

THE MIRROR

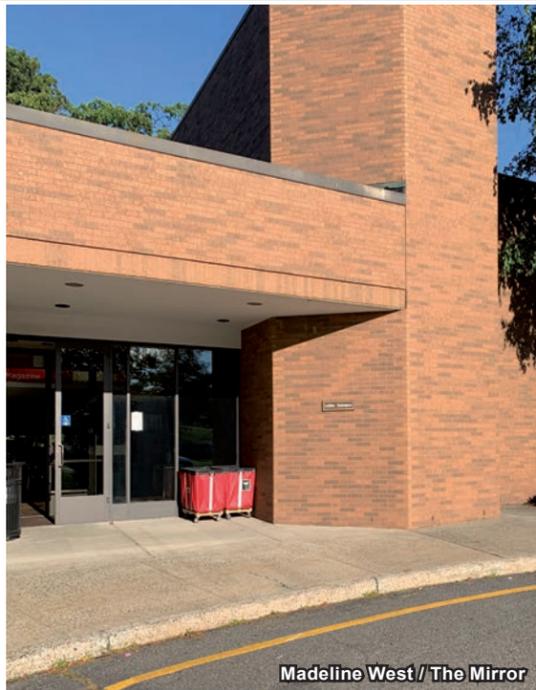
Independent student newspaper

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Madeline West / The Mirror



Madeline West / The Mirror

Newly constructed Townhouse 16 block. Move-in for students living in Townhouse 16 block was delayed until last Friday, Sept. 16.

Prior to Townhouse 16 Block's completion, students had the option to stay in the Conference Center on-campus or the Trumbull Marriott.

Townhouse 16 Block Residents Frustrated After Move-In Delay

By Madeline West
Editor-in-Chief

On September 16, students who were assigned the residence of Townhouse 16 Block were able to move in after a delay in construction, pushing back their move in date.

On August 23, 2022, student residents planning to move into Townhouse 16 Block were notified by the Office of Residence Life that "there was an unexpected construction delay that could affect your ability to move in on-time."

Further, the email said if a delay was to occur students would be placed at the Conference Center on campus or the Trumbull Marriott hotel until their permanent residence was ready.

On August 26, a follow up was sent by ResLife in which they gave "confirmation that the new units will be ready for student move-in by September 16."

Senior and Junior students were set to move in on September 5 with classes to begin on September 6 for all years according to the 2022-23 academic calendar.

In addition to the temporary stay, ResLife expressed in an email sent to students that they would provide "reimbursement for mileage/gas, food/meal plan no cost option, laundry pick up and drop off, [and] move in/out assistance."

Also, on September 17 from 12-2 p.m. there was a "special move-in party" for the students and their families who had to move in.

According to a Mirror article the construction for the new Townhouse blocks began in early 2021.

Students residing in Townhouse 16 Block expressed their experience during the delay and their temporary stays either

at the hotel or Conference Center.

Ceci Hall '24 is living in the new Townhouse block. Due to the delay, she was temporarily living in the Trumbull Marriott hotel.

Hall expressed frustration for the situation since she "knew there were other renovations going on around campus so I was frustrated that our townhouses were not prioritized and were finished last."

"We had sent numerous emails and phone calls to ResLife and were always met with vague answers that always said 'we're expecting them to be ready' and we only heard about the reality 10 days before moving in."

- Caroline Murray '24

Hall continues to say that she understood there are construction delays and does "appreciate Fairfield providing me with a hotel to stay in and the meal plan has been nice, I think they were generous with that."

However, she "wished they had told us sooner that our townhouses wouldn't be finished."

With regards to her experience in the hotel, Hall "[hasn't] minded the temporary housing and

I've enjoyed my hotel room. However, it has been stressful dealing with the workday traffic commute in the mornings on my way to class."

She attests to her personal experience on the first day of class, "I was late to my first class the first night after staying in the hotel because I was not expecting all the traffic."

With regards to compensation, Hall mentions how ResLife originally offered reimbursement in the form of gas yet, she has not received it.

Additionally, Hall states "we did receive a meal plan, however, there have been times where I have been at my hotel and didn't want to drive all the way back to campus for a meal so I have had to buy my own [food]."

Similarly, Caroline Murray '24 is another Townhouse 16 Block resident. She resided in the Conference Center until September 16.

With regards to communication with ResLife on the delay, Murray says the confirmation on August 26 was "incredibly frustrating as we had visited campus and seen the active construction all summer between the eight of us and speculated that it wouldn't be ready for September 5th."

Murray continues to say, "We had sent numerous emails and phone calls to ResLife and we're always met with vague answers that always said 'we're expecting them to be ready' and we only heard about the reality 10 days before moving in."

When asked about the reimbursements such as gas mileage and laundry services, Murray states that, "They [ResLife] also gave us free laundry service, but only for one day."

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Students Roar with Excitement for Pres Ball

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

The Fairfield University Student Association will host the 2022 Presidential Ball Sept. 30 from 8 to 11 p.m. on the Bellarmine Lawn.

For the first time since 2019, this event will be a singular event for all class years, as per a Sept. 14 email from FUSA. The theme of this year's event is "Great Gatsby at Fairfield."

This year there were 2,800 tickets available to the Fairfield undergraduate community. This number was determined based on an analysis of previous years' attendance in combination with health and safety standards, according to FUSA President Jordan Gale '23.

Tickets went on sale for the Class of 2023 on Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. while tickets for all other classes went on sale at 5 p.m. on Sept. 17. The event sold out at 7:15 p.m. Students without tickets interested in attending can join the waitlist, which can also be found in the @fusa47 Instagram bio.

Though the waitlist currently has "around 150 students" as of 6:20 p.m. on Sept. 20, according to Gale, the 2,800 attendee cap will remain.

The Class of 2024 purchased the least amount of tickets with 585 bought, while the Class of 2026 bought the most with 819 tickets purchased. The Class of 2023 and 2025 bought 687 and 706 tickets, respectively, according to FUSA.

Last year, Pres Ball returned after not occurring for two years due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Taking into account the University's different mitigation strategies, Pres Ball 2021 was a two-part affair: the Classes of 2024 and 2025 had an earlier event from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., while the Classes of 2022 and 2023 had their event from 10 p.m. until midnight, according to

a September 2021 Mirror article.

Both events were held on Bellarmine Lawn, as per tradition. Students shared excitement and their experience purchasing tickets.

Senior Tess Morrissey expressed her excitement stating, "I am so excited about Pres Ball this year. The last time I attended was my freshman year in the Fall of 2019 and I had such a blast." Morrissey continued, "because of the pandemic I am so excited for full normalcy this year!"

Junior Matthew Delaney commented, "The ticketing process for me went well, I didn't need to wait in a line as I just logged into my account...and bought my ticket, easy as that."

Delaney also stated that, "Pres Ball has always been an absolute blast of an event that's held by the University. They do a great job with the event, the music, dancing, and taking photos with friends, all of it is just a great time and I can't wait for it on September 30!"

Sophomore Christopher Pozzuto said he felt as though the new system for ticketing evEnue, "was a good addition for the school because all the events are organized in one place instead of navigating to get tickets through emailed events."

Pozzuto continues, "I ended up getting tickets 20 minutes after they went on sale. I am looking forward to Pres Ball especially since last year they split up the classes. I believe FUSA will make this event memorable for everyone, especially the first year students."

Sophomore Samantha Flores explained her experience purchasing tickets stating, "it was stressful because we knew it was limited tickets and the site was taking forever to load so I kind of accepted that I wasn't going to get a ticket, which was upsetting

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Photo: Courtesy of @fusa47 Instagram

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Students Experience Housing Scramble Upon Arrival of Largest First-Year Class

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

By Max Limric
Head News Editor

Last year, Fairfield University welcomed the Class of 2025, the largest class in Fairfield history at the time. Last year's incoming class was notified in a June 8, 2021 email from the Office of Residence Life that "at most in 10% of the class, or 150 students will be housed in 50 converted triples," as reported by a June 29, 2021 Mirror article.

A November 2021 Mirror article reported that Director of Residence Life, Charlie Sousa, expected a large class in 2026, and referenced the "Enrollment Cliff" belief that predicted that the decline of the birth rate during the 2008 recession would lead to a 15% decline in first-year enrollment beginning in 2025. Sousa added that this cliff has not occurred at Fairfield, and instead, the University has seen quite the opposite, with enrollment numbers increasing each year.

The Class of 2026 has 1,340 students, dethroning last year's class for largest first-year class, according to an article posted by FairfieldNews.

Sophomore Andrew Caslin lived in a converted triple in Jogues Hall during his first year.

He told the Mirror in 2021, "I do have concerns going forward that there will be a housing shortage each year. As someone who has witnessed first hand the effects of having more students than you can accommodate, I am worried."

With an even larger class, even more accommodations were needed to be made by ResLife to ensure that each on-campus first-year student had housing.

In addition to converted triples, first-year housing for the Class of 2026 also includes quads and a quintuple. Some of these types of housing were made by converting study rooms and lounges in each of the first and second-year dorm buildings.

The Mirror reached out to ResLife to confirm the number of

students placed into these converted housing options, but ResLife did not respond in time of this publication.

Sophomore Logan Morris is one of the students in 42 Langguth Road currently living in converted housing, which was formerly a study room.

"I didn't know it was a converted room at first, they told me I was in Langguth Hall, but they didn't tell me it was a converted study space," Morris said. "I didn't find out it was converted until my roommate moved in a week early and told me it was a converted room."

" I didn't find out it was converted until my roommate moved in a week early and told me it was a converted room."

- Logan Morris '25

Since Morris lives in a converted study room, he and his roommate do not have their own bathroom, which other students living in 42 Langguth Road traditional suites have. Instead, Morris uses the gender neutral bathroom on the floor, which is shared with another group of students who live in another converted lounge on the floor.

Sophomore student Lanyon Henwood was notified in August that he was going to be put into a converted lounge in Claver Hall with three roommates.

"When I first got the email I thought it was going to be bad, and it in fact turned out to be very bad," Henwood stated. "Living in a converted quad was unexpected and unwanted since I was originally supposed to be in McCormick Hall with only one roommate, but it turned out to be Claver Hall

with three other roommates."

Though converting the study rooms to bedrooms has helped to lessen the lack of housing, students feel the loss of these designated study areas.

"I was disappointed and felt lied to when I got to campus, because we were never told we were losing our study rooms," says Erica Adams '25.

Students with majors that are commonly referred to as being rigorous are feeling disappointed with the loss of their study rooms.

"As a nursing major, it was very disappointing to see [that] on move-in day that many of our private study spaces in Langguth were converted to dorm rooms and no longer available to access" states Gabby Clune '25.

Adams shares those feelings, stating, "I applied to Langguth because of all the study rooms and the easily accessible resources. I saw them being good collaborative spaces where I could focus on my classes, especially since I am a nursing major."

As 42 Langguth Road is home to the Ignatian Residential College with an application needed in order to be accepted, many are upset to lose their study spaces within the building as those spaces are vital to creating a feeling of campus within dorm halls and are hubs for academic collaboration.

First-year Caroline Amadon lives in a converted Jogues Hall lounge. She was shocked upon learning that her first college housing was going to be a quad in a converted lounge.

"When I first opened the email, I thought I had misread it, but when I realized I was with three other people in a quad I was shocked because I don't think anyone knew Fairfield University was doing quads," Amadon says.

"It was mentioned that it was a converted lounge space, but no one really knew what it looked like until we got here."

Meditz Hall, previously used to be exclusively junior living, however in recent years has also housed sophomores due to the increasing class sizes.

This year, converted triples have also been added into Meditz. Some of these triples were made during the post-lottery process if groups were unable to pick in the initial lottery, therefore, some of the triples were randomly assigned.

The Mirror requested comment from ResLife regarding the number of students affected by the addition of triples to Meditz, however, ResLife did not respond in time.

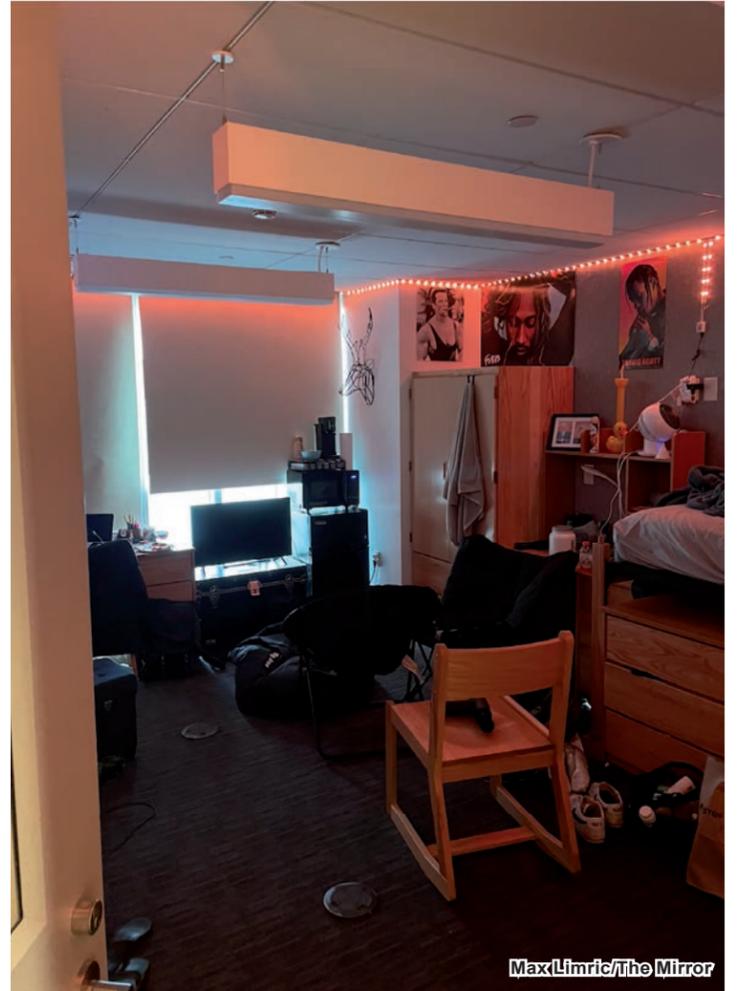
Sophomore John Riley describes his experience with the housing lottery as "tough" since he was split up from his original housing group and states that there was "a lot of uncertainty throughout the entirety of the process."

