the Leo D. Mahoney Arena on Nov. 18, 2022, securing a win in the arena's inaugural game.

The 7 p.m. match boasted a battle between the Stags and the Stonehill College Skyhawks, a team who was winless going into Nov. 18 according to their official schedule. The Skyhawks lost to Lehigh University, Providence College and the University of Buffalo.

According to the official athletics website for Fairfield University, this game was the first time that the Stags and Skyhawks faced off against each other.

With the return of the Red Sea, Fairfield University's student section, the Stags were able to channel their confidence and spirit into a victory over the struggling Skyhawks. In fitting fashion, the Stags picked up their 700th victory in program history, a large milestone to be crossed during Mahoney Arena's first game.

"After winning the first game in the new Leo D. Mahoney arena it felt like a relief," graduate student forward Callie Cavanaugh stated, referring to their win. "There was a lot of talk and build up to that game and winning was the best result we could hope for."

"It means everything that we were the first ever team to win a game in our new arena, Janelle Brown '24 stated. "I feel like we deserved to be the first to play in the new arena, and we didn't disappoint either, we showed the school and community what Fairfield women's basketball can do."

"This game really allowed us to show the community and students what our program is made of," Cavanaugh continued. "We made a name for ourselves that night and I'm hoping it continues with more home games to come."

According to the game's official box score, the Stags kept their foot on the gas the entire game, with the offense either tying or out-scoring the Skyhawks in every single quarter.

The Stags' starting five undertook most of the offensive workload, with graduate student forward Andrea Hernangomez slotting in personal season-high records in multiple columns. Her official stats page shows that against Stonehill, she broke her personal-bests in points (20), field goals made (7), three-point field goals made (3) and attempted (4), as well as assists (7) and steals (5).

Hernangomez's impressive night was coupled with standout performances by Brown, guard Mimi Rubino '24 and Cavanaugh herself, who all posted nine points on the night, according to the box score.

The Stags converted on 52.5% of field goals they attempted. They additionally were successful in roughly 44% of their three-point attempts.

The roars coming from the Red Sea pushed the Stags past the Skyhawks to secure the first-ever win at the new arena. The win was met with fans in the student section rushing onto the court to cheer with the players.

"I think the atmosphere gave us an extra boost of confidence and energy in the games," Brown continued. "The atmosphere of the Red Sea was everything I've dreamed of because I've never played a game in front of them."

Brown, a member of Fairfield's starting five, acknowledged the difference between last year's pace of play and this year's under first-year head coach Carly Thibault-DuDonis.

"This year, we want to run teams out of the court," Brown expressed. "We have great team chemistry and our pace dictates the way we play. We want to catch teams off guard with our toughness and grit."

The later portion of the weekend found the Stags taking George Bisacca Court at Mahoney Arena once again, this time in a showdown with the University of Michigan Wolverines on Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.

Similar to Stonehill, their game against the Wolverines was the first time the two women's basketball programs have ever met. However,

Michigan's team came out of the season's floodgates strong with commanding victories over Daemen University, Delaware State University, St. Francis University and Western Michigan University.

Their first three games, according to their official schedule, were all won by margins greater than 50 points.

The on-court dominance of the Wolverines was too much for Fairfield, as their faceoff led to a 69-53 final score. Although the Stags lost the game, they came closest to beating them out of the Wolverines' six total matches so far.

Junior Janelle Brown is averaging 10.4 points per game this season.

"What I learned playing from a bigger school like Michigan is that we can compete with anyone," Cavanaugh stated. "It all comes down to being able to control what we can control as a team."

Michigan, who is ranked 23rd in the country, was held to their lowest amount of points on the season by the Stags, according to the game's official recap. Although Fairfield tied Michigan in points in the final frame of the game, the Wolverines out-scored the Stags in the first three quarters.

The game was within one with two minutes left in the first half, however, Michigan went on a scoring spree that elevated them to a 34-25 lead.

Redshirt Junior Izabela Nicoletti-Leite brought in 10 points of her own on Sunday, with Rubino posting eight.

While Michigan's offensive production was mostly driven by their starting five, Fairfield's scoring was more spread out, with MacKenzie Daleba '24 and MacKenzie Martin '23 each potting four points.

