

# THE MIRROR

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Shea Burns/The Mirror

President Mark R. Nemece and First Selectman William A. Gerber cut the ribbon for the new Center for Social Impact located at 1720 Boston Post Road Fairfield, Connecticut. At the event, Senator Tony Hwang discusses the relationship between the town and Fairfield University.

## Town Leaders “Hope to Chart a Course to a Better Future” With Fairfield University

BY MAX LIMRIC  
Editor-in-Chief

Fairfield University cut the ribbon on Thursday, Sept. 12, unveiling the new Center for Social Justice and Impact, the Center for Arts & Minds, the Marketing & Communications and Advancement offices, all located in downtown Fairfield. Throughout the early morning event, attendees offered reactions to the University’s newest addition in downtown Fairfield.

To portray the significance of these new offices, Fairfield University’s Special Assistant to the President for Arts and Culture, Dr. Philip Elisaph, looks at the university’s past and its “remarkable growth.” “We’ve seen such remarkable growth of the university and obviously of its stature and reputation,” he states, perhaps referencing Fairfield’s decreasing acceptance rate, now sitting at 33%.

“The inauguration, the ribbon-cutting today, opening this facility symbolizes such positive growth for the institution that we are even now building our footprint in the town so that more and more, Fairfield and Fairfield University exist in a synchronistic way,” Dr. Elisaph states.

In addition to signifying an increase in the University’s growth and reputation, State Senator Tony Hwang references the practical significance of the move into downtown Fairfield.

“I think it moves the campus into the center of town where commerce and community can interact, share ideas, share information, I think just literally being able to walk out the front door and be an integral part of Fairfield

is such a powerful and symbolic gesture but it’s also one that is practical,” he states.

Senator Hwang is particularly fond of the “special sense of quality, community and opportunity for so many people to be able to explore this broader community evident at Fairfield University.”

He then speaks about Fairfield University’s recognition on a larger scale. He references the growing reputation of Fairfield around the state and country: “I think for me as a state senator going around the state and even in the country, the ability to meet people and the excitement of having people say ‘you live in Fairfield. I know Fairfield University.’”

In addition to referencing the growth in recognition for the university, Senator Hwang mentions Dr. Siegal’s speech that included data points about the economic impact Fairfield University has in the town.

“When Dr. Siegal talked about nearly a billion dollars of economic impact, you don’t see it in dollars and cents and taxes but you feel it in the activism, the engagement and sense of community of the students,” Hwang says about what he believes to be the true impact of Fairfield University.

In a Facebook post, Fairfield describes their addition to the center of town as “an embodiment of a commitment to enriching the town’s cultural landscape and economy.” In other posts, Fairfield residents express mixed opinions. For example, on a move-in day post, resident Matt Siemers comments “Stay on campus.”

After SantaCon last year, residents

attended a town hall to express their outrage with the town and Fairfield University, demanding that action be taken, stating that “Someone is going to die.”

At the ribbon cutting, The Mirror asked attendees if they believed the university moved its offices into town in an attempt to create better relations between Fairfield residents and college students.

Dr. Elisaph responded with a broad statement, referencing the duty of all colleges and universities to be tolerant and appreciate the community’s needs. “What I’m saying is there are 4,500 colleges and universities and every one of them has a special relationship with the college students who are there and everyone has to learn how to be tolerant and appreciate the needs and desires of the community,” he states.

He continues by speaking directly about the beach residents and the environmental impacts of the parties. “We are, part of our great attraction, blessed to have a wonderful beach community. And I think more and more of our students are going to have to learn how to cohabitate in that beach space because everyone knows that it’s a precious resource especially for us,” he adds.

Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Town of Fairfield also weighs in on the tense relations between Fairfield residents and college students living at the beach, commenting “It’s an ongoing issue.”

## Fairfield Joins Paulie Venetor in Honoring 9/11 Victims

BY ASHLEY DEVLIN  
Head News Editor

walking.”

While the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 just passed, Fairfield University joined other citizens of the United States in honoring the victims who tragically lost their lives. A mass was hosted in the Egan Chapel at 12:30 p.m. on the actual date and a flag was draped over the Barone Campus Center windows for the student body to see. The University also has a piece of a steel beam from the Twin Towers as part of a monument dedicated to the victims of 9/11 who attended Fairfield University.

In addition to this, a man named Paulie Venetor was joined by the Fairfield University staff and part of the Fairfield town community to honor the members and workers aboard United Flight 175 that hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center after being hijacked by al-Qaeda members on its way from Boston Logan International Airport.

Venetor was a United Airlines flight attendant for many years, where he developed close relationships with his colleagues who unfortunately passed, Captain John Ogonowski, First Officer Thomas McGuinness, Barbara Arestegui, Jeffrey Collman, Sara Low, Karen Martin, Kathleen Nicosia, Betty Ong, Jean Roger, Dianne Snyder and Amy Sweeney. In order to honor those who passed away on 9/11, he developed Paulie’s Push or @pauliespush on Instagram, a charity organization dedicated to honoring the victims of 9/11, specifically those on United Airlines Flight 175.

