

The QUINNIPIAC CHRONICLE

The official student newspaper of Quinnipiac University since 1929

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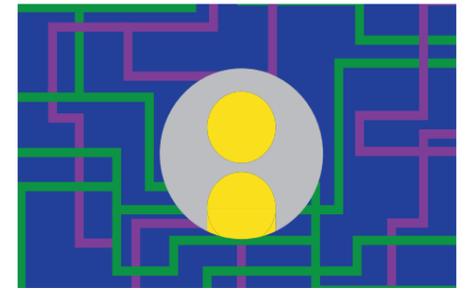
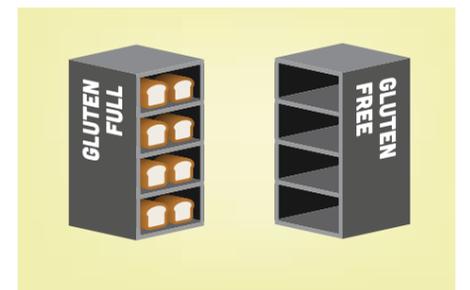


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NEWS P.2: CONNECTING ACROSS CT

A mobile app for Connecticut universities provides career-related information for Quinnipiac students



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Staff Writer Seth Fromowitz raises concerns with the lack of gluten-free options and cross-contamination on campus



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Two of three Bobcats at Sacred Heart Spring Invite finish in top five despite competing individually

Audit: QU's endowment, revenue grew during 2020-21 fiscal year

By **CHATWAN MONGKOL**
Digital News Editor

Quinnipiac University's annual independent financial audit shows a slight increase in revenue, steady spending, significant investment gain and \$2.6 million worth of pension and retirement benefits for an undisclosed employee during the pandemic fiscal year July 2020-21.

The university ended fiscal 2020-21 with \$348 million in revenue, a 3.5% increase from \$337 million last year. However, it remained less than the pre-pandemic earnings.

Most of last year's bump came from housing and meal plan fees, which the university was able to collect more of in the fall 2021 semester after it shut down residence halls and had to reimburse related costs in the spring 2020 semester due to COVID-19.

Spending remained consistent with fiscal 2019-20 at \$309 million, suggesting it was still in a downward trend, which was a 7.4% decrease from the pre-pandemic spending.

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, travel expenses saw a significant decrease as study abroad programs were suspended, and many conferences happened virtually. The costs for travel and events continued to decrease throughout the 2020 fiscal year.

As of now, all semester-long study abroad programs have resumed at full capacity after a nearly two-year hiatus.

When it comes to employee's salaries, compensation-related expenses totaled \$182 million, down 2.9% from the previous year. The decrease was an effect of buyouts, layoffs, furloughs, hiring freeze and lack of pay raises in 2020.

The undisclosed employee who received the pension and retirement benefits also obtained \$2.7 million worth of similar benefits a year prior.

The university did not provide The Chronicle with any additional information beyond what was reported in the audit, including who the said employee was.

More details on the year's 10 highest-paid employees are expected to be released in May after the university files its annual 990 filing for the fiscal year.

One of the major positive outcomes for Quinnipiac in 2020 was a 40.4% investment gain after it suffered a 0.5% loss in 2019. The university ended the year with \$824 million in a combination of stocks, fixed income securities, money market funds, mutual funds, private equity funds and alternative investments, up from \$587 million two years ago.

In relation to the investment gain, the university's endowment grew to \$785 million in 2020, a 45.6% jump from 2019.

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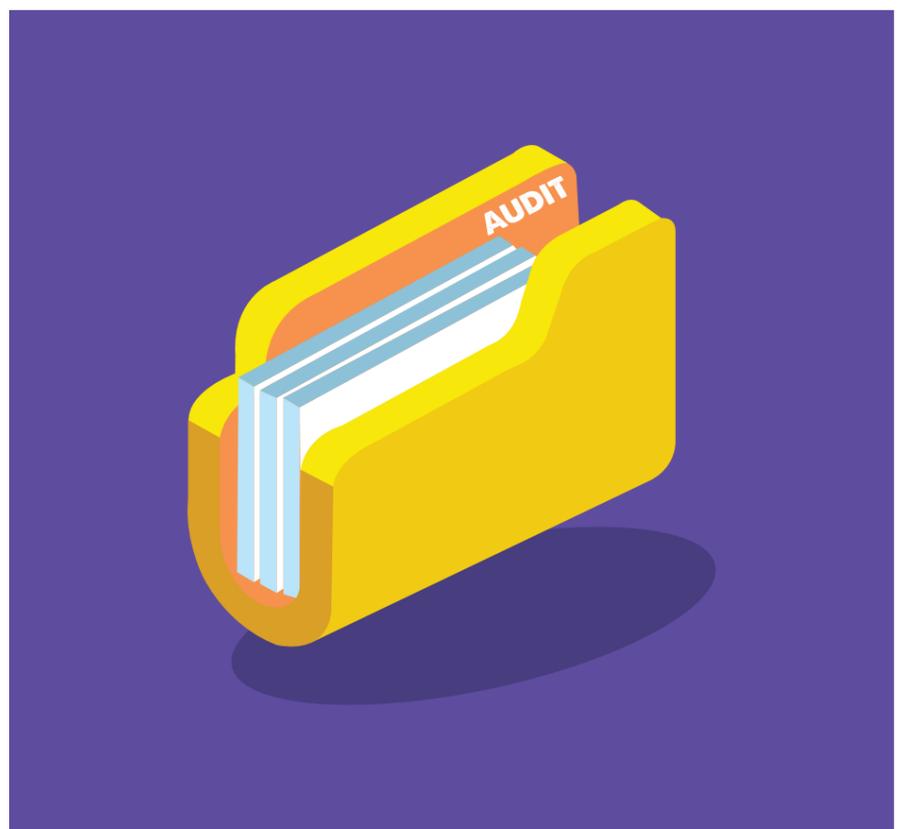