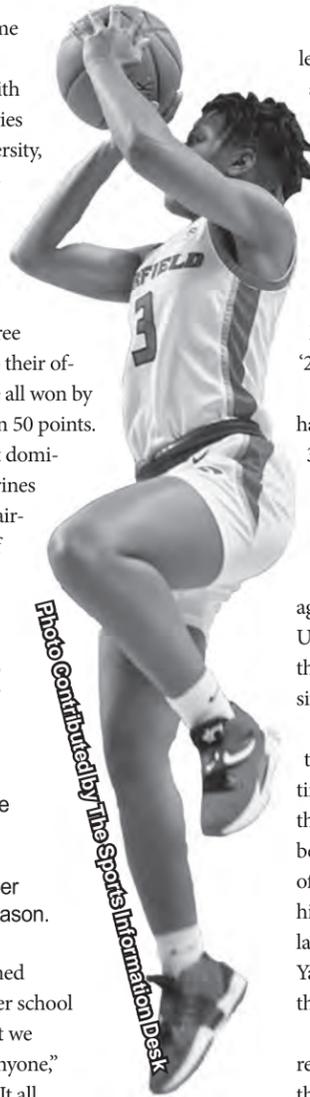
After their game against Michigan, the Stags had a 10-day break ahead of their Wednesday, Nov. 30 matchup against Fordham University.

Their upcoming schedule will see them embark on a three-game road trip before finally returning home to Leo D. Mahoney Arena on Sunday, Dec. 11. This slate includes their game against Fordham, and games against Binghamton University and the University of Dayton before their home standoff against Sacred Heart University on the eleventh.

Dating all the way back to the mid-1980s, the Stags have "locked antlers" with the Rams 15 times, which Fairfield has won 13 of. However, there is about a 25-year gap since the last contest between the two, and according to Fordham's official schedule, they have gone toe-to-toe with high-caliber programs like the University of Maryland and even Princeton University. They beat Yale, who stopped the Stags in their tracks earlier this season.

With the weekend split, Cavanaugh reinforces the mindset the team has carried with them. "Our coaches emphasize everyday that there is no room to take plays off whether that be in practice or in a game. Everyone must show up to play, whether you play 40 minutes or five. It takes a team to win, and not just one player," she claimed.

Continue to stay updated with information on Fairfield University women's basketball on [www.fairfieldstags.com](http://www.fairfieldstags.com).



## Weekly 5x4

Your 2022-23 5x4 Columnists: Maddy West, Madison Gallo, Tommy Coppola, Brooke Lathe, Ryan Marquardt

Because we have witty things to say ...



Maddy West  
Editor-in-Chief

"A Christmas Story" and anything not sung by Mariah Carey... sorry.

The band.

Waking up early and doing it rather than pushing yourself too late at night.

I'm looking forward to lots of things, I just hope it doesn't go by too quickly.



Madison Gallo  
Executive Editor

"The Year Without a Santa Claus" and "Christmas Wrapping".

The mass amount of school spirit it brought out in the students.

A lot of coffee and a lot of time spent in Las Vegas (peep my Vine article!)

Soaking up every last minute of being a Stag.



Tommy Coppola  
Managing Editor

"Christmas Vacation" is a classic, as is "Underneath The Tree" by Kelly Clarkson.

The mere fact that it exists is still surreal.

Take breaks often!

The weather will be a huge perk.



Brooke Lathe  
Copy Editor, Head Vine Editor

"Elf" and "Last Christmas" by Wham!

The monitor above the court ... especially when the camera's on me.

A grade doesn't define you; just try your best and remember to breathe.

To see who will perform at the spring concert!



Ryan Marquardt  
Head Sports Editor

"It's a Wonderful Life" and "It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas".

The \$5 cheeseburgers.

Don't push stuff back and just do it as early as possible.

The warmer weather.

What is your favorite Christmas movie and song?

What is your favorite part of the Leo D. Mahoney arena?

Any advice for making it through finals?

What are you most looking forward to in the spring semester?

# Men's Basketball Picks Up First Two Wins in Peach State

By Ryan Marquardt  
Head Sports Editor

The Fairfield University men's basketball team played games on Nov. 25, 26 and 27 in the Hostilo Hoops Community Classic down in Savannah, Ga. Going into the games, the Stags were 0-4, with a rocky start to their season.

Fairfield found its first victory in their first game of the weekend, defeating a previously unbeaten Towson University 74-69.

The Stags had their best offensive outing of the young season, putting up their most points with 74, field goals made with 25, field goal percentage which was 50%, three-pointers made with 11 and a three-point percentage shooting 47.8% according to the game's official recap.

