

THE MIRROR

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Photo Courtesy of FairfieldFlickr

Students meet with prospective companies at last year's Fall Career and Internship Fair. This year, students are entering the event looking to gain insight into their respective industries and potentially secure internships and employment after graduation.

Students Prepare for Today's Career Fair

BY ASHLEY DEVLIN
Head News Editor

As the school year is off to a quick start, students are eager to learn more about their career options at this semester's Career and Internship Fair held in the Rec Plex. The Mirror spoke to a senior, junior and a sophomore before the big event who each spoke to the necessity of preparing for an event this important. Jenna Walsh '27, Gabriella Fideleo '26 and Abigail Ross '25 shared some insights into their to-do list before the event and what students can look forward to at the fair.

Jenna Walsh '27 is just a sophomore, attending her first career fair at Fairfield University. As a biology major and behavioral neuroscience minor, she is currently seeking internships and job opportunities in the healthcare field, like a great deal of other students here.

She is attending the fair so that she can network with top companies and said, "I hope to discover new opportunities in the healthcare field." These companies include Hartford Healthcare and ScribeAmerica.

In order to perform well at the fair, Walsh explained that she is diligently working on crafting and updating her resume and will be utilizing the Kelley Center's services to print her resume on resume paper. In addition to this, she is researching all of the companies that she is interested in so that she has something prepared to say to them to stand out and indicate that she is interested in their organization.

Walsh gained these skills by enrolling in the Sophomore Success Program offered through the Career Center. Although the class has only just started for her, she has already learned how to create a sophisticated resume and hone in on her career interests.

Similar to Walsh, Gabriella Fideleo '26, also attended Sophomore Success. Through this program, Fideleo says, "I was able to get my resume edited and my LinkedIn set up. I also learned how to write a proper cover letter and practiced other useful networking skills, like reciting elevator pitches and doing mock interviews."

This program prepared her a great deal for the Career Fair last year, as she had a very positive experience.

Fideleo '26 said, "I am still in contact with some industry professionals I met and have learned a lot from them. I hope to take a similar pathway this year, but apply to more diverse internships."

Fideleo is currently a junior finance and economics major with an international business minor. She enjoys financial and investment management, so she researched companies that align with those interests.

Like most of the Class of 2026, Fideleo has a very specific reason for attending the fair. She says, "I am seeking an internship for Summer 2025, which will hopefully turn into a full-time offer, but I also hope to build my network, as well as speak with industry professionals in fields I am interested in."

She is specifically looking at Franklin Templeton, JP Morgan, Bank of America, Monte and Barnum. Fideleo '26 investigated these companies all on Handshake, through the university's website, so that she could be prepared to discuss opportunities with them at the fair.

Fideleo believes that researching companies before the fair is key to connecting with them, understanding your company desires and making a good first impression on possible future employers. Through great investigation, Fideleo discovered that the aforementioned companies all "have good company culture and room for growth."

Additionally, members of the Class of 2025 who are looking for future career opportunities are welcome to attend. Abigail Ross '25, has attended two career fairs in the past and will be in attendance at this year's Career and Internship Fair.

Ross is a Senior psychology major with minors in management and public health, looking for a potential job in Human Resources. At the fair, Ross said "I hope to gain more experience talking to recruiters, give my resume out and explore opportunities available to me... if a job comes out of it, then I will be very happy."

To prepare for this task, Ross also was enrolled in Sophomore Success in the 2022-23 academic school year. In this program, she learned how to create a resume and a LinkedIn account from scratch, interview with companies, explore career paths and draft an elevator pitch.

Ross '25 says, "This is my third career fair and I do not think I ever would have attended one if I wasn't a part of this program [Sophomore Success]."

Ross believes that the program prepared her well for looking for jobs and attending the Career and Internship Fair. This year she will be preparing by going to the Career Center to edit and print her resume and practicing an updated elevator pitch.

Her only hope this year is that there is a more diverse grouping of companies present. Ross '25 said, "last year, I did not appreciate how focused it was on the Dolan School of Business students, as they have many more opportunities than the College of Arts and Sciences to look for jobs."

Those interested in learning more about companies attending the fair are encouraged to look at the university's Handshake and attend the fair today, Sept. 25, 2024.

"No More Secrets:" Creating Space to Discuss Sexual Violence

BY KATHLEEN MORRIS
Managing Editor

"I think we need to be a school with no more secrets and bring things to light," Fr. John Savard, S.J. '78 emphasized. "We must walk in the light a little bit more and not be afraid of the darkness."

To create an atmosphere that is open to vulnerability and conducive to conversation, Fairfield U Wellness is hosting an event entitled "What If I Share My Story?" in the Oak Room. The event will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sept. 26 and will function as a walk-through exhibit for community members to learn about on-campus resources to prevent sexual violence.

The timing is strategic, as the first six to eight weeks of school are classified as "the red zone."

Pam Paulmann, Fairfield's Coordinator for Health and Wellness Education, hopes to diminish the struggles faced by students who "are new to campus, new to freedom, and experimenting for the first time with many things." This stage of exploration can coincide with unexpected, negative situations.

The 2023 Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report cited that three incidents of "Sexual Offenses" and two incidents of "Sexual Assault: Rape" occurred on campus in 2022. The year prior, there were four documented incidents of "Sexual Assault: Rape" at Fairfield University. However, these statistics do not account for the unspoken stories of sexual violence, stories that remain clouded by the shame that prevents survivors from revealing their truth.

Paulmann underscored the gaps within this numerical data.

"It's very nuanced," she revealed. "Clery has very specific guidelines and these incidents often go unreported, so I don't always think those are the most accurate numbers."

The Clery Act was established in 1990, requiring all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial programs to document and relay information about on-campus crime. Fairfield University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) annually captures and releases data about unlawful activities, from liquor law violations to arson. DPS must also quantify incidents of sexual assault, reflecting a painful and pervasive reality interwoven into collegiate culture.