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Quinnipiac introduces new career information app to students

By CAT MURPHY
Contributing Writer

Quinnipiac University partnered with career readiness software company UpperCampus to roll out a mobile app that will provide students with a range of career-related information.

The app, CampusCT, will provide career and internship information exclusively to students at Connecticut colleges or universities through a mobile interface similar to other social media apps.

"Many employers are producing content in there that is specific to their organizations," said John Bau, director of career development in the School of Computing and Engineering. "Students can leverage the app to research career directions, research college majors."

Bau said that the university is working directly with UpperCampus to introduce the interactive platform to Quinnipiac students.

"CampusCT aims to increase awareness of the state's innovative employers as well as highlight all the diverse quality of life assets here for them as they launch their careers," UpperCampus wrote on its website.

CampusCT is also sponsored by nonprofit economic development company AdvanceCT and by the Connecticut Governor's Workforce Council, both of which President Judy Olian is a member.

"This is a very new effort from AdvanceCT and certainly from Quinnipiac as well," Bau said. "As career is reexamined on campus, we're hoping that it can be a place where we can better leverage shared services or have some central support for some of these career-related services."

Students received an email on April 4 from their individual schools announcing the app. However, Bau noted that the university's partnership with AdvanceCT has been years in the making.

"We've been in general (contact) with AdvanceCT since at least 2020," Bau said. "We first learned about the CampusCT app last fall. The email (students) received about CampusCT was the first direct notice — we only made the decision to launch in March."

Bau pointed out that the new initiative with CampusCT will not replace any of the university's existing job and internship platforms, such as QU Career Connections or Bobcat Connect.

"The idea is that this is a value add," Bau said. "It doesn't take the place of any tool that we have already. We're looking at CampusCT as yet another platform that we can leverage collaboratively to bring good career-related content to Quinnipiac students."

He also noted that the university hopes to create Quinnipiac-tailored content for the CampusCT app in the future.

"In the near term, it's just another resource," Bau said. "As the campus engages with the app more fully, we'll be able to put some alumni stories or upperclassmen stories in there to talk about their experience within these fields and majors."

Some students applauded the university's latest initiative and expressed interest in using the platform to find career information and internship opportunities.

"I think it's a good idea, and definitely a more accessible way for students to easily

find an internship," said Madison Coveney, a first-year criminal justice major. "I think the school should definitely try and put more effort to make it known, so seniors and upcoming graduates know about it."

First-year nursing major Kaylee Gates expressed similar feelings.

"I think it's a good idea because I think that people may have trouble finding different internships and jobs and having them all in one place could be really good," Gates said. "Even now, I'm having trouble finding jobs where they're hiring (certified nursing assistants) or other medical (professionals), and I feel like if I knew about that, it would be beneficial for me to see the different jobs that are available where I live or surrounding campus."

Some students said they had not read or seen the email sent out earlier this month regarding the university's new initiative.

"I wish that there was a broader announcement," Gates said. "I feel like a lot of people haven't heard of it and didn't really know about it like myself."

Senior graphic and interactive design major Corey Windham remembered receiving the email about CampusCT but said he was unfamiliar with the new app's purpose.

"I know it was publicized in the email, but I wish it was explained more," Windham said.

Though Windham said he appreciated the university's initiative to provide students with better access to career and internship information, he agreed with Coveney and Gates in wishing Quinnipiac had made more of an effort to advertise the CampusCT app.

"I think it's a good effort at trying to provide more resources to students," Windham said. "I think maybe (the university should) put it on Quinnipiac's website or share it more than one time in an email that most people aren't going to read that may go to the spam folder."

Bau explained that students' lack of awareness was likely due to the university's intentionally slow introduction of the new platform.

"We've done a very soft rollout here on this product by making it available to students, so they can access some of this content and begin to get comfortable with using the platform," Bau said.

Despite the gradual launch, Bau anticipates that the CampusCT app will become a more prominent asset for students and for the university in coming months.

"(We have) the hope and expectation that over the next academic cycle or so, as we look at ways to reinvigorate both experiential education and career development and education on our campus, that there will be some greater sharing of central resources," Bau said.