"I was unsure where I was going to be living until the last week of August," he adds.

Sophomore Aiden Toomey and his group living in Meditz were assigned a random roommate.

"We were notified on August 15," Toomey says. "Two times that day, one with the announcement and another with the roommate assignment," Toomey states.

Toomey describes his group as being "stunned at first" and states they were "scrambling to text each other and



MaxLimric/The Mirror

Former study room in 42 Langguth Hall which was converted into a dorm. Students living in converted spaces in 42 Langguth Road were not aware they were converted until they moved in.

figure out what this all meant."

"It was definitely a shock to the system that was in place, as we had to go through an extra application to get into our dorm, so having an abrupt change like this seemed unjustified," Toomey says.

" Honestly, the whole idea of converted spaces was pretty new and sudden to me, and of course it has bothered me since I believe every student is entitled to a spacious area to themselves."

- Annamarie Tizzio '25

In regards to how Toomey felt the University communicated about the situation, he says that, "the school dealt us a hand and there really was no reason to argue it, so we decided to just move on."

"Overall the situation was more difficult for the random roommates as they had to adjust to being in a situation where everyone else knew each other, unlike last year," Toomey concludes.

Resident Assistants have also felt the effects of the over enrollment of the first-year class.

Junior Brittany Wiggins, an RA in Faber Hall, states, "The room that is known as the Meditation room in Faber Hall was converted into a living space for five people, which has largely increased the amount of residents on my floor and has added to the

amount of people living in Faber."

This unexpected change of rooms has added an additional workload to RAs in each of the affected buildings.

Sophomore Annamarie Tizzio, an RA in Faber Hall states, "I

anticipated having a large number of residents to begin with, since all of my rooms are quads," continuing, "I currently have 64 residents, four of them living in a converted space, that is the '2.5' lounge that's placed between the second and third floor."

Tizzio continues, "Honestly, the whole idea of converted spaces was pretty new and sudden to me, and of course it has bothered me since I believe every student is entitled to a spacious area to themselves."

Under these new working conditions, she remains confident and says that she "will do [her] best to help provide a good residential experience for all [her] residents while there are different living situations."

In addition to the increase in residents for each RA, dedicated office spaces for RAs across campus have had to be moved

to make space for additional converted living areas. Upperclassmen have felt the effects as well.

Students living in the traditional townhouses entered the lottery in groups of either four or six, however, several four-person groups over the summer were notified that a fifth person would be added to their housing assignment, according to Dominic Oliveri '24.

Classes of 2022 and 2023 experienced converted triples within the four-person townhouses, but the Class of 2024 entered the 2022-2023 housing lottery assuming the townhouse triples had been done away.

Oliveri had a fifth person assigned to his townhouse.

"What's the word? Unfair? Ridiculous?," he states, "It feels absurd I got stuck with a forced triple as a junior. I don't have the words."



Photo contributed by Lanyon Henwood

Claver Hall converted quad, which was formerly a lounge. Many of these lounge spaces have been lost due to increased enrollment in an effort to create more bedroom spaces.



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

9/7/22

10:45 p.m.

Five students in Regis Hall were found in possession of marijuana and drug-related paraphernalia. The paraphernalia was confiscated and students involved were referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

9/9/22

4:30 a.m.

A student was attempting to get into 70 McCormick Road and during an investigation he surrendered a fake ID. The ID was confiscated and the student was referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

9/9/22

4:20 p.m.

DPS investigated the theft of cash from the Leslie C. Quick Recreation Complex. No suspects were reported. Anyone with information is encouraged to call DPS.

9/9/22

11:55 p.m.

A student reported that she was being tracked by an Apple AirTag. It was deactivated and the investigation is ongoing. DPS is aware of a scam regarding AirTags and students are encouraged to stay vigilant.

9/11/22

12:00 p.m.

A student reported the license plate on her Jeep damaged in the Quick Center for the Arts parking lot. No suspects were reported.

9/13/22

10:30 p.m.

DPS assisted the Office of Residence Life with a roommate dispute in Gonzaga Hall.

9/18/22

12:37 a.m.

One student and one non-student were found in possession of a large amount of marijuana in Townhouse 16 block.

9/19/22

7:30 a.m.

Grounds crew reported several pieces of new sod missing at Townhouse 6 block. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact DPS.

Members of Fairfield Community React to Regis West Construction



Thomas Coppola/The Mirror

The construction of a new sophomore dorm building behind Regis Hall, called 'Regis West.' With construction being so close to Regis Hall, students have expressed some disruption due to noise.

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor

On July 14, 2022, Josh LaBella of The Fairfield Citizen wrote in the CT Insider and Connecticut Post an article titled "Fairfield University plans to build new sophomore dorm," deconstructing a long-circling rumor that the University would indeed be breaking ground on a new residence hall, taking inspiration from the namesake of Regis Hall.

According to LaBella, the residence hall will house sophomores and will be called "Regis West."

On July 28, 2022, LaBella posted an update via the same sources, going through the logistics of the University's appeal to create the new residence hall.

In order to begin construction of the wing, the University had multiple hurdles to cross before the process could start.

According to the Town of Fairfield Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting minutes from their April 7, 2022 meeting Attorney John Fallon spoke alongside Fairfield University's Vice President of Facilities David Frassinelli in order to revise previous plans for the building.

In the meeting's minutes, the pair's presentation states that "The original application asked for a variance to allow the height of the new structure to be 56 feet with a total of five (5) stories."

This application, if approved, would have allowed Fairfield University to begin building a "203-bed, new student residence hall in the residential quadrangle area of the campus."

After meeting with residents and neighbors of the surrounding area, however, Frassinelli and Fallon revised the terms of the plan in order to accommodate for light pollution facing Round Hill Road.

"They have reduced the number of stories from five (5) to four (4), and they've reduced the proposed height variance from 56 ft.

to 46 ft., and have committed themselves to other significant modifications that should be made conditions of approval," Fallon and Frassinelli stated, presenting to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

As part of the approval process, the Zoning Board of Appeals granted Fairfield University the ability to go ahead with the project, under four conditions: first, "an 8 ft. berm and 16 ft. arborvitaes will be planted," secondly "Removal of 200-400, 16-18 ft. light poles to be replaced with 51 watt, 12 ft. poles," third "Trees will be planted every 50 ft. on the Round Hill Road side of the berm," and finally, "Lights in the dorm rooms will be placed on the inside face of the wall."

Before concluding, the ZBA's minutes stated that four neighbors that were in opposition of the building were at the meeting, while others opted to send letters to the ZBA regarding their stance on the new facility.

"In Regis, because there is no air conditioning, almost everyone leaves the windows open all the time. So that also makes the noise much harder to deal with."

-Nicholas Hark '26

With the university preparing for "controlled growth of undergraduate enrollment to approximately 5000" according to Frassinelli's presentation to the ZBA, action on the new residence hall has begun, with the removal of trees from the western property line of Fairfield University.

As construction has broken ground, Regis Hall residents have shown mixed emotions about the process and how it might be affecting them on a daily basis.

One first-year student, Nicholas Hark's course schedule makes it so that

noise created by the construction does not bother him. "Personally, it's not that much of a problem to myself because four of the five days of the week, I have 8 a.m. classes," Hark stated.

However, Hark also pointed out a glaring issue to students living adjacent to the construction, clarifying "...also, in Regis, because there is no air conditioning, almost everyone leaves the windows open all the time. So that also makes the noise much harder to deal with."

Additionally, Justin Showaniec '26 shared a similar sentiment stating that "I honestly haven't been affected at all, I feel like I have definitely heard people on the other side of the hall who are closer to the action and have definitely been woken up to it and heard it."

Some actually found utility in the construction. "...I mean, it starts at 7 a.m., so sometimes it is helpful when you have an 8 a.m. to get to," Lauren Cunneen '26 stated.

"I think it is okay, because they do a lot of hard work out there," she continued. The noise, however, tends to frustrate other residents. "Sometimes when we have classes at 11 a.m. or noon, it's kinda like, I want to sleep in," Marina Chiaro '26 explained.

Some residents also realized that the building's construction may take some time, but still, the lack of a nice view outside of their room's window could be a cause for concern. "It's not the prettiest," Liv Giglio-Dirga '26 mentioned. "It's not great, but it's not, like, horrible," she continued, referencing the construction noises each day.

According to the same reporting by LaBella in the Connecticut Post, multiple residents of Round Hill Road were not consulted at all, one of them being Jeff Cramer.

LaBella reports that "meetings took place between the University and the two neighbors that would be most severely impacted."

"The new residence hall has been sensitively architecturally designed to ensure that it will be attractive, unobtrusive and harmonize with the existing buildings on campus."

- David Frassinelli
Vice President of Facilities

Frassinelli commented to The Mirror on the timetable of the construction project, stating it will be done in August 2023.

He additionally confirmed that the residence hall will be housing sophomore students corroborating the Connecticut Post article by LaBella.

With regards to the appearance of the residence hall itself, Frassinelli states that it will be architecturally designed "more like [42] Langguth [Road] with suites." To conclude his and Fallon's presentation to the ZBA, the minutes state that "The new residence hall has been sensitively architecturally designed to ensure that it will be attractive, unobtrusive and harmonize with the existing buildings on campus."

Unlike the connected hallways of 70 McCormick Road and Campion Hall, Frassinelli continued that Regis West would not be connected to Regis Hall itself and would instead be a standalone building.

When asked if there are any further construction projects on the horizon, Frassinelli stated, "Not at this time."

The Mirror will continue to report on this project and any future projects being worked on around campus.

THE MIRROR

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New 16 Block Residents Raise Questions of Reimbursement

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With regards to the Conference Center, Murray expressed challenges of living there for the first two weeks of classes. She said, “the desk was only built for one person (a small L-shaped desk) so only one could do homework there or get ready in the morning.”

She sums up her experience as “disorganized and anxiety provoking being unable to unpack and spread out, unless I wanted to put my clothes on the ground.”

Murray felt as though the process of communication was not the best, she attests that she “knows there were a lot of unknowns on ResLife’s end [but] up until the 16th, which remained only a tentative date until that day at 5 p.m., we were emailing back and forth and never getting a clear answer.”

On the final day Murray says that “there were thirty of us just standing in the lobby at 4:45 just waiting to hear about the 5 p.m. tentative move in time; we were cheering when they showed up at 5:15.”

John Martin ‘23 was also subjected to the move in delay.

He was housed in the Conference Center because he “personally thought being on campus would be better.”

He additionally said the move in process “wasn’t too bad.”

Martin additionally states that since moving in “the townhouse has been great so far everyone has their own single and it reminds me of Barnyard.”

With regards to reimbursements received, Martin states, “we got a few perks such as some dining dollars and a meal plan for

a few weeks, but it wasn’t anything amazing.”

Liana Giacobbe ‘24 is another resident who lives on Townhouse Block 16.

She also resided in the conference center and states that it had “not the worst accommodations,” however, for the first few weeks she felt “far from the townhouses and most of our friends.”

Giacobbe states that the “university was as accommodating as possible, though there were some slight issues with the laundry service and I feel as though they could have communicated with us more effectively.”

Because moving into Townhouse Block 16 on September 16 aligned with ongoing classes, Giacobbe expresses she was “super stressed last weekend with balancing moving in and making sure I had enough time to enjoy my days off.”

However, despite the move in delay Giacobbe says “our house is gorgeous and we love it, though it is obvious that move in was rushed.”

Giacobbe expresses some issues with the house stating “we have had to do a ton of cleaning and have had some issues with our plumbing, which has been nothing short of annoying.”

Further, Ryan Schneider ‘24 who lives at Townhouse 162 along with nine other male students. The male students were in the Conference Center prior to the official move in.

He expresses the group “has had a few hiccups” with regards to moving in.

Schneider expresses that the Office of ResLife did not “answer mine or my parent’s emails.”

Additionally, he said when the group arrived at the house there were several issues with the interior.



Madeline Hossler / The Mirror

An example of one of the Conference Center rooms that housed students temporarily displaced from 16 Block while construction wrapped up. Students were able to move into 16 Block on Friday, Sept. 16.

For instance, Schneider states, “the oven was not plugged in properly” and “there was caulk all over the floor.”

Schneider also expressed that the washing machines were not functioning properly, stating he felt “everything here was kind of rushed but I am happy to be moved in here.”

The Mirror requested comment

from ResLife regarding the number of students who were impacted by the delay of the opening of Townhouse 16 Block as well as questions with regards to reimbursement, and they did not answer in time.

However, The Mirror will add their comment if answered to our online publication.

Futuristic Food Deliverers Touch Down in Fairfield

By Olivia Hopwood
Contributing Writer

Shaped like a mobile cooler and turning heads around campus, Fairfield University is the first school in the Northeast to partner with Grubhub and Starship Technologies to provide robot delivery services around campus.

With a simple download of the Grubhub app, students can use their credit or debit cards, Stagbucks or University Dining Dollars to pay for their personally delivered meal by robot.

Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Services, Matthew Dinnan, expressed that “Fairfield University is excited about the opportunity to partner with Starship Technologies and Grubhub to bring the robot delivery system to campus.”

“Given the busy schedules students have, as well as the need for convenience,

options and flexibility, the robot delivery system offers yet another platform of service to our campus community,” Dinnan states.