Venetor himself embarks on a journey every year, pushing a beverage cart from Boston Logan International Airport all the way to Ground Zero in New York, NY to pay tribute to his fellow flight attendants. This walk is roughly 220 miles and serves the purpose of remembering the lives of Venetor’s amazing colleagues and everyone who had passed. Venetor first started this tradition in 2020, saying “I want to honor the lives of the first responders, colleagues, their families and their loved ones. Venetor states, “I truly felt like there was nothing I could do, so I just started

Fairfield University’s Bookstore in town is exactly in the path of Venetor’s journey to Ground Zero and on September 4, 2024, many members of the Fairfield University staff and the town community joined Venetor in walking from the Bookstore to the new Fairfield University offices, located at 1720 Post Road, just 57 miles from Ground Zero. In walking alongside him, they were able to learn about his story and his wonderful friends and colleagues. His journey also involves stops in many major towns and cities, including nearby Westport and Norwalk, where Venetor takes the time to share the stories of many lost loved ones and educate younger generations about the tragedy that occurred on 9/11.

He states that his “coming through your towns had a much wider significance,” where people “shared stories of grieving, stories of healing and even one or two stories that left me scratching my head.”

These journeys touched the hearts of many, as Venetor recalls, and he “came to realize that something about [his] pushing the beverage cart to Ground Zero sparked something in everyone.”

Venetor believes it is vital to remember this event and discuss all citizens who lost their lives. This is important to the Fairfield University community because 15 Fairfield alumni passed away on 9/11. These alumni consist of Michael R. Andrews ‘89, Jonathan N. Cappello ‘00, Christopher J. Dunne ‘95, Steven M. Hague ‘91, H. Joseph Heller ‘86, Michael G. Jacobs ‘69, Michael P. Lunden ‘86, Francis N. McGuinn ‘74, Patrick J. McGuire ‘82, William E. Micciulli ‘93, Marc A. Murolo ‘95, Christopher T. Orgieleweiz ‘87, Johanna L. Sigmund ‘98 and Christopher P. Slattery ‘92. Participating in the walk alongside Venetor is one way the Fairfield community carries on the memory of these past students. Those who wish to visit this monument can do so just outside of the Alumni Building, located across from McAuliffe Hall. There is an additional plaque located in the lower level of the Barone Campus Center.



Shea Burns/The Mirror

Fairfield University honors the alumni they lost with a steel beam from the Twin Towers and a plaque with the names of the victims.

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## STAGS Hospitality

Do you have questions about allergens or dietary needs? Our Campus Dietitian is here to help!



Joanna Schipke is a Registered Dietitian who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics from the University of Connecticut. She went on to complete her 1200-hour dietetic internship at Keene State College.

Joanna started her nutrition career in K-12 working for several different school districts across the state and most recently was employed as the Food Service Director for Watertown Public Schools.

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

To schedule a consultation with Joanna, email [jschipke@fairfield.edu](mailto:jschipke@fairfield.edu).





Compiled by Kathleen Morris  
Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety

Crime forthcoming in The Mirror's next issue.

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# Tensions Grow Between Students and Town Amid New Beach Rules

BY ERICA SCHINDLER  
Assistant News Editor

For the first time in years, Fairfield University's annual "white out" party did not go on as planned. This year, new and stricter rules regarding beach access prevented non-beach resident students from gathering on the beach.

The tradition takes place on Labor Day, the night before the classes begin. Students wear all-white apparel, an ode to the old "rule" about not wearing white after Labor Day, and gather at the university's townhouses or off-campus at the beach. As students tried to gather on the beach on Monday, Sept. 2, many were turned away by security personnel guarding the area. Students attempting to get onto the beach were also met with temporary fences blocking off areas.

One major new policy is the implementation of beach passes or wristbands. Ahead of the white-out party, students living on the beach were given 20 wristbands per house to pass along to friends and visitors. Anyone without one could be turned away by security.

"It's our last year at Fairfield," Tessa Diosdado '25, who lives on the beach, said. "We want to enjoy it with our friends and be able to hang out with our friends who don't live directly in our houses without having to pick and choose who comes in because we are only given 20 wristbands. I think there's a line that was crossed between managing and completely ruining our last white party ever."

Colin Richards, the Class of 2025's off-campus leader (OCL), emphasizes that the passes are only needed to access the area around Lantern Point.

"Passes are just required to access Lantern Point," Richards said. "The passes are reserved for the residents of Lantern Point as well as the guest passes residents are supplied with to use as they feel... There are many beaches open to the public like Jennings and Penfield."

In an email sent to students on Sept. 13, Fairfield Dean of Students William Johnson emphasized the school's position on beach gatherings.

"The beach area is a residential community," Johnson wrote. "It is not a hangout spot or a place to loiter. Travel to the beach area should [be] limited to those who live there or have been invited to visit someone who does."

