

# THE MIRROR

Independent student newspaper

Week of October 5, 2022

Vol. 49 Iss. 3

**FOLLOW US!**  
 @FAIRFIELDMIRROR  
    
 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE...  
 FAIRFIELDMIRROR.COM

SEPTEMBER 2021



SEPTEMBER 2022



MARCH 2022



SEPTEMBER 2022



Tommy Coppola / The Mirror

Fairfield University's on-campus arena was named Leo D. Mahoney Arena last Wednesday, Sept. 28. Board of Trustees member and daughter of Leo D. Mahoney Shelagh Mahoney-McNamee '87 contributed the gift, which is the largest by an alumna of Fairfield. The arena will be home to the University's basketball and volleyball teams, as well as concerts and other large events.

## Leo D. Mahoney Arena Named After Largest Alumna Gift

By Tommy Coppola  
Managing Editor

Fairfield University has finally unveiled the namesake of the building formerly known as the "Arena and Convocation Center," which will now go by "Leo D. Mahoney Arena."

Leo D. Mahoney was part of Fairfield University's Class of 1970 and was on the Fairfield Trustees Advisory Council in the 1990s. The businessman, father and husband to Joan E. Mahoney passed away at the age of 82 in 2010, according to his obituary from boston.com.

The newly-named facility draws its support from donors of the University and will honor Mahoney via its name.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to my alma mater, that has given me so much both personally and professionally, and to honor my father, with this dedication."

- Shelagh Mahoney-McNamee '87

According to an official press release from FairfieldStags.com, "The \$51 million project will be 100 percent donor funded."

The gift comes from Fairfield University Trustee Shelagh Mahoney-McNamee '87, the daughter of Leo D. Mahoney.

According to the press release, she has two children currently attending Fairfield University and two who have already graduated from Fairfield University. Her other child is an alum of Boston College, a fellow Jesuit university.

"It is an honor to be a part of this new chapter in Fairfield's history," Mahoney-McNamee stated, according to the press release. "I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to my alma mater, that has given me so much both personally and professionally, and to honor my father, with this dedication."

On June 28, 2022, The Mirror reported that the official name of the arena at the time was "Arena and Convocation Center," but was commonly referred to as "Arena 100."

However, Deputy Director of Athletics Zach Dayton confirmed that the "Office of Advancement has been working on all named spaces." Included in these spaces is the return of the George Bisacca Court, which is named after Fairfield University's former athletic director.

Mahoney Arena will be home to Fairfield University's basketball teams, as well as its volleyball team. According to the press release, university events and concerts will also be held here.

The women's basketball team will play their home opener on Nov. 18 against Stonehill College followed by the men's basketball team which will play their home opener against Saint Peter's University on Dec. 3.

The new season will be preceded by the return of pre-season festivities, which was hinted at by members of the Fairfield community during the cornerstone placement ceremony that took place on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 5 p.m.

"We are eagerly awaiting its grand opening on November 18," Fairfield University Student Association President Jordan Gale '23

stated during the ceremony. "And we're looking forward to packing the Red Sea in December."

Gale continued his speech to the crowd by sharing what the arena's construction means for students. To him, it signifies "coming together with our friends and peers to cheer on our fellow Stags" and "cheering with you all this winter."

"As students, it is truly inspiring to see what can be achieved when there is a need and there is a vision for constantly moving Fairfield forward."

- Aliyah Seenauth '24

Fairfield University Student Association Vice President, Aliyah Seenauth '24, built off of Gale's statements with her own take on the importance of the new facility.

"As students, it is truly inspiring to see what can be achieved when there is a need and there is a vision for constantly moving Fairfield forward," Seenauth expressed.

After Seenauth's speech, Fairfield University's Vice President for Marketing and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## The Mirror Hits 1,000,000 All-Time Website Views

By Madison Gallo  
Executive Editor

The Mirror reached 1,000,000 website views on Sept. 28, 2022. After the merge between The Voice, a University-supervised student publication, and The Free Press and Review, an independently published student newspaper, The Fairfield Mirror was created.

The Mirror added an online edition in 2000, and today, students can access the weekly edition of the article online and in print across campus. A 2017 article written by the CT Insider discussed The Mirror's role on Fairfield's campus and how the digital age has affected the paper.

Mirror Editor-in-Chief Emerita Jesse Erickson '17 was quoted in the CT Insider saying that being online "[makes] it a lot faster" while recognizing that the print edition is a "campus tradition."

The paper can also be found online at Issuu.com/FairfieldMirror. Follow The Mirror on its social media accounts @FairfieldMirror on Instagram and @TheFairfieldMirror on Tik Tok.

Thank you for all of the support over the years, and we look forward to a million more.



## Covid Cases Re-emerge Across Campus

By Julian Nazario  
Assistant News Editor

President Joe Biden recently declared "the pandemic is over" in an interview with 60 Minutes.

His statement, along with the continuous downward trend of COVID cases that have occurred during the summer, has made many believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is a thing of the past.

At Fairfield University, that belief is translated into the elimination of weekly testing for unvaccinated or asymptomatic students; the low prevalence of mask usage between students, faculty members and other employees; and the reinstatement of in-person, full-capacity sports and extracurricular activities.

For many, the first activity that hinted at a return of normalcy for the fall semester to the Fairfield campus was the celebration of the overnight First-Year Orientation hosted during the last two weeks of June 2022.

The event, as a Mirror article from June

2022 highlighted, was the first to be celebrated since the summer of 2019.

Then, three weeks into the fall semester an email from the university's Dean of Students, William Johnson, Ph.D. informed students of the existence of multiple active cases of COVID-19 on campus.

According to Johnson's communication, during the week of Sept. 28, Fairfield University had a total of 16 active cases of Covid, with 15 attributed to students and one to an employee of the university.

He also stated that during the previous week, the university had detected 39 cases.

"I think that they are pretty good and manageable, considering how many people there are on campus and that no one is wearing masks," said first-year resident Johanna Lydon when asked about her thoughts on the amount of COVID cases reported by Dean Johnson.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

### News

Find out when the arena will host its debut game.

Page 3

### Opinion

Ranked: the best and worst bathrooms on campus.

Page 6

### Vine

What are the best movies to watch during the Fall Season?

Page 8

### Sports

New Era: Women's basketball enters season with new coach and new arena.

Page 16

# Intramural Sports Roster Reaches Record Participation Numbers



Jamie Holzmann/The Mirror

From left to right: sophomore students Lauren Trymbulak, Alison Whitaker, Sara Rush, Lily Skomro, Aiden Toomey, Ersin Kaan Aygun, Daniel Buck, Jack Hemenway, Issac Ouellette. Co-ed volleyball team, 'Spikeaholics Anonymous,' come together after an intramural game.

By Jamie Holzmann  
Assistant News Editor

As the fall season of intramural sports begins, the roster has more participants than ever.

The Intramural sports program serves to offer students of all grades, including graduate students and even faculty members the opportunity to participate in sports such as Basketball, Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer and Badminton.

Within these options, participants are able to choose from a variety of skill levels that best fit their abilities.

Ethan Godfrey, the program coordinator of competitive sports in the Department of Recreation, provided information regarding the structure and scheduling of the program this year and the adjustments made due to the participant increase. Godfrey is entering his sixth year of running intramurals at Fairfield.

Within the program itself, there has been a 21% increase this fall in the total number of student participants signed up for an intramural sport, defined as "unique participants."

Within the participant numbers, Godfrey explains that it is important to note the difference between participants and unique participants.

Unlike unique participants, participants are the total number of individuals signed up for each sport.

“ I recommended it to first-year students as a leader in campus ministry, as I’ve noticed this year there’s a significant amount of teams which allows for connections to grow just like mine have.”

- Chris Pozzuto '25

He explains this difference through a scenario, saying, "if John Smith signed up for Flag Football, Soccer and Softball, he would count three times as a participant, however, he would count once as a unique participant."

This concept is considered while collecting the participation numbers within the general program, as well as each individual sport.

Godfrey claims that the "total participants, unique participants, male participants, female participants, sophomore participants, junior participants, senior participants, grad student and

faculty/staff participants and teams have increased tremendously."

Unfortunately, the involvement of first-year student participants this year has decreased by 24%, however, he explains that "it is early in the year and we are working on ways to engage this class."

As of this fall, 3v3 Basketball which includes an A League, B League and Co-Rec & Women's League has 435 total current participants, increasing last year's participation number by 16%.

This number has increased 260% since the Fall of 2018 when this event was created, as it began with 129 participants.

Due to basketball's continuous popularity, Godfrey explains that "since we have the court space for the fall, we have decided to run basketball in both the Fall and Winter (5v5 in winter)."

Within basketball participation specifically, Godfrey claims that the women's league "currently has four teams signed up, which is lower than expected, based on the year-end Intramural Survey."

Another activity offered to intramural participants is flag football. This specific activity is an "open league," meaning anyone can play.

This is ultimately split up into an A-League, being more competitive and challenging, and B-League which is recreational and aimed toward first-time players.

Participation in this event has increased by 14% from last year, with 410 participants in 2021.

Godfrey claims the number of participants is "the most I've ever had here in my five years of running intramurals."

The biggest participation jump across all Fall sports events occurred in Volleyball this year. The total number of participants increased by 43% from last year.

Godfrey states "we have seen a great increase in female participation, a 28% increase from 2021. We also saw a huge increase in the total number of teams." The 44 total teams created last year jumped to 70 this year, and additionally, a Co-Rec league was created.

Another sport that has seen a participation increase is soccer. Going from 49 to 115 participants, there was a 28% increase from last year, with a particular increase in senior participation of 135%. Due to this increase, some teams begin their games as late as 10 p.m.

Club soccer participant Chris Pozzuto '25 describes his experience with this event over the last two years, saying "I recommended it to first-year students as a leader in campus ministry, as I've noticed this year there's a significant amount of teams which allows for connections to grow just like mine have."

As for his experience with the later game times, Pozzuto explains, "Late night games are rough especially when they're at Rafferty Stadium for soccer. It's hard because I come back at around 11 p.m. from the 10 p.m. soccer games and I try not to wake up my roommates who have early classes." Pozzuto adds, "I wish they'd start games earlier, but with the growing amount of

players and teams, I understand they have to rotate the later times."

Godfrey explains the changes made to the program as a result of the participant increase over the years, saying that in order to adapt to these circumstances, the program coordinators have "hired a larger staff of Intramural referees, scorekeepers and supervisors."

Specifically for flag football and soccer, Godfrey explains that a cap was put on these teams due to the spacing on the outdoor field, Rafferty Stadium.

These specific sports are given 15 to 18 hours a week, whereas indoors, Godfrey explains, "basketball gets over 30 hours due to having more court space and the court being split."

The program coordinators focus on making sure the number of games each team has is as equal and fair as possible, even factoring in circumstances such as "weather cancellations, varsity or Fairfield Prep games and any unforeseeable circumstances."

The game scheduling process is open for students to choose the best working time in their schedule, which Skye Deraffe '25 claims is convenient "so we don't get stuck with late games where we're not available," as she claims that "last year we missed a lot of games because they didn't work with our schedule."

“ It's given me a chance to hang out with my friends outside of an academic setting and meet tons of new people!”

- Lauren Martland '25

Over the years, intramurals have only become more popular among students. Lauren Martland '25 says, "It's given me a chance to hang out with my friends outside of an academic setting and meet tons of new people!"



Photo Contributed by Brendan Kilroy

Clockwise: Nate Dentrement '23, Brendan Kilroy '23, Matt Murphy '23 and Sam Scott '23 pose after winning the 2021 A-League flag football championship.



*The Mirror Radio Show  
is back on the air!*

TUNE IN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS  
6-7PM ON WVOF.ORG EVERY WEEK  
OR ON 88.5FM!



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

9/30  
4 p.m.  
Students in the residence of the Townhouse 9 block were discovered to be using their basement for parties. Students were referred to Res Life.

10/2  
1 a.m.  
Two students documented for marijuana and paraphernalia outside of Claver Hall.

10/2  
2:40 a.m.  
A male student activated the fire alarm system in Dolan Hall. He was identified and subsequently arrested for Breach of Peace.

10/2  
6:20 p.m.  
A student struck the back of the Stag Bus, causing moderate damage to his vehicle and minor damage to the bus. No injuries reported. However, the student's vehicle had to be towed.

Within the last week, DPS responded to 9 calls for medical assistance.



# Mahoney Arena Set to Debut on November 18

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Communications Jennifer Anderson outlined the different uses and events that the new arena will hold for the Fairfield community. With “an eager student body excited to be a part of Red Sea Madness,” a “community of residents who can’t wait to watch their hometown teams,” alumni and even Fairfield Preparatory School athletes, Anderson clarifies that the Fairfield community will see many uses to Mahoney Arena.