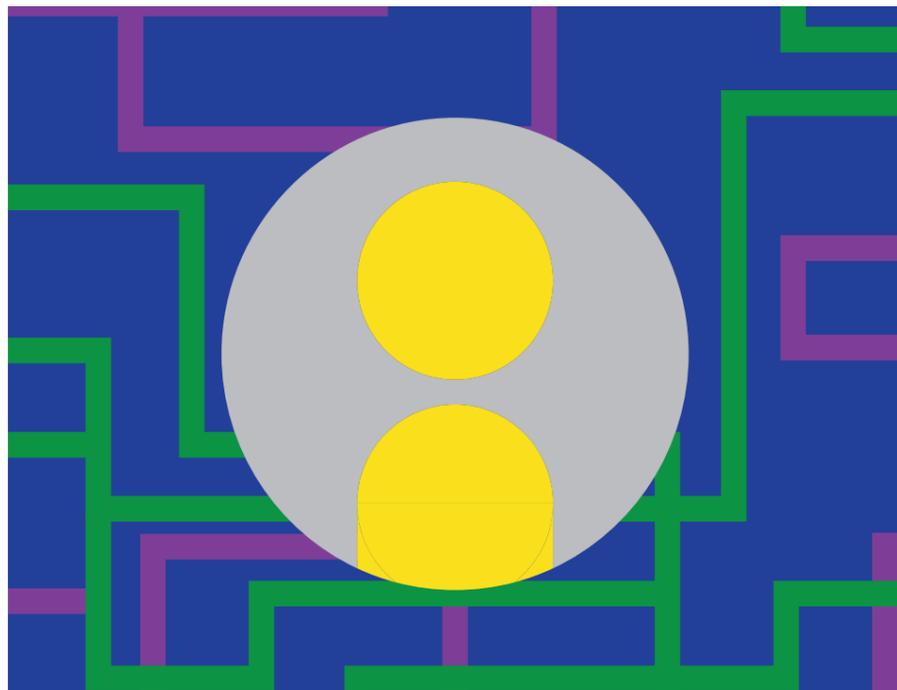


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AUDIT from cover

Associate Vice President for Public Relations John Morgan attributed the growth largely to "market performance and the sound fiscal management funds by our portfolio manager."

President Judy Olian said in March 2021 that Quinnipiac used 4-5% of the endowment in 2019-21 and that the university planned to spend close to \$50 million in 2022-23, mainly on capital projects improvements.

The funding for the recently announced \$244 million South Quad project will come partly from the endowment, other philanthropic efforts and debt financing.



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

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Continuing the race

Sister of Ivy League track star advocates for mental health awareness

By **ASHLEY PELLETIER**
Arts & Life Editor

By all accounts, Madison Holleran looked like she had a perfect life. But on Jan. 17, 2014, she killed herself.

Eight years, two months and three weeks later, Holleran's older sister, Carli Bushoven, visited Quinnipiac University to tell the story of Holleran's struggle with perfectionism.

Quinnipiac Health and Wellness and the women's ice hockey team came together in the Mount Carmel auditorium April 7, to host Bushoven from the Madison Holleran Foundation, a nonprofit Holleran's family started shortly after her death to advocate for mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Holleran was a star track and field and soccer athlete in high school. She studied hard and earned good grades. When she started at University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League school, in 2013, she became one of many students who were the best and brightest in their hometowns.

However, being one of many who were on top wasn't enough for Holleran, and that took a toll on her.

"That was something that I think Madison had a really hard time with," Bushoven said. "A lot of people who are these high-achieving perfectionists are the ones who really suffer from mental illness."

Throughout her first semester at UPenn, Holleran's mental health worsened. The transition from high school to college overwhelmed her, leaving her struggling with anxiety and depression, which is why the Madison Holleran Foundation aims to help high school and college students through turbulent times in their lives.

During her presentation, Bushoven stressed above all else the importance of looking beyond the facade of perfection that college students are taught to create. Bushoven said Holleran curated her image on social media up until the moment she died, but that image covered up the cracks in her mental foundation. Like Holleran once told her mother, Stacy — "It's just a picture."

"She was beautiful, she was athletic, she was smart. She went to an Ivy League school. She had a lot of friends. She had a good family life," Bushoven said. "It's not just the people



NICOLE MCISAAC/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac Health and Wellness and the women's ice hockey team hosted a conversation about mental health awareness among student athletes.

who are bullied or who have a hard time making friends (that struggle with mental health issues). A lot of people can relate to her and her story because yes, while it seems like we might have everything going for us in life, we can still struggle."

Holleran's story particularly resonates with student athletes. Gabby Vitelli, a senior management major and defenseman for the women's ice hockey team, said that perfectionism is a double-sided trait that many student athletes have.

"(Holleran) was a perfectionist and as athletes especially, you're always striving to be perfect," Vitelli said. "You wanna be the best you can possibly be, which can be such a good trait, but it can also hurt you."

Vitelli and the rest of the team said they learn from struggles like Holleran's by working with a sports psychologist and having open conversations as a team to address mental and physical health.

"We really do prioritize our mental health through our faculty," Vitelli said. "Everyone on our team is very aware of it. Especially as college athletes and the demand on us, we know the importance of taking care of yourself. We train every day and focus on our muscles, but also our mental health. That's just as important."

Kathryn Deluca, a senior entry-level master's physician assistant major, has known Holleran's story for years because they were from New Jersey alike. In preparation for the event, she read Kate Fagan's book "What Made Maddy Run," which started as an ESPN article detailing how Holleran's Instagram photos "hid the reality of someone struggling to go on."

"I always wanted to read the book, but I never did," Deluca said. "Then I heard that her sister was coming to speak, so I took it out of the library and I literally read it in two days because it was so amazing and I was so inspired."

Katie Kelly, a graduate student in the 4+3 physical therapy program and graduate assistant for the Health and Wellness department, said partnering with the women's ice hockey team to bring Bushoven to campus was a worthwhile decision.