In response to this section of Johnson's email, one user on the social media app Fizz wrote, "Literally the opposite of what a beach is." The post received 1,300 upvotes.

Additionally, the new policy is not only affecting guests, but seniors who live on the beach themselves.

"I think it's understandable to want to manage the beach area to be considerate to other residents, but we literally can not even go to our neighbor's house if they have used their guest pass," said Emma Johnson '25. "My roommate was not even allowed to park in our designated lot when coming home from work because she forgot her

wristband inside."

When reached out to by The Mirror, Associate Dean of Students Allison Berger emphasized the long-standing relationship between students and other residents. She also mentioned the rights of students, and the rules they must follow even as off-campus residents.

"The Fairfield University Student Conduct Code applies to all University students, both on and off campus, and behavior off-campus is documented and processed by the Fairfield Police Department, University officials, and the Office of the Dean of Students," Berger said. "It is also important to recognize that these off-campus students are town residents. As tenants and adult members of our community, they have legal rights."

The impacts of the new policy have sparked uproar and disappointment among students, both seniors and undergrads, who had hoped to gather at the beach on Labor Day. Taking to Fizz to express their dissatisfaction, one student wrote, "Apologizing on behalf of all the seniors, all of us wanted to throw for white party, but the security would physically not let us. We know it was bad, none of the seniors had plans either."

Among Fairfield students, it is no secret that the opportunity to live at the beach is a key factor in some Stags' decision to attend Fairfield. Some year-round Fairfield residents have come to expect crowds of students, while others have concerns over students populating the beaches.

On the popular "Fairfield HamletHub" Facebook page, a forum used by many residents, opinions were split. One comment read, "Firstly there was no party! It was completely shut off to the students. They were not able to access the beach at all. This is like buying a property near an airport and complaining about the noise of planes taking off and landing all the time."

Another commenter cited concerns for the environment and the litter allegedly left behind by students: "It's scary to think that these so called adults are smart enough to get into Fairfield U but have No Respect for the environment and the citizens of Fairfield who pay exhor-tation taxes to our town some of it goes to maintain our beaches!!"

In an effort to combat the bottles and cans that might pile up on the beach, some Fairfield students are participating in Sunday beach clean-up events. As in past years, students gather on the beach each week with garbage bags in an effort to keep the beach clean.

Now that Labor Day has passed, the town of Fairfield is already preparing for upcoming student traditions. A recent article in the Connecticut Post reports that the town has hired a law firm to handle legal matters that may arise from December's annual SantaCon event.

## THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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## 2024 ELECTION COVERAGE

**ARE YOU READY TO CAST YOUR VOTE IN NOVEMBER?  
ARE YOU PREPARED TO SIDE WITH ONE CANDIDATE?  
OR, HAVE YOU YET TO CHOOSE?**

**IF YOU ARE AN UNDECIDED VOTER,  
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**M**

# Fairfield University Provides New Incentive, Drawing Students to Weekly Beach Cleanups

BY SOPHIA COSSITT-LEVY  
Assistant News Editor

In response to backlash from the town of Fairfield regarding beach parties, Fairfield University has made some new improvements to a yearly initiative to clean up the beaches. Each year, parties such as SantaCon are hosted on the beaches, where some university students live, and residents living in the town of Fairfield express discontent with the activities at the beach.

After the last SantaCon, for example, Fairfield University made local news headlines and full-time beach residents were disappointed by the state of the beach, as well as concerned about the safety of students during SantaCon and parties like it.

Town hall meetings were hosted about the issue, and the Fairfield Beach Residents Association wrote a letter to the university via Patch, calling for more safety measures to be put in place. Posts circled Facebook, with many commenters calling on university students to clean up the messes left behind. In anticipation of the 2024-2025 school year, and specifically SantaCon, the town of Fairfield has already hired a legal team.

In an attempt to make peace with the town, every Sunday students gather at the town beaches and get to work. Dean Allison Berger sent students emails about the weekly cleanups and word was spread via GroupMe as well. Once at the cleanup, volunteers received shirts, trash bags and gloves before they set out on their walk.

In addition, Dean Berger says, “The University also sponsored a street through the Town’s Adopt a Street Program, and students are cleaning that location during the weekly cleanups.” According to the program’s website, this is a new initiative to keep the streets free of litter, preventing trash from entering Long Island Sound. Further, Dean Berger says that Fairfield University has supplied students with 25 more trash bins on top of what has already been provided by their landlords.

This year, to encourage students on and off campus to join the effort, the university has provided some new incentives for the cleanups to be raffled off each week, including gift cards to shops in Fairfield and two-day passes to the Soundside Music Festival.

Additionally, students who attended the cleanup got vouchers for breakfast sandwiches and coffee. Senior Erin Resnick says, “The turnout was pretty good—it’s smart to provide incentives because it increases attendance.”

Also speaking about the turnout, Caroline Amadon ‘26, who went along with the

“  
I think seeing the efforts made by students to build a community instead of just ‘trash’ was a good distinction made through the cleanup.”