Season tickets are now available to be purchased for the new season. A separate press release from fairfieldstags.com outlines the new seating chart of the arena for fans looking to attend games.

On the court level of Mahoney Arena, sections 106 through 110 will serve as the “primary Fairfield student section,” whereas sections 116 through 120 will be the “secondary Fairfield student section.” These aforementioned sections are bleacher-style seats as opposed to chair-back seats, which can instead be found courtside and at the corners of the court level.

The second floor on the entrance side closest to Loyola Drive will feature the club access seats in which fans will be able to purchase food, drinks and more.

One major inclusion of Mahoney Arena that the former Alumni Hall lacked is a brand new spirit shop

on the main concourse level. This will revamp the fan experience and ensure that students have access to all the gear they could need for gameday.

Additionally, the press release outlines the new plans for pregame passes specifically for men’s basketball events. For the price of \$450, one can purchase a club access pass that offers them access to “heavy hors d’oeuvres, game day favorites and soft drinks throughout each game, a premium cash

bar and the ability to order food from an exclusive menu from your mobile phone to be delivered to your seats.”

For the lower price of \$150, fans can purchase “The Levee Pregame Pass,” which will allow fans to dine on appetizers and pizza in The Levee before men’s basketball games. Both passes are available to purchase for the 2022-23 season.

For continued updates on information about Leo D. Mahoney Arena, visit fairfieldstags.com.



Photo Contributed by Julian Nazario

On Sept. 28, the University held a Cornerstone Ceremony where attendees were able to walk through the arena and its official name was revealed.

## STAGS Hospitality

"We hope you enjoyed!"  
~ Stags Hospitality Team

## THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

Madeline West, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Madison Gallo, *Executive Editor*  
Tommy Coppola, *Managing Editor*  
Brooke Lathe, *Copy Editor*

### Editors

Max Limric, *Head News*  
Jamie Holzmann, *Assistant News*  
Julian Nazario, *Assistant News*  
Madeline Hossler, *Opinion*  
Brooke Lathe, *Head Vine*  
Abigail White, *Assistant Vine*  
Ryan Marquardt, *Head Sports*  
William McGuire, *Assistant Sports*  
Tristan Cruz, *Coffee Break*

### Staff Photographer

Giana Russo

### Business Department

Email: info@fairfieldmirror.com  
Tristan Cruz, *Chief Financial Officer*

### Advisor

Tommy Xie

### Contact Information

Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Road, BCC 104  
Box AA, Fairfield, CT 06824  
General email: info@fairfieldmirror.com

The Mirror is the recognized student newspaper of Fairfield University. Opinions and ideas expressed herein are those of the individual student authors, and not those of Fairfield University or its Board of Trustees

## SEPTEMBER'S DINING EVENTS

- Mexican Fiesta at the Activities Fair
- National Chocolate Milkshake Day Celebration
- Spam Musubi Chef Demo
- St. Bellarmine's Day Feast
- National Cheeseburger Day Celebration
- Dessert Hummus with Campus Dietitian Joanna
- Annual Farmers Market
- Jamaican Inspired Chef Demo
- La Latina Cocina Pop Up
- National Coffee Day Celebration
- Oktoberfest Celebration

## COMING THIS MONTH

- Oct. 1st - National Apple Month Celebration
- Oct. 4th - National Taco Day
- Oct. 5th - Wellness Wednesday
- Oct. 6th - Create Your Own Butter Board
- Oct. 7th - National Pierogi Day
- Oct. 12th - Chef Demo
- Oct. 14th - World Egg Day
- Oct. 17th - National Pasta Day
- Oct. 19th - Wellness Wednesday
- Oct. 20th - S'mores Pop Up
- Oct. 24th - Diwali
- Oct. 26th - Chef Demo
- Oct. 27th - Sushi Do Dinner
- Oct. 31st - Halloween Dinner/Raffle

FOLLOW US FOR MORE  
UPDATES

@STAGSHOSPITALITY



STAGSHOSPITALITY

# FUSA “Confident” Pres Ball Will Not Increase Covid Cases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For sophomore student Lauren Trymbulak, the re-emergence of COVID is something she has witnessed first-hand. “Our whole group of guy friends just recovered from COVID, three of them had it, and I’ve heard of many more cases on campus.”

Even though the cases of COVID have not caused major disruptions affecting classes or school programming, the deadline to make changes to the meal plan had to be changed due to a COVID case in the StagCard Office and a record number of upgrades.

“Since the StagCard Office was closed the majority of last week (thanks, Covid!) the deadline for meal plan changes has been extended to Wednesday, September 21,” read an email sent to students on Sept. 19 informing them of the changes.

Now, the focus turns to the Presidential Ball which gathered 2,800 students on Bellarmine Lawn.

The celebration, hosted by the Fairfield University Student Association on Sept. 30 marked the biggest outdoor gathering of students since the Activities Fair and Move-In weekend.

“Pres Ball was a slight concern, but hopefully since most of our campus is vaccinated I’m not as worried,” said sophomore student Sara Rush regarding the possibility of more cases emerging after the past weekend’s Presidential Ball, which returned to full capacity this year.

First-year student and Pres Ball attendee Lacey Noto shared a similar perspective about the chances of getting COVID after going to the highly anticipated social gathering. To her, getting the virus “could happen anywhere because we see these people all the time so it doesn’t matter.”

In a statement to The Mirror, FUSA echoes these sentiments.

“We, as a student association, are not concerned about this year’s Presidential Ball impacting the number of positive cases on campus,” FUSA stated, “With the recent downward trend of active cases over the last several weeks (39 active cases 2 weeks ago to 16 active cases last week), we are confident that Pres Ball will not contribute to any significant rise in cases on campus.”

According to data obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Fairfield County saw an increase in daily Covid cases from Sept. 10 to Sept. 30. Currently, the CDC has Fairfield County ranked as a

“medium” risk on its COVID-19 community level.

The Mirror made a request to the Director of the Student Health Center, Julia Duffy, regarding statistics on COVID cases since the start of the Fall semester.

The office did not make available the information and referred the request to Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Anderson, who did not respond in time for publication.



Photo contributed by Aliyah Seenauth

Students celebrate the 2022 Presidential Ball at full capacity. Students share views on how Pres Ball and other large gatherings will affect Covid cases on campus this fall.

## Upcoming Career Center Events Schedule

### In- Person Career & Internship Expo

**WHEN:** Wed. Oct. 19 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m  
**WHERE:** The RecPlex  
**WHAT:** There are currently over 85 employers registered to attend. The in-person Career Expo does not require registration.

### Virtual Career & Internship Expo

**WHEN:** Thurs. Oct. 20, 2022 from 10 a.m.-noon  
**WHERE:** On Handshake.  
**WHAT:** Students must register for the virtual event (registration opens Oct. 1) in advance. Once registered, be sure to set up your schedule with employers.

#### In- Person

- Identify and research companies of interest and prepare questions.
- Develop an elevator pitch to respond to, “tell me about yourself.”
- Make sure your resume is up to date and bring 10 copies.
- Dress professionally. If you need assistance, contact the Career Center at careers@fairfield.edu to make an appointment to browse the Career Closet.
- Bring a portfolio to carry your resume, notepad, and a pen.
- There will be a LinkedIn photo booth if you want to update your profile picture
- Ask employers for their contact information so you can follow up with them.
- After each discussion, take some notes to refer to when you follow up.
- Write a thank you note to employers and follow up on any activities discussed.

#### How to Prepare:

#### Virtual

- Meet with employers. Interact with recruiters through video, audio, or chat.
- Pre-schedule 1:1 or group sessions with employers ahead of the fair or on the day of.
- Activate your Stags4Hire (Handshake) account.
- Read the 5 Steps to Success on Handshake.
- Check out Handshake’s Get Hired Remotely Series for more resources.
- Make an impression. Ask great questions, and follow up with recruiters after the fair.
- Identify and research companies of interest and prepare questions.
- Develop an elevator pitch to respond to, “tell me about yourself.”
- Make sure your resume is up to date and be ready to share it with employers.
- Dress professionally. If you need assistance, contact the Career Center at careers@fairfield.edu to make an appointment to browse the Career Closet.
- Ask employers for their contact information so you can follow up with them.
- After each discussion, take some notes to refer to when you follow up.
- Write a thank you note to employers and follow up on any activities discussed.

**Who to contact to help you with Stags4Hire, your resume and cover letter, virtual and in-person networking, and much more!**

- **College of Arts & Sciences:** cascareers@fairfield.edu
- **Dolan:** dolancareer@fairfield.edu
- **Egan School of Nursing & Health Studies:** careers@fairfield.edu
- **School of Engineering:** careers@fairfield.edu

# Opinion

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

## Fall Foods Showdown

By Elizabeth Morin  
Contributing Writer

Autumn is a time to get excited! Halloween and Thanksgiving are just around the corner, watching the leaves turn different shades of red and orange, getting to break into your sweatshirts and bingeing Halloween movies with your roommate and all the delicious food that comes with it.

### Tier Five: Pumpkin Spice Lattes

It's never officially fall until Starbucks and Dunkin' release their signature fall menu. Shamefully, I love spending \$9 on a Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks and occasionally a pumpkin muffin too. I think their lattes are sweet in a way that appeals to both black coffee drinkers and those who prefer to not taste the caffeine like myself. However, I cannot in my right mind rank it at the top of my fall foods list because of how pricey it is. Therefore, I am putting Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Lattes at Tier 5.



### Tier Four: Fall Pies



Pies are a traditional fall staple, with apple pie entering the scene in September, and pumpkin pie joining in around Thanksgiving. The great thing about pies is how customizable they are; you don't have to do just pumpkin or apple. I've seen someone make a carrot pie before, though I'm not sure how good it turned out. It just goes to show that you can make anything into a pie. It's fairly simple to bake, especially if you buy a premade crust from the grocery store. What's even better is that if you aren't feeling like making a whole pie, grocery stores typically sell mini snack-sized ones. I had to rank it lower though because pies are an acquired taste and they're really only a dessert. I believe there are foods out there that you can have all day which is why I put pies at Tier 4.

### Tier Three: Apple Cider

Entering back into the drinks category, I have to say, I can not have a successful fall without having apple cider at least once. Apple cider is sweet and tastes crisp, almost like it matches the newly windy weather of September. It can be served hot or cold depending on your mood. There are even websites online with recipes to make your own, though I have to admit, I've never tried to make my own because it seems complicated. But the option is out there if you want to try! Apple cider also goes great with pretty much every other fall-themed food, I would say best with apple cider doughnuts. The reason it ranks in the middle is because it can be very hit-or-miss with people. Some find it too bitter and some find it too sweet, so there's a middle group that likes it. I believe there are other foods that are enjoyed by a larger amount of people which is why I put apple cider at Tier 3.



### Tier Two: Pillsbury Halloween Cookies



This one might seem unusual but I'm putting Pillsbury Halloween Cookies at Tier 2. Making these have been a signature part of my autumn bucket list for years now. I genuinely can not watch a Halloween movie without them, whether they are cooked or just dough. I stand by my statement that I could have a package of these cookies raw because of how good the dough is. Because the cookies are relatively small you can have several in one sitting, and they only take 10 minutes to bake. I was debating making these Tier 1 but then I saw that these cookies aren't allergen friendly, knocking them down one tier.

### Tier One: Pumpkin Muffins

For Tier 1 can we have a drum roll, please ... I believe pumpkin muffins/bread are the best fall food. Now that may seem a little generic, but I have my reasonings. First of all, you can make them from home or you can buy them if you so please. They're also customizable in terms of making allergy swaps and even add-ons. Personally, I love a good pumpkin bread with cream cheese, but I've seen people make chocolate chip pumpkin muffins, cinnamon pumpkin bread and some people even put coffee in it. If you want to make it more of a dessert, you can put some frosting on top to convert it into more of a cupcake. I had pumpkin bread the other day that had a glaze over it, and I honestly think it was the best pumpkin bread I have ever had. They're easy to make in terms of steps and cooking time, and there are not a ton of ingredients you need to buy. You can even adjust the pumpkin taste if you don't like how strong the flavor is just by adding less pumpkin puree. Overall, muffins/bread are a delicious and common food that is perfect for any occasion which is why I believe it is the best treat for autumn.



# How To Find The Major That Sparks Your Interest

By Kaitlyn Conroy  
Contributing Writer

When I applied to Fairfield almost two years ago, I sent my application in with an intention to major in Biology. I wanted to become a Physician Assistant. It sounded like the perfect job for me; not a doctor but not a nurse, an ability to learn multiple specializations and more flexibility. I loved watching Doctor Pimple Popper videos and hoped to go into Dermatology. I had it all planned out.