Dinnan also provided insight for where and when the robots will be of service.

The “options for meal service now include the Tully, snack bar, Levee, food trucks, DSB Starbucks Proudly Serves, Sushi DO, BCC and library Dunkins, and now robots,” Dinnan stated.

He continued to explain that “the robots will provide delivery service weekdays from Starbucks (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.), the Snack Bar (11 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and The Levee (11 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

The evening kitchen services [are delivered] from 5 p.m. during weekdays and weekends.”

Speaking of its convenience, the new technology shows Fairfield’s innovative approach as a new era begins and provides a contactless way to safely deliver food.

“I think the new food robots coming to campus at Fairfield are showing different innovation, cementing ourselves as a modern Jesuit University with all the technology that’s around us and it provides more convenience to students,” Evan Keiser ‘24 stated.

Some students, who may have a farther daily walk to Fairfield’s dining services than others, now have the robots at their disposal.

“With a pretty large 200-acre campus, there’s some regions that don’t have easy access to food services so having the food robots definitely helps out,” Keiser continued.

First-year-student Kara Bode says, “The first time I saw the robots I laughed at them, but after studying in my dorm all afternoon, the robot was an easy and fun way to get dinner without leaving my room.”

“I wish that these were something that were on campus when I lived in the townhouses, the village, the quad ... especially during COVID, these would’ve been something

that were awesome to have,” Kevin Stush ‘23, a current Fairfield Beach resident, stated.

Some students, however, have shown frustration about the robots, and have instead decided to simply not use them.

“...I tried to get Starbucks, and it said that it would take over an hour, so I haven’t tried them, but I just think they’re cute rolling around campus,” Nora Jacobi ‘25 laughed.

Quite literally through “rain or shine,” the robots will travel through the snow, up steep inclines and at night.

However, they cannot travel to dorms without sidewalks. In order to receive your food from the “Starship Robot,” students must meet it at the door located at its designated location and unlock the bot with the phone which was used to place the order, according to information on Starship’s official website.

Download Grubhub and register your fairfield.edu to get started.



Madeline West / The Mirror

Fairfield University’s partnership with Grubhub and Starship Technologies has brought food delivery robots to campus this fall.

Opinion

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



Finding the right college is a challenge. But Fairfield stands out as the perfect choice for some members of the class of 2026.

Finding The School That Has It All

By Elizabeth Morin
Contributing Writer

When I was looking at schools, at almost every tour and on every virtual webinar, all the students were saying that they knew at first sight that that school was for them. The moment they toured, they knew they were going there, no questions asked.

While their intentions were likely to make us more confident in the college, hearing that never made me feel good. I never walked onto a campus and left with complete confidence that I was going to spend my next four years there. Up until the last minute, I was set on going to a public university in Vermont that couldn't be more different than Fairfield. I did have a "eureka" moment with that school, but it wasn't because I was being offered the full package with a good mix of academics and social life. I just liked Vermont and I felt like I would fit in with the people that went there.

When I was admitted to Fairfield however, all of my plans were thrown off. I had never actually looked too much into the university before I applied, but as I went back to look, I realized that this school offered it all. There was a very successful English department which was nice to see as most of the colleges I applied to were predominantly nursing

and other general STEM schools.

Even better, Fairfield is an hour from New York, which is exactly where I plan on working after graduation. This would allow me to go into the city for potential internships and even to just go out on a weekend. On campus everyone seemed to be friendly with each other and I ended up reaching out to a friend that currently attends here and she reiterated that the social climate is nothing but welcoming and kind at Fairfield.

At the other schools I applied to, I never really found the whole package. Either it was entirely academics and no social life or the opposite. Fairfield was the first school to present it all, so it should have been an easy decision, but since I had my heart set on the school in Vermont for several months, making this sharp turn in plans was more difficult than I expected.

I kept making excuses like I didn't know enough about Fairfield and that it was too late to change my mind. I want to be the first person to say that it is completely okay to take the leap and go where you know is right, no matter when you discovered it or if you already had plans for somewhere else. After my final visit, I got in the car and I knew I had to make the jump. I told my parents this is where I would be going and I do not regret my decision at all!

Feeling Like More Than A Number

By Kelley Knox
Contributing Writer

I've always hated numbers. For one, I can't do math. When I tell you that I'm horrendous at math and that I struggle with basic numbers, I'm so serious! I wish I was joking. But anyways, enough about my number struggles.

Long story short, I picked Fairfield because from the minute I stepped onto campus, I did not feel like a number. I felt like an individual who had found her place to pursue her own dreams, aspirations and goals, which include running for a position in the Inter-Residential Housing Association, getting involved in service opportunities on campus and in the greater Fairfield area, finding a role in campus ministry and becoming a shadow host and tour ambassador for future Stags.

I felt like I had finally found my "home away from home," which is saying a lot since I live pretty far away from Fairfield (shout-out North Carolina!)

All of this pretty much sums up my reasoning behind my decision, but I consider myself a storyteller and a little bit of a chatterbox, so here are the details, events and reasoning behind my decision to become a Stag.

My senior year of high school was by no means an easy year, and the college application process did not do much to help my troubles. I have always been indecisive, and so I applied to fifteen different schools, simply looking for a fresh start. The application process, albeit repetitive, proved to be very difficult to me because I did not yet know what I wanted and needed from a college. I found myself scrambling to apply to as many schools as I could, all of which were completely different from one another. I had no idea what I was looking for, and I wanted to have options! The only thing that I knew, without a doubt, was that I needed a place to grow.

With each college application sent out the door, I was beginning to feel more confident, but I was not 100 percent confident in my college search until I visited

Fairfield. Fairfield was the only place that I visited where I did not have to convince myself that I belonged there. Instead of having to convince myself, Fairfield convinced me that I belonged and that I could be a valuable aspect of their community. After visiting a multitude of colleges, I was fully convinced that the only way I was going to find the "reset button" was to immerse myself in a completely different environment that still prioritized my well-being and overall happiness. This different environment ended up being Fairfield University, and I could not be happier with my decision.

Connecticut is arguably very different from my hometown, and, in my opinion, it is arguably one of the best places to be in the entire country (two miles from the beach and an hour away from NYC? Yes!). But there were other reasons why I chose Fairfield that had nothing to do with the location.

I am somebody who wants to fully engage with, understand and connect with the people around me and to connect with my community. In order to meet these needs, I originally thought that I needed to go to a large school with thousands of students per class and a ginormous campus. I soon learned that this was not the case.

Before I even became a student here, Fairfield demonstrated to me that personal connections and individualized conversations, both inside and outside of the classroom, are the most important thing. From the minute I arrived on campus, I was, and still am, surrounded by a community of hardworking individuals who foster intellectual growth and "cura personalis," or care for the whole person.

My tour guide tailored my campus tour to fit my needs, which was something that a lot of colleges did not do, and I was able to speak with people on campus. I truly felt as though I, as an individual, was a forethought in the minds of the Fairfield admissions office, and they demonstrated to me that I belonged by personalizing my tour and admissions experience. Fairfield proved to me that I did not need a large number of people to make deep and meaningful connections, and also proved to me that I am not just a number in a sea of tens of thousands; I am a student who has found her rightful place at home.

Show The Tully Some Love

By Marina Chiaro
Contributing Writer

I, along with most Fairfield students, miss home cooked meals. Before delving into my first year, all I knew about the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons, commonly referred to as "The Tully," was bits and pieces of information and opinions from those before me. The opinion of the Tully from the general Fairfield student body isn't the best, in fact, it's mostly all negative.

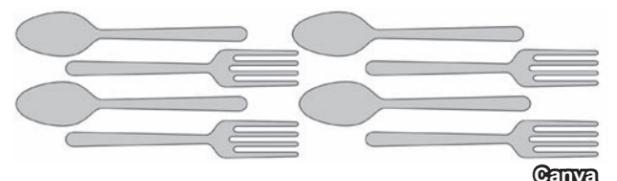
I consider myself spoiled when it comes to home cooked meals (shout-out, Mom). Now, The Tully definitely doesn't come anywhere close to what some of us are used to (especially pasta sauce wise) but, I wouldn't go as far to agree with the general consensus.

For any given meal, there is something for everyone waiting at the top of those Barone Campus Center stairs. Sure, there are some things that I don't ever and will never

put on my plate, like the scrambled eggs. But at the end of the day, it's a warm plate of food and there's many options to choose from. The variety is actually sometimes overwhelming. With our Greens and Grains salad bar that has just about every topping under the sun, to Sazon (The Tully's very own little Chipotle) and True Balance which serves our fellow Stags with dietary restrictions.

Not to mention, I've never had a negative experience with any of the Tully employees. I always hear them laughing among themselves behind the counter and they're always happy to accommodate if they can (A special thanks to the nice lady who always makes my buffalo chicken wraps at the Sandwich Lab, you are simply the best).

Some highlights from the Tully from these past two weeks has been the lo mein and sweet and sour chicken (better than takeout in my opinion), avocado toast with a plethora of options to top it off, the ginormous bacon,



Canva

egg, and cheeses and, of course, the cotton candy ice cream at A La Mode.

Besides the food, my friends and I study at the Tully all the time for the perfect mix of background noise in the perfectly "just right" comfortable booths. We'll grab a pastry from the Confectionary and crank out our homework, just as Daniel and Grace Tully intended.

So the next time you're dreading walking up the Tully steps; remember all the friendly employees, warm food, quality time and that you probably shouldn't be spending any more dining dollars on Chicken Teriyaki Bowls from SushiDo this week. After all, the worst part of going to The Tully is leaving.

Happy Tully-ing, Stags!

Sweet Tips For Making Friends

By Kaitlyn Conroy
Contributing Writer

The 2022-2023 school year has finally begun at Fairfield University which means new beginnings for everybody, especially the freshmen. Just a year ago I was a timid freshman myself. If I could sum up my first week with one word it would be emotional. I didn't even know it was possible to experience all of these emotions in such a short time.

One thing that was constant my entire first week, was the fact that I did not have a typical college close group of friends yet. I mean let's face it, every movie that is set in college always features a set of close friends, who then become your best friends for life. Well, imagine how I felt when I ended that week with no best friend.

I honestly felt lied to. As I would walk around campus or eat in the Tully I noticed all of these friend groups, and I constantly asked myself "why don't I have a friend group yet?" I was so confused as to how everyone cliqued up so fast during the first week.

Now I look back and I wish someone would have told me that it is completely normal to have not found your best friends during the first week of college. In fact, most people don't meet their "best friends" until after freshman year! If you are feeling sad or alone because you were like me, that is completely alright and pretty normal. Believe it or not, so many people are in the same situation, but they just don't show it.

Social media can be extremely misleading. I remember scrolling through my feed and wondering how everyone made friends so fast. However, in reality, many of those people might have felt sad as well, you just would not know it! College is a huge transition, and not everything is perfect at first. It takes time. Be open to change, even embrace it!

It can be really hard putting yourself out there socially. It's draining, difficult and stressful. The key is to think positively and confidently about yourself. Sometimes our minds trick us into thinking that somebody doesn't like us or that we are being too annoying for people, but that is not

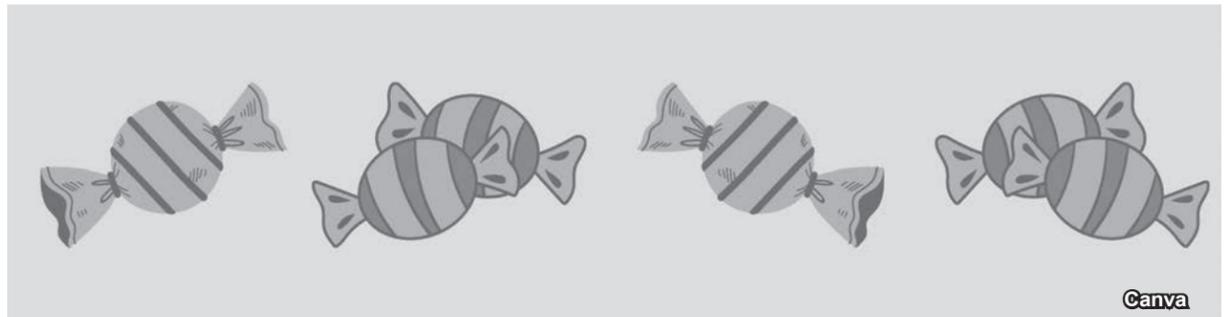
the case. In fact, other people might be thinking the same exact things as you. Just remember that everyone is in the same boat as you, and everyone wants to make new friends.

“ If you want to make an impact on your floormates I suggest giving out candy. I once gave out bags of candy to the girls on my floor just so I could introduce myself to them. That small gesture really made an impact. Also, people love candy!.”

-Kaitlyn Conroy '25

Now, here are some of my tips for meeting new people.

Ask for people's numbers in your classes. I often found myself having questions about homework or assignments, so I would turn to classmates for answers. A lot of times friendships can blossom through classes. You two have a common ground in this blossoming relationship, and that is whatever class you're in. Do not be afraid to ask them if they want to grab coffee or lunch sometime. Talk about something funny that happened in class or see if you both have something in common. I met a few of my friends that way!



Never underestimate the power of a sweet treat as an icebreaker. Don't be afraid to get creative and meet new people.

Company Scholars Brings New Perspectives



Company Scholars and first-year students participate in the Ignite Retreat. Pictured from left to right top are first year students: Maday Sarmiento, Mishal Qureshi, Janeth Mena, Lilliana Joe, Blessed Barrios, Andrew Meja, Khadar Abdilaahi, Jared Alicea, Julian Nazario, and David Maita. From left to right bottom: Tayana Jones, Stephanie Suarez, Alicia Montes, Anthony Lupercio, Seamus Markey, Nick Posada, and Lin Sunil.