- Erin Resnick ‘25

Women’s Rugby Team, added, “I thought that we were going to be the only group there, but there were a bunch of people who came with other teams, friends or just by themselves.”

When asked how the effort was received, Resnick says, “When we were out cleaning on Sunday, multiple people stopped us and thanked us for cleaning up. I think seeing the efforts made by students to build a community instead of just ‘trash’ was a good distinction made through the cleanup.”

Another senior living off-campus, Kate Enriquez ‘25, says, “Hearing full-time residents let us know how much they appreciated our work made the cleanup that much more rewarding. I will definitely be going to the next beach cleanup and I can assume by the large crowd of students this past week that many more off-campus stags will be spending their Sunday at the beach cleanup.”

Much like the off-campus students, Dean Berger is happy with the attendance. “We have been very pleased with the turnout these past two weekends and I would like to thank our students for being so dedicated to this important initiative,” she says.

It certainly seems as though the beach cleanups have been building a bridge between the full-time residents and students living off-campus, as well as a great way for the students to further connect with each other. And, the incentives seem to be doing their job well, too, successfully drawing larger crowds of students to the weekly cleanups.



Photo Courtesy of HamletHubFairfield

Residents of the town of Fairfield take notice of empty cans and other trash left on the beach, assumed to be left by college students. After leaving said trash, seniors and other students participated in cleaning up the Point.

## Fairfield Celebrates Opening of Newest Off-Campus Offices

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Barnhart believes that Fairfield University students on the beach may always be a source of tension, “but through communication, working collaboratively on these subjects, we can hopefully chart a course to a better future.”

Senator Hwang points out the role that the University plays in the conflict. “I think the university has an important role in teaching these values and principles that are beyond books and classrooms.

To articulate the sense of responsibility, the sense of civic-mindedness that you can still enjoy and partake in the experience, but at the same time you need to be cognizant and respectful of the community and of the privilege that we have,” he believes.

He then brings the conversation back to the unveiling of Fairfield University’s new off-campus offices. “I think that this kind of an entity off the campus setting [...] provides that kind of connection, where what you do off campus is an integral part of being part of a community, so you pay attention, you protect it, you nurture it and you respect it. It’s a powerful opportunity for these students and an opportunity for the community to know these students as well instead of just the narrative that sometimes gets out,” he adds.

Recently, the town of Fairfield hired a Milford Law Firm to help them legally prepare for this year’s SantaCon.

First Selectman Bill Gerber hired the law firm Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff to act as legal counsel in order to be “cognizant of the legal landscape regarding the Town, the University and landlord responsibilities for beach area events and activities.”

Senator Hwang ends the conversation by recalling a memory that he shares with Fairfield students who lived on the beach during a time of disaster: “My first memory of a crisis was [Hurricane] Sandy and the beach area was just absolutely devastated.”

What Senator Hwang remembers during that catastrophe is “the hundreds of university students [who] came out to help clean up, move sand and help the neighbors in the area.”

Senator Hwang then speaks with an audience of Fairfield residents in mind: “Maybe sometimes we should remind the neighbors that [Fairfield University students] are an integral part of the community.”



Shea Burns/The Mirror

The Center for Social Justice and Impact, the Center for Arts & Minds, the Marketing & Communications and Advancement offices all moved into a new building on Post Rd. downtown. Prominent figures such as Senator Town Hwang commented on the impact their involvement in the community might have on an already tense relationship between the town of Fairfield and Fairfield University.



Editor: Trent Ouellette

# Opinion

## The University Needs a Student-Run Coffee Shop

By **MAX LIMRIC**  
Editor-in-Chief

Community is the newest buzzword. Community this. Community that. But where can students find community on campus? I guess they can turn to the Barone Campus Center (BCC), I would be wrong to say they couldn't. Equipped with the updated Fairfield Mirror office, the renovated WVOF radio station and the Fairfield

University Students Association (FUSA); the student center surely offers some form of campus community. Doesn't it?

The Mirror office is packed on Monday nights, busy throughout Tuesday and its doors are always open. Despite this, the majority of the BCC lays bare, devoid of students. For the few students who enter the BCC for a late-night FUSA senate meeting, the occasional ping-pong match or just

for a quick cut-through, the BCC tends to be a necessary evil students must traverse to find their way from Egan back to the Quad.

Still, it's not called the campus center for nothing. In the BCC there is, of course, the Tully, Dunkin Donuts, the Stag Diner, the Commuter Lounge, ping-pong tables and the Mezzanine. The Tully can offer a sense of a collective campus, with students breaking bread together, but it's chock-full of university staff who often stop by for a meal—and it primarily serves underclassmen with meal plans.

Since community may be hard to find in the BCC, it'd be wrong if I didn't mention the role that residence halls play in creating community, and as a Resident Assistant myself, I know the hard work we put into creating a welcoming environment for students living under Residence Life's care. At the end of the day, however, these students are beholden to Residence Life's care; and are thus not allowed true independence.