However, during my senior year of high school I took AP Biology. Now it was an interesting class, but it was incredibly hard. I realized that I could not handle the amount of science classes I had to take with a Biology major. If I was struggling with this, imagine how college science classes would be. I decided to switch my major from Biology to Public Health. I did absolutely no research on what a Public Health major would entail, I just figured it would be the same as health sciences. I was wrong.

The summer before my first semester at Fairfield I would research the different accommodations to help me achieve my goal of becoming a PA. At school I joined the Health Professions Program and the PA club. Since I was technically a Public Health major I had to take both Anatomy and Physiology and a Public Health introduction class.

The first month of school, I was miserable. I absolutely hated anatomy. I dreaded going to class. I was completely uninterested by the subject itself. The public health class was just as uninteresting for me, as well. How could I become a PA if I was so uninterested in science? The answer was simple: maybe the medical field just was not for me. Maybe, it was not my dream. Physician Assistant sounds nice on paper, but it was not in my cards. I liked the sound of it. I liked how it made me look "smart" when I told people about my plans for the future. I enjoyed the feeling of impressing family members and family friends. I wanted to make my family proud of me. I felt that entering the medical field would achieve all of that. However, deep down it made me miserable and upset. So, what was my dream?

I decided to unenroll from the Public Health major, and I changed to Undeclared College of Arts and Sciences. I had always

had a deep interest in the humanities. More specifically, history and writing. Growing up I was heavily interested in different historical events. My dad and I would watch documentaries for fun, and even now I still enjoy a good historical documentary.

As I got older I started to realize how I excelled at my history classes, and how it came to me so easily. I used to wish that math and science came easy to me like history and English did. I had a great history teacher in high school who broadened my love for the subject.

On top of my love for history, I had a great appreciation for literature. I have always been a heavy reader, ever since I was a little girl. I find it so easy to get lost in a book. Since I read so much, my imagination was always active. I was constantly creating little stories and writing them down in journals. Writing happens to be one of my favorite pastimes. I find it so calming to journal at night before I go to sleep; just jotting my thoughts down made me happy.

In October of that year, I had realized that my passion was not science or the medical field, but it was the art of writing and the study of history that engaged me the most. Yes, science is interesting and scientists are incredible, but it just was never for me.

I decided to take classes that encapsulated my true interests. I began to look forward to going to class in the morning because of how interesting they were. Just recently I made the decision to declare a double major in History and English. I chose to follow my interests rather than what I thought I was interested in. I realized that I was only hurting myself by trying to study something that didn't engage me.

Following my passions has made me a happier student. Yes, the work will always be hard, but it is rewarding in the end. At least I am getting something out of what I am learning now, rather than taking courses that I dislike.

My advice, to you my reader, would be to major in something that sparks interest and curiosity in your mind. If you are interested in math, go for it! If you are interested in computers and technology, follow that interest! I truly believe that we will all find our careers, and maybe even make our dreams come true, if we don't hold back and learn what we want to learn.

# The Sad Disappearance Of the Salad Robots

By Alexandra Apricena  
Contributing Writer

Do you have a favorite location on campus to eat lunch in between classes, or maybe stop by for dinner? Mine is The Stag Snack Bar located on the main level in the Barone Campus Center, home to handcrafted wraps, deliciously greasy foods, quick grab-n-go snacks and meals and of course, scrumptious salads.

What is missing this year though, are two of my favorite features The Stag had to offer. The rotating restaurant and Sally the salad-making robot have been removed this year. I am a junior here at Fairfield and for the past two years, I have genuinely enjoyed trying new foods that I might not have chosen to eat had they not been offered in the rotating restaurant. They had a selection ranging from Italian delicacies to Asian cuisine, to Mexican tapas and so many more options to choose from. At the beginning of each week, there would be a sign describing the food selection and the various ways you could make it unique just for your taste. I think it is extremely disappointing that this section of The Stag has been removed because it was so loved by so many students, faculty and staff.

This year what has replaced the rotating restaurant is a

regular old salad bar. Now do not get me wrong, I love salad and I have enjoyed it many times already this school year along with the pleasant staff who put together the delicious salads. However, last year our salad station was Sally the salad-making robot, created by DoorDash, which had up to 22 ingredients to create completely unique salads. There was something so special and individual about choosing exactly what you wanted on your salad and then watching a machine create it for you, it was completely futuristic. Unfortunately, this year Sally has been retired and taken out of The Stag. I was sad to see the salad robots go since I used them so often, so I needed to do some investigation.

After a quick Google search, I found plenty of answers to my questions about the discontinuation of Sally. According to [restaurantbusinessonline.com](http://restaurantbusinessonline.com), Sally the salad-making robot was not meeting the standards that DoorDash needed it to, which is why they have chosen to retire it. I think it is great that The Stag has taken steps to replace our salad station, but it is just extremely saddening that it needed to take the place of the beloved rotating restaurant which I, along with so many other students, loved so much!



The salad robots now sit, sad and abandoned in the hallway of the Barone Campus Center. They are missed.



New Student Leaders work hard to welcome the Class of 2026 to campus. Their work is important to the success of first year students.

# "New Student Leaders Make The Fairfield World Go Round"

By Claire DeMarco  
Contributing Writer

As our Fairfield University campus becomes less like a school and more like home the longer we spend here, we tend to forget the moments that made up our first few Fairfield experiences. The tours we took as high school juniors become a blur, we don't remember the friends we made at Quad Fest and we couldn't describe what we ate at that very first Tully meal.

One thing I know that I personally don't remember much of is my own summer orientation or First Year Experience class. The constant nerves that plague your first semester in college, as well as a "grown-up" reluctance to be told what to do, take some of the most influential moments of your college career (that being, the first moments of your college career) and make them awkward memories you easily shove aside.

My summer experience as a Logistics New Student Leader changed that mindset, and I can't believe I didn't take the time to appreciate all that goes into those first few moments you spend at Fairfield.

Whether it's the faces greeting you at the front gate at seven in the morning on the day of First-Year Orientation in June, or your FYE teacher you text moments before an 8 a.m. because you don't know how to work the printer, our New Student Leaders make the Fairfield world go round.

We arrived this summer feeling almost like we were back on campus for the first time. Random roommates, 7 a.m. wake-ups and the initial shock of just how many turkeys really do live on this campus. We embarked on about 10 days of training before our first orientation — living every day with a constant countdown to how many days away orientation was, and how many nerves we were all suppressing.

As a Logistics New Student Leader, I worked separately with a small group doing behind-the-scenes work: signage, schedules, room keys and welcome materials. As I spent my days learning the ins and outs of this campus, I truly watched in awe as our Team 26 (what this year's group of New Student Leaders were called) rose to every challenge presented to them.

To be a New Student Leader is a lot more than learning how to command the attention of students, give a good tour or help a student in their course selection. It's learning how to be that shoulder to cry on, that encyclopedia of free and infinite Fairfield University knowledge and that always positive smiling face.

It's learning the true weight of being not just the first person to greet someone as they enter one of the largest transitional pe-

riods of their life but also willingly being the hand they can hold that guides them to the point we had all made it to (turning around the next year and wanting to be that same leader for the next set of first years).

The teaching New Student Leaders didn't just survive the orientations, despite the many hiccups and many, many inches of rainfall, but they thrived. They laughed, learned, made jokes with their students and made friendships with each other along the way.

After two weeks of 12-hour days and running two orientations, what did our New Student Leaders do? Immediately started a countdown to move in, which brought us all back to campus about 10 days early. Again, as a Logistics New Student Leader, I dealt with the setup of Campus as our teaching NSLs began the task of preparing to not only take their own classes but run their own classes.

The training this time around was not easy. Working through difficult situations with each other and their leadership team brought out emotions in everybody. The tricky balance of becoming an all-purpose resource for an entire class of students became more real and more pressing with each day that move-in approached. And each and every one of them rose to it, each and every time.

Team 26 NSLs have all the stress of clubs and academics, and all the personal stresses that come with being a college student and willingly turn it all off at a moment's notice when their student needs them. Why? Because they care. They get stressed, they get tired, they get understandably agitated — but as someone who saw it in their eyes for all those 12-hour days ... they care, beyond just a job title. They care as a mentor, as a teacher and as a friend.

Becoming a New Student Leader is not for everyone. I'll be the first to admit it, because frankly, choosing to teach an FYE class wasn't for me (hence the logistics part).

But when asked about what club at Fairfield made my experience here better, Team 26 is the obvious answer. Not only because of my time on it but because I can sit here and appreciate all that went into making my first year what it was, even when the term Team 25 would have meant nothing to me.

I have enormous pride to have been an LNSL, and the positive impact that our team left on our Fairfield community. This entire campus, and every loved one w

herever home may be, can rest easier at night knowing that our Class of 2026 is in the hands of the most capable, most caring and most devoted group.

## The Quest For The Best Campus Bathroom

By Brooke Lathe  
Vine Editor

I'm no engineer or architect, but I feel that every time a building is created, the bathrooms are always an afterthought, and wrongfully so. There are so many factors that are not taken into consideration in terms of restroom design, thus leading to a poor, recurring experience. As I left The Mirror office to use the restroom in the Barone Campus Center, my annoyed internal dialogue inspired me to write an article ranking the facilities across campus and how incredibly their designs vary because this is important stuff!

### Barone Campus Center

Starting at the root of it all, the BCC's lower level bathroom has got to be the bottom of the barrel. The hallway always smells funky, so before you even get to the facilities, your experience is already tainted. I usually use the first stall in any bathroom (because I once heard it was the cleanest), so I automatically turn the corner and enter my chosen one, and every time I always forget that it flushes with incredible anger as it splashes and roars loudly for a minute straight. The door also lacks a hook to hold my backpack or purse, so I am forced to leave my belongings on the bacteria-filled floor. I also don't know whether or not people just forget to flush or there is a problem with the flushing system in this specific bathroom, but there is always at least one toilet that has leftovers from the last user. However, the worst part of this bathroom is the width of the door cracks for each stall. There has not been a single time that I've used this toilet and haven't made direct eye contact with another student or faculty member. 0/10, someone please fix it.

Rating:  
0/10

### Bannow Science Center

Bannow is probably the most unsettling bathroom there is on campus, as it reminds me of Regis Hall bathrooms. The yellow and gray tiling proves the outdated build along with the strange sink and mirror setup. Although I appreciate the small door-to-stall ratio, the creepy vibes are not enough to bump up its score. 3/10

Rating:  
3/10

### The Library

The library bathroom is okay. It is decently sized and it's clean for the most part. However, I just highly dislike using it because every time I leave, all of the students studying look over in my direction. I know it's just because they hear the door closing which draws their attention, but my mind can't help but think that they are all judging me or heard me flush the toilet. 5/10.

Rating:  
5/10

### The RecPlex

The RecPlex has numerous stalls to accommodate the large mass of students who use its facilities. It's always clean and is in a hidden hallway so the area is more private. While I am partial to the upstairs bathroom, I still like the one in the basement because I adore the locker room (it reminds me of my high school). But the door-between-wall ratio is much larger downstairs and as I have said multiple times: this should be a crime! Also, I prefer sinks with a handle because half the time, the automatic sensor doesn't see my hand and I have to restart it 6 times to finish my process. 7/10 for upstairs, 5/10 for downstairs.

Rating:  
5&7/10

### The Media Center

This is what I would call a pretty average bathroom. There is nothing too fancy about it, yet nothing terrible either. It has a good amount of stalls and vanity space which I appreciate, and the doors are cracked only slightly, therefore, reducing your bold eye contact time. Honestly, if I'm in need of a bathroom when I'm in the media center, I just wait until I get back to my room since I am a two-minute walk from my own personal, clean space. 7/10.

Rating:  
7/10

### Dolan School of Business

It's nice, but as it should be since it's very new as well! The modern look, vanity space and full-length mirror are all great additions, but the bright floor panels make it easy to see stains and it's littered with toilet paper, and that's just unsettling. If it were cleaned more often, it would be top 2. 8/10.

Rating:  
8/10

### Canisius Hall

My biggest takeaway: the doors don't have a gap! Each stall has a hanger for your bags, there are two soap dispensers so you don't have to reach over another person when washing your hands, and there is a sanitary napkin dispenser for use. Also, there are only paper towels instead of blow dryers, which I prefer because apparently, those machines are awfully dirty. The only odd thing is that you have to push a button on the side of the handlebar to flush the toilet, and it is almost impossible to do it with your foot (the sanitary way), so unfortunately what would've been a perfect score, is knocked down a few pegs due to this. 8/10.