The Stags had a very balanced attack with nine total players scoring points and none of them scoring over 15 points. Sophomore T.J. Long led the team in scoring with 15, going 3-6 from three and 6-11 from the field while also posting three rebounds. Graduate student Caleb Fields followed with 11 points and both Jalen Leach '24 and redshirt-senior Jake Wojcik put up nine for the Stags, with Wojcik doing it from off the bench and scoring his 100th three-pointer for Fairfield. Junior Supreme Cook led the team with seven boards with Makai Willis '25 posting six from off the bench according to the game's box score.

After earning the top spot in the Colonial Athletic Association last season and starting off hot with five straight wins, Towson cooled off against the Stags and was not very successful offensively. They shot 44.4% from the field and just 23.1% from outside the arc, going just 3-13 compared to Fairfield's 11-23 which played a difference in the game.

The game remained close for its entirety with the Stags leading by just one with a score of 34-33 at the half. Coming out of the locker room, the Stags opened up strong, taking a nine-point lead just seven minutes into the final frame, leading 51-42. Towson didn't quit, continuously fighting

back and went on a 16-7 run over a four-minute period to tie the game at 58. The game remained close with Towson tying it up multiple times but Fairfield took a five-point lead with 4:21 left in the match and didn't give it back.

Still trailing by a few, both Towson's offensive and defensive pressure stepped up to fight and claw back into it making it just a one-point game with 58 seconds left. Then after a forced turnover due to their full-court press, Towson had a chance to take the lead but a Cook block sent that opportunity aside. With just 28 seconds left, Fairfield got the ball back and was fouled, they made their free throws and put the Towson team down finishing the game up by five. Leach went four-for-four from the line in the game, including some clutch ones to give the Stags the cushion they needed to secure the win.

"That was a good team win, everybody who checked in to the game made positive contributions," said Head Coach Jay Young in the game's official recap. "It was nice to see some shots go in, especially for some guys who had been struggling to find their shot, and I was proud to see us tough one out against a talented and well-coached Towson team."

The next night Fairfield took on Mercer University and fell 60-58. Fairfield's offense cooled off from their Friday night game against Towson. The Stags shot an abysmal 3-23 from outside the arc which put them at 13%. They also shot poorly from the field, looking at just a 39% field goal percentage according to the game's official box score.

The game consisted of multiple big runs which alternated between teams. The first half began with the Stags down 6-3 then making a 12-point run to gain the lead. Mercer then followed with an eight-point run of their own to close the gap. The Stags then went on to score seven straight followed by the Bears going on a 10-2 run to tie the game up at 24 going into the half.

The second half remained tight with

both offenses scoring more often and more consistently. The score was knotted up at 48 with roughly seven minutes to play. Leach then hit a three-pointer followed by a Cook mid-range shot. Long followed up the make with a forced turnover which led to a Jeanne-Rose slam giving Fairfield a seven-point lead with five and a half minutes left.

Fairfield's offense dwindled after the dunk, going on a cold streak, missing their next six shot attempts as Mercer slowly mounted a comeback. Mercer took the lead 59-55 with less than a minute left in the game. The Stags then sank a shot and drew an offensive foul to get the possession and the chance to tie the game or take the lead. Leach was fouled and made one of two to make it a one-point match. Fairfield had to foul, leading to a Mercer one-for-two at the line. Long took a halfcourt buzzer-beater to win the game which just missed, ending the game with Fairfield down two.

Cook led the team with 17 points and seven boards followed by Leach with eight and Fields and Jeanne-Rose with seven each. Long also

contributed with seven boards and five points of his own. Fields led the team with seven assists.

"We didn't defend the way we needed to in the second half," Young said in the game's official recap. "We hit a stretch where we couldn't get stops and then we coupled that with a four-minute drought on offense. Credit to Mercer for making the plays they needed to make, but I feel like we let one get away."

In their third and final game in the Hostilo Hoops Community Classic, the Stags went on a second-half run to secure a victory over the University of Evansville, 63-56. This win sent the Stags to 2-5 having both of their wins come over the weekend going 2-1.

The Stags were led by their starters, scoring just six bench points while Evansville had a more balanced attack, scoring 18 from the bench. Fairfield also had seven more turnovers than Evansville, leading to a 12-point differential in points off turnovers in favor of Evansville.

Read full article at [www.fairfieldmirror.com](http://www.fairfieldmirror.com)



Photo Contributed by The Sports Information Desk

The men's basketball team went 2-1 at the Hostilo Hoops Community Classic to make their record 2-5.

# Matt Turner '17 Turns Heads in World Cup Qualifiers

By Billy McGuire  
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite playing in an unusual time of year, the 2022 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup is well underway as 32 countries have traveled to Qatar to compete to be among the world's best in the sport of soccer.