While all of these lively locations are full of chatter and food, they're all run and used by university personnel and are exclusive to those with meal plans or those who live on campus. Therefore, none of them offer students a campus hub. In other words, there's nowhere on campus that's for all students, run by students.

Even though the university owns everything on this campus, students deserve a gathering place for all academic years, away from the prying eyes and firm grasp of the administration. Consequently, that leaves us wondering what can be done. As a solution, I offer up a student-run coffee shop on

campus.

Schools such as Drexel University, Rice University, Mount St. Mary's, Marist University and Georgetown University, just to name a few, all boast student-run coffee shops.

Student-run coffee shops not only boost the number of student jobs but also enable students to gain entrepreneurial experience and learn business skills—I mean, would that not be right up the Dolan School of Business' alley? I'm not a business major, but the ability to put classroom knowledge into practice in the real world sounds like a win.

Sometimes, university prompting can become too much. You probably won't find your best friend at that Life@Fairfield event and although it's worth a try, students need more options to branch out and make the most of college—without university interference.

With a student-run coffee shop, connections can flourish in a natural manner, without the university's guiding or often overreaching hand. Even though a helping hand is appreciated, it's best when student interactions are facilitated by students.

Additionally, who doesn't need more coffee? Okay, sure, we've already got three locations, but none are staffed by students. A thriving, student-run coffee shop on campus will create an atmosphere that other dining locations fail to create; we'll not only have good coffee, but we'll foster great connections.



SheaBurns/The Mirror

The BCC, which is considered the center of student life on campus, can often feel devoid of student focused activities. During the weekends, the building typically sees very low traffic.

## Is the Move-In Schedule Unfair to Upper Classmen?

By **ELIZABETH HOLLAND**  
Contributing Writer

With the fall semester beginning at Fairfield University, the Stags are excited to return to campus to start a new school year. However, it is known on campus that not every class year gets the same amount of time to acclimate to college life. As a sophomore, I had the privilege of arriving on campus a few days before class started. The extra day was beneficial in helping me organize before the academic year began.

This included dorm room setup, reading syllabus assignments, buying the supplies I needed and more. Having an extra day is important when adjusting to the new school year. Many students, including myself, can't help but notice that juniors and seniors are not given the same opportunities as underclassmen. The current arrangement of underclassmen is the ideal situation that I believe upperclassmen also deserve.

While some may argue that a staggered move-in ensures parties would be kept to a minimum, I believe all students at Fairfield University can have an extra day before classes without promoting disruptive behaviors on and off campus. It is important to have time to settle in and socialize before the nine-month academic year.

I believe upperclassmen should get the extra day to settle in before classes start so they have time to adjust to their new living arrangements, organize their academics, catch up with old

friends and enter the semester with a positive mental headspace.

Upperclassmen move-in can be stressful. Whether this is an on or off-campus move-in, an extra day would give them a chance to properly adjust and set up their new living spaces, organize their schedules and mentally prepare for the semester ahead. This helps students adapt after coming back from being abroad or ending a summer internship. Providing students time to adjust from summer break to a new routine has a positive impact on their academic life and mental health.

Most juniors live on campus in townhouses or dormitories that have kitchens. This could be a student's first time not having a meal plan which means that cooking for themselves is their new reality. This will cause a major change in routine so an extra day might help students become settled in and better prepared for what cooking looks like with a busy academic schedule.

Many seniors often live in off-campus housing, even apartment-style dorms. This can be isolating compared to the communal living environment that first-years, sophomores and juniors have. An additional day could allow them to reconnect with friends, meet new neighbors and build better relationships before diving into the academic pressures the year will bring.

There is a concern that the extra day would allow for more parties to happen which is understandable. However, I believe this objection overlooks

the natural flow of socialization that the college experience brings. Fairfield has many alternative activities on campus for when students move in to keep them engaged. This gives students an outlet for social interaction while also containing the unsupervised party scene.

Providing upperclassmen with the same benefits underclassmen are receiving would be significantly beneficial. Their academics are more complex, they often have more responsibilities and many possess leadership positions that come with high standards.

This leaves students needing an extra day to familiarize themselves with what is to come during the challenging first weeks of the semester. While some argue that this isn't feasible because of increased social events, this allows students to be social in a controlled environment. Fairfield should consider this option as a way to better support the overall success of the upperclassmen and campus as a whole.



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield

Junior and Senior move-in typically occurs the day before classes begin. The quick turnaround from move-in day leaves many upperclassmen feeling as though the University is rushing them into the school year.



# Beach Security: Safety or Suppression?

By JACQUI RIGAZIO  
Copy Editor

Thousands of students attend Fairfield University in hopes of living out a coveted senior year experience: getting to live on the beach. Highly advertised for its proximity to the coast, living beachfront is a huge pull for students when deciding to become a Stag. When I moved into Gonzaga Hall as a first-year three years ago, I dreamed of the day when I would be able to live on the beach with all of my friends as a senior. Who wouldn't? Therefore, moving into my cute house on Lantern Point this past week was a dream come true. Finally, I was living where all the action happens. Mere steps away from the scene of the beach parties and across from the Seagrape, I could come up with zero complaints about my new home.