Rating:  
8/10

### Donnarumma Hall

Instead of having two bathrooms, male and female, the first floor of Donnarumma has two rooms: one gender neutral with stalls and one private gender neutral. Throughout the rest of the building, they are gendered. Both restrooms have locks for comfort and safety, which I really appreciate and the area itself is incredibly spacious. Nothing really else to say, I'm thankful for a nice area in an academic building I'm in two days out of the week. 9/10.

Rating:  
9/10

### Egan School of Nursing

Since the School of Nursing is one of the most recently renovated academic buildings on campus, the expectations are rightfully high — and thankfully, it meets them. Egan is almost luxurious in its design, it's clean and modern and has a very simple layout. Everything is new and works properly, it's an easy 10/10

Rating:  
10/10

Hopefully, this has not only given some Stags a good idea of which places to best relieve themselves, but also potential bathroom designers an extensive what to do and what not to do list. I am definitely thankful for the numerous possibilities on campus; especially since I didn't even include all of the dormitories, Admissions, athletic facilities or McAuliffe (my apologies, but even if it is the nicest bathroom on campus, I will not be making that hike). But for heaven's sake, someone please replace the doors in the BCC!



# HALLOWEENTOWN

*THE VINE*  
CREATED BY:  
BROOKE LATHE

# "A LITTLE PARTY NEVER KILLED NOBODY": PRES BALL 2022

By Brooke Lathe  
Head Vine Editor, Copy Editor

With my burnt orange autumn nails freshly done, gaudy gold earrings dangling in my face and my all-white high-top converse tightly secured, I was overly excited and incredibly prepared to take

on the university's annual Presidential Ball! Although the night seemed to go by insanely fast, I can easily say that I had a wonderful time.

My night started out in the living room of my Barnyard Manor apartment with my seven other roommates where we blasted our karaoke to take

speakers with our favorite party tunes, put on our makeup with the use of our luxurious bathroom counter space and chatted about what we thought the night's adventures would consist of. Once we were all dolled up, we went outside to our backyard, took an absurd amount of pictures and talked with our neighbors – which was my “high” in “high, low, weirdo” at our roommate’s brunch the next day (happy birthday, Katie!). But as soon as it was 8 p.m., we made sure to rush up to Bellarmine Hall to enter the scene so we didn’t miss any action. Let me just say, this year’s commute was so much better now that I knew to wear sneakers instead of heels – lesson learned!

The entry process was incredibly smooth; there were multiple workers that could scan your ticket, there was no line and there were numerous people directing you once you got to the end of the gates. The venue was gorgeous per usual, with a grand white tent stretched along the back of Bellarmine Hall. There were countless tables to use if needed, pretty colored lights and multiple tables of food that partly surrounded the

theme of “The Great Gatsby,” but were also just some Stag favorites. The menu included mac and cheese bites, chicken nuggets, fries, mozzarella sticks, spring rolls, Philly cheesesteak spring rolls and pizza quiches. For dessert they had mini assorted cupcakes, petit fours and black and white cookies, which I chose as my sweet treat – it was so soft! Aramark, the company that catered (and runs our on-campus dining hall), also provided students with a gluten-free option upon request which I thought was a nice inclusion for those with dietary restrictions.

Of course, my friends and I were smart enough to also remember to take our picture with President Nemeč and his lovely wife before they left, but also before we were sweaty and flushed from all of our dancing. When we made it to the top of the Hall, the President greeted us with a nice smile and handshake. The photographers were very understanding as they took pictures with both their professional cameras and our iPhones so that we could have multiple options to choose from. One of them also gave me some tips so that our pictures

would come out the best that they could (which at the moment I was a little offended, but now I appreciate it)!

My friends and I finally got to the dance floor, where we went to the outer part of the barricade so that we could exit the space easily, have enough dancing room and hear the music. It was a much better experience than 2021 when I was in the middle of the chaos and people were pushing me, stepping on my toes and pulling my hair. So, you can find me in the same spot at next year’s Pres Ball! The playlist was a good mix, with some newer releases by Lizzo and Harry Styles, but also older classics such as “What Makes You Beautiful” and “Gold Digger.” I was very pleased to get a handful of Mr. 305 songs in there as well!

I left the dance floor with a smile on my face and a loaded camera roll filled with unforgettable memories. It was honestly an experience I wouldn’t have changed in any way, and I already am looking forward to the 2023 President’s Ball.

But for now, Red Sea Madness has a tough act to follow!



Brooke Lathe/ The Mirror

Getting ready with my roommates before the dance!

## HALLOWEEN MOVIES YOU SHOULD BE “DYING” TO WATCH

By Giana Russo  
Staff Photographer

Need to get into the Halloween spirit? What better way than to watch some Halloween-themed movies? If you’re not into horror films, don’t worry. There are certainly some “scary” movies that don’t quite live up to their genre. From children’s classics to the newer thrillers, here’s a list of movies that will make you forget this past summer and dive head-first into spooky season.

The first movie (a must-watch, in my opinion) is “Halloween.” Obviously, the next 13 sequels and remakes are optional, because nothing can beat the original. Though it lacks that true spine-chilling energy that most horror movies today have, “Halloween” is all about reliving a classic movie and set of characters. For those of you who haven’t seen it, the film revolves around Michael Myers, who killed his sister when he was just six years old. Years later, he escapes the mental facility he was placed in and terrorizes the protagonist, Laurie. It’s a great slasher film that takes place on the night of Halloween itself, so it’s perfect for an Oct. 31 watch party.

The next movie is also a classic, which also has a new sequel (it recently became available on Sept. 30 on Disney+ only!). “Hocus Pocus” is a more playful idea of a scary movie, appropriate for kids and revolving around three witches seeking eternal youth. It is up to the main characters, Max, his love interest Allison and his sister Dani to stop the witches from stealing children’s souls to become immortal. It features a star studded cast, with headliners such as Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker. The movie itself has amazing music and a gripping plot that anyone, whether a kid or an adult, can enjoy.

Anyone who has seen a Tim Burton movie knows the man does Halloween right. With so many movies to choose from, I went with “Corpse Bride,” the gothic claymation romance.

There are barely any Halloween movies about love and passion such as this. Victor, the main protagonist, is betrothed to Victoria. In the process of preparing for the wedding, Victor is taken to the land of the dead by Emily, who was murdered following her wedding and intends to marry Victor. With familiar voices done by Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, “Corpse Bride” is extremely well done and will draw in any watcher with a spooky atmosphere and ghostly music.

“Scream” is another Halloween classic. Depicting a perfect slasher-comedy, “Scream” takes the classic ideology of a horror movie and puts a hilarious, and yet ultimately scary, spin on it. Ghostface, who has become an icon during the Halloween season, returns a year after Sidney Prescott’s mother is murdered, only to attack Sidney and her friends. The girl herself must figure out who the killer is behind the mask, all while dealing with their morbid sense of humor. It’s a great movie to watch with a group of friends,

especially if you’ve seen the traditional costume and never watched the film itself.

For a more serious horror movie, I recommend watching “The Blair Witch Project.” This movie is filmed as found footage, as three students attempt to record a documentary about the Blair Witch, a local legend.

The movie begins fairly tame, but as it progresses, the viewer watches the three main characters get terrifyingly lost in the woods. Their camping becomes even more horrifying when they begin hearing noises in the middle of the night, finding odd rock and branch structures outside their camp, and eventually losing one of their own. I would suggest watching this with friends and looking up an explanation of the ending if you don’t quite understand it, because it will certainly keep you from sleeping that night.

Returning back to more pleasant movies, almost everyone I know has seen “Hallow-

entown” when they were young. On her thirteenth birthday, Marnie discovers that she is a witch and is taken to Hallowentown, where her grandmother (also a witch) lives.

The town is an entirely different world, filled with supernatural characters. Marnie and her two siblings, Dylan and Sophie, must save the town of monsters from the evil that could forever destroy Hallowentown. It’s always fun to relive those memories of Halloween as a child, from costume ideas to trick or treating. “Hallowentown” allows us to be transported to a simpler time, one where CGI was clearly not used on Disney Channel.

Finally, I decided to include one of the most terrifying movies I’ve ever seen, “Annabelle: Creation.” This film is technically the sequel to “Annabelle,” and came out three years after the first movie. However, the story told is a prequel, so it can be watched as a stand-alone. Halloween offers plenty of creatures to be afraid of, but a haunted doll is definitely high on the list. This film chronicles the story of a doll created by the Mullin family, whose daughter Annabelle was killed in a car accident at seven years old.

After twelve years, the married couple welcomes six orphans and a nun to their farmhouse after the closing of their orphanage. One of the girls, Janice, is lured to a room in the house, though she was told it was strictly off-limits, and discovers Annabelle. In releasing her, Janice does not realize she has released a powerful and terrifying demon possessing the porcelain doll. Make sure you don’t watch this movie alone, and maybe keep the lights on. Trust me.

With October just beginning and fall break next week, there’s no better way to pass the time than with a movie marathon!

Whether you like scary or silly, there are plenty of Halloween films for you. Just make sure to stock up on candy before bingeing.





# THE STORY OF MIGRANT CHILDREN THROUGH PAINT

By Abigail White  
Assistant Vine Editor

“Painting the Border: A Child’s Voice,” an art exhibit that tells the stories of young migrant children, is currently on display here at Fairfield. The artwork currently hangs in the Dimenna-Nyselius Library, the fourth place this exhibit has visited.

I was fortunate enough to see the exhibit for myself and attend the opening lecture, conducted by the university’s Center for Social Impact and guest speaker, Diana Barnes, Ph.D. Barnes is a professor of Spanish at Skidmore College and has done extensive work with migrant children on the U.S. – Mexico border.

In her Lecture, she shared the origins of this exhibit as well as much of her work in helping migrants. Starting as an event put together by Barnes, in collaboration with World Peace Organization representative and author, Lucero de Alva, this project was meant to offer some fun for some of the youngest migrants in a safe space. “Painting the Border” has given a voice to these young children affected by the border crisis. These 32 children who partici-

pated were among the 71,000 people stranded in Mexican border cities from 2019 to 2021. In these paintings, they share their stories.

In her lecture, Barnes explained that the children were given one prompt as guidance of what to paint. That prompt was this: “What do you think about the border?”

As I walked through the exhibit, I found many different answers to this prompt in these children’s paintings. One painting by Alejandra Larios Morales, Guatemala (12-years-old) depicts a heart, one half black with the letter “G” painted on it, the other red, with the letter “M.” The caption of this painting reads, “Confusion, confusion. The black heart represents sadness for my mom who is still in Guatemala, ‘G.’ And the red heart represents the happiness that I have being in Mexico.” Another painting, by David Pérez, Guatemala (11-years-old), depicts a driving bus and the caption reads: “The bus with migrants. I like pizza. I don’t like Fanta.”

No matter what was in the painting, there was honesty in these children’s stories and experiences. Each child paints with a unique take on the prompt. Some paint pictures of the

wall, expressing their negative feelings toward it. Others paint their houses or beautiful landscapes, describing their likes and dislikes. Some, such as the painting of the heart, take on a more metaphorical meaning. No matter what is painted, we see that the border has affected each and every child involved in the project.

One painting in particular that caught my eye, and that ended up being the topic of discussion later, was a painting by Brithany Paula Hernández, Ciudad Juárez (18-years-old). Brithany’s painting clearly depicts a wall, one side full of people trying to cross a river, the other side lined with green grass and a looming city in the background. In this painting, we see people struggling to swim across this river as well as violence and death on the other side of the border. The caption of this painting reads, “My drawing represents Mexicans trying to get to a better place in their lives, but what is sad is that there are people who discriminate against them, mentally ill people, who are killing them.”

After we had all viewed this painting, we were broken up into small groups to discuss its implications. The

Community Advocate and Relationship Educators (CARE) Team did an excellent job in leading us in a discussion about borders, perspective and immigration. I had the chance to share my own perspectives on the painting as well as hear new perspectives from the rest of the group. We discussed borders in our own lives as well as what we can do to cross borders to help others.

It was eye-opening to hear the voices of young children in these paintings. It amazed and saddened me to know that even at a young age, these children are aware of what is going on. Too young to even know of the policy that affects immigration, these children are aware of the inequities and discrimination they are faced with.

After this civic reflection, Barnes openly and honestly shared her work with migrants at the U.S. – Mexico border. She shared her personal experiences in helping migrants on the border as well as many horror stories of the mistreatment of migrants in shelters.

What really struck me about Barnes’ lecture was when she explained that the children were astonished that their stories could cross the

border but they could not. In this project, Barnes has made it her mission to be the guardian of these children’s stories, sharing them and educating others on the border crisis.

When we view this exhibit and enter the minds of young children who have been affected by the border crisis, we become the guardians of their stories as well.

With that, I encourage each and every Fairfield University student to experience and reflect upon this beautiful exhibit of migrant children’s stories, dreams, hopes and fears. “Painting the Border” will remain in the Library until Dec. 17.