Survivors may be afraid to disclose this information, as discussions about sex are often considered taboo or "off-limits." However, Paulmann is committed to breaking barriers and opening the door to necessary dialogue.

Paulmann's efforts are shared by a committee initially established by a three-year federal grant. Once that grant expired, Paulmann did not want to discontinue the work aimed at eliminating sexual violence in the community.

Her team hopes to equip students with an awareness of support structures offered at the University. By attending "What If I Share My Story?", it is possible for students to find light in the aftermath of trauma.

"A student can meet with any number of different people who can be a support to students who are survivors or who have been impacted in any way," Paulmann explained. She continued, "The different tables include everything from the Title IX Office to the Counseling Center to peers, as how a peer reacts to a disclosure is huge in determining what the next step is for the student."

Campus Ministry and the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality will also be present. Marcy Dolan Haley, the Associate Director of the Murphy Center, works closely with Paulmann on Fairfield's Coordinated Community Response Team. She uses her platform to build a bridge between one's faith and their healing journey. Her ideology is shaped by Catholic Social Teaching, which characterizes sexual harassment as a violation of human dignity.

"From my perspective, this is a human dignity and human flourishing issue," Haley said. "It is a violation of your ability to live in a way that is not only contributing to your good, but the common good."

Haley admitted that, at face value, a Jesuit and Catholic institution may seem like an unorthodox setting to promote open communication about sexual activity. Historically, the Catholic Church has faced backlash for its rigid stance against premarital sex.

"Sexual assault carries shame, regret, anger and disappointment... all things we're not supposed to feel as good Christians, right?" Haley considered. "No one wants to talk about that. To talk about sexual assault is to imply or infer that sex has happened, and that's not something we're supposed to do here on this college campus."

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Class of 2025 Celebrates First Naut

BY SAMANTHA RUSSELL
Executive Editor

Senior festivities for the Class of 2025 have officially commenced, treating students to Colony Pizza at the Seagrape “Grape” Cafe, early-bird tickets to Fairfield University’s annual President’s Ball and the weekly Naut beach party. Nauts invite seniors each Thursday evening for an exclusive party, commonly seen as a pregame for The Grape.

Last Thursday night, the first Naut took place at Big Blue and Overlook, two beach houses located on Fairfield Beach Road. With a Luau Hawaiian theme, the crowd flaunted everything floral and flowy, enjoying a summer night with live music and eight kegs of beer, cider and Truly Seltzers.

“My first naut experience was really positive,” said Clara Patton ‘25. “I had a great time, I saw so many friends and peers there and everyone seemed to be having a good time.”

Similarly, Carmela Silvia enjoyed the privacy of the event with only her graduating class.

“It was definitely a lot of fun and so special to be able to go to something like that where it’s just your whole class. I think it was definitely worth going and am excited for the ones to follow.”

Each senior interested in attending the Nauts this year was required to Zelle Off-Campus Student Leader (OCL) Colin Richards \$75 to pay for provided liquor. After the payment, Richards issued Naut wristbands to attendees outside of Old Post Market.

Wristbands were checked at the party entry to ensure only those who paid could attend.

“Honestly, in comparison to a usual weekend of trying to get on to The Point, I would say that it was not as bad,” Silvia said. “They were checking bands for a good portion of the night, but there was only one police cruiser at the house.”

In light of the stricter restrictions enforced by Fairfield police this semester, the wristband system came across relatively smoothly for students, still allowing a positive experience while remaining safe. Seniors such as Patton and Matt Mauro noticed a definite decrease of officers present than at previous parties this month, such as the White Out. Some, according to Patton, seemed to embrace the student festivity.

“I saw one officer wearing a lei which made me feel better about their attitude toward us being there,” she said “I was pleasantly surprised, supervision has been unreasonably strict this year, but the Naut was able to happen and I’m really grateful for that.”

Patton admitted her feelings of safety offered by the security, and Mauro believes the wristbands are a good method to keep it a senior-only event. Both students, however, relayed that the system of picking up the wristbands in the middle of the day was inconvenient. Pick-up was in the middle of the day, when most students have class, and for only one day. Richards did pass out wristbands the following day for those who could not make it, but only for forty-five minutes.

Furthermore, because of a delay in rubber-wristband delivery, which will last seniors the entire year, last week’s wristbands will need to be reused. According to Richards, rubber wristbands will be delivered on October 1.

Another positive note from Thursday’s Naut was the live band, a group composed of Fairfield students- Robert Paltrineri, Alicia Healy, Matthew Deutsch, Ryan Tobin, Zach Ciampi and Henry Anderson- and known as Half Approved. The band created a more unique experience for Patton compared to more general parties, as did the use of a theme.

Her one negative thought was only having one bathroom for hundreds of students, a circumstance she deemed a “nightmare.”

Silvia, Patton and Mauro all plan to attend the next Naut on Thursday, Sept. 26, which is being hosted by Snug Harbor and with a “rave” theme. The upcoming theme does raise some questions for the latter two, interested in how that switch will change the chiller vibe of last week’s, but are both excited to get creative with it.

In regards to the overall experience, the security presence was reasonable and the outcome was positive for all students—nothing too out of control. And, Silvia has hopes for this event changing security presence at future events this year.

“I hope that we are able to prove to the school and work with them so that we can find a way to enjoy our gatherings throughout the rest of this year,” she said.



Erica Schindler /The Mirror

Members of the Class of 2025 gather in front of Big Blue for the first themed Naut. At the senior only event, police were present, but the party followed town guidelines and many considered it a success.

Mirror Alumni: Where Are They Now? Reflections from Kat Klima ‘20

Kat Klima '20 Emeritus Executive Editor
Interview By: Kathleen Morris, Managing Editor

1.) What is your fondest memory at The Mirror?