One of the 32 teams competing in the big dance this time around is the United States, who return to the world's biggest stage after missing out in 2018. This U.S. squad is a very different bunch this time around, as they only have one player with World Cup experience along with possessing the second-youngest roster out of any country participating, with an average age of 25 years.

One of the new players that happens to be heavily involved in

years from 2012-2015. During his time manning the pipes for the Stags, he went 14-10-12 while making 152 saves to go along with a 0.77 goals against average. Most of his appearances came during his final two seasons, being named to

the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference all-second team his senior season.

After departing Fairfield, Turner began to work his way up the ladder by signing his first professional contract with the New

England Revolution of Major League Soccer in March 2016. The club loaned him to the Richmond Kickers of the United Soccer League for two seasons to get him accustomed to the professional ranks. During his time with the Kickers, he would record seven shutouts in 27 starts.

Turner moved up the ranks the next season as he beat out two fellow goaltenders to be the starting net-minder for the Revolution. He would be their primary goaltender until his departure from the club in 2022. Some of his accomplishments during his time as a "Rev" include being named a finalist for the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year award in 2020 after a breakout season, as well as being named the 2021 MLS All-Star Game MVP after making two penalty saves against Liga MX All-stars. After being a finalist for the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year award in 2020, he took home the prize in 2021. During his tenure with the Revs, Turner appeared in 102 games, making 344 saves, possessing a 1.33 goals against per 90 minutes, as well as collecting 22 clean sheets.

Turner would see his career move overseas in 2022, as he signed a contract with Premier League club Arsenal in February of 2022. He made his club debut in July in a friendly match against German club FC Nürnberg, taking part in a 5-3 Arsenal win. He made his competitive debut against FC Zurich in the 2022-23 UEFA Europa League group stage, securing the

2-1 win for Arsenal. He recorded his first shutout for the club in a 3-0 win against Norwegian football club FK Bodø/Glimt in the subsequent Europa League fixture. Following this, Turner recorded back-to-back shutouts, defeating FK Bodø/Glimt again as well as Dutch football club PSV Eindhoven.

In addition to his professional career, Turner made his international debut in January 2021, starting in an exhibition contest for the U.S. against Trinidad and Tobago. He recorded a shutout, stopping a penalty kick from Trinidadian full-back Alvin Jones in the process.

He gained more international exposure by starting all six contests for the U.S. in the 2021 Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) World Cup. He recorded five shutouts in their championship run, including a 1-0 win over Mexico in the final. In recognition of his elite performance, Turner was named the best goalkeeper in the tournament.

In Nov. 2022, Turner received the big news of being selected to the U.S. men's roster for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. In his international debut, a draw against Wales, Turner made two saves while giving up his only goal against Gareth Bale on a penalty shot. He then recorded a clean sheet against England, making three saves in the process.

If there is one person that

couldn't be more proud of Turner here at Fairfield, it would be current men's soccer Associate Head Coach Javier Decima, who once worked with Turner as one of the goaltending coaches before being promoted to his current position in 2019.

When asked about his performance, Decima could not be more proud of his former protegee.

"We are extremely happy for Matt and his family," Decima says. "This is a dream come true for Matt and all of us who have seen his pathway to the world's biggest stage. I was fortunate enough to have someone of the mind frame of Matt, he wanted to improve every minute that he had."

When asked what were some of the little things that he learned at Fairfield that enabled him to have success at the highest level, Decima explained that they worked on all aspects of the game so he could become a complete player.

"We worked on all aspects of his game, I can say that the side volley he hit the other day looks very familiar," Decima reminisces.

Turner continued his brilliant performance on Tuesday, Nov. 29, when he collected another clean sheet against Iran in a 1-0 victory. Thanks to his efforts, the U.S. men's team will advance to the knockout stage in a matchup against the Netherlands on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m. You can watch the game on Fox on your local television market.



Matt Turner '17 posted two shut-outs in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup for the US Men's National Team.

their World Cup run so far is none other than Matt Turner '17. Turner played on the Fairfield University men's soccer team for four

the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference all-second team his senior season.

After departing Fairfield, Turner began to work his way up the ladder by signing his first professional contract with the New

Photo Contributed by @usmnl Instagram

# Opinion: How Will The Rest of the NFL Season Shake Out?

By Ryan Marquardt  
Head Sports Editor

This has been a unique National Football League season that has turned the NFL upside down with preseason Super Bowl favorites below .500 and teams that had top ten draft picks in May preparing for the playoffs.