"It only makes sense to partner with them and get someone with the same goal in mind," Kelly said. "I just love the way that she approached the topic of mental health and the way that she went about sharing her sister. I think she made it relatable and a little scary, and that's why we decided to get her."



NICOLE MCISAAC/CHRONICLE

Mental health advocate Carli Bushoven spoke about her sister's struggle with perfectionism as a student athlete.

QU student receives \$25,000 scholarship from Chick-fil-A

By **JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**
Staff Writer

A Quinnipiac University student and employee at the Wallingford Chick-fil-A received the Chick-fil-A \$25,000 True Inspiration Scholarship March 18, in Atlanta, Georgia.

John Shepherd, a junior criminal justice and sociology double major, and 11 other applicants were told they were flying down to Georgia for uniform design. In reality, they went on a tour of the corporate building and then were brought up on stage where they met Mark Cathy, Chick-fil-A's founder's grandson. That's when he told them that they were the \$25,000 scholarship winners out of 14,000 applicants.

"(Winning) was funny because during my interview, Todd Langston, who is the owner of the Chick-fil-A over in Wallingford, brought up to me and he said, 'You know I think you have a great chance of winning that \$25,000 scholarship,'" Shepherd said. "I looked at him and I was like, 'Yeah sure, yeah OK, that's not going to happen,' and here we are."

According to Chick-fil-A's website, there are two types of scholarships students can win: the True Inspiration scholarship, where students receive \$25,000, and the Leadership Scholarship, where students who work at the restaurant receive \$1,000 or \$2,500. The scholarship can be used at any college, university, or technical school and is open to full-time and part-time students.

Langston said that the Wallingford Chick-fil-A location has 22 other scholarship winners who received the \$2,500 Remarkable Futures Scholarship in 2022. In addition, Chick-fil-A employees have the opportunity to receive up to \$3,500 through its tuition assistance program, which is based on the number of hours worked and the student's GPA.

To apply for a Chick-fil-A scholarship, there is a submission process with questions about the applicant's skills and background,

requires a store operator recommendation letter and has a community service component.

The Wallingford Chick-fil-A owner said that from the day he interviewed Shepherd, he noticed that Shepherd possessed the leadership characteristics that Chick-fil-A looks for.

"Being able to lead himself, I think that's a big thing that we look for is if you can lead yourself, you can lead others," Langston said. "But if you can't lead yourself, you'll struggle to lead others."

Langston said he believes people that stay busy are dependable because they know how to manage multiple responsibilities.

"John was one of those that just seemed to be able to multitask and lead with character and lead with putting others first," Langston said.

Shepherd said that with the scholarship the winners also each got a new MacBook Air, three paid trips and a personal mentor. The winners will also go out in the middle of Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta during a football game for an announcement during the upcoming season.

"It's a lot more than just the money, it's a whole-year program honestly, which is kind of cool," Shepherd said.

Langston said he was "elated" when he found out Shepherd won the scholarship. The reason he left a corporate career to become an owner and operator was to be able to help "young folks" overcome challenges and learn key skills that they can use in the future.

"You could see in (Shepherd's) eyes the surprise, you can see just the relief of knowing that all this debt that he had is almost completely washed away," Langston said. "It felt to me like I had won something as well. And I think I did—I won the opportunity to see a team member thrive and have an unexpected surprise in their life. That was life-changing."

At Quinnipiac, Shepherd works alongside Ephemera Nicolakis, a second-year 3+1 public

relations and graphic and interactive design double major, on The 1929 Fund at Quinnipiac. He said it's a "scholarship fund that's for students by students" which he included in the community service portion of the scholarship application.

Nicolakis said she found out that Shepherd won the scholarship on LinkedIn and she texted him immediately after to congratulate him.

"If you know John you know that he is the best ever, and he is most deserving of this so I was so happy that he got it," Nicolakis said.

The Wallingford Chick-fil-A location has given out \$245,000 in scholarships and tuition assistance since 2017. In the past two years the Wallingford location has had a 100% success rate with students applying for the Remarkable Futures Scholarship.

Langston said he's proud of Chick-fil-A's generosity and he's proud of Shepherd, and he hopes other students will consider working at Chick-fil-A.

"But I think there's a lot of opportunity for other students at Quinnipiac who may be in a similar situation," Langston said. "I would love for them to consider Chick-fil-A, because I think that we can help them pay their way through college."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CALEB JONES

QU student John Shepherd was one of 11 individuals selected out of 14,000 applicants for this year's Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Scholarship.

Opinion

From first year to last

Perspectives on college life by a first-year and a senior

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Associate Opinion Editor Michael LaRocca (left) and Opinion Editor Xavier Cullen (right) both started their QU journey within the confines of The Ledges residence hall.

Getting over the first-year fears

By **MICHAEL LARocca**
Associate Opinion Editor

I never had a worse pit in my stomach than the one I felt on the evening of Aug. 24, 2021. As I was eating my final dinner at home for the foreseeable future, the weight of my situation finally bore down on my psyche.

With mere hours before I was to move into Quinnipiac University, I realized I knew nothing. I had monumental expectations for what I wanted my college life to become but no idea of how to get there. I knew nothing about my roommate besides his name and whatever information we exchanged over the few text messages we sent to each other. I was going in blind.