# Stags Scream “Ciao” From Florence, Italy!

By James Vinluan  
Contributing Writer

Studying abroad is one of the best decisions I ever made at Fairfield University. While it did seem daunting, traveling all the way to Europe and not seeing my family until December, the experiences with my friends and the ease of travel have been amazing. It truly is nothing like I would ever get back at Fairfield.

Right now, I am abroad in Florence, Italy, and it is such a wonderful place. Everything is close enough where you can walk and the people I have met here are so kind, and they make me truly feel at home. It was hard adjusting to the pace of life, solely being on my own, but our orientation was enough for me to get on my feet because the time and direction allowed me to properly acclimate.

Of course, there was a lot of trial and error with finding my

classes, cooking my own food and figuring out how to plan trips to places like Germany and France. However, I eventually made it through and I am currently having the best time of my life. Living in Florence is especially amazing because of the natural beauty paired with the old architecture – it makes walking 20 minutes to class worth it.

When applying to study abroad, I was also given the opportunity to have an internship, and being an International Business major, I of course had to do it. To be honest, it is more work than I pictured going into it; I have to go to the office, work, walk back to the apartment, quickly eat lunch then go to class, which makes it seem like I can’t really enjoy my usual day to day because I always have somewhere to go. Not to mention my internship is a 35-minute walk each way, which definitely eats away at my day, but I couldn’t be more grateful for the opportunity and lessons I am learning. Of course, it’s an amazing experience to add to my resume as well.

When I do have time to go out to dinner and attend other events with friends, which will be one of the highlights of the whole experience. Florence is surprisingly a lot more affordable to eat out than I thought, so I have been doing it quite often (I will say, it does add up quickly, however). The fresh food paired with the right wine is absolutely amazing.

Between grocery shopping, eating out, planning trips, and paying for fees that I didn’t know I was supposed to pay for on those trips, I already spent way more money than I would’ve liked and I still have two and a half months left.

Besides the cultural life, the academic world has been incredible too. So far the teachers are amazing and so fun to talk to, and most of the classes involve an interactive experience. Sometimes, I have to go around the city and take photos for my photography class, and soon, when I take my wine class, I’ll have to visit some vineyards and go tasting with my professors and



Photo Contributed by James Vinluan

Fairfield students give a “stags up” across the world.

classmates.

For those who are thinking about studying abroad, I strongly recommend it and can’t emphasize enough the fact that if you are able and willing to go outside your comfort zone, do it 100%! Definitely make sure you have enough money: and make a very strict and thought-out budget depending on what you want to get out of this experience.

Once you get there, just go with the flow, see everything and talk to everyone because you never know when you’ll ever get this experience again.

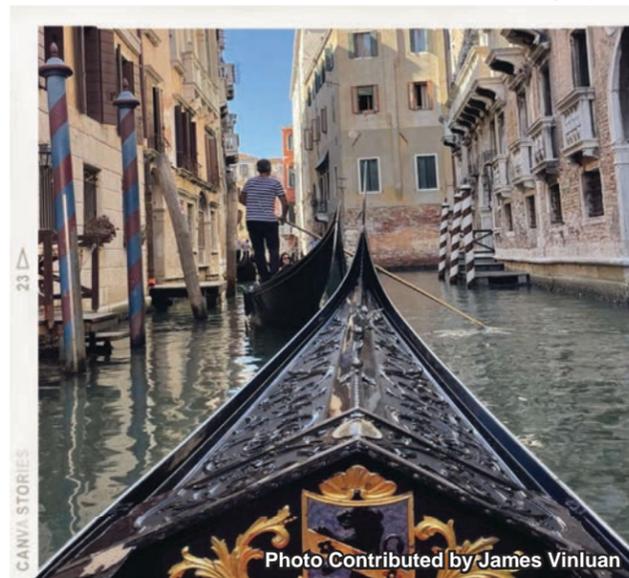


Photo Contributed by James Vinluan

Florence is filled with so many activities, a boat ride being one!

# SEASONAL SOUPS THAT TAKE YOUR "BROTH" AWAY



By Madeline West  
Editor-In-Chief

From the days getting shorter, the air getting crisper and the aura getting spookier, the season of Fall is upon us. And with autumn comes seasonal food; warm, gooey and nap-inducing. Most notably and my easy favorite of the selection is soup as they are the epitome of Fall. Soups are the perfect way to cozy up on a cold night.

There are so many different soups to try and make with ingredients you all probably have on hand in the kitchen. I have been on a journey of trial and error trying to perfect different kinds of popular soups, from scratch. Here are

some of the results and my takes on how they came out!

### Chicken Noodle

Chicken noodle soup is such a classic and a crowd favorite. It is very basic with regards to ingredients and adheres to even picky eaters. Now I will say, I am not the best at cooking meats, so premade chicken also works.

Or if you're lucky like me, your roommate will cook your chicken for you. The key to a good chicken noodle soup is the flavor. It is important to not go overboard but to add enough to give it a little spice. I used oregano, salt, pepper and basil to my liking. Then I added carrots and celery. The cook time was only 30 minutes. A crucial part of

chicken noodle soup – the noodle! The shape you choose honestly makes or breaks the soup. I used a classic egg noodle, but I would also recommend rigatoni or orzo if you want a similar texture to the rice.

Next, add your pasta and let it simmer for 10 more minutes. Toast some bread or pull out some crackers for dipping. In 40 minutes you will have a warm simple soup ready to serve. You cannot go wrong with chicken noodle in my mind. While it is not my favorite, it still hits the spot every time.

### Vegetable Soup

Vegetable soup is a great meal to make because you can really customize it to your liking by adding your favorite veggies that burst with flavor. With that being said I added my favorite vegetables: onions, carrots, celery, beans, peppers and corn. The prep time is longer than chicken noodle as you will be chopping a lot.

Your eyes will also water while cutting the onions. Don't worry though because the blend of all the veggies will make your house smell amazing. You will let the soup simmer along with various spices and broth for an hour and twenty minutes before you can serve it. This hearty soup is best paired with pita bread to dip in my opinion. Veggie

soup is great because you can mass meal prep with it by chopping as many vegetables as you want and freezing the extra. It is a great soup to boost your immune system and get your daily serving of greens in. The blend of all the ingredients creates an amazing broth flavor. I felt so much better after making veggie soup one Sunday when I was feeling a bit under the weather. I would also recommend sprinkling some parmesan cheese over the top.

### French Onion

Now, this is a personal favorite of mine. I love french onion soup, but I never had the chance to make it from scratch. It was a bit challenging but it came out pretty solid for my first time attempting it. Remember when I said your eyes would tear up chopping onions and making vegetable soup? Well, it is nothing compared to the onions you will cut for this soup.

I made enough soup for seven girls so I cut about eight onions. I literally put on goggles to stop tearing up. However, then you have to caramelize the onions which take quite a bit of time but the smell is incredible. You then add the broth and seasoning which was easy to follow. The next roadblock was the fact I didn't have the proper french onion soup bowls the recipe recom-

mended.

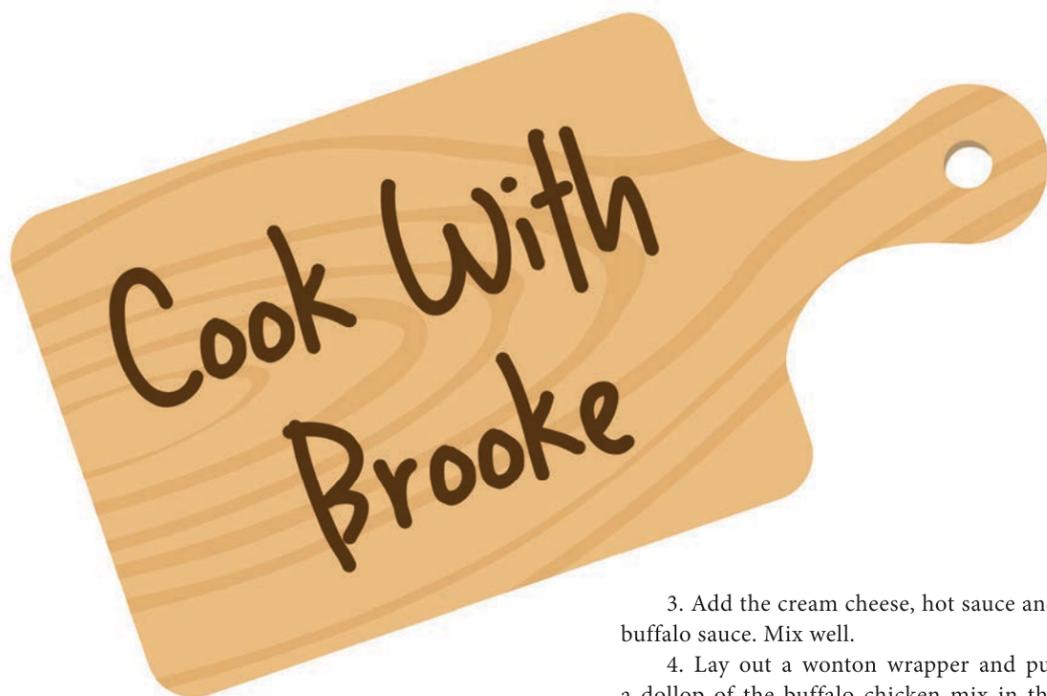
When you place the french onion in the oven along with the cheese it is supposed to have a hardened, almost golden top. While my cereal bowls didn't work quite as well, the finishing was still very good. I almost wish I had a little blow torch because I think that would have made the same finish as the ceramic bowls the recipe wanted. I served the soup with toasted baguettes and it was incredible.

### Butternut Squash

What better way to get into the fall spirit than making an autumnal-flavored butternut squash soup? It felt daunting to make this soup, but it ended up being quite easy and turned out great. After letting the butternut squash cook and simmer you have to have a blender, so make sure you have that or you will be like me asking your college neighbors.

Then, you can season it to your liking. Mine had just enough kick and sweetness that really made me feel like I was eating autumn itself. I made grilled cheese sandwiches on good seeded bread for dipping. This soup was not my favorite, but definitely worth making.

Be sure to give these soups a try! They will not only be wonderfully delicious but they will get you in the true fall spirit.



By Brooke Lathe  
Head Vine Editor, Copy Editor

My absolute favorite appetizer someone can make for a party or an event is easily buffalo chicken dip.

There is just something so mouthwatering about the shredded chicken, hot sauce and cheesiness that encourages me to eat an entire dish of it at once.

But because I probably shouldn't eat a whole side dish and bag of tortilla chips for dinner, I thought I would turn this delicious craving into a more acceptable entree: buffalo chicken wontons!

Since I do not eat dairy (lactose intolerant problems), I've grown both accustomed to, and fond of, dairy-free substitutions, so I will provide both a regular and alternative recipe to recreate what has been a very tasty and easy late-night meal.

Directions:

1. Open and drain the can of chicken.
2. Empty the contents into a large bowl and shred the chunks into smaller pieces.

3. Add the cream cheese, hot sauce and buffalo sauce. Mix well.

4. Lay out a wonton wrapper and put a dollop of the buffalo chicken mix in the middle.

5. Wet your finger with water and glaze the edges.

Grab the two sides that are diagonal from each other and bring them to the middle.

6. Turn your stove on to medium heat and add about 1 inch of oil to a pan.

7. Gently place the wontons onto the skillet in small batches and let them cook for a minute or two on each side until they are golden brown.

8. Put the finished wontons on a paper towel to dry and cool.

To make this unique dish a little bit healthier, I would add some veggies to the side, such as celery or carrots.

Be sure to have a small cup of ranch or blue cheese dressing (Hidden Valley plant-powered ranch is awesome for my dairy-free readers) for dipping, and you are all ready to impress your roommates and parents!

## Ingredients

- 9 oz. can of Swanson White Chicken Breast
- 4 oz. Cream Cheese (Tofutti Brand for dairy free)
- 2 tbsp. Franks Red Hot
- 2 tbsp. Archie Moore's Buffalo Sauce
- 1 package of Twin Dragon Wonton Wrappers
- 1 cup of Vegetable Oil

# 5 Seconds Of Summer Exceeds Expectations with "5SOS5"

By Abigail White  
Assistant Vine Editor

It seems to be the season of new music. With big names like Taylor Swift, The 1975 and more releasing albums, music lovers have a lot to look forward to this fall. However, there is one recently released album that has gained my specific attention and excitement: 5 Seconds of Summer's fifth studio album, "5SOS5."

It has been just over two years since the Australian pop rock band, composed of Luke Hemmings, Calum Hood, Michael Clifford and Ashton Irwin, released new music. If you are like me, you have been following this band since their early days with One Direction, and have been waiting all summer for the release of this album.