By Julian Nazario
Assistant News Editor

Fairfield University's Class of 2026 is often regarded as the "largest applicant pool on record" and the "biggest and academically strongest" group of students since the University's founding in 1942.

However, this class of first-year students is also making history by hosting the first-ever group of Company Scholars; a selective group of fifteen students from different ethnic and racial backgrounds that receive full financial need support as undergraduate students.

The groups of scholars, who have been staying on campus since early August as part of the Academic Immersion program, are also given one-on-one mentorship support by a faculty or staff member, leadership, study abroad and community engagement opportunities.

Although the idea of free tuition and room and board was supposed to attract more underrepresented students to apply to Fairfield University and increase

the low student diversity numbers, for most of the current Company Scholars, Fairfield was already part of their college application list.

Nonetheless, it was not until they received invitations from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to apply for the scholarship that they started to think more seriously of the University as a realistic option for their education.

"I didn't remember applying to this school," said Blessed Barrios, a Black student from Illinois, when asked about her application process. "It was based on the opportunity (referring to the scholarship) because it's a full ride. They'll be paying for my flight and more."

To others, the benefits of the program encompass more than financial freedom and peace of mind.

In the case of Stephanie Suarez, a Hispanic student from Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, Ill., the mentorship aspect of the scholarship has been fundamental in her transition from high school to a university far from home.

"Having my mentor has been so great. I feel like I can go to her for anything. She also happens to be

Talk to the people on your floor! Don't shy away from knocking on someone's door to see if they wanted to grab something to eat or ask if they had plans that night. If you want to make an impact on your floormates I suggest giving out candy. I once gave out bags of candy to the girls on my floor just so I could introduce myself to them. That small gesture really made an impact. Also, people love candy! Your floormates are also right there, so if you want to do something knock on their door!

This is very cliché, however, it is so effective: join clubs, intramurals or other extracurricular activities. Not only are these activities a great way to meet new people, but it is also a great way to get out of your comfort zone and do something. Last year I joined a few clubs and I met a lot of new people, but I also noticed I was getting out of my dorm more often than usual. I also met new friends in these clubs. Clubs and intramurals are a great way to meet people who have similar interests and to have fun with them!

Those are only just a few of the many ways you can make new friends on campus this year. You are not required to create a friend group in the first week of your first semester of your first year of college. People change in college, and so will you. You will meet so many people throughout the next year. Just remember to be open to new experiences, do not be afraid to talk to people and just be yourself!

the Associate Dean of Students, so she's been such a huge help," Suarez stated.

“Having my mentor has been so great. I feel like I can go to her for anything. She also happens to be the Associate Dean of Students, so she's been such a huge help.”

- Stephanie Suarez '26

They both agree that part of the program's success, for now, has been creating a "sense of community within the larger community," which allowed them to start the college experience with a group of friends that relate to their identity and needs.

A lack of diversity remains a concern for prospective minority students.

For Suarez, the lack of diversity at Fairfield University was "for sure" a serious concern during her application process. Because of this, she felt uneasy about attending Fairfield, but the notion of having a diverse cohort of scholars influenced her commitment to be part of the new program.

Tayana Jones, a student of color majoring in Biochemistry from Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, stated that the lack of student diversity on campus was something she paid attention to, but did not affect her decision to apply.

"So it definitely was a concern but it was not surprising at all since I know most of the larger colleges are PWI's [predominantly white institutions], so I did know that I had to face that at some point," said Jones while discussing race and diversity as a factor during her admissions process at Fairfield.

"But when I did look at the specific statistics of Fairfield, I was much more surprised since they were increasingly higher than the rest of the schools I applied to."

According to the latest available data from the University, only 13% of the current undergraduate population identifies as students of color, while 12% of the Class of 2026 shares the same identity.

"As a university, we want to continue to invest in our students, as well as diversify our population, and this new program is just one of many initiatives we are committed to upholding," said Corry Unis, Vice President of Enrollment Management when introducing the scholarship program to the community in September 2021.

Fairfield University

BOOKSTORE





WHAT WERE WE UP TO THIS SUMMER?

By Elizabeth Morin
Contributing Writer

Coming back to school after a long and eventful summer is always thrilling. We get to decorate our dorm rooms, make new friends and catch up with the ones you haven't seen since last semester! And now that I've gotten to see a handful of stags, it seems all of us had some exciting summer breaks!

June Dodson '25 - My summer was, ironically, focused on school. As a New Student Leader, I was at Fairfield for two weeks of training and preparing for First-Year Orientation. From playing man-hunt on an empty campus to meeting all the new faces, it was a busy but enjoyable two weeks! After orientation, I jumped right into tutoring K-12 students in Maryland. I love working with my summer students, helping with anything

from learning multiplication to researching wolf spiders. On top of tutoring, I was also taking a Calculus III course at a local community college. While it was intense, it was fascinating to graph 3D shapes and calculate vectors. I may not have had the most relaxing summer, but I certainly had a fulfilling one!

Kathleen Morris '26 - I spent my summer behind the counter of the farm stand at Bramhall's Country Store in Plymouth, Mass. Located in America's Hometown and founded in 1828, Bramhall's is steeped in history and attracts an eclectic clientele, from tourists hoping to check off a stop on their New England Bucket list to regulars looking to stock their kitchen with the finest local produce. My summer job has truly sparked joy, as I had the opportunity to uphold the legacy of a historical business and emphasize the importance of supporting community farms.

Caroline Morris '24 - I spent my summer working in Cape Cod, Mass. in a high-end clothing boutique! It was a transformative experience because I was able to acquire skills that will benefit me as I pursue a job in the fashion industry post-graduation.

Shahnt Madalian a.k.a Paul French '23 - This summer was like

how the last three have been: all work and no play. But work has no set location nowadays so maybe I was getting my morning emails out and watching the oceanic sunrise at the same time? Being my last intra-academic summer, I reminisced about all the preceding ones... in that otherworldly way you'd remember an obscured dream. This past summer I was wondering, "When does summer start?"

Ava Hanley '26 - I spent a lot of my summer working at my town's local country club. I worked as a hostess and it was really great because I got to meet so many awesome people. One of them actually helped me secure an internship. I spent the rest of my time hanging out with my home friends before leaving for college and saying goodbye - it was bittersweet.

Fiona Kileen '26 - This summer I spent extensive time working with my mom. My mom has previously worked as an occupational therapist and is currently working on developing educational worksheets. I helped her with transferring the information into a digital format. I also had the amazing opportunity to go on a cruise to the Bahamas and Bermuda during the month of August. We visited historical villages such as St. Georges and scenic beaches including Horseshoe Bay. Overall, I had a very enjoyable and exciting summer!

Olivia Conkling '25 - This past summer felt like it flew by! I worked a lot - I was a sales associate at a surf shop, life-guarded at a day camp and gave swim

lessons. Also, for two weeks in June and one week in August, I returned to school for New Student Leader training and orientation. During my free time, I got to spend time with family and friends, go to the beach and go on vacation. I cannot believe how fast four months went.

Bella Worrell '25 - Summer

2022 was an eventful, speedy and full of change summer. Once school was finished and I moved back home, I had to immediately start packing again because it was just sold. Luckily, I was able to come back to my other home, Fairfield, for two weeks and participate in New Student Leader Training as well as lead orientation for the class of 2026! With those two weeks I gained so much insight as well as friendships that I am so grateful to have had/made. I then flew to Houston, Texas and worked as a camp teacher for five weeks, teaching students ages 4-7 in STEAM. Some of my activities and lessons had to do with chemical reactions, like Coca-Cola and mentos, all the way to coding Lego robots to pick up an item and put it down. Afterward, I traveled to London, England and Cornwall, England to see my family and my dogs - I hadn't



Photo Contributed by Ella Bennett

Fishing on a kayak is always fun!

been back to England since February of 2020, so it was very exciting to see my family, school friends and childhood friends

there. Although the summer was speedy and did involve a lot of changes, I really enjoyed my break - I was able to accomplish a lot, make memories and build connections that I am grateful for.

Ella Bennett '26 - I spent most of the summer working at this really cool shoreline diner with my friends as a waitress/hostess. The vibe of the diner was really old-fashioned and it was nice to spend my last summer before college working with my friends. I also went to Maine to camp with some friends for a few weeks and when I was bored I would take my dogs on walks across the beach.

Read full article at www.fairfield-mirror.com



Photo Contributed by Fiona Kileen

Vacation abroad is a magical experience.

Barren To Befitting: Beautifying Your Bedroom

By Madeline Hossler
Opinion Editor

Transitioning from your cozy room at home to the blank canvas of a dorm can be a real culture shock. Cinder block walls and the same generic furniture in every room doesn't exactly scream "homey". But home is what you make of it, and taking your dorm from clinical to comforting doesn't have to cost a crazy amount of time and money.

First, and most importantly: put stuff on your walls. I cannot emphasize enough how important

this is. Keeping your walls blank and colorless is a perfect way to feel like you don't really live there. You have so many options. Tapestries and posters are an easy choice. If you want to DIY instead of buy, make your own artwork, create a vision board or craft a photo collage. Even if you can only paint basic shapes or a color gradient it will add some life to the space. Photo collages don't just have to be pictures of your friends.

They could be album covers, movies and TV shows you like, or just some fun looking plants.

Secondly, don't let the overhead fluorescents be your only light source. Get some color in your space with LEDs, some fairy lights or some good old fashioned Christmas lights.

Do homework by the light of a cute desk lamp. Make more of a design statement with a neon sign, disco ball or sunset lamp. Or get creative and add some garlands or vines with your string lights. Spend \$12 on a color-changing mushroom-shaped light that is absolutely supposed to be for children (not speaking from experience at all here). Keep

your light sources fun and exciting.

Number three: if it can be fuzzy, make it fuzzy. Stepping down to the cold tile floor when you wake up for your 8 a.m. class in the middle of the winter is going to get old really fast. Get a nice soft rug and you can forget what your floor actually looks like under there. Sitting on your basic wooden desk chair gets so much better with a little cushion. Your walk down the hall to the bathroom can be improved exponentially by some fuzzy slippers. The dread of having to leave the warm shower can be solved with a big soft robe. The softer it is, the more it feels like home.

Take this advice extra seriously when it comes to your bed. However many blankets you think is a reasonable amount, add one. You need a big one for the winter, a lighter one for the summer and a throw blanket to cocoon into for comfort during finals week. Throw a nice big pillow up there so you don't have to sit against the hard wall. And get a mattress pad. This campus is full of very smart people who I am sure had the foresight to bring a mattress pad, but if somehow you didn't that needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Fourth: don't be afraid to get weird with it. Go to the clearance section of Homegoods and make some questionable choices. Finally buy that thing that has been sitting in your Amazon cart because you

can't decide if it's cool or stupid. Get small ceramic dinosaurs from the dollar section of Target and put them on your windowsill (again, absolutely not speaking from experience).

Whatever hangups you had about trying to make your room at home "aesthetic" when you were in high school, leave that behind here. I've seen tapestries featuring everyone from Paula Dean to Gibby from iCarly.

Whoever had that life size cutout of Ryan Gosling in their window last year in Meditz, you guys made me laugh every day. An additional well deserved shoutout goes to whoever set up that countdown to Christmas in their window in Kostka last year, watching those numbers steadily tick down was the only thing getting me through finals week.

You can try to be cute, you can try to be color coordinated or you can just be crazy. The possibilities are endless. No choice is too weird. College interior design is nothing if not chaotic, lean in while you have the chance.

And lastly, show your personality. Use your wall decor to showcase your talents or your favorite things. Have the kind of room where anyone can walk in and think "yeah the person who lives here is fun". This little corner of campus belongs to you and only you, take advantage of it. Make sure to make



By Julia Braatz
Contributing Writer

So, I think it's fair to say that a lot of new Stags are wondering how they're going to get work done. Well, let me tell you, it doesn't need to be that hard to be successful in college! It only takes a few simple steps that can make a really big difference.

Lifestyle

Getting work done in college is going to be a lot different than in high school. You're on your own to get stuff done. But the good thing is that you've also got a lot more flexibility. Your overall school day is smaller and deadlines are longer, which is what most high schoolers dream of. With that, however, come some adjustments. Here are some things you should keep in mind when deciding on how you're gonna get work done.

Know when your energy levels peak and when they dip.

Are you an early bird? A night owl? In any scenario, planning when you do work around when you have the most energy is a good technique for productivity. It gives you a time frame as to when you're going to do things.

My recommendation is to do your hardest work when you have the most energy and your most enjoyable work when your energy starts to dip. That way there's no excuse to procrastinate the hard thing because you're "too tired".

Have a go-to study spot that isn't just your room

Don't get me wrong, your room is a humble and understandable choice for studying. The thing is, doing your homework in the same spot every day is gonna make the day seem longer than it is. Going somewhere else can be motivating and

it's important to have a change in scenery once in a while. My suggestion for people who like to have a quiet space would be the library (an obvious choice I know).

Those that like to be around people when they study should try the Barone Campus Center, Campus Ministry (under the chapel) or outside.

Get a reasonable amount of sleep

I'll make this short because I'm sure there's gonna be a good chunk of people who will skip this blurb entirely. Sleep is important.