However, the next day came, and eight months later, I cannot overstate how thankful I am for the decisions I made and where they led me. No matter how cliché it sounds, staying myself got me through the shredder that is adjusting to college, almost unscathed.

That first weekend — the free trial of the college experience — was a blur. I met dozens of people. Some would become my best friends, and some I would never speak to again, but who was I to judge that at the moment?

As the weeks went by, my group of friends developed in such a natural way that it felt involuntary. My biggest fear about the college adjustment process fortunately didn't come to fruition. Just by meeting the people who lived next door, I found a crew that appreciated me for who I was.

While the people around me fell into place nicely, I knew that I needed to find a purpose.

Heading to Quinnipiac, I wanted to join student media, but I didn't really have a focus. In high school, I was my radio station's program director, so some part of me thought I would follow that path once again. However, as I scoured the involvement fair before it started, I stumbled upon The Quinnipiac Chronicle's table and was greeted by Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli, who I immediately formed a connection with.

After what felt like hours of conversation, I was hooked.

I don't know if I was talking to the right people or if I was just plain lucky, but my college world had formed around me seamlessly. All throughout high school, I was



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL

told that getting involved with organizations and putting myself out there was the key to a good college life. Only now, after going through it all personally, did I realize they were absolutely right.

This mindset does not strictly apply to students within the School of Communications. Anyone who goes to any school, studying any major, with any interest can find a place when they go to college. Whether it finds you, like it did for me, or you find it, your place will be waiting for you.

Me writing this piece is not meant to imply that I did not make any mistakes this past year. It took me forever to figure out who I wanted to be outside of my friends and classes. In fact, I don't think I've found the answer, but the big point I take away from it all is that I'm not worrying about it.

To all of the people I met and never spoke to again, worries I've had, friends I've made, classes I hated, new things I tried and everything else in between — thank you for getting me to where I am today.

As I head into my second year at Quinnipiac, it would be nice if I were to get more involved in other areas of campus, but I can also say that I am content with where I am. Sometimes, I wish I could go back to my Aug. 24 self and just tell him, "Please relax. Everything is going to be alright. Things may seem odd or even a little scary, but it all works out."

The road after a rocky start

By **XAVIER CULLEN**
Opinion Editor

If I met first-day-of-college Xavier, I don't know if he would recognize me now. It's been a long three years at Quinnipiac University as I prepare to graduate in a month, and who I am has changed drastically in that time.

Before I stepped foot on campus in fall 2019, I was shy, awkward and afraid to make friends. I didn't think college life would fit me well, and I swore I would never party. I'm happy to say I proved myself wrong in all those ways and more.

When I first arrived at Quinnipiac, I was thrown in The Ledges dorm room with three random roommates, and I could barely sleep because it was so humid in the building. I remember feeling so lost and out of place. My normal awkwardness was heightened when I had to make conversation with guys that I thought I shared nothing in common with.

Flash forward three years, and we're all still living together, and I'm on The Quinnipiac Chronicle's editorial board with two of them, Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli and Sports Editor Riley Millette. As I look back on my journey so far and the people I've met along the way, I began to understand that those first moments, while memorable and the topic of many nostalgic conversations with Mike and Riley, aren't the biggest moments in my college career.

Everyone talks about the jump from senior year of high school to freshman year of college, but I think a bigger jump comes in the years following that. The shift doesn't happen overnight. There's no massive ceremony or party to celebrate it. Instead, it comes and goes without you noticing. While my first year at college completely redefined who I was and how I carried myself, the next two years were crucial in molding me for life beyond school.

Maybe it was because my second year was marred by the COVID-19 pandemic, but that time was when I learned how to be an adult. I got past the butterflies of living away from home and focused on maturing myself.

Did I mess up a bunch of times? Absolutely. But I've learned that you can't change the past. I could sit around and relive bad memories or think about what would happen if I did something differently, but what good does that do?



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL

You will miss assignments, get into arguments with your best friends and forget to call your parents on the weekend. It happens to even the most prepared college students. Everyone has a plan until life punches them in the mouth. You'll get hit so many times that getting in the ring with Mike Tyson sounds more fun.

But throughout all that hardship, one thing stayed the same — my friend group. I took dozens of different classes, had a few different jobs, met plenty of different people and made so many memories, but my friends were a constant through all of that.

Associate Opinion Editor Michael LaRocca and I were lucky because we were randomly grouped with amazing roommates that turned into great friends. I know plenty of people who had to leave their dorms because of the abuse they experienced from their roommates.

I don't know what I would do in that situation, and I won't pretend to know the answer for it. But whatever happens freshman year doesn't define you or your college experience. At the end of the day, we're all still kids trying to grow up in a weird time in our lives. It might feel like you're in the eye of the storm, but don't put too much stock into one year or one semester.

Even if you don't find the perfect friend group, the best student organization or even the right major for you, you still have time to grow and learn. If I could say one thing to freshman-year Xavier, it would be to take a breath and enjoy the fun times while you can. You only get to be young once.

Opinion

A celiac's (un)delight

Quinnipiac's lack of gluten-free options hurts those who have no choice

By **SETH FROMOWITZ**
Staff Writer

For the past 10 years, I've been living a gluten-free lifestyle. Not by choice, but because of a celiac diagnosis that changed how I viewed food and what I put into my body.