The band has been teasing the album all summer, releasing singles like "Complete Mess," "Take My Hand" and "Blender" as well as playing some unreleased songs on their 2022 Take My Hand Tour.

Released just last week, on Sept. 23, "5SOS5" stuns fans with its dynamic sound, explosive instrumentals and upbeat tempos. In a message to fans on Instagram, the band explains this album as "a journey of friendship, brotherhood and exploration of self-identity." They continue "we entered this era focused on creative freedom and a liberation of the band's truest voice to date."

Themes of growing up, maturing, friendship, honest emotions and self-reflection are most present in this album. In a note to fans, written via their enhanced Spotify album (with commentary on every song), the band claims, "Many songs on the album reflect on metamorphosis, moving forward by getting through the obstacles that have been stuck in your way for a long time."

This idea of moving forward and overcoming ever-present obstacles is showcased in many songs, including one of my favorites from the

album: "Caramel." A song of lost love, the lyrics describe the obstacle of a changing dynamic in a relationship. The band sings, "It used to be easy// Now you can't even look me in the eye// A visceral feeling that I can never leave behind." It is not just the lyrics, but also the melody of this song that captivated me. From the first listen, I have become addicted, constantly playing this song on repeat.

Another one of my favorite songs off the album has to be "Bad Omens." In a message from their enhanced album on Spotify, the band claims this song to be one of their favorites as well and writes "I love how big this gets with the strings at the rising chord in the chorus is really cool, it's a beautiful song."

Again, there is something addicting in the melodies of this song. From the beautiful vocals to the complex harmonies to the incredible build-up at the end, there is nothing not to like about this song. There is an enchanting and surreal feel to this song, as though when listening, you are inside the music itself, completely surrounded by its sounds.

Songs such as "Easy For You To Say" and "Red Line" pays homage to the early lives of the band members. With a "coming-of-age" feel, these songs focus on growing up and the nostalgia that is often felt when thinking about memories from the past. Following the cohesive nature of this album, these songs feature upbeat instrumentals yet maintain a sentimental and emotional tone.

One song that does not feel as emotional, and instead feels like pure joy, is "Bestfriends." One of the most upbeat and happiest-sounding songs on the album, this song is exactly what it sounds like. In a message on Spotify, the band describes it as a "... story of what friendship can be like to other people, but also what friendship is like to us personally."

The song conveys a message of the love

and appreciation one feels toward their best friends. It is a song that makes me want to roll all my windows down and scream the lyrics at the top of my lungs with my own best friends.

While many of the songs on this album feature upbeat tempos, angelic harmonies and intense instrumentals, there are a few songs that take a slower, more sentimental tone. "Older," featuring Sierra Deaton, is probably the most unique track on this album as it strays from the cohesive nature of the "5SOS5".

The sweet lyrics describe growing old beside the person you love and the longing for time to slow down. The lyric, "As forever comes closer// Hope the world will spin slower," is one that I could certainly relate to. I often wish for time to slow down in the moments I spend with loved ones.

"Bleach" is another song on this album that differs in sound. Abandoning the complex harmonies and guitar riffs, this song takes a sadder tone. The lyrics expose a longing to start over, to learn to live outside of a relationship that was once a part of

who you were.  
Cleverly in-

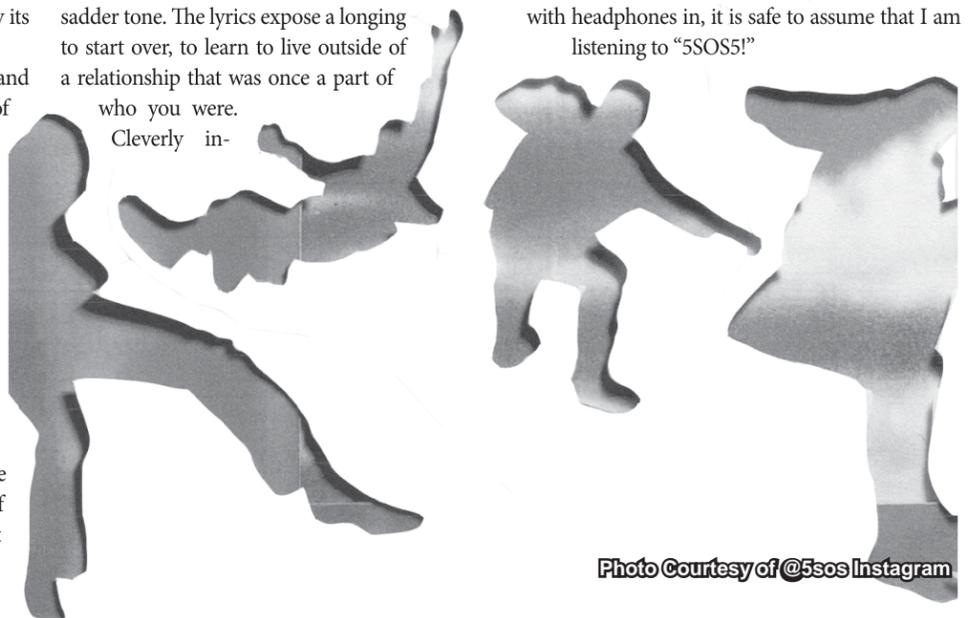


Photo Courtesy of @5sos Instagram

## Is "Don't Worry Darling" Worth The Worrying, Darling?

By John Bizub  
Contributing Writer

When it comes to sophomore feature films or critically acclaimed debuts, a lot can be placed on the filmmaker's shoulders. The fear of disappointing your fans while alleviating any surrounding discussions as a filmmaker is completely daunting.

However, with recent films like "Little Women" and "Us," if a filmmaker has control of the concept

of the craft and has a compelling story to tell, it is all worth it.

"Booksmart" was a critical and box office sensation as it es-

tablished Olivia Wilde as a promising filmmaker while also making her a household name. After years of speculation and recent months of drama, Wilde's second feature was released.

"Don't Worry Darling" stars Harry Styles, Florence Pugh and Chris Pine and tells the story of a couple living in a 1950's neighborhood. As time moves forward, more secrets about the community begin to unravel.

With the passage of time, my thoughts on Olivia Wilde's "Booksmart" have soured. While I do appreciate what the film is trying to say about mainstream comedies, Wilde appears only willing to make her movies seem more important than they are. People throw comparisons to "Superbad" often, and it really is one and the same.

What "Booksmart" gets wrong is trying too hard to be for our generation, and what makes "Superbad" so universally acclaimed is its timeless relevancy and near-iconic lines/dialogue. However, I was willing to give Wilde the benefit of the doubt due to Pugh's track record as an actress recently.

Before I discuss the film, it is im-

portant to discuss the big elephant in the room: the film's press run/publicity.

While I will not give an opinion, no drama has kept me more glued than these rumors.

And while the drama surrounding the film is very entertaining, I cannot say the same about the film. "Don't Worry Darling" suffers from a messy narrative, empty thematics, shallow character writing and weak performances.

Though the cinematography is nice looking and Pine and Pugh turn in good performances for what they are given, Styles is just abysmal here. There is a reason why his acting has been left absent from the film's marketing. It feels like a strange blend of self-seriousness and "camp."

However, with what Styles has been talking about in regards to the film, his performance feels like it was taken from a YouTube video of "the best acting performances in film."

What I mean by this is that Styles always rebels in the bombastic and loud screaming, but feels emotionally vacant when the film discusses the romance between him and Pugh.

The film's pacing feels all over the place,

and I found myself bored by nearly the one-hour mark of a 123-minute-long film.

"Don't Worry Darling" throws in too many narrative threads that feel either forgotten by the film's third act or tonally don't work for what the story it is trying to tell.

Wilde's direction feels too broad like she is making a near-blockbuster-size film. However, it is just a highly-budgeted drama about manipulation. Wilde portrays themes in a very unsubstantiated and shallow attempt at subtlety.

Once you understand the film's main thesis, that is all it has to it. But, once Wilde throws a twist in the film's latter half, it completely contradicts the entire film's main argument of pro-feminism/manipulation.

I would not call myself disappointed by "Don't Worry Darling," due to my disinterest in Wilde as a filmmaker.

She thinks too mainly in the scope of what she is trying to accomplish in terms of narrative elements and also has an inept mindset on thematics and subtlety.

Given the public's perception of Wilde's performance post-drama, I also would not be upset if Wilde did not make another film. However, she needs to understand how to professionally operate on a set.



# COFFEE BREAK

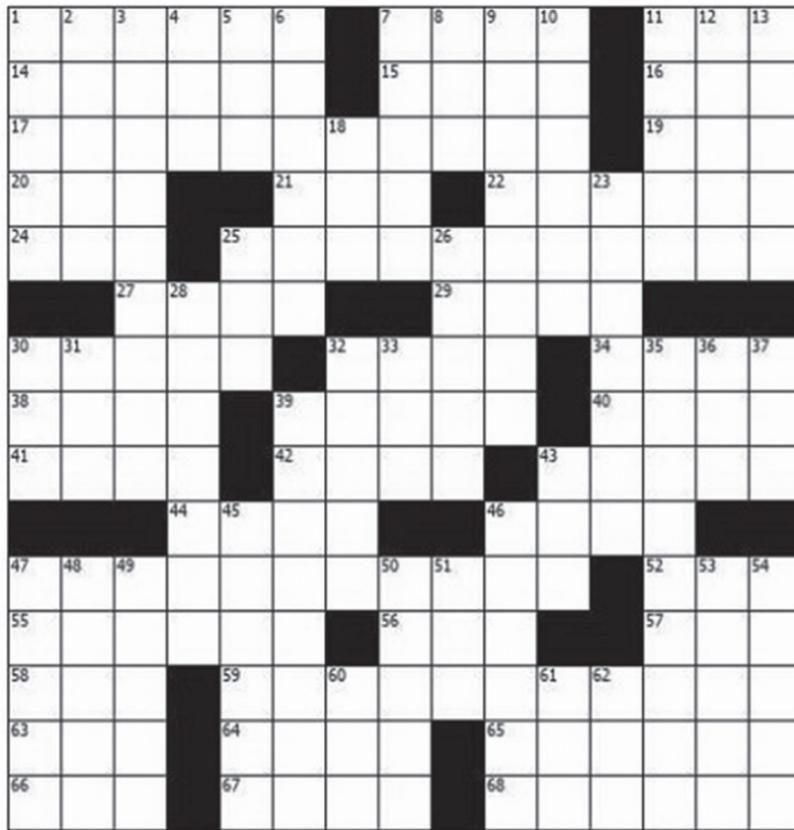


SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

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

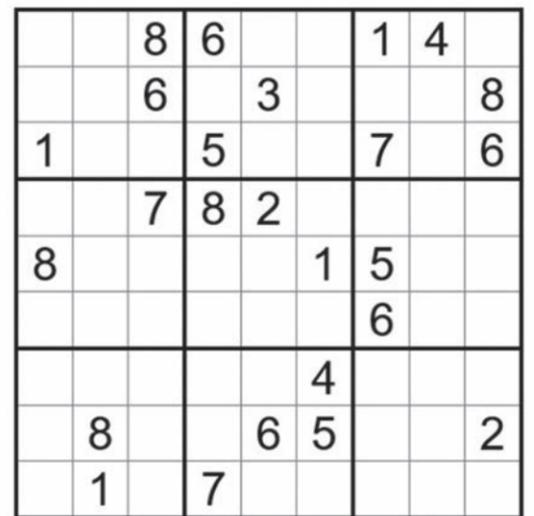
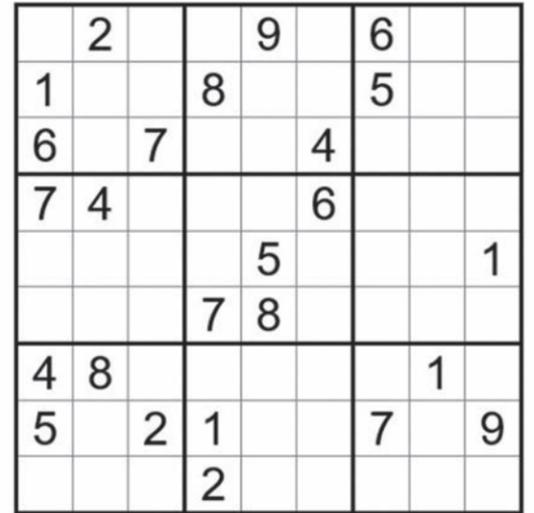
**Across**