No complaints, that is, until I found out that I couldn't have friends over at my house.

Lantern Point is known as the party spot in Fairfield, and understandably this comes with security. The beach security, called "G-Force," is stationed at each entrance to the Point ensuring that only residents can enter. Residents of the Point are given resident passes and each house gets four guest passes, meaning that every house can only have a maximum of four guests over at any given time.

My roommates and I all love to host, which is why we were so excited to live at Lantern Point. Now, with restricted access for guests, we cannot even host our entire friend group for a movie night or birthday dinner. It is discouraging to think that I was able to have more people over in my first-year dorm room than I can in my senior-year house.

Security is strictly enforcing this rule, requiring everyone to flash a resident or guest pass to go beyond the gate. On a Tuesday evening around 6 p.m., five of my friends tried to stop by and say hi. I only had three guest passes at the time, as one of my roommates was using the other, and security told me that only three friends could enter while two had to wait at the gate. This was very frustrating, as it was a calm weeknight and I just wanted to chat with some friends. This is a prime example of security being way too strict on the seniors, as I see no reason that five of my friends should be restricted from stopping by my house on a Tuesday night to say hello.

In addition to this, security was definitely felt on Labor Day. In accordance with the old tale of not wearing white after Labor Day, students traditionally hold a "white-out" themed party and gather in all-white clothing to celebrate being

back in Stag Country. This year, no student even touched the Lantern Point beach due to intense security and fencing that closed off the Point from the rest of the beach. Being in my fourth year at Fairfield, I understand how parties of the past have been crazy and out of hand, but this is no reason to prevent residents from hosting friends at their own houses. I think I speak for the majority of seniors when I say that the lack of a "white-out" party this year was very disappointing. Many of us have been looking forward to this day for three years just to be barred from the beach. I am not asking for permission to throw crazy, dangerous parties, but to simply invite people that we know and trust over to our homes.

I am not the only senior frustrated with the heightened security this year. Lantern Point residents Heather Hodgkins '25 and Dani Wass '25 also expressed their feelings on the matter.

Hodgkins shared that she anticipated some form of security before moving into her beach house, but she "didn't anticipate that we would have zero white party."

"This was really disappointing considering it was my senior year and I've had a white party every other year," she continues.

Echoing my sentiments, Hodgkins said "I just wish I was able to have my friends come over without having to go get them and go get a guest pass. They can't just simply come over to hang out, have a movie night or watch TV without people giving them a hard time."

Wass also expressed that the security is "very disappointing, because in past years there's been security at a lower level where people could still come and gather, and they haven't even let us do that."

Wass continues, "I think they should give us a chance to at least prove ourselves and let us have a gathering, and if it goes crazy then I understand why they would put these measures in place, but they didn't even let us try."

Hodgkins also offered up a compromise, suggesting "that if you want to access the point you should be able to show your Stag Card, and if it says 2025 as your graduating year you should be able to be let in. We seniors want to come together this year, make friends and have parties together. There's no reason why seniors should be limited from seeing each other."

I agree with Hodgkins' proposal and think that this

would be a great compromise that limits the number of people at the beach parties while still letting the seniors spend time together. This suggestion combined with the weekly Sunday beach clean-ups could be the perfect way to appease both the town and the Fairfield seniors. For now, I can only hope that security lightens up and lets us enjoy our final year at Fairfield together.



DPS was present at the beach during the weekend of the Whiteout. Many students chose not to party on the beach due to their presence alongside numerous other safety measures.

## Office of Accessibility Helps Students to Excel

By KAREN TANG  
Contributing Wruter

As a first-year student here at Fairfield University, I have seen my classmates express a variety of thoughts and feelings about starting college. Feelings of excitement, nervousness and even feelings of homesickness are common amongst not only first-year students but all college students. Despite being on campus for a short period of time, I have already formed my personal perspective of college life and navigating campus while having a learning disability (LD).

I got a head start on campus life via the Academic Immersion program run through Fairfield's Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (SDMA) which allowed me to move into my dorm about a month early. Additionally, I was able to take Cultural Anthropology and Biomedical Science and Society which fulfilled two of the Magis Core requirements. I have to say, however, that those classes weren't exactly my cup of tea. Despite this, it was a worthwhile experience learning about and getting a taste of, what college classes are like. To say the very least, it was quite difficult. Having a semester's worth of information crammed into four weeks isn't exactly the easiest way to learn things. Aside from the academics, this program provided me with some of my best friends, all of them coming from a variety of backgrounds. As a whole, I am very grateful that this program exists, and for the amazing staff at SDMA for always making each individual feel heard and validated.