Oh I have so many. I got to meet and interview a lot of cool and interesting people: David Cook, David Archuleta, the Score, Jake Shimabukuro, and I didn’t meet her but I did get to see Jane Fonda talk. I also did a study abroad column when I was in Ireland, which looking back has been great because I was able to write about that time in my life and have a record of that.

I don’t know if it’s my fondest, but it’s one I use in job interviews quite a lot. I just started as the Vine Editor and all of our computers just stopped working in some kind of Y2K shutdown (absolutely horrifying). My computer was the only one that worked and we really spent a lot of time with each other that night.

There was also the time I ended up having to deliver the paper because we were short staffed. I think we finished around 3AM on a Tuesday night and I had to wake up at like 6AM to deliver the paper. Then I had class at like 10AM. I don’t know how I functioned at 21. I’m 26 now and the idea of losing sleep hurts.

2.) How did your time at The Mirror shape your post-grad experiences?

I think the Mirror shaped my life post-grad in so many ways. As a writer, it definitely helped me think a lot about what is the heart of a really good nonfiction piece. There were also a lot of professors I learned this from (Sonya Huber, Matt Tullis, Tommy Xie), but the Mirror gave me a lot of freedom to express myself and gave me the proper tools to start my journey as a writer, reader, and editor.

Before I was the Executive Editor, I started off as the Vine Editor and I had a lot of fun just being able to design the covers and I got to play around a lot creatively. I worked part-time as a social media coordinator in graduate school and a lot of the graphics I

created were done using tools and tricks I learned from my time at the Mirror.

The Mirror also prepared me for a lot of internships in graduate school. I ended up interning at Ploughshares, Harvard Education Press, and Candlewick Press— which were all really great. Something I learned at the Mirror is always showing up in a lot of the professional spaces I’ve found myself in.

3.) What are you up to now?

I received my MFA in Creative Writing, with a concentration in fiction, from Emerson College in May of this year. I also just started a full-time job at Emerson College in June working for their Student Employment office.

I’m currently in the process of trying to write a book (big stress on trying) and submit the short stories from my thesis for publication (so in other words, pray for me).

4.) What advice would you give to current members of The Mirror?

Enjoy the creative freedom you have at the Mirror. This is the time for you to figure yourself out, try new things, and write and read outside your comfort zone.

I think in a lot of ways the Mirror will help get you in shape for the world outside of college. I’ve been in so many job interviews where they’ve asked me to elaborate about my time at the Mirror and discuss the responsibilities I held there.

It’s also a great community to have and lean on. I’m still really good friends with some of the people I worked with at the Mirror.

Ultimately, give this time your all and enjoy every second.



Kat in 2013 (above), Kat in 2024 (below)





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

Crime forthcoming in The Mirror's next issue.

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Fairfield Town Residents, Landlords Respond to New Beach Rules

BY ERICA SCHINDLER
Assistant News Editor

Last week, The Mirror ran two articles reporting on recent happenings along the town's beaches. This month's failed Labor Day white party and the implementation of guest passes sent waves of confusion and anger through the student community. At the same time, Fairfield University seniors began participating in the year's weekly beach clean ups. Since then, there has also been increased activity on the beach, due in part to the senior Naut parties, which are run with knowledge from the university. With a new semester and new beach rules, how are residents in the town of Fairfield responding?

To better understand the perspectives of town residents, The Mirror spoke to Lucas Scholhamer, who lives in the beach area with his wife and daughter. He recently became president of the Fairfield Beach Residents Association, an organization of people living in town.

According to their website, FBRA aims to "represent and implement the interests and desires of the membership in maintaining and improving Fairfield Beach and vicinity; promote cooperation among the owners and renters; represent the common interests of the membership in relation to governmental authorities, and provide for the mutual assistance, enjoyment and quality of life for all people residing in the Fairfield Beach area." One of their initiatives is resident/student relations.

Scholhamer describes the current relationship between Fairfield students and other beach residents as "complex."

"Most full-time residents I know aren't actually anti-student," Scholhamer says. "And just like students, they simply want to enjoy the beach neighborhood that they have worked so hard to live in. But over the last several years things have gotten out of hand and many residents have had their property rights violated or their safety threatened by student parties. I think everybody is hoping for a reset, where we all agree to enjoy the beach but in a way that doesn't keep others from enjoying it."

Part of this reset, at least for some residents, has included the new policy of a limited number of guest passes for each student house. Scholhamer explains that property owners along the shoreline, including those that rent to Fairfield students, control who can access the portion of the beach they own.

"Property owners—including the owners of student rentals—can control the access to their properties and beaches, which are private to the average high tide line," he says. "Lantern Point is actually subject to a legal injunction from a past lawsuit that limits the size of gatherings on this property, and student gatherings in recent years have been in violation of this legal ruling."

Scholhamer also brought up residents' concerns

over the possible legal challenges that he says can arise from large events like the "white-out" or SantaCon. He points to litter, ambulances and fights among the residents as concerns and says that the residents face the consequences of students breaking the law, even if they do so accidentally.

As for the rest of this year's events, residents remain concerned about the prospect of large student parties near their houses.

"We all saw how bad SantaCon was last year..." Scholhamer said. "We also worry that the University doesn't do enough to educate students about some of the town's key laws—that residential areas of the beach are private property above the high tide line, and that Fairfield's town noise ordinance is now in effect 24 hours, as is actually required by Connecticut's state law."

Many residents have these concerns, yet others believe that students living at the beach are generally unproblematic in their behavior. Among these is Norma Jean Maltese, a Fairfield homeowner who rents to students. Acknowledging many of her fellow residents' concerns about students partying, she responds: "So what?" In her view, the safety of students is what's most important.

"I have nothing but good things to say," Maltese said of her student renters. She added, "After a while, they become family."



Photo Courtesy of Fairfield Beach Residents Association

The Fairfield Beach Residents Association responds to new rules regarding noise ordinances and litter in the beach area. Seniors are expected to act accordingly.