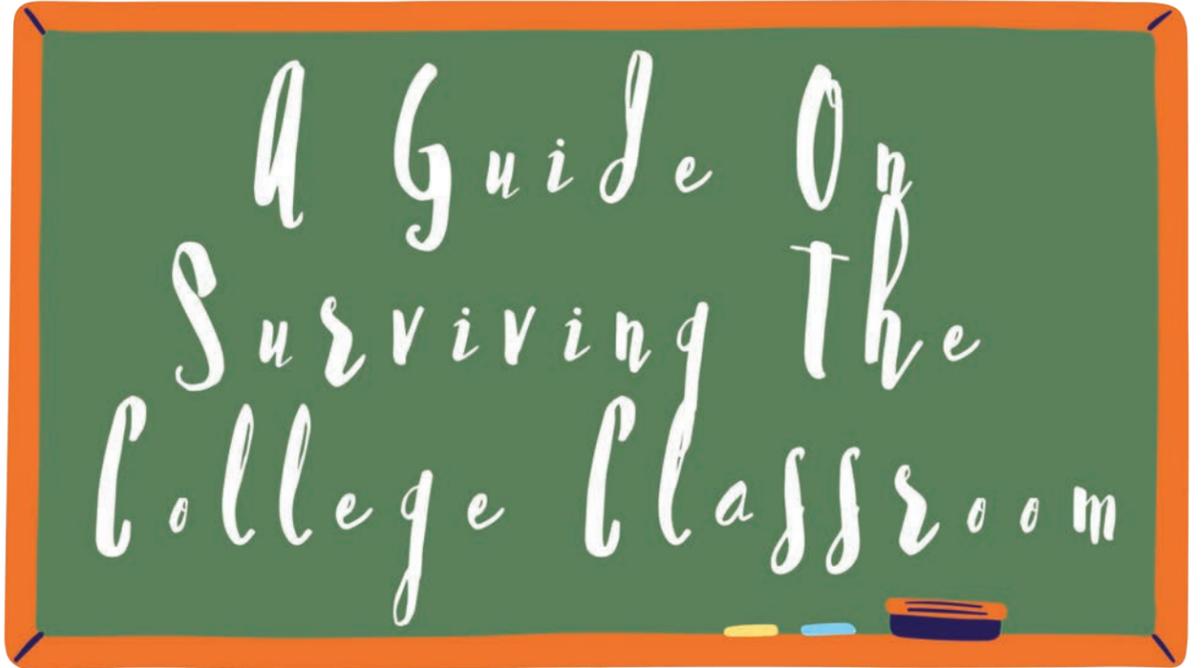
Everyone has a bare minimum amount of sleep they need for a reason. Despite anything else you've heard, being a good student involves basic brain function. Get a decent amount of sleep, please.

Go to office hours

There are a lot of reasons to go to your professor's office hours. For one, they can explain anything that you need to know in class more thoroughly than explaining it in an email. You could also discuss the specific steps they want to see in order to get an A in the class. Every professor is different, and the criteria they want to see from you may not be on the syllabus, depending on the class. In any case, it can't hurt.

Study Skills

Studying isn't exactly an entertaining experience, but there are a lot of ways to make it more enjoyable ... or at least a lot less painful. Also, remember that a better study session means more information is retained.



Have a variety of ways to study

The best way to study is to have multiple variations of studying. You're less likely to get bored that way. Some of my suggestions include flashcards (or Quizlet), re-writing notes or important pieces of information, writing down what you remember before looking at your notes or trying to explain the subject matter to someone else. There are plenty of other ways to study as well.

Take breaks

Take at least a five-minute break every half hour. That break time is pretty much the equivalent of a Youtube video or two. Breaks are good for you. There comes a point where you've been studying so long that you aren't retaining the information as well as you could be if you took a break.

Spread out your study sessions

Don't cram all of your studying into one day and pull an all-nighter. Trust me, it isn't worth it. Studying for 15 min-

utes across the span of a week or two is a lot more effective than a cram session the night before. It's also a lot better for you mentally to spread out the study sessions than to deal with the stress of not knowing anything the day before.

Note-Taking

Abbreviate common unimportant words

For example: Instead of using the word "and," I just write a plus sign. I always know what it means and I can breeze over it without it taking up too much space in my brain.

Another good example is to write "ppl" instead of the word people. Basically, if you can abbreviate it and still know what it means, then do it. It saves time in both the actual note-taking and studying process.

Hand write notes (if you can)

If you want to remember your notes more, then handwriting them is the key. However, there are exceptions to this rule. Firstly, if your professor talks really fast, then the

best way to take notes is whatever you can do quicker. Secondly, if you don't need to memorize the material, then it doesn't matter how you're taking notes. Classes that mainly require open-book essays don't require memorization.

Make the notes look pretty

This advice is for guys as well as girls. I'm not saying to turn the notes into pieces of artwork, but using a few colored pens and/or highlighters makes a difference. Or if they're typed notes, you could change the font, the format, bold print subtitles, etc. Make it look good enough so that when you look back at it it doesn't look like just a bunch of words on a page. The very process of looking at the paper will likely increase your will to study.

Hopefully, these bits and pieces of information are attributes that you could apply in your own life!

Even though there isn't just one path that leads to academic achievement that can apply to everyone, you can make your own methods that work best for you.



STAG EXCITEMENT SKYROCKETS AS THE NEW YEAR KICKS OFF

By Kevin Collazo
Contributing Writer

With this year having Fairfield's highest-ever number of admissions acceptances, there are lots of new Stags on campus who are chomping at the bit to see what their first year of college will look like. Fortunately, the campus is full of experienced students who were more than happy to share some things that they loved and were looking forward to at Fairfield.

Junior Lucas Smith has been feeling the energy in the air on campus and was excited to kick off the year.

"I'm looking to make the most of any opportunities given to me, whether that's in the classroom or resume building," he said.

Indeed, many students seem to have a feeling of anticipation for the coming year and the opportunities it may bring. With the numerous class options and job opportunities available, this anticipation can easily be made into a reality. There are many seniors this year, like Giorgi Kupaerze, who utilized Fairfield's assets to prepare himself for post-graduation life.

"Next semester, I will have an internship in public health ... now I'm gathering my applications and planning my post-grad period," he said. "I love the support I'm getting from the academic staff"

As made evident by the huge turnout of the club fair, there is a wide variety of different clubs on campus, making it easy to find interesting pathways and new friends, much like Sam Healey '25 spent his freshman year doing.

"I'm already in a number of clubs, but I went to the club fair and now I'm planning on joining some new ones, which I am excited about! Meet some new people and try some new things," he said.

Finding new friends is high on the list of goals for many when going off to college. Fortunately, the student body is made up not only of students from around the country, but also from around the world, so finding peers with similar interests is extremely easy to do. Senior Mirella Fernandez is an exchange student from Spain and is particularly interested in experiencing the University's culture.

"I'm looking forward to having an international experience, improving my English and having an understanding of how American Universities function," she said. "I like the campus life, because in Madrid we don't have that opportunity,"

A fun way of meeting new people on campus is through the many different events that will take place throughout the year. Sophomore Celia Huber, like many other students, is particularly looking forward to this year's celebratory events like the President's Ball and Santa Con. Huber enjoyed the ladder as a freshman last year and is excited to have some more fun this year!

The most common answer received for both questions is the excitement of being able to see friends again. Senior Veronica Stovall is living in a beach house this year and believes that it's an excellent way to connect with those around her.

"I love being able to run into people from campus and being around friends," she said.

Living on campus with other students is an opportunity like no other, so it's no surprise that everyone listed it in some shape or form!



Photo Contributed by Celia Huber

Celia Huber '25 and Nohea Breeden '25 celebrate SantaCon 2021 at the beach!

By Julianna Elliot
Contributing Writer

While studying hard and getting good grades is your priority right now, it is totally okay to unwind and enjoy yourself while you are in the wonderful town of Fairfield. The summer sun is on its way to becoming a chilly, but beautiful fall season, and therefore, weekends are the perfect time to take advantage of the weather, catch up on schoolwork, but most importantly, have fun! Below you will find a list of my top ten favorite things to do on the weekends in town and off campus as well as some upcoming exciting events.

BIRD SCOOTERS

The town of Fairfield is new in offering electric Bird Scooters. These electric scooters are super easy to operate and are a cheap, fun option for transportation. They are environmentally friendly and are the perfect option for college students without a vehicle on campus. All you need to do is download Bird's free app in the AppStore on your smartphone. Scooters are in operation from the hours of 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. They are the perfect way to explore town and campus. Grab a friend or ride alone, whatever you would like!

FARMER'S MARKET

Every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Fairfield Farmer's Market comes to town. Grab some of your favorite fresh fruits with options from over 20 different vendors. While most of you may not have an area or the supplies to cook meals, you can still go enjoy the atmosphere and the snacks! Pick up some apples for fall, nut butters or jam for toast. You can make anything you set your mind to



HOW TO HAVE A PROPER FAIRFIELD WEEKEND

in a college dorm. Check it out soon because the market's final date is Sunday, October 9. You can find the Fairfield Farmer's Market at 1451 Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

WATCH A MOVIE

You do not have to leave campus to have fun on the weekend. Personally, I enjoy cuddling up and rewatching my favorite TV shows and movies. You are welcome to watch with friends, but personally, I enjoy the quiet alone time. Grab your favorite snacks from your room or head to the campus bookstore or the Stag snack bar to pick some up. Some of my current watch options are Pitch Perfect and Gilmore Girls. To me, they are perfect for the weather and are my all-time favorites. Watch your favorites and relax, you deserve it.

THE BEACH

I am sure that in your college decision process, Fairfield stood out because of its beautiful town and beach access. Personally, it was the deciding factor for my decision, and I could not be happier. Fairfield has multiple beach access points that are available to use. Have a picnic or lay out in the sun while the weather is still nice. Take advantage of our beautiful area! Just remember to be respectful of Fairfield town residents, but otherwise, have a nice beach day.

GO OUT TO EAT

In my experience, Fairfield has some of the best restaurants that I have ever been to. They are easy to access in town – simply just take the stag bus and maybe walk a few minutes to your destination. Some of my favorites for dinner are Mecha Noodle Bar, Malibu Taco, Puerto Vallarta and Centro Ristorante.

There is a wide range of different types of cuisine, all of which are fantastic. It's also a fun excuse to dress up and go out on the town with your friends. There are so many options that I have not tried (as it is an endless journey), but it is certainly worth it for some yummy experiences.

FAIRFIELD STARBUCKS BOOKSTORE

Weekends are a great time to hang out with friends and have fun, however, when the schoolwork starts to pile up, those few days off are the perfect time to catch up on your studies. The key to a successful study session is the perfect location. I am not a fan of the library, I find it to be too quiet.

The perfect place in my opinion is at the Fairfield University Bookstore Starbucks. The Stag Bus will drop you off right in front of the store in less than a ten-minute ride. There

is plenty of comfy seating and the perfect fall vibe. Plus, coffee! I highly recommend that you check it out.

DESSERT

If you happen to be in town for dinner or some shopping, definitely stop by Milkcraft for some of the best ice cream you have ever had. On weekends, they are open from 11 a.m. until midnight; the perfect late-night snack.

They have a tasty and extremely creative menu with lots of options to choose from. Once you try it, you cannot go back. I highly recommend it to those of you with a sweet tooth.

SPORTING EVENTS

If you are looking to stay on campus and are a big sports fan, our own Fairfield University athletics have lots of sporting events coming up this fall. If you do not like sports, they are still fun to go to. Games are a great place to meet friends and socialize.

Take a look at some team schedules and see what is coming up. My personal favorite games to go to are the men's rugby events. I love supporting my friends on the field from the stands!

WATCH THE SUNSET

One of my favorite things to do on campus any day of the

week, but especially on weekends, is to watch the sunset. Here at Fairfield, we are blessed with breathtaking nature. I find that it helps calm me from stressful situations.

There are many beautiful spots to choose from and you should take the time to explore your favorites. Personally, my favorite is on the Bellarmine lawn at the edge of the hill. Maybe I will see you there!

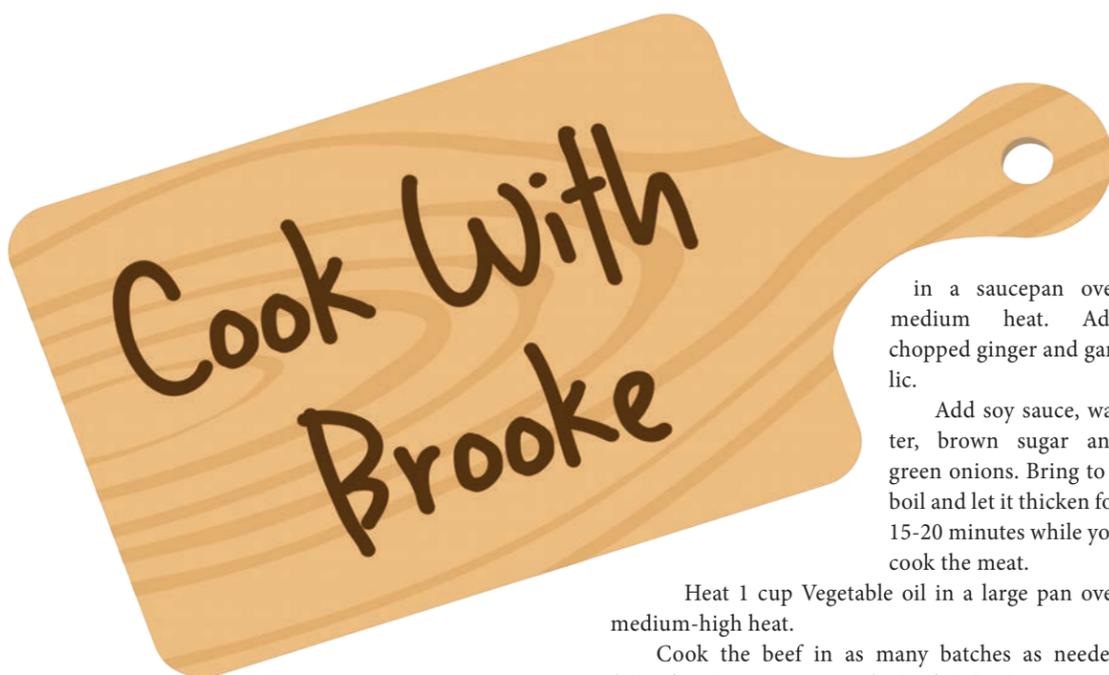
SHOPPING

The town of Fairfield has lots of options for shopping. Who doesn't love shopping? There is a wide selection of super cute stores: Trumbull's Westfield Mall, small boutiques in town, the SoNo Collection, etc. On weekends there is a bus that will take you to the mall and the Stag Bus will take you right to the shops in Fairfield.