After the official move-in, with everyone in the Class of 2028 on campus, and a weekend full of Fall Welcome activities, I was ready to party and get a taste of what college life was like. My friends and I decided to attend the "White Out" party. Overall, I enjoyed it, but when things became a little rowdy and chaotic, my friends decided that safety was the number one priority so they walked me home to ensure my safety after seeing that I was a bit stressed and overwhelmed.

These feelings carried through to the first days of class as professors threw information into my face. Despite the stresses of "Syllabus Week" I knew I was in good hands, with the tools I needed to succeed, and the accommodations I required for my LD, thanks to the Office of Accessibility (OOA).

OOA is located in the DiMenna Nyselius Library and it is in charge of helping students who have documented disabilities receive the proper accommodations in classes whether it be allowing service animals on campus or providing specialized dorms. In my opinion, they do an excellent job helping students with their accommodations and communicating with professors and other school staff. The office is a safe space for students to discuss their accommodations and take assessments.

As an individual who has ADHD and Autism, I get easily overwhelmed, distracted and struggle to stay on topic. One of the tools I use to overcome this includes Google Calendar, in which I keep track of class times, my appointments, campus events and

extracurricular activities. I also use a physical planner where I write down whatever I need to accomplish. It is a pretty good feeling to check something off the list! In the classroom, I am sure to leverage Glean, a note taking assistance tool that records your lectures and transcribes them. Finally, when I need to take tests or quizzes, I take them in the OOA's testing room.

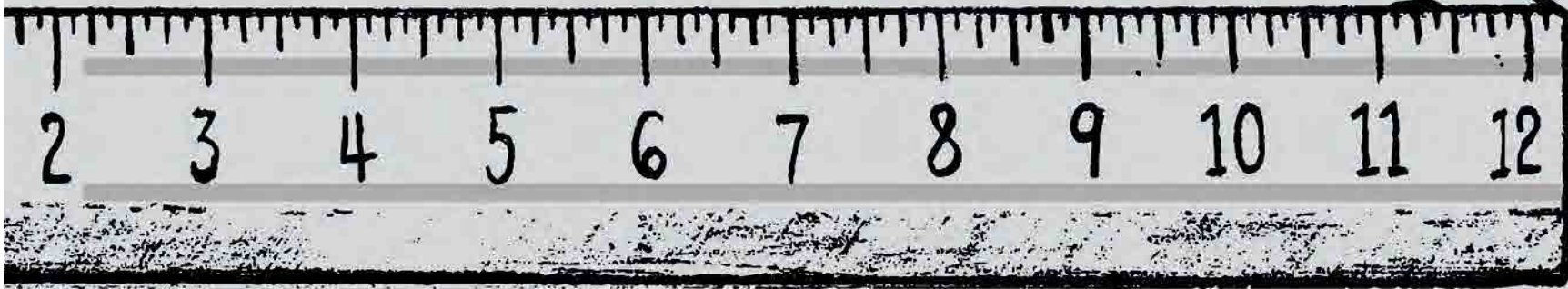
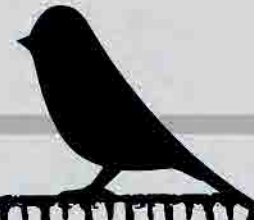
I have embraced my learning challenges and have not allowed them to define who I am as a student, a person or as a classmate. I believe that everyone is unique in their own special way, and that every person is capable of doing well in life. Each person shows their intelligence in a different way, so be patient and considerate of others. My overall experience here at Fairfield has been amazing as a first year, and I am looking forward to what the future holds!



The Office of Accessibility, located in the library, offers various services to students in need of accommodations. The office allows students to reach their full potential on campus as a student and member of the community.

# THE VINE

Editor: Caitlin Shea

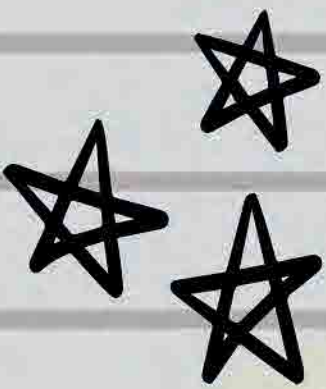


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# Club Fair 101: Get Involved This Semester

BY TALIA SCARPA  
Contributing Writer

On Friday, September 7, the Barone Campus Center traffic circle was buzzing with over 100 clubs and organizations. Many unique clubs were featured at the fair ranging from music clubs to intramural sports, major-specific clubs and fundraising organizations just to name a few.



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldu

Students gather at the Barone Campus Center traffic circle to get involved.

Students walked around with friends and fellow classmates, signing up for as many clubs as possible. With the amount of clubs that Fairfield has to offer the community, everyone can find something that they are interested in.

I had the opportunity to speak with the leaders of the Beekeeping Club, The Women's Network, American Sign Language (ASL) and Theatre Fairfield about why stu-

dents should get involved in their clubs.

The Beekeeping Club aims to educate others about beekeeping preservation. This club is relatively new to the Fairfield community as it just began last spring.