THE MIRROR

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2024 ELECTION COVERAGE

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Presidential Ball Ticket Sales Stir Unnecessary Frustration

BY SOPHIA COSSITT-LEVY
Assistant News Editor

One of Fairfield University's most beloved traditions, the Presidential Ball, better known by students as Pres Ball, is coming up once again. In the week leading up to the event, students scramble for tickets, and this year was no different.

Tickets for this year's Pres Ball went on sale at noon on Monday, Sept. 16 for seniors and at noon on Tuesday, Sept., 17 for first-years, sophomores and juniors.

For seniors, there were immediate issues with purchasing tickets. Group chats buzzed with questions after alerts online showed that tickets were sold out only moments after the sale began. Some seniors made phone calls to reserve tickets, while others waited for the site to start working again.

Senior Bobby Schattle said that the "system said tickets were sold out right away and then didn't show [that the] tickets [were] back on sale until ten minutes later. [It] was better in previous years."

Emily Keane, '25, didn't have any issues with the technology, but said, "I was on my way to class so [it wasn't] convenient."

The rest of the student body seemed to have a hit-or-miss experience on Tuesday. Some students took to Fizz, an anonymous social media platform used by some university students, with one person posting, "When the site crashed four times but I still got that pres ball ticket." This received 330 upvotes from other users.

Other anonymous posters took to Fizz to share their difficulties obtaining tickets. One student wrote, "Does

anyone know what to do if it says not eligible when you click on student tickets for pres ball?"

Another student complained that ticket sales weren't split up, writing, "Pres Ball tickets need to be sold the same way they do class registration. Because why are freshmen buying at the same time as juniors?"

Sophomore Daniella Norena-Mesa faced technical difficulties and much like the Fizz post that complained about the site crashing, she said, "It did not go well for me. It kept asking to do the 'Are you a robot' test. It wasn't working, and I think there was a system error. I did end up getting tickets, but that was hours later." In the meantime, Norena-Mesa worried that tickets would be completely sold out the next time she tried to purchase them. All of her friends had managed to get tickets, and she was looking forward to going with them.

Sophomore Jane Coppola had a smoother experience purchasing tickets compared to last year. "This might have to do with the fact that last year I bought my ticket in Jagues, while this year I bought it in Canisius." Still, Coppola explained she still experienced issues, "When I was checking out and hit the button to place my order, finalizing my ticket purchase, the website crashed and displayed an error message that read: 'This request cannot be processed.'" Luckily, it seemed to be a false error code, as Coppola received a confirmation email moments later.

Instead of using the website like most seemed to, Kallie Oullette, '26 used the Super Stag App. "I thought getting tickets was easy this year... [I] had no problems with the system," she said.

Another sophomore, McKaylan Connolly, had an easier time getting tickets than she did her first year, though it still wasn't perfect. "This year the page was a little slow to load, but overall it was much easier and quicker to purchase the ticket."

Connolly also spoke about the timing of the sale, saying, "I feel like the timing of Pres Ball tickets going on sale was inconvenient for people who had classes at that time. Once tickets were on sale, everyone was pulling out their credit cards and trying to get the page to load. It was disruptive, and I felt bad for our professor who was in the middle of a lecture."

Sophomore Sam Giuricich got lucky with Pres Ball tickets this year. Though she had a lab at the time, she got out of class early and managed to avoid technical problems. "Once [my computer] loaded, it was smooth, but it was stressful because my friends were telling me they got tickets."

Junior Marina Chiaro, however, didn't even realize anything had gone wrong for others with purchasing tickets. "It was quick, and I got them in two minutes," Chiaro said. For anyone still wanting to get a ticket, as of Friday, Sept. 20, FUSA reports a limited number still available—even though students feel pressured to get tickets the second they go on sale, there are plenty to go around.



Kathleen Morris/The Mirror

Presidential Ball evokes feelings of campus pride, evident in the Stags Up hand sign. This year, students felt overwhelmed with the ticket purchasing.

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Conversations About Sexual Assault at a Jesuit Institution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She quickly abandoned this argument, only adopting this generalized viewpoint to highlight the danger of a limited perspective that puts survivors "back into dark corners instead of coming forward." Haley encourages individuals to push the boundaries of their beliefs and embrace solidarity.

"We must work in communion with each other," she emphasized. "Within the context of our community, we all have a right to work and live in a space that supports our human flourishing and is free from judgment."

The notion of solidarity is echoed in the "Step Up Stags" program, a bystander intervention training presented to all first-year students, Resident Assistants and New Student Leaders. The program informs students about sexual misconduct and consent policies. More broadly, it stresses the importance of active engagement in the face of violence.

"We, unfortunately, have students who may be thinking 'What do I want out of this situation?'" Paulmann said. "Whether it's some sort of satisfaction or

"Within the context of our community, we all have a right to work and live in a space that supports our human flourishing and is free from judgment."

-Marcy Dolan Haley, Associate Director of the Murphy Center

experimentation, they completely disregard the person before them and that's really where things fall apart,"

Paulmann reinforced the value of unity, especially in our "me-centered world." She hopes the Jesuit ideals will serve as an undercurrent to motivate students to uplift one another.

Savard is optimistic about the continued development of a culture of respect and accountability. As the Interim Director of Campus Ministry, Savard is a member of Fairfield's

CARE Team. In this role, he joins a working group tasked with identifying and communicating with students of concern.

"As we get to know students, hopefully, we can be seen as approachable and ready to greet students who find themselves in a situation of sexual harassment, even if it is the harasser who comes to make amends," Savard explained.