One of my personal favorites is Apricot Lane Shopping – it can be so therapeutic! I suggest you give it a try.

These are just a few of the many ways to learn about our town. Fairfield has so much to offer and I recommend that you take advantage of every opportunity.

Feel free to use my suggestions or explore the area to create your own favorite list of ideas, spots and activities. Keep your eyes peeled, fun is everywhere!



By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor, Copy Editor

Now that I have my own gorgeous kitchen on campus (shoutout, Barnyard), the best part of my day consists of me creating myself a beautiful meal on my equally beautiful blue ceramic plates (shoutout, Anthropologie). To keep up with what I label as "luxury living," it seemed only right to treat myself as the true queen I am and cook my favorite meal: PF Chang's Mongolian Beef (copycat version)!

If you are interested in joining me on the throne of royalty, try the recipe I always follow and have grown to love for yourself!

Directions:

Cut beef into 1/4-inch slices to make them your desired bite-sized.

Toss pieces of steak into a plastic bag with cornstarch and let sit for 10 minutes.

To make the sauce, heat up 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil

in a saucepan over medium heat. Add chopped ginger and garlic.

Add soy sauce, water, brown sugar and green onions. Bring to a boil and let it thicken for 15-20 minutes while you cook the meat.

Heat 1 cup Vegetable oil in a large pan over medium-high heat.

Cook the beef in as many batches as needed (give the pieces some space). Cook 2-3 minutes, until brown and crispy, flip them throughout the process to fry all sides.

Place meat on a paper towel over a plate to dry cooking oil. Once dry, put the meat in the saucepan for 2 minutes while stirring. Top with a little more green onions (optional) and you're ready to serve!

Of course, you can't forget to add a side of both greens and carbs to balance out this tasty main! For our grains, some plain white rice (which pairs wonderfully with some leftover sauce) can be cooked to perfection in a Dash mini rice cooker. It's a convenient size for a dorm-sized kitchen and one person serving.

To get the best results, add 1 1/2 cup of water per 1 cup of rice. And for our veggies, Birds Eye edamame is just as easy to make as it is yummy! Put the bag in your microwave for four minutes and lightly salt the pods for some subtle seasoning.

With the right-sized portions, this dish can provide you with three healthy, delicious meals for a moderate price!

Ingredients

Sauce...

- 1 tbsp. Vegetable oil
- 1-2 tsp. minced ginger
- 1 tbsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 C soy sauce
- 1/2 C water
- 3/4 C dark brown sugar

Meat...

- 1 C Vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 pounds beef for stir fry
- 1/2 C cornstarch
- 1 bunch of green onions, cut on diagonal into 2-inch pieces

STARBUCKS SUGGESTIONS TO FUEL YOUR FOCUS

By Lauren Behrens
Contributing Writer

Starbucks is back at Fairfield!

When Fairfield announced via their Instagram stories over the summer that Starbucks would be returning to campus, I, like all college caffeine lovers, could not contain my excitement.

Although I will forever treasure my bleary-eyed Dunkin' runs before my 9:30 a.m. classes, as a Starbucks enthusiast, I was thrilled to hear the news.

Gone are the days of ordering my lattes through Uber Eats or taking the Stag Bus to the bookstore in town just to get my Starbucks fix!

The "We Proudly Serve" Starbucks, located on the ground floor of the Charles F. Dolan School of Business where the self-serve Dunkin' Donuts used to be, offers a wide variety of drinks and food items reminiscent of a location from the "outside world."

You have all of the essentials: hot and iced coffees, lattes, teas, frappuccinos and refreshers.

Combined with their extensive variety of flavors, you can create a brew perfect for

you and your mood.

After some trial and error, I have found several coffee combinations that are delicious and give me the perfect caffeine boost to keep me motivated while studying and doing my homework.

My regular order is an Iced Caramel Macchiato. Although it is a pretty basic drink, it's popular for a reason, with the espresso combined with the vanilla and caramel flavors to create the perfect drink. If you prefer a regular coffee, I definitely recommend an Iced Coffee with vanilla syrup and oat milk.

The oat milk helps give the coffee a special creaminess, and the vanilla ensures that the coffee is sweet, but not overpowering. They also offer all of their coffee drinks in both hot and iced, and I definitely will begin to transition to hot coffees as the weather gets colder.

If you aren't the biggest fan of coffee, the Strawberry Acai Refresher is definitely a fan favorite. The strawberry flavor shaken over ice offers the best refreshing drink, typically on a sunny day.

I especially love the berries that they add to the drink.

The only flaw I can find with our new Starbucks is their lack of pumpkin spice. For me, it isn't autumn until I have a Pumpkin Spice Latte in hand, and I am the type of person who orders them way before September even begins.

In my opinion, this is definitely a weak spot of our new coffee location, so do not be shocked if you see me in line at the Dunkin' inside the Barone Campus Center to fulfill my pumpkin spice craving.

If you're like me and also love the fall flavors but want to try out the new Starbucks, I recommend ordering an Iced Chai Tea Latte with a shot of espresso, also known as a "Dirty Chai".

This is my go-to drink right now, with cinnamon, cloves and other spices blending together to create my perfect morning coffee.

The Starbucks in Dolan also offers a wide variety of food items, including breakfast sandwiches, regular sandwiches and salads. If you combine any of their food items with a tall beverage, you can use one of your meal swipes in ex-

change.

They also have several different grab-and-go items, perfect for when you need something quick to eat.

They additionally offer mobile ordering through the Grubhub app, which is especially helpful if you need to pick up your drink quickly in-between classes and do not want to wait in a long line.

You can even link your StagCard to the app and pay with your Dining Dollars!

These are just a few of my favorite drinks that I have been ordering on repeat at our new Starbucks.

So the next time you walk in and are overwhelmed with their large menu, just give one of these delicious combinations a try!



SIX ESSENTIAL BACK TO SCHOOL HACKS



By Abigail White
Assistant Vine Editor

Classes are in full swing here at Fairfield which means that it's time to switch out of summer mode and into the school mindset. I always find it difficult returning to school after a long few months of relaxation. That is why I am here to offer a few helpful back-to-school tips and point you to some resources that will help you survive this semester!

Use a Planner

This may seem really simple, but using a planner has been a lifesaver in my time at Fairfield so far. Taking five different classes and having five different teachers throwing out assignments through Blackboard, email or other platforms, can be extremely overwhelming. A planner provides one centralized spot in which all your assignments

can be recorded. When I sit down to do homework, the first thing I do is write all of my assignments down for the week in my planner.

This way, they are all in one location and I get the satisfaction of crossing each assignment off my list of things to do as I finish them. This process can be done on your computer too!

I have plenty of friends who create weekly assignment lists on word documents or excel spreadsheets. I highly recommend going out and buying yourself a planner or taking the time to organize an online list of weekly assignments. You will thank yourself later!

There are so many great study spaces to be found all around campus. Some people prefer to study in their rooms and with the company of friends while others prefer the silence and solitude of the library's top level.

It is good to know how and where you study best in order to be the most productive. From the library, to the Barone Campus Center mezzanine, to classroom spaces, to study lounges in the dorms, you are guaranteed to find a study spot on campus that fits your needs.

Utilize the Library Resources

The DiMenna-Nyselius Library here on campus offers so many great resources that a lot of people may not even know about. These can be some of the most helpful resources to your academic success. On the first floor of the library alone, you will find the writing center, the math center and the ITS help center. Stop by the writing with any papers you have written or by the math center for any calculus problems you are stuck on – you'll receive some of the best guidance from fellow student tutors. If you are having technical difficulties and need help with your computer, the ITS help center is the place to go.

Scattered around the library, you can also find great study spaces. There are group study rooms, a Dunkin Lounge, an Innovation Lab and a Virtual Reality Lab in addition to the many other great spaces

that you can reserve and study.

The library's website offers many useful resources as well. One of the most helpful resources when tackling a large research project, is the online databases. You can find scholarly research on just about any subject A to Z. I know I have spent hours combing through these online databases, finding useful scholarly articles and books to use in my research papers.

If you need help with your research, you can schedule a one-on-one research appointment with a librarian or use the 24-hour chat feature called "Ask a Librarian". Type any questions you may have at any time of day, and a librarian is sure to get back to you. The library offers so many great resources that I urge you to take advantage of.

Go to Office Hours

Your professors are here to help you. If you are ever debating whether or not to go to office hours, just go! Professors have set aside this time to help you with any questions you may have about classwork, big assignments or anything else. I will admit that I was nervous to go to office hours for the first time, to meet one on one with my professors. However, I have found office hours to be extremely helpful to my success in a class. I highly suggest you take advantage of your professors' office hours.

Manage Your Time Effectively

Time management is the key to success in college. It can be diffi-

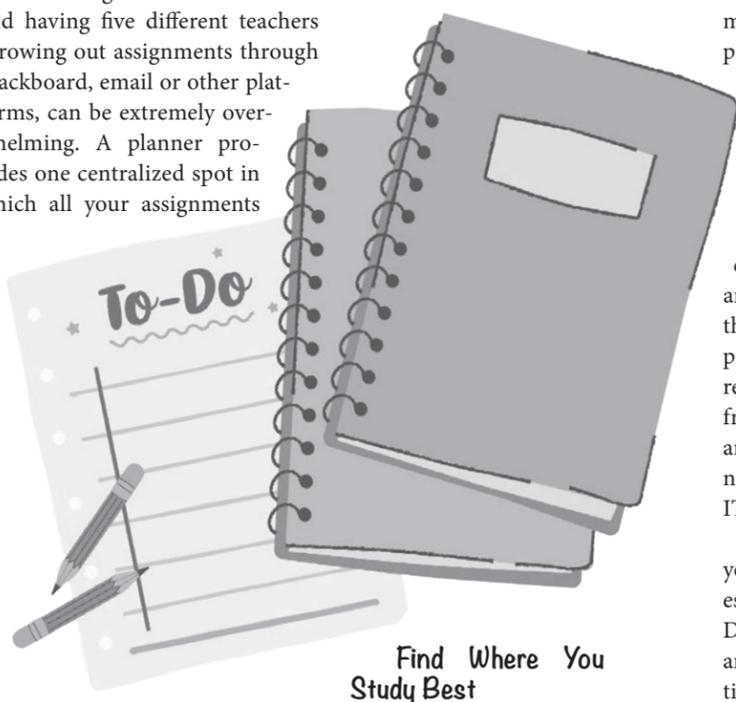
cult to fall into a routine with classes scheduled all throughout the day, clubs meeting late at night and roommates and friends hanging out all the time. It may seem overwhelming, but I can assure you, it is possible to get your homework done in between all of the craziness of the day.

Be sure to aside some time in your day to focus on homework, whether it is in between your classes or later at night. It may seem impossible at times, but you can go to classes, get your homework done and still have time to hang out with friends and participate in extracurricular activities on campus. Be sure to prioritize your sleep as well! It can be hard to get a good night's sleep with roommates and homework but it is important to incorporate sleep into your schedule too.

Find Your Nearest Dunkin or Starbucks

We all need an energy boost every once in a while. Even with the best routines and time management skills, school can be draining and overwhelming. Luckily, we have two Dunkin locations and a new Starbucks on campus! There is nothing wrong in treating yourself to a coffee or iced tea to boost your energy before class or before a long study session.

I know that schoolwork can be stressful and overwhelming at times, but if you take my advice and use some of these back-to-school hacks, you're sure to succeed this semester!



Find Where You Study Best



COFFEE BREAK



SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

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

Sudoku #1159 (Medium)

	8		6					2
3	5			7				8
9	7							
					1		6	3
6			8	3				
			7					
			3		9	8		
	9		1					5
	1		5					7

Sudoku #1160 (Medium)

				6		9		
9					5			
7	6		8					5
		9						6
2								5
					7	1	9	
					3	2		8
8		1		7				
		6	1	8				3

Free Puzzles / Puzzles.ca

Across

- 1. Previously owned
- 5. Striking success
- 10. Slight advantage
- 14. Tiny opening
- 15. A la ____
- 16. Recline lazily
- 17. "Gone with the Wind" setting
- 19. Fruit beverages
- 20. Less difficult
- 21. "Scarface" gangster (2 wds.)
- 23. Garb
- 24. Looks for
- 25. Engrave
- 28. Televised
- 32. Wind direction (abbr.)
- 35. Rains ice
- 39. Certain star
- 40. ____ Macpherson
- 42. Pointer
- 43. Talkative
- 44. Religious sect
- 45. Building cement
- 47. Chicago trains
- 48. Digestive ____
- 50. "A ____ Is Born"
- 52. Black pool ball
- 56. Brief review
- 60. Flowering vine
- 63. Rest
- 64. Initial bet
- 65. Outward look
- 67. Bakery employee
- 68. Depleted
- 69. Adored one
- 70. Buddhist monk
- 71. Sheriff's group
- 72. Decomposes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15					16					
17				18					19					
20						21			22					
23						24								
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32	33	34		35			36	37	38		39			
40				41		42					43			
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48				49				50			51			
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60	61	62							63					
64					65			66						
67					68							69		
70					71							72		

Down

- 1. Raised
- 2. Of the sun
- 3. Clear the blackboard
- 4. Actress ____ Richards
- 5. Injury mark
- 6. Wrestler's pad
- 7. Opera highlights
- 8. Mink wrap
- 9. From this place
- 10. Passing, as time
- 11. Flightless bird
- 12. Narrow valley
- 13. Or ____!
- 18. Quizzes
- 22. Alias initials
- 26. ____ chowder
- 27. Novel's protagonist
- 29. Actor's desire
- 30. Harmful
- 31. Specks
- 32. Religious group
- 33. Defame
- 34. Jazz great ____ Fitzgerald
- 36. Mess up
- 37. Little children
- 38. Hit
- 41. And so on (2 wds.)
- 46. Less frequent
- 49. Suit accessory
- 51. Mend
- 53. Comprehend
- 54. Nile animal, for short
- 55. Cassettes
- 57. Owned apartment
- 58. Broad tie
- 59. Rinds
- 60. Bawl
- 61. Ancient Peruvian
- 62. Flower stalk
- 63. Assess
- 66. Naval officer (abbr.)