Because of my diagnosis, I found myself two years behind in growth compared to my twin brother. I am not the only one who deals with this condition. One in every 133 Americans has celiac disease. That's over 2 million people, and even more have not been diagnosed, according to Beyond Celiac.

Coming into Quinnipiac University, tour guides told me the school had many options for someone unable to eat gluten items and that I could easily be accommodated. They said I was able to open up the Transact Mobile Ordering app and pick gluten-free on just about every meal item that was offered, and there was even a station for gluten-free food and for all other allergies. It seemed

that I wouldn't have to worry about anything in regard to food.

Now that my first year here is winding down, I know that's not entirely true. My family and I joke about how grateful I am to have a kitchen next year so that I wouldn't have to depend on Chartwells and the dining hall.

Inside the dining hall on the Mount Carmel campus, there's a fridge specifically for gluten-free foods that are ready to eat. Looking at the fridge, it's what you expect to see: only Udi's products and some other brands that pride themselves on organic and fresh products. Gluten-free products may be limited compared to others, but the repetition and lack of variety do not cut it. With prices higher than other items, people like myself who cannot eat a normal muffin or bagel are being taken advantage of.

When people cannot eat gluten, cross-contamination of gluten-filled and gluten-free products becomes a real possibility that can have damaging results. While it does not impact most people if items share the same fryer or they use same utensils, there is still a crowd that can be impacted by the cross-contamination. There have been moments at Quinnipiac that the cross-contamination has done harm to people, myself included.

For those who are highly sensitive to cross-contamination, getting a quesadilla might not be your best move. The lone time I ordered one made me decide not to get one again.

I asked for a gluten-free tortilla, only to watch as an unmarked bag was taken out, unsure if it even was gluten-free. It was then placed on the conveyor belt that all other tortillas were cooked on, while the flour tortilla before mine was still at the end of the belt. As my quesadilla rolled to the end of the conveyor belt, the tortilla in front was still not removed. Because of this, the

quesadillas not only touched but were on top of one another causing cross-contamination. Once they were finally removed, they were cut by the same knife.

Cross-contamination is not the only concern for gluten-free people. There have been several moments in my time at Quinnipiac when my order was not only incorrect but would have caused me a reaction had I not realized it before eating.

The first instance was being given regular bread rather than gluten-free on a sandwich I had ordered on the Transact app. Afterward, I reached out to the appropriate personnel within campus dining and was told that I would be given either a refund or a meal courtesy of Quinnipiac. While I was appreciative that it looked to satisfy its customer, its solution did not solve the problem.

Several other moments have occurred where I was given gluten-filled bread when it was clear that I had ordered the gluten-free option. But that does not top the instance where not only was I given gluten-filled bread, but the rest of my meal was missing.

When it comes to the options that come from the gluten-free refrigerator, what is being offered isn't enough. Many times I have found the fridge, already with limited options, to be nearly empty: a bagel, a blueberry muffin and a cookie. Sometimes there are options with vegan wraps and pasta with prices slightly higher than gluten-filled options.

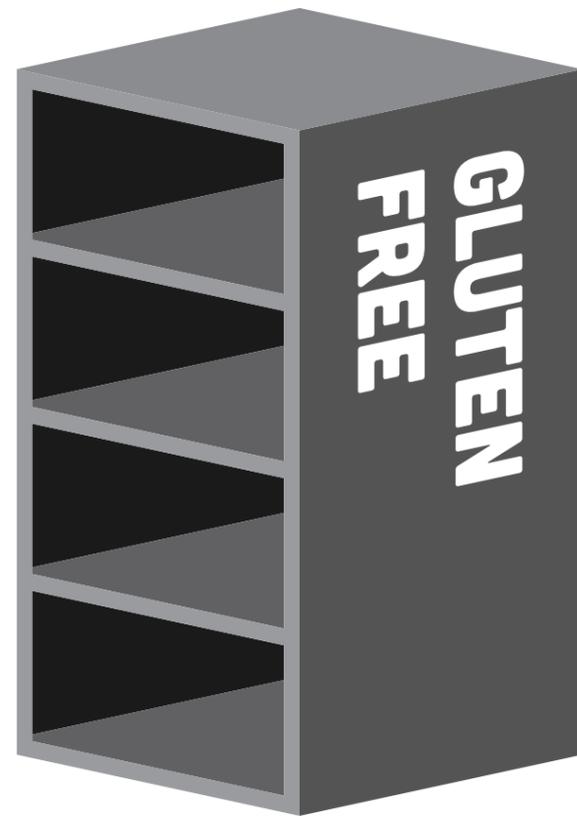
The purpose of this article isn't to call for heads but to address the problems gluten-free students face at Quinnipiac. After reaching out to Quinnipiac Dining, I was immediately told that all managers took an allergy training of some sort.

The quick response meant a lot. It showed that the people

at the top care about the work they do and the people who eat their food. I was even given an opportunity to look at Cafe Q with its chef to see how the operation ran.

While management looked to solve any problems that came to its desk within minutes, the urgency appears to be ignored when it came to what I had been served. I feel that as a way to eliminate the possibility of cross-contamination and even the mistake of being given something that a student like myself cannot eat, there should be an individual allergy station, not just a lone half-stocked fridge.