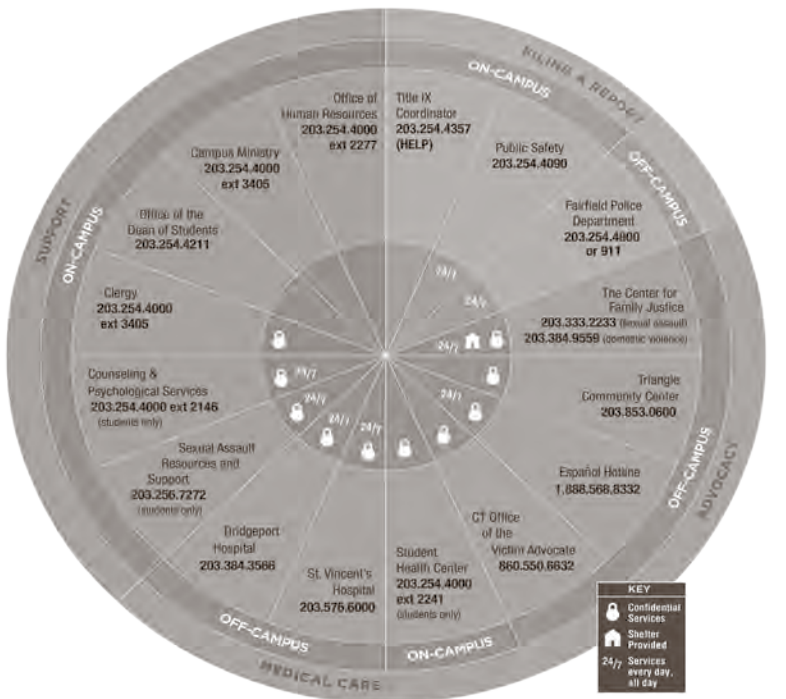
In his day-to-day encounters, he remains cognizant of the shifting campus culture that can both prevent and perpetuate immoral behavior. "There is always work to be done," Savard declared. "We're always bringing in a new class and we need to remember that when one person is violated or diminished, all of us are."

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual violence, please call (203) 254-4357 for guidance or to file a report. For additional resources, visit Fairfield University's website for survivors.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence or Stalking:

- Get to a safe place
- Connect with someone
- Seek medical care
- Consider your options

There are many Fairfield University and Community Resources to help.



KNOW WHERE TO GO
About Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking
If you need help, there are many Fairfield University and community resources to support you or help you file a report.



Opinion

Editor: Trent Ouellette

“The Naut” is the Perfect Party for Both Seniors and the Town

By JACQUELINE RIGAZIO
Copy Editor

This past Thursday night marked an event that Fairfield seniors have been looking forward to for the last three years: the first Naut. “The Naut” is a themed party for seniors that occurs every Thursday night and is hosted voluntarily by seniors who live at the beach. Many seniors, myself included, were buzzing with excitement all day on Thursday in anticipation of attending their first Naut.

So far this school year, the senior class has experienced heightened security and restrictions from the town. Due to previous out-of-hand parties, it is no secret that the town of Fairfield has had many complaints with the senior class. In years past, big events such as SantaCon received intense backlash from Fairfield residents. As the biggest Fairfield party of the year, SantaCon attracts hundreds of party-goers from other universities, which causes this event to escalate in a dangerous way. At SantaCon 2023, 70% of the documented reports were from non-Fairfield U. students. However, because the Naut is a Fairfield seniors-only function and is not open to other schools or class years, I believe that the Naut is the perfect event to allow reasonable senior gatherings while also abiding by town policies.

Senior Colins Richards, who is serving as the Off-Campus Leader (OCL) for Fairfield’s Class of 2025, sent out communication to the entire senior class via GroupMe prior to the Naut on Thursday. He texted everyone about the event’s rules and information, establishing the party hours as 7:30-9:30 p.m. to ensure that students comply with the town’s noise ordinance of

10:00 p.m. Richards also informed the seniors that “there will be a lot of big garbage cans out behind the houses, use those” to avoid litter on the beach. He even noted a residence with younger children living nearby and asked students to “be mindful” of them so they wouldn’t be disturbed. Richards ended the informative message by stating, “let’s be smart tomorrow so that we don’t get ourselves or the hosting houses in trouble. I know I have been looking forward to [the Nauts] since I was a freshman so let’s make them last.” Like Richards, the entire senior class has been anticipating this event for years, so everyone was more than happy to comply with basic rules to make sure that this favorite senior tradition can continue.

Based on the high security which largely prevented a “white-out party” on Labor Day, I was unsure of how the town would react to the Naut. As I approached the two hosting houses for this luau-themed event, two Fairfield police cars were parked outside. The officers stood beside their vehicles, saying hello to students as they entered the party. One of the officers was even wearing a Hawaiian lei to sport the theme, smiling when my friends and I complimented it. I felt that this interaction displayed a mutual respect between the cops and the partygoers, as they served as a precaution to make sure the event did not get out of hand while also wanting the seniors to enjoy their Thursday night.

Once we passed the gate and reached the deck of the houses, we were immediately surrounded by our classmates and closest friends. Head to toe in luau-themed attire, I recognized almost every face that passed by. Usually, it would take a lot of time and phone calls to locate my friends

in a big crowd, but this senior-only attendance meant that everywhere I looked I could spot friendly faces and find someone to chat with.

Complete with a band playing on the back deck of the house, Fairfield University seniors could come together, dance to live music and connect with each other in a way we have not experienced before. The community feeling of getting to party and bond with my fellow seniors was such a special moment. We have all been dreaming of this for three years, and the fact that we were able to gather together in a fun way while also being safe was the best first Naut experience I could have asked for.

Fellow seniors echoed my sentiments, as Danny Mayo ‘25 commented, “I felt part of the Fairfield community, and made me really happy to be a stag. These are the things we look forward to all four years.”

Jenna LaRochelle ‘25 shares, “I thought it was super fun and I loved that there was live music. I also think that as a group overall people were very respectful about leaving at the 9:30 end time.”

Senior Heather Hodgkins says that the Naut “is a great way for seniors to get together and have a fun time.” She expresses that “we as seniors have been looking forward to the Nauts since we were freshmen, and we are so happy we are able to have them.”