Daily Crosswords / Onlinecrosswords.net

Welcome Back Stags!

By Nick Silvia, Contributing Writer

If you couldn't tell, it's the start of a new year; Gonzaga has A/C, it takes 45 minutes to get a textbook at the mailroom and you're more likely to get hit by an electric scooter pushing 25 mph than to get a bench at the gym. Some more big news: the incoming class is so large that many of the dorms have a high percentage of forced triples. Still worse, there is also a bed shortage, and many of these triples have been forced to share a sleeping bag. But to any first years who don't want to sleep in such close quarters, there's always room available in the Loyola bathtub.

For anyone trying to get involved on campus, there are plenty of options, like intramural sports so you can relive your glory days of high school and not have to confront the fact that you're washed up. At the same time, you can tell all your friends from home that you play a sport in college while conveniently leaving out the fact that it's an intramural. They'll be very impressed.

There are also plenty of clubs open, and even us here, at The Mirror, are always accepting new faces. But for the sake of my job security, please don't apply for this column because I am easily replaceable and I'm sure the editors will be happy to have just about anyone else write this. Away from school, you can always take a swim in the Long Island Sound, which notably was just voted America's second cleanest body of water just behind the Hudson River and just ahead of the water in the Loyola bathtub.

However you choose to get involved, stay smart and safe and have a great semester, Stags! Just please realize I'm joking about the Loyola bathtub and don't actually use that thing - we've already got enough on our plates with Covid and monkeypox; we don't need you introducing something new to the community.

SPORTS

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Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27
FAIRFIELD	FAIRFIELD	<p>Men's Tennis Fairfield Invitational Fairfield, Conn. All Day</p> <p>Women's Tennis at Army West Point Invite West Point, N.Y. All Day</p>	<p>Men's Soccer at Harvard University Cambridge, Mass. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Soccer vs. Marist College Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Volleyball at Marist College Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Golf The MacDonald Cup New Haven, Conn. All Day</p>	<p>Field Hockey vs. Yale University Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Volleyball at Siena College Loudonville, N.Y. 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Golf The MacDonald Cup New Haven, Conn. All Day</p>	<p>Women's Golf Boston College Intercollegiate Canton, Mass. All Day</p>	<p>Women's Golf Boston College Intercollegiate Canton, Mass. All Day</p>

Arena 100: September 2022 Progress Report



Photo Contributed by Billy McGuire



Photo Contributed by Tommy Coppola

The photo on the left shows the front of the under-construction Arena and Convocation Center, whereas the right photo depicts the view from the Lower Level Barone Campus Center entrance.

By Trevor Russell
Contributing Writer

After a long summer of work, the highly anticipated Fairfield University Arena and Convocation Center is finally nearing completion. The building is really coming together now, and it is quite possible to visualize the finished arena. The exterior of the building, including the roof and glass paneling, is now all but complete. The computer-generated images of the new arena that have been hanging on the fence in front of the construction site look almost identical to the building that now stands behind them.

Now, most of the work is occurring inside the arena, such as installing the 3,500 seats that the arena will eventually have, according to a press release on FairfieldStags.com. Another recent event that

took place in the construction process was the installation of the scoreboard this August, according to @fairfieldu on Instagram.

There is still work to be done on the grounds surrounding the new Arena and Convocation Center, as the area is still visibly a bustling construction site. However, there are fewer cranes and large construction vehicles present than last spring, as the exterior frame, roof and paneling are now complete.

Following this link, you can find the project's Earthcam on fairfieldstags.com. This Earthcam allows the user to zoom in and see the progress from each construction day, dating back to May 7, 2021. The Earthcam is updated daily and will continue to be updated until the building's completion. Updates and photos of the arena can also be found on the official Fairfield University Instagram page @fairfieldu.

In this week's issue...

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- Giants, Vikings, Seahawks Among Week One Surprises (Page 15)
- Women's Soccer Begins Conference Play (Page 15)
- Michael Sansone '22 Reflects On Signing With The Rays (Page 16)
- Men's Soccer Responds To Defeat With A Win (Page 16)

Field Hockey Embarks On Road Trip To Unfamiliar Territory

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University field hockey team had arguably their biggest road trip of the season so far this past weekend.

The Stags were in unfamiliar territory, traveling to the Midwest by taking on No. 24 Miami University of Ohio and No. 4 Louisville University this past Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Despite their efforts, the Stags lost in both contests, losing to Miami (Ohio) 2-1 and Louisville 5-0.

Through eight contests this season, the Stags have a 2-6 record while facing challenging opponents such as Villanova, Holy Cross, and the University of Albany to name a few.

Those who are leading the Stags this season include midfielder Augustina Casteluchi '25, attacker Julianna Kratz '23 and goaltender Payton Rahn '25.

Casteluchi is tied for the team lead in goals with Kratz, who each have two, while Rahn has made 38 saves with a goals against average of 1.95.

According to Rahn and Kratz, they are both excited about the opportunity to face some of the best field hockey programs in the country.

Particularly, Rahn shares excitement regarding the chance of playing against Louisville goaltender Sasha Elliott, a graduate transfer from Virginia Commonwealth University who has been one of the most respected players at her position in the country.

"Playing this weekend against one of my idols, Sasha Elliott from Louisville, is something that I am humbled and excited about playing against," Rahn, the second-year goaltender from Orange, Conn., elabo-

rates.

"The saying, 'train until your idols become your rivals' is something that I never would have expected to work out this way.

She is someone that I have watched closely over the past five years.

I can confidently say that she is one of the reasons why I decided to pursue playing college field hockey."

Kratz, a senior out of Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown, Pa., has experience playing against well-recognized programs such as Miami and Louisville.

She feels confident that with her past experiences, she, along with the rest of her teammates can handle the pressure of facing off against some of the most talented field hockey players in the nation.

Kratz "welcome[s] the challenge of facing these nationally ranked teams."

"I think back to my freshman year when we set a record for most wins in a season [went 19-3 in 2019] and impressively won at least one game against an opponent from all ten field hockey conferences," she elaborated.



Senior Madison Hoskins has been a key member of the Field Hockey team so far.

"Coach Kane does not shy away from scheduling against strong competition and I feel that no matter the score, it will only help us improve individually and as a team, and further help to get us prepared for upcoming conference play."

When asked what needs to be focused on when preparing for these opponents, both players believe that having trust in one another and paying attention to details is vital to having consistent success.

"You have to have trust."

"At the end of the day everything boils down to trust and holding the rope for your teammates," Rohn explains.

"I want to be able to look around our huddle and know that each and every one of these girls have my back and will play till the end for me and with me.

This is such a special bond that is necessary in order to succeed and we have begun to see it in our win against Lafayette."

"There's definitely been an adjustment period, with losing a lot of players while gaining new

players," Kratz says.

"So, it's been a transition getting to know one another while becoming adjusted with each other's strengths.

We need to focus on the little things, such as being in the right mindset and being able to play with confidence."

"I feel like if we are able to do these things, we will be able to be successful," Kratz added.

While the two players understand that the team is more important than themselves in order to win, they recognize that they need to keep doing their parts to the best of their abilities in order for the team to succeed. They noted that they are always finding ways to improve.

"I know that I will never be satisfied with how I perform and this makes me always on the lookout to improve," Rahn explains.

"I watch my film, I talk with our goalie coach, Steve, and we go over every play to then figure out how to fix it. We constantly strive for excellence on and off the pitch and I will push myself to be the best version of myself that we can be."

"So far this season I have been successful with scoring on corners; however I need to be able to score elsewhere as well," Kratz says.

"I feel my strengths are my speed and the ability to see the field and anticipate. I need to continue to pass with my teammates and look to set them up for crosses and other scoring opportunities, and I also need to be able to finish on shots myself."

For more information on the Fairfield Field Hockey Program, as well as Fairfield Athletics as a whole, visit www.fairfield-stags.com for news, updates and more information.

Weekly 4x5

Your 2022-23 4x5 Columnists: Maddy West, Madison Gallo, Tommy Coppola, Brooke Lathe

Because we have witty things to say ...

Where did you go on vacation this summer?

Who is your biggest role model?

What is your favorite pizza restaurant?

What are you looking forward to the most this school year?

What is your favorite thing about the Presidential Ball?



Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor

Besides my usual vacations, I got to experience Wildwood, N.J. for the first time with my girlfriend who knows more about N.J. than I do.

My biggest role model is Kanye West. He is unapologetically himself and I aspire to be on that level.

Colony Grill 100%.

The Mirror hands down. I can't wait to see where we're able to take this amazing paper.

I'll never turn down a DJ and a dance floor.



Maddy West
Editor-In-Chief

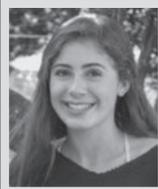
Had a staycation and worked at home all summer!

My biggest role models are my parents without a doubt.

Pepes!!

Of course working for the Mirror, we have some amazing new faces in the office who have so much talent!!

Being able to see everyone dressed up and different grades come together!



Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

I went to Cape Cod for the first time and spent August living on the beach in Fairfield with my friends.

I really look up to my parents and my high school Italian teacher, Signora Borghi.

There is this pizzeria in the NJ shore town my dad grew up in that I LOVE, but in Fairfield, I would have to say Colony.

I can't wait to see what's in store for the Mirror, but I am also really excited about senior year in general and life at the beach!

Getting dressed up with my friends.



Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor, Copy Editor

Every year I spend a week in Narragansett, R.I., to visit my grandfather and my relatives from Washington state!

Shonda Rhimes. Point blank period. She is who I want to be. I love you, Shonda. Xoxo

I don't eat dairy. It's a difficult lifestyle.

Spending time with my 7 wonderful roommates on the weekend! And working at The Mirror, of course.

The food. Thanks, Aramark!

Giants, Vikings, Seahawks Among Week One Surprises

By Ty Petty
Contributing Writer

After a long offseason, week one of the National Football League did not disappoint. Fans across the country were excited to see their

teams perform for the first time since February.

The opening kickoff game consisted of the Buffalo Bills traveling to Los Angeles to take on the reigning world champions, the Los Angeles Rams. The Bills practically dominated that game on both sides of the ball and won with the final score being 31-10. Bills quarterback Josh Allen threw three touchdowns to go along with two interceptions, which bested his opponent, Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford, who tossed only one touchdown while being picked off three times.

On Sunday, twenty-eight of the thirty-two teams participated. The New Orleans Saints took a short trip to Atlanta to take on the Falcons at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The Falcons, for the most part, controlled the game, possessing a 26-10 lead at one point in the fourth quarter. The Saints, led by wide receiver Michael Thomas and his two fourth-quarter touchdowns, in addition to solid defensive play down the stretch, managed to come back and defeat the Falcons, 27-26.

The Indianapolis Colts, favored by many analysts to win the division, played a lousy game and ended up tying the lowly Houston Texans. Heading into the fourth quarter, the Colts were down 20-3 before scoring seventeen unanswered points with the help of running back Jonathan Taylor and

wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr., who both found trips to the end zone. They forced overtime, but it wasn't enough to complete the comeback.

Another divisional matchup took place in Cincinnati, featuring the Pittsburgh Steelers and the reigning American Football Conference (AFC) champion Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals struggled out of the gate, with

quarterback Joe Burrow throwing four interceptions, including a pick-six on his first passing attempt to Steelers safety Minkah Fitzpatrick. Both teams' kickers also struggled, before Steelers kicker Chris Boswell hit one through the uprights to win the game for the Steelers in overtime.

On the topic of game-winning field goals, the Browns won on a fifty-eight-yard field goal with just eight seconds to spare on the leg of kicker Cade York. This game featured them facing off against Panthers quarterback Baker Mayfield, who was traded by the Browns this offseason after being their starter for the past four seasons. The Browns managed to come out victorious, thanks to a solid defensive outing with defensive end Myles Garrett leading the way with two sacks against his former teammate.

Both the Dolphins and the Ravens handled business and took down the Patriots and Jets respectively. The Dolphins took advantage of a lousy Patriots offense by picking off Patriots quarterback Mac Jones once while wide receiver Jaylen Waddle found the end zone once. The Ravens dominated the Jets as wide receiver Devin Duvernay scored two touchdowns

and newly-acquired safety Marcus Williams intercepted a pass from longtime former Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco.

The Bears and Commanders each picked up a win in week one despite both games not consisting of much

excitement. Playing in the soaking wet conditions of Soldier Field, the Bears shut down the 49er's offense as quarterback Justin Fields managed to throw two touchdowns on the eight completions he made in the game. The Command-

Minkah Fitzpatrick had 14 tackles a pick six and a clutch blocked extra point in the Steelers season opener against the Bengals.

ers bested the Jaguars, 28-22 as new quarterback Carson Wentz tossed four touchdowns in his first start with the team.

The Eagles traveled to Ford Field to play the Lions and it was a high-scoring contest that consisted of seventy-three points. The Eagles, at one point, held a double-digit lead over the Lions. But with the help of their motivator as head coach, Dan Campbell, the Lions nearly came back and won, falling just short, 38-35.

One of the biggest upsets of the weekend was the New York Giants defeating the Tennessee Titans in Nashville.

The Giants, led by first-year head coach Brian Daboll, won 21-20 after a gutsy decision to go for a two-point con-

version after a touchdown by running back Saquon Barkley.