My playoff predictions are that the Dallas Cowboys make a late-season push combined with some Philadelphia Eagles losses to take the one seed in the NFC and get home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. I predict that the Minnesota Vikings will practically win out but the Cowboys will have the tiebreaker so the Vikings keep the two-seed.

The San Francisco 49ers are one of the best teams in football and will keep the three seed followed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers winning a horrible division where they will only need about seven or eight wins to do so. The Vikings, 49ers and Bucs all have practically no competition in their divisions and will all win those divisions relatively easily.

The NFC East however is shaking up to be one of the best divisions in NFL history if things keep up. They will likely send at least three teams to the playoffs, possibly four if the New York Giants and Washington Commanders finish strong. Whichever team doesn't win the division between the Eagles and Cowboys will take the five seed and travel to Tampa to face the Bucs.

The six and seven seeds will be a battle between the Giants, Commanders, Seattle Seahawks and Atlanta Falcons. The Giants and Commanders sit there now after both Seattle and Atlanta lost this past Sunday with the Giants holding just a half-game lead on the Commanders and a one-game lead on Seattle with Seattle holding the tiebreaker.

Things are not shaping up well for the Giants as they are looking like the odd man out dealing with their plethora of injuries and a tough end-of-year schedule. However, I think they pull it out and travel to Minnesota as the seven seed with Geno Smith leading Seattle to the six seed and heading to San Francisco.

Seattle will get dominated by San Francisco with Ken Walker III being bottled up and Geno not being able to keep up with all of the weapons that Jimmy Garoppolo has on offense. The Giants however will upset the Vikings with a strong run defense and Kirk Cousins being himself in primetime along with a strong rushing attack from the Giants allowing them to advance. The other game will consist of Tom Brady being Tom Brady and eliminating Philadelphia with a stellar performance of checking it down and a dominating defense from Tampa.

The divisional round will have the Giants traveling to San Francisco and losing to San Fran who is more talented at every position except running back and quarterback but the margins are too small there leading to the Giants' season-ending. Tampa will then take on Dallas and lose leading to a vintage 90s NFC Championship consisting of the 49ers at Dallas. San Francisco will edge out a victory and head to the Super Bowl.

The AFC will have the Kansas City Chiefs once again take the top seed and have the road to the Super Bowl go through Arrowhead Stadium. The two seed will be taken by the Buffalo Bills as they retake the division lead from the Miami Dolphins who will be the five seed.

The AFC South is looking like the Titans will be good enough to beat out the rest of the mediocre division. The AFC North is a bit more interesting with Cincinnati Bengals heating up and getting Ja'Marr Chase back plus the Cleveland Browns getting Deshaun Watson coming off his suspension.

Even with Watson back the Browns are too far back to contend for the division or wild card and the Bengals take the division over the Ravens grabbing the three-seed from the Titans. The Dolphins, New York Jets and Los Angeles Chargers

will take the wildcard with the Patriots and Ravens on the outside looking in.

The seven-seed Chargers will travel to Buffalo in what should be a great game with Buffalo taking the edge and advancing. The six-seeded Jets will go to Cincinnati where they will defeat the reigning AFC Champion Bengals and advance with Mike White leading the charge. The Dolphins will take on the Titans and dominate in a game where the Fin's offense stays too hot for the Titans to handle.

The Jets will end their season in Arrowhead losing to the Chiefs with quarterback Mike White not being able to keep up with Patrick Mahomes. The Dolphins will head to Buffalo for a divisional clash where Buffalo wins in a shootout leading to the rematch from one of the best games in NFL history, Chiefs vs Bills. Buffalo takes the edge in my opinion winning a close game that goes to overtime with Buffalo winning this time around.

This brings us to a 49ers vs Bills Super Bowl which will be a great game. The 49ers take the Lombardi Trophy home with an old-school battle where the 49ers rely on their running game and defense to win with Jimmy making some big throws here and there.

The Bills fall short again, and the 49ers have another QB controversy after Jimmy wins them a Super Bowl when he is just supposed to be keeping the seat warm for Trey Lance. The NFL season ends in spectacular fashion after a very exciting and fun season.