- 1. Most protected
- 7. Sonoma Valley neighbor
- 11. Salon job
- 14. Venezia's locale
- 15. "\_\_\_ it!"
- 16. Unified
- 17. Super Bowl XXI anthem singer
- 19. Mormon gp.
- 20. Des Moines hrs.
- 21. Fly catcher
- 22. Get all hopped-up
- 24. Obsolete suffix
- 25. Super Bowl XXXVI anthem singer
- 27. Phone, slangily
- 29. Places to make scenes?
- 30. More than sprinkles
- 32. Make do
- 34. Mind
- 38. First name in scat
- 39. Super Bowl XXXII anthem singer
- 40. It's fit for a queen
- 41. Like old tires
- 42. Utopia
- 43. Alibi problems
- 44. "\_\_\_ baby!"
- 46. Window ledge
- 47. Super Bowl XXVII anthem singer
- 52. Sumac of Peru
- 55. Get better again
- 56. Compete
- 57. Fix
- 58. Iron source
- 59. Super Bowl XXVIII anthem singer
- 63. Comic
- 64. Sierra Club concern: Abbr.
- 65. Innies and outies
- 66. Court call
- 67. "The \_\_\_ the limit!"
- 68. Fence pieces



**Down**

- 1. From that day forward
- 2. Big blast
- 3. Super Bowl XXXIV anthem singer
- 4. Room extension
- 5. Imogene's partner
- 6. Its official language is Mandarin Chinese
- 7. Auras
- 8. Big bother
- 9. Revolving firework
- 10. Nut
- 11. Sportscastr tidbits, collectively
- 12. Inappropriate
- 13. Peevish
- 18. Fizzy prefix
- 23. Hybrid fuel
- 25. Doubtfire's title
- 26. Vail alternative
- 28. Courting, perhaps
- 30. Soldier in gray
- 31. Like
- 32. Chest-maker's wood
- 33. Have obligations
- 35. Super Bowl XXIII anthem singer
- 36. "Not a creature was stirring" time
- 37. Toady's word
- 39. Very dark
- 43. \_\_\_ nibs: authority figure
- 45. Macbeth et al.
- 46. Yarn units
- 47. Boxer's warning
- 48. Hill dwelling
- 49. He made Scarlett blush
- 50. Racetracks
- 51. Monet medium
- 53. "Atlantic City" director Louis
- 54. Make \_\_\_ of: bungle
- 60. Christmas purchase
- 61. Have something
- 62. LIII doubled



Free Puzzles / Puzzles.ca

## The Dark Side of Pres Ball

Nick Silvia, Contributing Writer

By the time this comes out, the annual Presidential Ball will have already happened, and I'm sure I'll get to hear some great stories about how students who wanted to buy second hand tickets woke up in Bridgeport missing \$150 and a kidney. But, hey – anything you've gotta do to get into the hottest event of the fall, which lasts for almost a whole three hours.

So, instead of paying off those nine parking tickets you got just because DPS woke up feeling silly, you should blow some money on a ticket. And on the plus side, at least you can sleep well knowing that your money will be going toward a great cause: building a new dorm for first years who will get to have full air conditioning and probably a rooftop swimming pool because everything cool only happens after you graduate.

Unfortunately, the university was unable to find a DJ for the event, but the student body lucked out when President Nemec volunteered to sing live acapella, which will also be used as his audition for the fall concert. But if that's not interesting enough and you're looking to spice up your night a little bit more, I have one piece of advice for you: start a fight. And by fight I obviously mean a dance battle, which is just about the coolest thing you could do at Pres Ball, and if you don't believe me, just try it. Everyone will love you, especially if you make direct eye contact with them.

Lastly, make sure you're careful with the food, Stags. Even though it "seems" like it's free, it's really just a trap to see who has the munchies, and DPS agents will be waiting in the shadows to send you out on a raft in Long Island Sound – but not before they've cleared your pockets of \$150 and that kidney.

# SPORTS

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

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



Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11
<p>Men's Soccer at Manhattan College Riverdale, N.Y. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Soccer vs. Manhattan College Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<h1 style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">FAIRFIELD</h1>	<p>Men's Tennis ITA Northeast Regional Championship West Point, N.Y. All Day</p> <p>Men's Swim &amp; Dive Fairfield Invitational Fairfield, Conn. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Swim &amp; Dive Fairfield Invitational Fairfield, Conn. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Field Hockey at Rider University Lawrenceville, N.J. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Men's Soccer vs. Rider University Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Soccer at Rider University Lawrenceville, N.J. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Volleyball vs. Manhattan College Herd for a Cure Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Rowing Head of the Housatonic Shelton, Conn. All Day</p> <p>Women's Rowing Head of the Housatonic Shelton, Conn. All Day</p>	<p>Men's Tennis ITA Northeast Regional Championship West Point, N.Y. All Day</p> <p>Field Hockey vs. Merrimack College Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Volleyball vs. Iona College Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Men's Tennis ITA Northeast Regional Championship West Point, N.Y. All Day</p> <p>Women's Golf Quinnipiac Classic Wallingford, Conn. All Day</p>	<p>Women's Golf Quinnipiac Classic Wallingford, Conn. All Day</p>

## Women's Golf Competes in Boston College Intercollegiate

By Danny McElroy  
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield women's golf team made their season debut last week at the two-day Boston College Intercollegiate, placing 11th out of 16 schools.

The Stags were led by Addy Douglas '23, a former conference all-academic team selection, placed 19th individually in the field of ninety players off the back of two rounds of 76 at the par 72 Blue Hill Country Club in Canton, Mass. course.

Behind Douglas was Katelynn Waclawski '26, who shot a team-best two-under-par 70 in her first round of collegiate golf to start the squad off strong.

"As a team, we had a great score on day one, and I think everyone did a great job managing the course throughout the rest of the rounds as well," Waclawski said.

Her exceptional opening performance powered her to a 37th place finish, good for second on the team.

Waclawski acknowledges she still has much to improve despite her great play but credits her teammates with pushing her forward.

"Being a part of the women's golf team has been such a great experience to transition into my freshman year of college," she said.

"We all push each other to be the best versions of ourselves, which gives our team a strong bond."

Finishing behind Waclawski for the Stags was another newcomer to the team, graduate transfer Julia Towne, who finished in a tie for 50th and carded rounds of 78 and 79 on the opening day of play.

Rounding out the team contributors for the Stags were Sydney Nethercott '24, who ended three shots behind Towne in a tie for 60th, and Grace Kryscio '24, who finished 77th.

Finally, Juliette Prud'Homme '26, who competed as an individual separate from Fairfield's team tally, finished in a tie for 78th.

Overall in the tournament, Boston College took the crown shooting a +37 overall in the three-day gathering and +10 on the third and final day, posting their best score of the tournament. Sacred Heart came in fourth at +55 through the tournament, posting a +20 on the final day.

Fairfield beat out the 12th place team Long Island University by twenty strokes posting

a +89 with scores of +17, +36 and +36 on each day. Long Island had a +109. Fairfield was just ten total strokes behind the 10th place team Merrimack College who shot a +79 in the tournament. Other teams that Fairfield finished ahead of include The College of the Holy Cross, Wagner

University, and Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference foe Siena College.

The Stags will look to continue building and improving, as they travel just over an hour north this week to compete in the Hartford Women's Invitational.



Photo Courtesy of the Spots Information Desk

The women's golf team placed 11th in the Boston College Intercollegiate tournament last Tuesday.

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

- Field Hockey Wins Back to Back Thrillers (Page 14)
- Waterdogs Cause "Chaos" in PLL Championship (Page 15)
- Men's and Women's Soccer Kick Off Conference Season (Page 15)
- Catching Up With Coach Carly Following First Practice (Page 16)

# Field Hockey Wins Back-to-Back Thrillers

By Ryan Marquardt  
Head Sports Editor

On Sept. 25, The Fairfield University field hockey team played Yale University in what would turn out to be a thriller. The game not only went into overtime, but ended up in a shootout that went into the ninth stroke instead of the usual five that shootouts usually take.

In the first quarter of the game, the Stags' offense struggled, failing to get a shot on net. Yale, on the other hand, managed to get three shots. However, none of them got past sophomore goalkeeper Payton Rahn.

In the second quarter, the Stags were able to find more success offensively. Julianna Kratz '23 got her own rebound off of a blocked shot, scoring the first goal of the game to make the score 1-0. Fairfield's defense also played better in the second quarter by not allowing any shots from the Bulldogs.

Yale stepped up coming out of the gate in the second half. They came out swinging with a goal in the thirty-seventh minute to tie the game up at 1-1.

The fourth quarter would prove to be an exciting one; as both teams scored off of penalty corners.

The Stags took the lead with a Pilar Mengotti '26 goal to make it a 2-1 contest. The Bulldogs then answered back with the equalizer with less than three minutes left on the clock, sending the game to overtime.

The Stags came out firing in overtime looking to put their opponent away. While it paid off on the stat sheet, they were unable to put their opponent away, even though they outshot them 4-1 in extra time. After the 20-minute overtime frame, the game went into a shootout.

Rahn gave up the first three shots from Yale, but turned the tide

by stuffing the next six shots which gave the Stags the edge and much-needed momentum. Augustina Casteluchi '25 scored what would be the game winner for the Stags in the shootout, giving them a 4-3 margin in the shootout, which in turn gave them the victory, 3-2.

"Payton won the game for us. She learned from the first set and was resilient after that," head coach Jackie Kane stated in the game's official recap. "She had the confidence that nothing was going to get past her. She made it happen in the last round because she was able to handle the pressure," she continued.

Rahn played a great game which won her the Northeast Conference (NEC) defensive player of the week for the second time in her career. Rahn is currently seventeenth in the country with six saves per game and ranks thirty-seventh in the nation with a .72 save percentage. She is allowing 2.2 goals against per game on average as well.

Five days later, the Stags traveled to take on the cross town rival Sacred Heart Pioneers. The game started similarly to their battle against the Bulldogs, with a scoreless first quarter. Then things began to pick up.

The Pioneers scored first early into the second quarter with a goal just inches away from being saved by Rahn.

This seemingly served as a wake up call for the Stags, who rattled off two goals in the next eleven minutes of play. Their first goal was by Kratz scoring in the twenty-fourth minute of the contest

which tied the game. This was Kratz's team-leading fourth goal of the season and tenth point of the year. Then just minutes later in the twenty-seventh minute, graduate student Nora Amme scored off of a deflection to give the Stags the lead going into the second half.

The Stag's offense was firing in the third quarter. They began the second half by peppering Sacred Heart's goalkeeper Samantha Maresca with nine total shots, five of which were on the net and none of which resulted in a Stags goal. Maresca's play gave the Pioneers a chance going into the final quarter of the game.

The Pioneers would not go down without a fight, however, tying it up in the fifty-fourth minute of play. All hopes of another overtime thriller were dashed with a Stag goal in the fifty-fifth minute of play off a penalty stroke due to a Pioneer infraction. This gave the Stags a 3-2 lead, securing another close victory and their first in conference play.

Rahn played yet another great game with four total saves in the match, keeping the Stags in the lead and helping them to win. The Stags outshot the Pioneers 23-8 in the match and dominated on the stat sheet according to the game's official recap. However, the only stat that matters, in the end, is the win, which is what the Stags took.

This brought the Stags to a 5-6 (1-0 in conference) record and dropped Sacred Heart to 0-10. The Stags will play their second NEC game on Oct. 7 at Rider University in Lawrence Township, N.J., at 7 p.m.



Sophomore goaltender Peyton Rahn stretches out to make a save in her MAAC defensive player of the week performance.

## Weekly 5x4

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

Because we have witty things to say ...

What is your favorite article you have written for The Mirror?

What is your favorite thing about the Fall?

If you got \$1 million what would you spend it on?

If you got a tattoo what would it be?



Maddy West  
Editor-In-Chief

I am definitely most proud of "Black Lives Matter Flag Removed by Administration".

Living on the beach will make the cold bearable!

I would rebuy my family's Cape house.

I'm not much of a tattoo person so I don't think I'll ever get one, but ones with meaning and a story are always special so I think something along those lines.



Madison Gallo  
Executive Editor

I am most proud of the article "Black Lives Matter Flag Removed by Administration" Maddy and I wrote together.

Autumn is my FAVORITE season - you simply can't beat it. Also my birthday! Woo 21!

Paying off student loans, then buying my parents a brand new home, before finally paying for my sister's college tuition.

My mom and I talk about getting matching butterfly tattoos, but I am scared of needles. We will see if it ever happens.



Tommy Coppola  
Managing Editor

"Members of the Fairfield Community React to Regis West Construction" was a favorite of mine.

I get an excuse to wear my puffer jacket.

Create a song and buy only one feature from Drake. Infinite royalties.

It would have to be in honor of someone, but I don't know who.



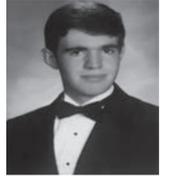
Brooke Lathe  
Head Vine Editor, Copy Editor

If I had to choose, my first ever publication, "Fall into Fall at Fairfield U," holds a special place in my heart!