The Los Angeles Chargers defeated the Las Vegas Raiders, 24-19 at SoFi Stadium.

Turnovers played the difference in this contest, with Raiders quarterback Derek Carr throwing three interceptions against the revamped Chargers defense. Both the Chiefs and Vikings were too much for the Cardinals and Packers to handle respectively and cruised to victory by multiple points. Key players that dominated in these respective games included

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes,

who threw for five touchdowns, and Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson, who celebrated doing the "griddy" dance in the endzone twice.

Sunday night football had both defenses on display with the Buccaneers coming out victorious with a 19-3 win. The Cowboys struggled mightily to score and were the sole team in the NFL to not score a touchdown in the first week of the season. It comes on the heels of them losing quarterback Dak Prescott to an injury that will keep him sidelined for multiple weeks.

To wrap up week one, the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks competed on Monday Night Football. Yet another upset in week one turned out to be the Seahawks becoming victorious in newly-acquired Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson's return to Seattle.

The difference-maker in the game came at a costly decision made by first-year Broncos head coach Nathaniel Hackett when he wasted an opportunity to win the game by burning thirty seconds off the clock and allowing kicker Brandon McManus to miss a sixty-four-yard field goal instead of placing the ball in Wilson's hands.

It was yet another exciting start to a new NFL season. Additionally, the second week of the NFL is wrapping up, with the second week ending with a doubleheader on Monday Night Football in matchups between the Tennessee Titans and Buffalo Bills, and the Minnesota Vikings and Philadelphia Eagles. Week three will commence on Thursday, Sept. 22, with a showdown between division rivals Pittsburgh Steelers and Cleveland Browns. The event will take place at 8:15 p.m. on Amazon Prime. Here's to football being back!!

Women's Soccer Begins Conference Play

By Ryan Marquardt
Head Sports Editor

After three straight wins against Bryant University, Sacred Heart University and Northeastern University, the Fairfield University women's soccer team took their second loss of the season to Dartmouth by a score of 2-1, making them 5-2 on the year so far.

Fairfield started off hot with a goal in the nineteenth minute of the game by Maddy Theriault '26 with the assist from Hannah Vogt '23 to take the lead 1-0. The Stags then held off Dartmouth for the next 38 minutes until in the sixty-sixth minute Dartmouth scored the equalizer. Allie Winstanley of Dartmouth put it past Stag goalie Katie Wright '26 who recorded three saves on the day.

Then, just 18 minutes later at the eighty-fourth minute mark, Dartmouth took the lead scoring what would be the game winning goal. Allie Winstanley nailed it in and took the lead for Dartmouth.

Statistically, the Stags were right there

with Dartmouth, getting out-shot by just one with twelve shots in comparison to Dartmouth's thirteen. Both teams had the same amount of shots on goal and Dartmouth led in corners with six to Fairfield's four. However, the only stat that Fairfield had on Dartmouth was fouls with ten compared to Dartmouth's four which hurt the Stags in the end and contributed to their tough and hard fought loss.

The Stags then bounced back on Saturday Sept. 17 with a dominating shutout defeating Siena 3-0. This dropped Siena to a 0-6-2 record on the season, but brought the Stags to

a 6-2 record continuing their hot start. This was the Stags start of their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) games against Siena.

Graduate Student Maddie Mills started off the scoring this one

in scoring her third goal of the year at the twenty-second minute mark. She was assisted by Caroline Kelley '24. The goal came from a set that included Kelley launching a long pass in the air and Mills making a great play to head the ball into the back of the net. After that goal, the remainder of the first half remained scoreless.

Theriault then scored the Stags second goal of the match and her third of the season at the fifty-six minute mark to make the score 2-0, after

a relentless Stags offense put up the first four shots of the second half.

The Stags third and final goal came at the sixty-ninth minute mark and put the game out of reach leading to a resounding 3-0 Stag victory. Allie Landino '23 took a shot which deflected off of a Siena defender's foot and found the back of the net.

Goalie Katie Wright played a great game in net saving all four of Siena's shots on net. Siena also had five more fouls than Fairfield with fourteen compared to Fairfield's nine. This was Wright's third shutout game of the young season.

"It's a good road win," Head Coach David Barrett said in the game's official recap.

"We talked about how difficult it is to win on the road and to respect that process of having to go and earn wins. We learned something good today. We got three points on the road we're looking forward to Marist next week."

The Stags will continue the MAAC portion of their schedule versus Marist (2-1-4) on Saturday, Sept. 24 at home.

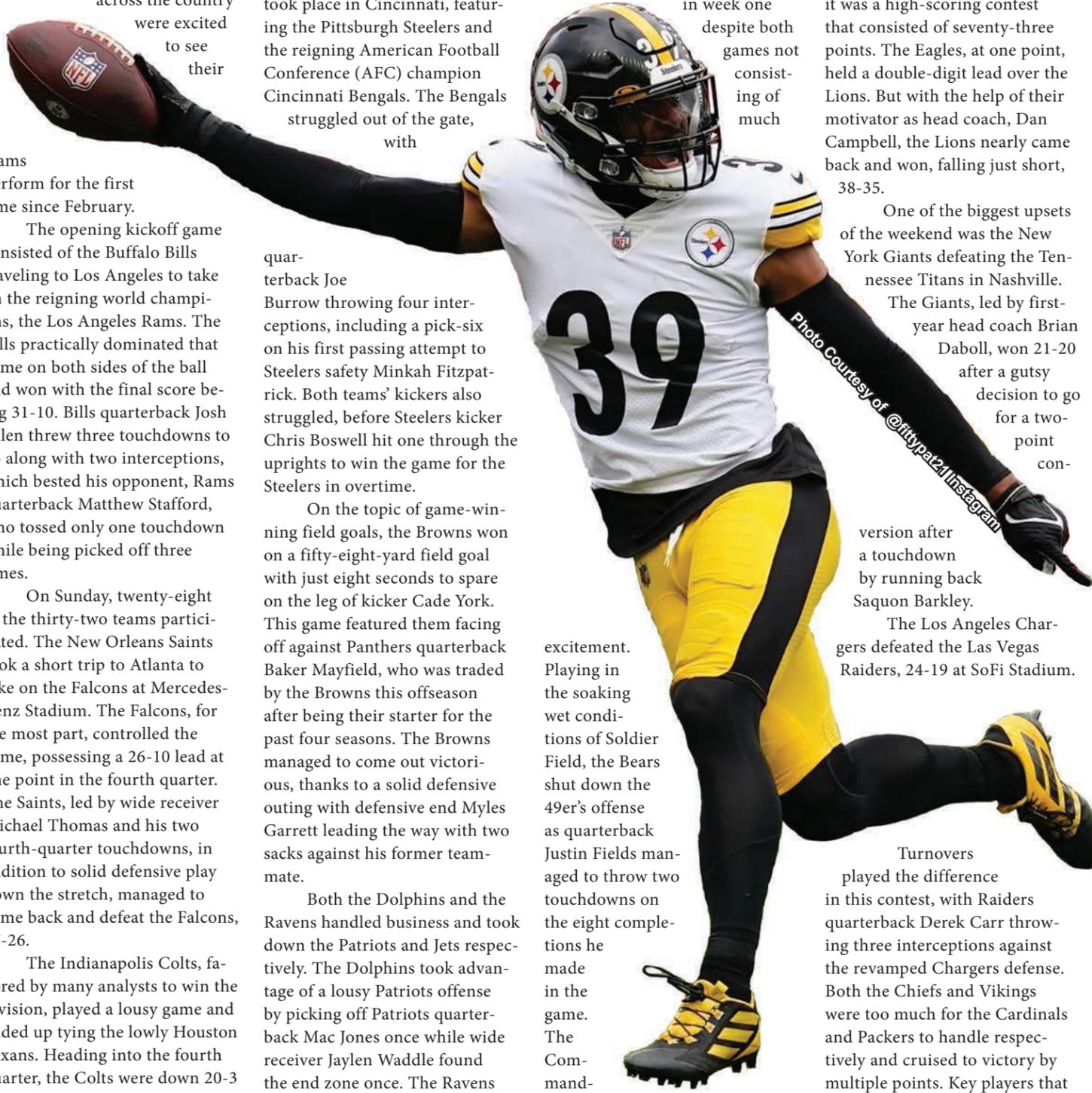


Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Junior Elle Scott hustles downfield.

Michael Sansone '22 Reflects On Signing With The Rays

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

After a largely successful collegiate career with the Fairfield Stags, Michael Sansone '22 is slowly becoming accustomed to the life of a professional baseball player as a member of the Tampa Bay Rays organization. The 22-year-old recounts the process of what led him to sign with the Rays.

"The process kind of worked through my advisor, who is now my agent, and he had spoken with a few teams," Sansone says. "The Rays were the most interested amongst the group of teams that reached out, and there was a little bit of

uncertainty for me leading up to the draft. I wasn't sure if I was going to be taken in the later rounds, so I was definitely anticipating a little bit."

Despite his name not being called in the twenty-round Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, he received a few contract offers upon the draft's completion. After thoughtful consideration with his inner circle, he decided to sign a contract with the Rays.

According to Sansone, he believes that signing with an organization such as the Rays, one that is renowned for its unique abilities in player development and getting the most out of younger players, was a

no-brainer.

"Yeah, they've got an unbelievable reputation," Sansone says. "They've been treating me fantastically well. They treat everyone the same, no matter if you were drafted, signed internationally or went undrafted. One of their main sayings is that there's no special treatment here. So with that message, they have earned great respect from us players. Everyone has been super welcoming here, so I have really enjoyed the first two weeks I have been here now."

Sansone first arrived at the Rays Spring Training Complex, located in Port Charlotte, Fla., two weeks prior. He has begun play for the Florida Complex

League (FCL) Rays, the rookie-level affiliate of the major league club. According to the Minor League Baseball's official website, Sansone has faced 14 batters in the season, which concluded on Aug. 23, 2022.

Since his arrival, Sansone has described his first two weeks as an "orientation process". During that time he practiced, participated in meetings and learned the ins-and-outs of how to be a professional baseball player through team-building activities and interactions with his new fellow colleagues in the organization.

"So for the last, ten-or-so days, we've had meetings going over expectations, how the organization works, the culture and really all of those things of, you know, getting your feel for the team, how things are gonna play out and all of that stuff. So we've been doing a lot of that," Sansone explained regarding the process.

"And then for practice, pitchers and position players have been separated for the most part and it's very individualized and guys are just doing their own work," Sansone further elaborates.

"You're getting the feel from the coaches down here, and they're trying to get a feel from you. And it's all kind of just starting to build those connections with each other and kind of understanding everyone here."

While adjusting to the life of becoming a professional

baseball player, Sansone noted that he surprisingly feels that he has a lot fewer responsibilities to worry about since he graduated from Fairfield University this past May. "I'd say about ten or so days of being in professional baseball, you have a lot more time on your hands along with fewer things to worry about," the rookie pitcher pointed out.

"And so with that time, things are a lot more relaxed and the pace is slower. Everything is still very regimented, definitely on the professional level. You have to be on time for meetings and workouts and all of that, but now with no school to worry about, there's not as much to tend to. Everything here is about baseball, and it's nice to move through your day a little more."

Sansone had a successful career with the Fairfield University baseball team, going 19-9 in 231.2 innings pitched with 227 strikeouts. Since signing with the Rays, he has pitched in three appearances for the FCL Rays, giving up no earned runs.

The future is bright for the young Cheshire, Conn. native pitcher, and it will be exciting to see what he can accomplish in the coming years as he continues to pursue his dream of pitching at the major-league level.

For more information about the Fairfield University's baseball team, as well as Fairfield Athletics as a whole, please visit www.fairfieldstags.com for more information, news and updates.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Michael Sansone '22 signing his rookie contract with the Rays last July after a successful career as a Fairfield Stag.

Men's Soccer Responds To Defeat With A Win

By Danny McLroy
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield University men's soccer team went 2-1 in three games last week, upping their overall record to 4-3 on the season.

The week began on Sept. 11 with a 2-1 win against the Bryant Bulldogs. Junior forward Raz Amir scored twice in the first half to give the Stags a 2-0 advantage they would not relinquish for the rest of the contest. Sophomore forward Rasmus Sorensen Rejnhold, a conference all-rookie selection last year, had the assist on Amir's second goal.

"We wanted to use our strengths to our advantage, and one of those strengths is Raz Amir," head coach Carl Rees told fairfieldstags.com. "He was able to connect with Rasmus and that really helped us get on top early."

The Stags came home looking to continue that momentum in a home contest against the University of Rhode Island on Sept. 14. However, the still undefeated Rams took con-

trol of the field early. The 76th minute finally broke through for the game's only goal, leading to a 1-0 defeat for Fairfield. A brilliant defensive effort from goalkeeper James Anderson '24, who had ten saves on the night, kept things knotted at zero for the majority of the game, but ultimately Rhode Island's 16-5 shot advantage was too much to overcome.

But the Stags bounced back in their final game of the week, with a 3-1 win over the Princeton Tigers on Sept. 17. Own goals by both teams caused a tie at 1-1 early in the second half, but it took only four minutes after their own miscue for the Stags to find the back of the net, courtesy of Rejnhold, who scored his third goal of the season off an assist from graduate transfer and Sweden-native Viggo Sjoberg.

The Stags would go on to ice the game in the seventy-sixth minute with a goal from forward Thomas Drillien '24, his first of the year. Drillien capitalized on a cross into the box from Amir, who earned his third assist of the

season.

The Stags will try to build upon their successes this week-

end as they travel to Cambridge, Mass. to take on Harvard University, before returning home

and opening conference play against Mount St. Mary College on Sept. 28.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

The men's soccer team celebrates a win over Bryant University, who they beat by a score of 2-1 on September 11.