By Billy McGuire  
Assistant Sports Editor

In my opinion, this NFL season has truly been one of a kind. It is good to be proven wrong sometimes, as this year has definitely been the case. Many teams that experts had dismissed have been outperforming expectations, whereas teams that were expected to make some noise have fallen flat. For instance, no one would have expected the Green Bay Packers, who have had one of the best quarterbacks over the past decade in Aaron Rodgers, and the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams to be on the outside looking in with 4-8 and 3-8 records, respectively. Even the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who have arguably the greatest quarterback of all time in Tom Brady, have a losing record of 5-6.

On the other hand, there have been teams who have had strong breakout seasons. Who would have thought that the Minnesota Vikings would be comfortably sitting in first place with a 9-2 record? Who would have thought that the Seattle Seahawks, who traded away their longtime franchise face in quarterback Russell Wilson after their first losing season in thirteen years, would be in the playoff hunt with longtime backup quarterback Geno Smith possessing a 6-5 record? And finally, who would have thought that every team in the NFC East, which not too long ago was ridiculed as being one of the weakest divisions in the NFL, would see every team holding a playoff spot along with the worst team holding a 7-5 record?

This is why I think the playoffs are going to be a bloodbath this year, and with the way things are playing out, I see the Chiefs snagging the top spot in the AFC. Even though I believe that they are the most complete team in the NFL, the Bills will finish second while capturing the AFC East. The Bengals will take the third seed as the AFC North champions, while the Titans will claim the fourth seed in a very weak AFC South. The wild-card spots are up in the air, but I see the Dolphins as a safe bet of taking the top wild-card spot, while the final two spots are toss-ups. Right now, if you'd ask me who I think will take the last two wild card spots, I would plug in the Chargers and the Patriots.

On the NFC side, the Eagles will snag the top spot while the up-and-coming Vikings finish right behind them at two. San Francisco will take the third seed in a decimated NFC West while the Buccaneers will sneak in as the fourth seed in an even worse NFC South. Once mocked by NFL fans as the "NFC Least" for being one of the worst divisions in football just two short years ago, the NFC East has turned into the "NFC Beast." The final three wild card spots will all be held by NFC East teams, going in the order of the Cowboys, Giants and Commanders.

On Super Wild Card weekend, there will be a total of six games, with three in each conference. The AFC side of the bracket will feature matchups between the Patriots and Bills in Buffalo, Chargers and Bengals in Cincinnati and the Dolphins and Titans in Tennessee. The Patriots-Bills matchup will have the same results as last year's playoff showdown, a blowout win for the Bills who now possess far more superior talent than the Patriots. The Bengals will defeat the Chargers on the back of quarterback Joe Burrow, a player known to come up clutch in big moments. The Dolphins will take the win in Tennessee, with quarterback Tua Tagovailoa connecting with his two elite wide receivers, Jaylen Waddle and Tyreek Hill, in a strong offensive performance.

The NFC side features contests between the Commanders and Vikings in Minnesota, the 49ers and Giants in San Francisco, and the Cowboys and Buccaneers in Tampa Bay. The Vikings, led by former Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins, get the easy win at home. The Giants fall to the 49ers in a low-scoring affair, with the 49ers proving that their offense is a little too much for the Giants' defense to handle, especially after being ravaged by injuries. Finally, the Buccaneers squeak past the Cowboys thanks to late-game heroics by Tom Brady.

This then moves us on to the divisional round, as the AFC matchups consist of the Dolphins and Chiefs in Kansas City and the Bengals and Bills in Buffalo. Even though they put up a spirited effort, the Dolphins will conclude their breakout season in Kansas City as they run into a far more experienced Chiefs team. The Bengals and Bills will battle in an offensive shootout, with Josh Allen and the Bills coming out on top. The NFC side features showdowns between the Buccaneers and Eagles in Philadelphia and the 49ers and Vikings in Minnesota. Even though they currently possess the top record in the NFL, the Eagles will fall flat in an upset against the Buccaneers while running out of gas in the process. The 49ers will also upset the Vikings in Minnesota as they also find a way to upset a higher-ranked opponent on the road.

The championship games between the Bills and Chiefs and 49ers and Bucs all prove to be exciting games, but in their own ways. The Bills and Chiefs game will be a bloodbath, as two of the NFL's most dynamic quarterbacks face off in a high-scoring game that unfortunately has one of them losing. This year, the loser will be Patrick Mahomes as Josh Allen leads his squad to the Super Bowl for the first time in nearly three decades. The 49ers and Bucs both put on strong defensive performances as the Niners find a way to pull out the victory in Tampa off of excellent game management from quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo.

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Stefon Diggs (Left) and Justin Jefferson (right) are currently ranked 2nd and 3rd in receiving yards in the league.



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