It hurts that I have to wonder if the next meal I am served is one that I can eat. My reaction to gluten isn't one that can place me in the hospital, but for others, intolerances and allergies to food can be a matter of life and death.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Letter to the Editor

By **MORGAN MOHALLA**

We live in an age where everything seems to be on the record. Celebrities' worst moments are turned into headlines for us all to pass judgment on and wage war over.

A clever person may suspect that news and social media sensationalizes debatable topics to drive engagement and improve advertisement revenue. But what happens when someone crosses the line, and we want them gone for good?

Ellen DeGeneres was complacent in a toxic working environment; NBC canceled her two shows. Patton Oswalt posed

for a picture with his longtime friend Dave Chappelle; his fans began to personally attack him on social media, so he issued apologies that alienated him from his friend and his audience.

Kevin Spacey was at the height of his career before losing everything and is still facing legal charges over sexual allegations from 1986. Harvey Weinstein, at one point the most powerful man in Hollywood, was praised by first lady Michelle Obama as "a wonderful human" and a "good friend," is deservedly spending the next 23 years in jail. Numerous more examples can be made.

The real problem I have with Xavier Cullen's April 6 article is that it is littered with name-calling, suppositions and errors. In his article, he claims that Louis C.K. admitted to sexually assaulting his five victims rather than him admitting to sexual harassment and misconduct. Still awful and worth cancellation, but vastly different things. He wouldn't be canceled, he would be sharing a cell with Harvey. I do suggest you read it if possible and decide for yourself if the author's bias swayed his opinion too far off course.

I agree with Xavier that actions should

have consequences and disassociating from individuals may be the best action at times. I agree that dollars speak louder than the outcry from select audiences preventing "accountability." Performers should only be eligible for awards if they met a standard of conduct.

I disagree with silencing unpopular opinions and provocative comedians as the right thing to do. If you disagree with me on that, I think George Carlin would famously have seven words for you that can't be spoken on TV.



WAKE THE GIANT



How SPB held its biggest event of the year amid act cancellations and budget cuts

By **ASHLEY PELLETIER** and **KATIE LANGLEY**

After over 1,000 days of remote classes, COVID-19 guidelines and virtual events since the last Wake the Giant, Quinnipiac University students expected "Impractical Jokers" comedian Sal Vulcano to take the stage in the People's United Center and bring back the school's biggest event.

However, in an email sent five hours before Wake the Giant, the Student Programming Board announced that Vulcano had canceled due to testing positive for COVID-19.

SPB first found out around noon that Vulcano would not be performing at Wake the Giant, SPB president Shannon Flaherty said. The senior communications and media studies major said when her faculty advisor pulled her away from preparing the stage to tell her that Vulcano canceled, she thought it was an "impractical joke."

"I was shocked," Flaherty said. "I thought it was a joke. It was kind of mind-blowing. I plan for the worst, always. I've learned from SPB, 'What will go wrong? What can go wrong? What will go wrong?' But that's just something you never think about."

Zachary Iwatsuki, the mainstage chair of SPB and a sophomore in the entry-level master's physician assistant program, already had a majority of the event set up at the time.

"I found out right in the middle (of setting up)," Iwatsuki said. "The stage was about 75% done. All the tables had been set. The merch table was already set up, the water bottles already out. Everything in the lobby was pretty much set up besides the 360 camera."

Jamie Manley, a third-year 3+1 film, television and media arts major, was helping set up Vulcano's dressing room when she and the other volunteers learned he wouldn't be performing.

"I was actually in shock," Manley said. "I thought that was an April Fools' joke. I don't know why I thought that. I was really upset because I was gonna print out a shirt. I was gonna print out a picture of me and Sal when I met him in 2015 so he could see it. It would be fun, so I was devastated."

Amber Hill, a sophomore law in society major, highly anticipated Vulcano's performance.

"I was very excited when Sal was announced as the performer as I had been keeping up with the clues posted by SPB and knew that it was going to be him," Hill said. "I have listened to his podcast as well as watched him on 'Impractical Jokers,' so I was really looking forward to seeing him perform."

SPB offered full refunds to everyone who purchased tickets to see Vulcano perform. However, Hill was one of many who said they were upset by the sudden change.

"I was very disappointed when he canceled," Hill said.

"I had even taken off of work to be able to attend, so hearing that he was no longer performing was a big letdown."

Iwatsuki knew that the reaction to the sudden change in plans would not be received well by the Quinnipiac community.

"In my head, I was like, 'I know this is gonna be bad,'" Iwatsuki said.

In the three hours between Vulcano's cancellation and SPB emailing the Quinnipiac community, the club managed to snag two "Saturday Night Live" featured players, Sarah Sherman and James Austin Johnson.

Flaherty said that the organization adapted so quickly to the work of her team and an "S.O.S." from SPB's agent, who has connections to SNL cast members. Sherman and Johnson responded to the call for any Boston or New York-based comedian available to do a show last minute.

"We're really lucky, because if we were a school in Maine, we would have been so out of luck," Flaherty said. "Because of our position in between New York and Boston, our agent was able to be like, 'Hey, S.O.S., any comedians in the area, literally, show tonight. You'll sign the contract as you walk in the door.'"

According to SPB, an estimated 500 people attended the free event, based on the number of T-shirts taken, while around 1,500 tickets were originally sold before Vulcano canceled. Hill was among the students who decided not to go to Wake the Giant because she did not know the comedians.