President Dominic Angelichio believes students should get involved because "it allows students to actively participate in help-



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldu

Carlos Castillo '26 promotes the Beekeeping Club by dressing the part.

ing the environment through beekeeping and it's a very rewarding experience."

If you are scared of bees, don't worry! There are other ways of being a member of this eco-friendly club such as educating

others and helping out with campus events. "Bee" on the lookout for the hives and natural honey sometime this upcoming Spring!

The Women's Network (TWN) offers a wide variety of opportunities for current Fairfield students to network with Fairfield alumni across different industries. All majors are welcome to join the club. The key point of this club is to learn the art of networking.

Vice President Areti Karampekios says the things that make the club special are its many "networking events, workshops and alumni guest speaker events."

When speaking with the club advisor of the American Sign Language Club (ASL) Sergio Adrada, he pointed out an interesting and important notice that more universities should pay attention to. Few universities offer ASL courses or programs even though there are an estimated 1 million ASL users in the United States.

Students should consider joining the ASL club because it provides "more visibility to the deaf and hard of hearing community in the United States, especially when we are trying to enhance DEI at the university" Adrada says.

Lastly, I had the chance to speak with Club Officer Katharine Gutkoski '26 from Theatre Fairfield (TF). She talked about her own personal experience with TF and how it helped her find a community at Fairfield.

She describes how theatre is a welcoming activity for incoming first-years "who may feel like they haven't found their place yet."

Look out for their upcoming show "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare!" If you do not want to get involved with performing on stage, there are also other ways to play a role in TF such as stage crew and musical theatre workshops from 5-7 p.m. on Fridays!

Whether you are interested in making honey, connecting with Fairfield graduates for job opportunities, learning a new form of communication or rocking it on the stage, hopefully there is something at the club fair that sparks your interest and will grow your passions this year at Fairfield University!



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldu

Lucas checking out all the clubs the Fairfield students have to offer.

# Chappell Roan: The Next Big Thing

BY FIONA WAGNER  
Assistant Vine Editor

It's official, we are living in the era of Chappell Roan.

Imagine a pop universe where every song is a burst of glitter with a hint of rebellion. That is the world of Chappell Roan, where each song is a rollercoaster full of powerhouse energy and electrifying fun.

Typically a new release from Taylor Swift or Beyonce would steal the spotlight, but this summer the 26-year-old Midwestern pop princess has made waves. In just a couple of months, Chappell Roan has become a household name, impossible to ignore.

To understand Chappell Roan is to know the beginning of her story.

This mid-western star didn't just pop up out of nowhere, Roan has been working towards success for nearly a decade. She started out posting singing videos to YouTube, which allowed her to get signed by Atlantic Records at the age of 17. She then began to tour as an opening artist for performers such as Declan McKenna and Olivia Rodrigo. The pop princess started to gain popularity through those performances, but what began her shift was

dropping Atlantic Records and signing with Island Records in 2020. Here, Chappell Roan was able to be herself and eventually release her debut album, *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess* in 2023.



Photo Courtesy of NPR

Chappell Roan finds her sparkle onstage by giving a voice to the LGBTQ+ community.

This album transcended her into the spotlight and she has continued to grow even since then. The reason Roan is so loved is because she always stays true to herself. Her image is extremely influenced by drag culture, which is something new to a lot of

people. Roan is known for her big red hair, glamorous costumes, and rebellious songs. No one is like her in the industry, and people love what she stands for.

Students here at Fairfield University have expressed their love for the pop sensation. Glee Member Jane Coppola '27 voiced her appreciation that "Chappell Roan is unapologetically herself. She's less scripted than a lot of other pop artists."

Coppola shared, "She says what she is feeling and what she truly believes in... which I really admire."

Coppola's thoughts are exactly why so many people love Chappell Roan. People want to root for someone true to themselves. It is clear that Roan has worked extremely hard to get to where she is. Coppola doesn't believe Roan was an overnight sensation but believes that "She spent years perfecting her brand and imagining and finding something unique that truly stuck."

One of the most important things Chappell Roan has done has been for the LGBTQ+ community. She is a representation of everything they want to hear. Her song "Good Luck, Babe!" has gained extreme

popularity. This is a song about looking back "on a secret relationship with a woman from her past and the struggle with compulsory heterosexuality..." This song, as well as her others, allows LGBTQ+ members to find themselves in her lyrics.

Sophomore Abby Roberge agrees that Chappell Roan is someone to look out for. She adds, "I think Chappell Roan is a refreshing new pop musician with her unique sound that other artists can't quite recreate."

Both Roberge and Coppola point out the fact that no one is doing it like Chappell Roan. She also brings such a special energy whenever she sings. Her uniqueness scored her a win as "Best New Artist" at the MTV Video Music Awards last weekend!

In the electrifying realm of pop music, Chappell Roan isn't just a standout— she's a midwest princess paving the way for those around her. Roan shines in the spotlight, always being true to herself— not caring what anyone thinks about her. As we look ahead, it's clear that Chappell Roan is here to stay, redefining what it means to be a pop star in the twenty-first century.