Senior Andrew Caslin also adds that “the first Naut was well put together and well executed. There’s definitely a sense of camaraderie and school spirit when events like these are thought out in advance.”

For the Class of 2025, the last time we were seniors looked a lot different. When smiles were covered by masks and hugs of

hello were forbidden, it was near impossible to feel connected to those in our graduating class. Four years later, finally getting the senior year experience that we have all been craving—without warranting backlash from the town—feels all the more special.

The senior class pulled this party off exceptionally. Because the Naut is senior-only, it is so much more manageable to comply with town rules and ensure that the gathering doesn’t get out of hand. This allows seniors to enjoy their parties safely while respecting the Fairfield community and residents. Based on the first Naut experience, Thursday night is quickly becoming my favorite time of the week!



Jacqueline Rigazio/The Mirror

This past week’s Naut featured a live band and drinks on tap. Students were able to have fun at the beach while adhering to town regulations

Is Avery Dulles Hall as Dull as Some New Residents Claim?

By AVA SCHIFF
Contributing Writer

After deciding to enter the unpredictable housing lottery this previous year, my two roommates and I were thrilled to be placed in the newest building on campus. This building, Avery Dulles Hall, was named after an American Jesuit, Avery Robert Dulles. The drive up to the front entrance of Dulles Hall looks promising, as large floor-to-ceiling windows occupy almost the entire building. The exterior of Dulles Hall has inviting landscaping, as well as modern, overhanging pergola-like structures. After entering the building for the first time, I was immediately hit with the smell of new furniture, new carpeting and overall cleanliness. Eagerly riding the elevator up to the top floor, I looked left and then right to determine how expansive the newly constructed dormitory building actually was. Multiple study rooms and an inviting main lounge with a comfortable sofa call for students to study within its walls.

My excitement quickly diminished after swiping my Stag Card, punching in my four-digit PIN code, and enthusiastically swinging open the door to peer inside my brand-new sophomore dorm room. The bunked beds, shallow floor space and shrunken furniture was extremely surprising to say the least. I would be lying if a tear did not trickle

down my face after the initial shock of the sheer crampedness of the room. I was immediately confused as to why an entirely new residence building was constructed specifically for triples, as Fairfield University Residence Life states. Even though the rooms were constructed for triples, they were made cripplingly small. Also, Dulles Hall is the only strictly sophomore dorm building with communal bathrooms. Three sinks, three stalls and three showers to share amongst 30 people make it almost impossible to brush your teeth in the early morning hours without having to wait in a line.

Each Dulles Hall room is decorated with gray, vinyl hardwood flooring and an expansive window positioned on the back wall. Tiled ceilings and neutral-colored cream walls give the room an inviting touch, yet sophomore Liana Ahmetaj living on the first floor of Dulles Hall, describes the layout of the bathrooms as, “funny and weird.” Ahmetaj is also a resident who was placed in round three of the housing lottery and was selected to live in Avery Dulles Hall. Ahmetaj says, “the building is appealing to look at and the hardwood flooring is nice, although the room feels like the same size as my freshman dorm. I would have expected [ResLife] to have made the rooms bigger if the rooms were meant for three people.” Ahmetaj recalled an incident

she saw in the bathroom where multiple girls were using one sink to brush their teeth due to all other sinks being occupied.

With no expectations in mind before moving into her single Dulles Hall room, RA, Devone Martin ‘25, says she was pleasantly surprised by the newly constructed building on Fairfield’s



Photo Courtesy of Ava Schiff

Rooms in Dulles Hall were designed to be occupied by three students. Many students complain that these rooms are not large enough.

campus. Martin says she, “loves the idea of a new building,” because in other, older resident buildings, “you feel like someone has lived there before, but not here.” At this point in the semester, Martin does not have any complaints, as there is a “good community and good residents.” “Bright lighting,” was a recurring topic brought up by Martin, as she says it is her favorite feature of the building.

My roommates and I’s go-to adjective to describe our Avery Dulles room is “cozy,” and I feel it fits the room perfectly. Although not perfect, we have created a comfortable living space in Dulles Hall in the best way we could. While some residents and residence assistants feel the new dormitory is acceptable, I feel the room size is just too small to accommodate three beds, three desks, three dressers, three closets, plus three people. The uncomfortable living conditions and small room size would be expected as a first-year student, yet as a soon-to-be upperclassman, one would assume housing accommodations would be improved. Take a stroll to the far end of campus in order to determine for yourself if Avery Dulles Hall is as dull as some of the new residents are claiming.

Editor-in-Chief Max Limric is a Resident Assistant, and thus did not read, edit or have any part in the creation of this article before publication.

Red Stack Direct: Worthwhile or Worthless?

By SOPHIA IMRICHOVA
Contributing Writer

As a first-year at Fairfield University, I entered campus in late August with a mix of excitement and apprehension. Like many new students, I found myself bombarded with a boatload of information surrounding academics, particularly the necessity for an arrangement of textbooks and novels for specific courses.

When it comes to my knowledge of textbooks prior to college, I had seen countless videos floating around social media platforms promoting websites with free access to digital textbooks to avoid the hefty costs of their physical formats. Other friends from an assortment of colleges across the country informed me of their experience with the process and their struggle with renting them out, purchasing them or downloading digital copies. I think it's safe to say that I had no idea what to expect when it came time to purchase my own books.

When Fairfield introduced RedStack as an all-in, flat-fee option for textbooks this semester, I was intrigued by their system. Obviously, I thought it was a great alternative to having to scavenge bookstores for my books.

With the pickup located in the gift shop, RedStack is definitely convenient for students who opt to pick up their textbooks. Initially, when I was placing my order around mid-August I had considered shipping my textbook to my home, but with the easy access I would have to the pickup location once on campus I decided otherwise. Along with many others, I was pleased to discover I could work my class schedule around their opening hours which turned out to be a bit of a hassle.