Quite possibly everything. But the gorgeous foliage and pumpkin-flavored everything are hard to beat.

Produce my own television show and sell it to Netflix.

I would never get a tattoo. I would feel claustrophobic. And I'm scared of needles.



Billy McGuire  
Assistant Sports Editor

I am definitely most proud of "The Importance of Autism Awareness."

The fact that football season is in full swing and it's one step closer to Christmas.

Buying my family a private jet as well as buying an oceanfront property in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

I am never getting a tattoo. I think I am the last person in the world that would ever get one.

# Waterdogs Cause "Chaos" in PLL Championship

By Tommy Coppola  
Managing Editor

In the Premier Lacrosse League's (PLL) third season, Waterdogs Lacrosse Club took home the CashApp Championship Trophy on Sunday, Sept. 18, becoming the first expansion team to finish at the top.

The Waterdogs, the PLL's very first expansion team in 2020, struggled in their inaugural season. The season only lasted five games due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst the situation, the Waterdogs were only able to scrape away with a sole win, losing their four other games to be eliminated from the playoffs.

With a full slate in their second season, according to statscrew.com, the Waterdogs came out of the gate slowly but eventually won their final four games to skyrocket them to the top of the league's standings.

Even with their standout season, they still lost in the semifinal round to Whipsnakes LC, who in the two years prior won the league championship. The Whipsnakes went to the championship for the third year in a row after beating the Waterdogs in 2021, but would eventually lose to Chaos LC.

The 2022 playoff bracket

appeared to be an uphill battle for the Waterdogs, who were the fifth seed this year. They first faced the #4 Atlas LC, sweeping past them in a 19-14 victory, according to the PLL's official playoff bracket.

They then took on the #1-seeded Whipsnakes LC in a 2021 semifinal rematch. According to the game's official stat sheet, the game was tied at seven entering the final frame of play, but the Waterdogs were able to edge out the Whipsnakes with four goals in the fourth quarter compared to the three

scored by their opponent to take revenge.

The season's finale, hosted in Philadelphia, Pa., was a

contest between the fifth-seeded Waterdogs and seventh-seeded Chaos, who continued strong through the playoffs despite barely securing a spot in the playoffs.

The game was virtually toe-to-toe, with the Chaos opening the first quarter with four goals compared to the Waterdogs' two scores. They held the Chaos to just one, three and one goals through each quarter respectively, whereas the Waterdogs continued their dominance with three, four and two goals to seal the championship win by a final score of 11-9.

Andy Copelan, the head coach of the Waterdogs, was the former head coach of the Fairfield University men's lacrosse team. Copelan was tasked with assembling his team via an expansion draft before the 2020 season, which pulled players from different teams around the league.

One of those players from the expansion draft who showed up in a big way was Kieran McArdle, who was formerly a member of Atlas LC.

According to his official stats, McArdle boasted the second-highest amount of points over the 2022 season behind Cannons LC star Lyle

Thompson, who outshined McArdle in goals but came up short in the assists department. McArdle had the most assists of any attackman in the league with 23.

Connor Kelly, the Waterdogs' main man at midfield, was stolen from the Whipsnakes in the expansion draft back in 2020. Kelley came in second in points for midfielders on the season but scored the most two-point goals in the league with four. He scored twelve goals that were worth one point, which comes to a total of twenty goals and six assists in the 2022 season.

Michael Sowers, a Princeton University graduate in 2020 and a Duke University graduate in 2021, was selected with the second overall pick in the 2021 College Draft according to his profile on premierlacrosseleague.com. Sowers has been a key addition to the Waterdogs' attack core, scoring twenty-one one-point goals over the course of nine games this season.

With twelve points in post-season play which includes a three-point performance in the championship game, Sowers took home the championship MVP trophy for his outstanding effort throughout the playoffs.

With the mix of experiences among the roster, the PLL's Waterdogs will return again next June with a championship under their belt.



The Waterdogs won their first ever PLL championship this past September.

## Men's and Women's Soccer Kick Off Conference Season

By Billy McGuire  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University soccer teams both had identical schedules this past week, kicking off its conference regular season against new Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference member Mount Saint Mary's University and in-state opponent Quinnipiac University.

Both teams faced Mount Saint Mary's on Wednesday, Sept. 28, with the men's team playing as host while the women's team traveled to Emmitsburg, Md. The men's team took the win, 1-0, at Lessing Field. The women's team also came home victorious, taking the win, 2-1.

Forward Raz Amir '24 was the

difference-maker in the 1-0 shutout, putting one past Mount Saint Mary's goalkeeper Ethan Russell during the 49th minute of play. The Stags controlled possession of the game, registering eleven shots including three on goal. Most of these shots came after the 39th minute, before which both teams combined for only three shots on goal.

The Stags controlled their own destiny down the stretch, nearly building on their lead when Amir missed an opportunity at the 79th minute mark to get his name on the scoresheet for the second time.

Despite the slow start, head coach Carl Rees was impressed with how his team played.

"I think we started well and we maintained the application of what we wanted to do after the half and down the stretch," Coach Rees said in the game's official recap. "This was a collective effort and we still have so many chipping in and rising to the occasions in situations when we need it most."

At the Mount Saint Mary's campus in Emmitsburg, Md., the women's team proved victorious. The Stags stormed out of the gate quickly, with Elle Scott '24 and Caroline Kelly '24 scoring at the ten minute and fourteen minute marks, respectively.

They also dominated possession of the game, with the Stags out-shooting Mount Saint Mary's 31-8, while they also outnumbered the Mountaineers in shots on goal, 14-6.

Hannah Vogt '23 and graduate student Maddie Mills also contributed to the win with one assist apiece, and goaltender Katie Wright '26 made five saves while only giving one goal at the 83rd minute mark off of a penalty kick.

On Saturday, the men's team traveled to Hamden, Conn., to take on Quinnipiac University. Despite a hard-fought and back-and-forth battle, the Stags fell short, 3-2.

The showdown began when Quinnipiac found one in the back of the net at the nineteenth-minute mark off of a goal from Domen Bozic. The Stags responded with their own goal at the 33rd-minute mark from a shot by Thomas Drillen '24. After returning from halftime tied, Quinnipiac managed to sneak a shot past goaltender James Anderson '24 to take the lead.

The Stags once again played resilient soccer as Alex Oliveira '23 scored eight minutes later at the 66th-minute



Women's Soccer stands for the anthem before their game against Quinnipiac.

mark to tie the match. Unfortunately, Quinnipiac managed to sneak another shot through at the 71st-minute mark, giving them a 3-2 lead they would not again vanquish.

The Stags put up a spirited fight. However, penalties came back to haunt them, as they committed ten against Quinnipiac's six. These infractions put the Stags at disadvantage at times, and it came back to haunt them as they traveled back to Fairfield without a win.

The women's team also suffered a heartbreaker at home, falling to Quinnipiac 3-2 at Lessing Field on Saturday. The game was very similar to the one their men counterparts took place in, with a tough, hard battle fought between both teams. The Stags got the party started early with a goal from

Maddy Theriault '26 two minutes into the game. Quinnipiac then responded by tying the game with their own at the nine-minute mark.

No one would score again as the teams went into the half. The Stags once again came out of the gate hot, with Vogt scoring at the 46th-minute mark. Quinnipiac, less than a minute later, would tie the game once again. Luck wouldn't find the Stags again in this game, as at the 71st-minute mark, Quinnipiac put one on top to take the lead and they would never look back.

Both teams will look to regroup as they take on Manhattan College on Wednesday, October 5. The women's team will play host at 7 p.m. at Lessing Field, while the men's team will travel to The Bronx, N.Y., for a 6 p.m. showdown.



Fairfield's men's soccer huddles up before going out to play Quinnipiac.

Fairfield's men's soccer huddles up before going out to play Quinnipiac.

## Catching Up With Coach Carly Following First Practice

By Billy McGuire  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University women's basketball team held their first practice of the season on Monday, Oct. 3 at Walsh Athletic Center Gymnasium. The Stags have a lot to look forward to this season: new players, a new arena and most importantly, a new head coach.

Carly Thibault-DuDonis, a former associate head coach at the University of Minnesota, was appointed to the position of head coach in April of 2022. She succeeds Joe Frager, who stepped down as head coach after 15 seasons, with his last one commencing in the program's first NCAA appearance in 21 years.

Thibault-DuDonis brought a lot to the table in her practice: a new style of play, renewed energy and a new sense of communication, three elements that will help the program build momentum upon the success it had last season.

She believes that these fundamentals will pay off as the Stags prepare for their first game of the season, which is on Monday, Nov. 7 against Brown University in Providence, R.I.

"Obviously, it's going to be a process getting to the first game, but that's the way it should be," Thibault-Dudonis explains. "We still have some things we want to clean up, improve on and build on. But it's going to be a process. We have an entirely

new system we're installing so there's definitely going to be a lot of correcting for the next little while. But these young women show up every single day with a drive to get better, and as long as they put in an effort we should be in a good place."

The Stags will play the game of basketball a little differently this season. Previously, they played a style of basketball that would be considered more "old-school." According to the 2021-22 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) overall statistics for women's basketball, the Stags finished sixth in three-point attempts out of the eleven conference members participating in women's basketball. For overall field goals, the team finished fourth in the conference, proving that they were much more efficient inside the paint.

According to the Big Ten conference stat rankings for women's basketball last season, the University of Minnesota finished third in three-point attempts while finishing first overall in three-point percentage.

Thibault-DuDonis brings a new set of ideas to the table, hoping to provide balance to a team that has its two returning starters being forwards and graduate students Callie Cavanaugh and Andrea Hernandez.

Players understand that the identity of this year's team will be noticeably different than it has been in the past. But at the same time,

they are enjoying the transition and adding some more sweat during practices.

"It's definitely a faster pace than we played last year, but we're hoping that will pay off for us," guard Mimi Rubino '24 says. "Obviously, we're a little more tired right now, but it has been really nice to get used to playing at a different pace and pushing ourselves to push the pace."

"Coming from Florida State and a different place, I can honestly say that coach Carly and the whole staff have been super welcoming to me," transfer guard Izabella Nicolette Leite '24 explains. "She brings so much energy, and it's certainly a different style of play, that's for sure."

"We have a couple of new players this year, so with that we're facing a lot of adversity right now," Cavanaugh says. "But that's the case with every basketball team heading into a new season. What really sets up a successful team is how

you handle the adversity and the response you have to it. I think so far, we've handled it very well."

While the players become accustomed to their

my new teammates, they have been so supportive and welcoming to me," Leite expresses. "I couldn't ask for a better situation. I'm so happy to be here and I can't wait to see what we have in store for this year."

"I'm definitely excited to be a tone-setter for coach Carly," Cavanaugh says. "She's awesome. She's always available if we need anything, and I think her style of basketball is going to blend well with our style we've been playing in the past. She's great, I couldn't have asked for any better."

In addition to their new additions at head coach and in the locker room, the Stags have another big addition, and that is their arena, which will open next month. Players and coaches are both excited about the opportunity to play at the recently-named Leo D. Mahoney Arena, which they believe will give the team something to look forward to. After years of playing at the small and antiquated Alumni Hall and the off-campus Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, Conn., the Stags will finally be able to settle into their new home.

"I think the new arena poses really exciting opportunities for us to connect not only with the community, but the student body as well," coach Thibault-Dudonis proclaims. "We're really excited to get our crowd going and to play at a new home. We're pumped."

"We're really excited for the arena to open, obviously," Rubino expresses. "My freshman year we couldn't have any fans at our old arena, so that kind of stunk. And last year we played in Bridgeport, and it was hard to get some fans in there, so that was challenging as well. I'm excited to have people from campus come and we're just excited to have more people in the stands as a whole."

"I'm excited that I can be a part of the start



Graduate student Callie Cavanaugh goes up for a lay up.



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldwbb Instagram

Head coach Carly Thibault-DuDonis speaks to Mimi Rubino '24 during the team's first practice of the season.

new coaches' style of play, they took the opportunity to praise their coach by raving about the energy she brings to the court and how she has carried herself out as a person.

"Coach has been awesome. She brings so much energy to the gym and she loves being there with us," Rubino says. "She cares about us off the court just as much as she does on the court, so I'm honestly super blessed to have someone like that."

"I love the coaching staff and

of something special here," Leite says.

"I can't wait for the season to get started, that's for sure," Cavanaugh exclaims. "I'm pumped that we'll have a much stronger home-court advantage, which is something that we've been lacking over the past several years."

For more information on the Fairfield women's basketball team and Fairfield athletics as a whole, visit [www.fairfieldstags.com](http://www.fairfieldstags.com) for news, information and updates.