The inconvenience of the process was the extensive amount of time I had to wait in line for a singular textbook. Unlike many other students, I only had one textbook to pick up from RedStack which I assumed would make the entire process more efficient and less time-consuming. However, approaching the bookstore and seeing the various bags of novels and textbooks

students were hauling back to their dorms made me doubt my decision to pick mine up.

I am a very patient individual and don't mind standing in line for periods of time, but I will admit that waiting almost 30 minutes in line just to stand at a counter for another 10 minutes began to agitate me. At this point, countless people behind and in front of me were progressively leaving the line which now extended beyond the walls of the bookstore. Many of them claimed they would come back early the following morning which likely resulted in them facing students with a similar idea in mind.

Another con of RedStack was their alleged claim to have the ability to provide students with course materials by the first day. Numerous students in one of my classes struggled with the process of retrieving their textbook before the first few classes, resulting in the professor having to photocopy the chapter readings and post them online. During a conversation with one of my friends regarding the issue, she mentioned "I was frustrated with RedStack because I felt like I was falling behind on my classes after only the first week of class." In this case, I wouldn't view RedStack as a reliable source to gain access to course materials on time, yet this fault is understandable with a predictable increase in demand from students placing last-minute orders nearing the start of the academic year.

Despite the conflicting pick-up process, my experience with RedStack was satisfactory and provided me with the materials I needed in a timely manner. Again, while I only had one textbook to pick up, my experience may have been less complicated than others. Regardless, I think opting to get my textbook from RedStack was a wise choice. Overall, I'm grateful my school provides me with a simple opportunity to gain access to all of my textbooks efficiently.



Kathleen Morris/The Mirror

Employees at the Stag Spirit Shop preside over the distribution of textbooks ordered through RedStack Direct. The new system has upped the workload and urgency for these employees as students line up to receive their textbooks.

By CONOR DOONAN
Contributing Writer

Acquiring textbooks has long been the great bane of many college students. They are almost universally expensive, often difficult to find, and frequently quite unwieldy. But have no fear, Stags! Red Stack Direct, Fairfield University's newest textbook program, purports to make this struggle a thing of the past. From this day forward, no Fairfield student will ever have to worry about finding affordable textbooks ever again. The eternal struggle is over!

If only that were the case. I, dear readers, have the regrettable task of informing you of something many of you may already know. Red Stack Direct is not the best option. It is, in fact, not even a particularly great option, and, is most likely, just another way of profiting from the student body.

"How can this be?" you protest. After all, Fairfield claims the program offers 30-50% cost savings, which, if true, would be incredibly generous. "Where do they claim this?" you ask. On the front page of the Red Stack Direct website.

Let's break down that claim. For my classes, I had to purchase six texts. I purchased four of them digitally, and the remaining two were ordered from Amazon. I spent just over \$200, including priority shipping on both physical texts.

Red Stack Direct, on the other hand, charges a fixed rate of \$24 per credit hour. Keep in mind that for each semester, most Stags take five courses, each worth 3 credits. And while many classes no longer require textbooks, Red Stack will still charge for those courses. In that sense, students who require only two textbooks still have to pay the full price, when they could have spent a mere \$80 and been set for the semester. Now imagine doing that every semester, for four years. It is a lot of wasted

money.

The other claim that Red Stack makes is their alleged flexibility. Now, they do guarantee that students who change their class schedule can exchange books, and this is a good deal, but in what other way are they flexible?

Certainly not in the structure of their textbooks. Anyone who has received one of their heavy, loose stacks of textbook pages can attest to that. Binders for those textbooks are, by the way, not included. It is your responsibility to keep those stacks together and return them promptly at the end of the semester.

"What if I have a continuation class?" you cry out. In that case, you still have to return your textbook, only to be issued it again at the start of the next semester. Flexible, this is not.

But back to those unwieldy, physical textbooks. Those who purchase their textbooks, as I did, do not have that struggle. As with every other program used by the school, our textbooks are digital. They do not have to be returned at the end of the semester. They cannot be damaged. They cannot be lost. They are available from the moment they have been purchased, which can be done in the comfort of your own dorm, or in the midst of your very first class of the semester.

Is Red Stack Direct a concerted effort to relieve students of their money? I can't be sure. Is it more expensive, less convenient, and more frustrating than simply buying your own textbooks? That, I have the displeasure of reporting, is very much the case.

I would remind you to opt out, but the window for that has already passed. Better luck next semester!



Kathleen Morris/The Mirror

Textbook orders monopolize the shelves in the Stag Spirit Shop. The large number of orders through RedStack have created mixed experiences for students participating in the program.



The Vine

Editor: Caitlin Shea

Museum Pass Moments: Yale Art Gallery



BY EMMA DOBROVICH
Contributing Writer

Did you know that Fairfield University's library offers a list of "pay as you wish" free museums and attractions? They also offer free and discounted passes to museums and galleries! I decided to take advantage of this and spent a day at the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven. There's so much to see in New Haven, and the galleries are just a few of the many things to do. I brought along a friend, and we explored two fantastic exhibitions: Year of the Dragon and The Dance of Life: Figure and Imagination in American Art, 1876-1917.



Photo Contributed by Emma Dobrovich
The Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven stands tall with beautiful architecture.

The Year of the Dragon exhibition was a stunning dive into how dragons are portrayed across cultures. In Western tradition, dragons are often seen as fearsome, fire-breathing creatures, but in East Asian folklore, they symbolize power and blessings, bringing rain and celestial protection. The exhibition featured nearly 30 works, ranging from the 17th century to modern times, including intricate textiles, ceramics and woodblock prints. Seeing the dragon's evolution through different mediums and time periods was eye-opening. It made me appreciate the richness of East Asian mythology and how it continues to inspire contemporary art.

After exploring the world of dragons, I spent a lot of time in The Dance of Life, which looks at American art between 1876 and 1917, right after the Civil War. This period of intense change saw artists using the human figure to explore the nation's evolving identity. The exhibition features over 100 works, from sketches to sculptures and highlights both well-known artists like John Singer Sargent and underappreciated figures like Meta Warrick Fuller. What really drew me in was how these works captured moments of creative exploration. The exhibition felt intimate because you could see the early stages of monumental public works—sketches that later turned into murals for libraries and capitol buildings.



Photo Contributed by Emma Dobrovich

"Figure Study for Science Instructing Industry at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland" 1898 showcases sketchwork.

One section of the exhibition that stood out to me focused on the passage of time. I was particularly drawn to pieces visualizing different hours of the day, using figures and movement. The dancers, even in their unfinished states, felt full of life. A wall text summed up the exhibition perfectly: "Vital Energy; the essence of the American Renaissance is an affirmation of life. Beneath the monumental murals and sculptures rushes the brisk vitality of preparatory works, in which artists invested great effort, reflected in their publishing, exhibiting and preserving them." Seeing these early drafts and preparatory sketches made me appreciate the process behind creating such monumental works of art.

Overall, my visit was both inspiring and

thought-provoking. The exhibitions offer something for everyone—whether you're drawn to mythological creatures or American history, there's plenty to explore. After visiting the galleries, I recommend checking out the nearby cafes and stores. My personal favorite was Atticus, a charming bookstore and café right across the street from the gallery. If you haven't used Fairfield's library resources, I highly recommend grabbing a friend and visiting one of these incredible institutions. You never know what kind of art will spark your interest!



Photo Contributed by Emma Dobrovich

An onlooker takes in the wonder of the art around them.

Study Abroad Survival Guide: Tips and Tricks

BY JACQUI RIGAZIO
Copy Editor

September brings many new and exciting opportunities for Fairfield students. With a variety of events and fairs to attend, Fairfield makes it easy to find your next adventure. Many Stags, including myself, find themselves drawn to the study abroad fair at the beginning of the year. More than 45% of Fairfield students chose to study abroad during their undergraduate years, and it is no wonder why. Global Fairfield provides the information, support and structure needed for students to step out of their comfort zone and find the study abroad experience best suited for them. As a current senior who studied in Florence, Italy during the spring semester of my junior year, I can confidently say that studying abroad is the best decision I have ever made for myself. It was the perfect way to step out of my comfort zone, make new lifelong friends and explore different cities every weekend. It sounds cheesy, but studying abroad is truly the opportunity



Photo Contributed by Jacqui Rigazio
Jacqui and friends on their last night in Florence in front of the Duomo.

of a lifetime.

Only one week away from the study abroad applications opening on Oct. 1, now is the time for interested students to weigh their options and start preparing for their big adventure. As someone who thrived during my semester abroad (and literally will never stop talking about it), here are some tips and tricks to prepare for your abroad adventure!

Utilize Global Fairfield

This may seem like it goes without saying, but Global Fairfield is always there to help students who are interested in going abroad. The idea of studying abroad can definitely be daunting and brings up a lot of questions. What city should I choose? Will my classes count towards my degree? What is the housing situation like? Luckily, these are all questions that can easily be solved with a quick email or visit to the Global Fairfield office.

Located on the bottom floor of the library, the Global Fairfield office is always ready to help out students during their abroad application process. They will help you determine which city is best fit for you based on your interests and area of study, and will even work with you to ensure that your classes abroad will count directly towards completing your degree. Global Fairfield genuinely cares about its students and wants to help everyone feel prepared during their study abroad process.

It's Good To Do Things That Scare You

Leaving home for a full semester to live in a foreign country for the first time is no easy feat. Many people are very intimidated

by this prospect and let their fear dictate their decision to go abroad. While this is undeniably unnerving, try not to let your fears outweigh your excitement! Many of my friends who were terrified to study abroad were the ones who ended up loving it the most. By doing something that scares you, you are allowing yourself to grow—which is the entire point of studying abroad.

I went into my semester abroad with no pre-established friends, unlike many people in my program. This was very intimidating to me, as I thought that everyone already had their group and I would be alone in Florence with no friends. I was proved wrong very quickly, as everyone who studies abroad is looking to meet new people. On my first night in Florence, I hung out with new people that I still consider some of my closest friends to this day.

If I had let my fear of not having friends keep me from studying abroad, I would have missed out on making such meaningful friendships and memories. Although it's frightening, a push out of your comfort zone could be the best thing you ever do for yourself!

Your Experience Is For You

While studying abroad, it can be easy to fall into the patterns of what those around you want to do. Although this can be beneficial to trying new things and seeing new sights, don't let other people's agendas get in the way of your unique study abroad experience. If you want to go to a local market or try a new restaurant that no one else is interested in, don't let this stop you from doing it by yourself. Some of my favorite memories from Florence were when I would

go out to coffee shops and check out vintage street vendors on my own. I also had one of the most peaceful meals of my entire life when I treated myself to a solo dinner at a restaurant near my apartment. Doing things alone made me realize how confident and independent I had become from studying abroad, and gave me a new appreciation for enjoying each moment as it is. While you should definitely make new friends and socialize, don't forget that your study abroad experience is for you!

Senior Sam Ponessa, who studied abroad with me in Florence, shares that his advice to those going abroad is to "always try the regional specialties." Each location you travel to will have a food specialty of that location, and it is never something you will be able to find anywhere else. Take advantage of where you are and try all of the authentic food while you can! I promise that nothing in America will ever compare.

Senior Roisin McCarthy, who spent the fall of her junior year in London, wants to encourage everyone to "embrace every moment." Studying abroad is the time of your life, but it flies by so fast. Make sure to relish all of the small moments abroad, like having your morning coffee or walking around your host city. It will make your experience all the more special!

Overall, those studying abroad should focus on the exciting aspects of their new adventure over the intimidating ones. Going abroad is all about growth, and even if you are nervous I promise that you will thank yourself for this opportunity later. If I could study abroad again I would do so in a heartbeat!