"Although I commend SPB for being able to put something together on such short notice, I had gotten my hopes up about seeing Sal perform, and I didn't particularly want to go see two comedians I had never heard of before," Hill said.

While the show still had a decent turnout, the table full of free merchandise, including T-shirts, water bottles and drawstring bags all featured Vulcano's name. However, Iwatsuki said that people still took the items, leaving none of the black and purple T-shirts.

"All my merch said Sal on it, like everything," Iwatsuki said. "I mean, my credentials had Sal on them, everything I had said Sal on it which was super awkward when I was giving out T-shirts, hats, which was stressful, but at the end of the day, we're in college. Free things are free things."

Previous artists that have performed at the show include Kesha (2011), Khalid (2018) and O.A.R. (2012). Traditionally, Wake the Giant has been a concert, which is what many were expecting out of this year's show. However, SPB flipped everyone's expectations by focusing on comedy.

Mateo Rodriguez Barrantes, a sophomore law in society major, said he would have rather seen a musician at his first Wake the Giant.

"The whole setting up Sal instead of a musical artist, I thought it was kind of dumb," Rodriguez Barrantes said.

"Because of our position in between New York and Boston, our agent was able to be like 'Hey, S.O.S., any comedians in the area, literally, show tonight. You'll sign the contract as you walk in the door!'"

**- Shannon Flaherty,
Student Programming Board
president**

However, Rodriguez Barrantes had a positive outlook on the changed performances ahead of the show and said he would "make the best of it."

"After they said Sal's not coming, I didn't know the two other comedians so either they bomb and it's funny, or it's funny and it's funny," Rodriguez Barrantes said.

Iwatsuki said Wake the Giant has featured comedians before, including Pete Davidson and Mikey Day in SPB's series of virtual events to replace the show last year. He said that a comedian was the best way to get an act people would recognize.

"Yes, Wake the Giant is traditionally a concert, but we have had (comedians) in the past and the decision was made that the students would like it more if we had a well-known comedian over a lesser-known, one-hit artist," Iwatsuki said.

According to Iwatsuki, the budget for Wake the Giant was cut down by around 50% from what it used to be.

"I don't think people understand how expensive artists can actually be, and in today's world we just try to cope," Iwatsuki said. "The artists who are very popular know that the universities are going to want them and because of that, they're going to jack their prices up. In normal years we were able to get some people, because it was a norm. However, with COVID, budgets have gone down."

Students like Rodriguez Barrantes were already on the fence or unhappy about a comedian performing. When Vulcano canceled and was replaced by SNL members who aren't household names, even fewer people were happy.

Some also noticed a discrepancy in comments from Vulcano and SPB on Instagram, where Vulcano said he "asked to reschedule" while SPB said he "couldn't reschedule." Iwatsuki said that both parties attempted to reschedule, but couldn't find a day that worked.

"Essentially, what happened was that the timing didn't work right ... We both offered (to reschedule), we just couldn't come to an agreement in the middle," Iwatsuki said. "There's so many moving parts and so many things that have to get approved ... (If) even one thing doesn't work out, it just doesn't work and we knew that."

However, Iwatsuki said that those who have planned shows like Wake the Giant before realize the difficulties SPB faced.

"We've had a lot of backlash," Iwatsuki said. "The thing that makes me feel better is that the people who know how shows run and how much time the process takes, they understand the decisions that we had to make from the beginning."



Based on the number of T-shirts claimed, around 500 people attended Wake the Giant, according to SPB.

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

For some students, the switch in the lineup provided an opportunity to see the show after SPB opened general admission to anyone with a valid QCard.

Haley Wynne, a first-year communications and media studies major, originally did not plan on going to see Wake the Giant.

"I actually got the email (from SPB)," Wynne said. "I didn't have tickets in the first place, but I heard that this was happening and I want to support SPB. I know they've been working really, really hard, setting up a nice event for everyone. So I figured we'd come and show support."

Sherman took the stage first, sporting a Halloween dress, checkered leggings and a mullet. She referred to herself as being "dressed like a basketball." She kicked off the night with a set about Long Island, being Jewish and more than a few descriptive bodily jokes. The comedian didn't shy away from uncomfortable topics, giving students "the finger" or pointing out the elephant in the room: Vulcano's absence.

"The best joke the Impractical Jokers ever told is not showing up," Sherman said during her routine.

Known by the moniker "Sarah Squirm," Sherman joined season 47 of SNL last year. The current "Weekend Update" guest came into her own in the comedy scene doing absurdly surrealist performance art in Chicago.

Sherman described her style of comedy as "outrageous and violent," recalling a bit where she impersonated Tony Soprano which involved raw meat.

"You want to create an experience that can only be experienced live," Sherman said. "You want to give people an experience that's uniquely different from watching a YouTube video or a Netflix special."

Sherman's comedy was certainly an unexpected experience for some, but the crowd filled somewhat uncomfortable gaps of silence by responding to the comedian's questions about college majors and "campus gossip" surrounding YikYak, parking and food.

Throughout her 45 minutes, Sherman delivered impressions of her father and Bernie Sanders. She also shared her opinion on beaches and moving away from New York, punctuating her jokes with, "If you don't laugh at that, you hate women" or "If you don't think I'm funny, you hate Jews."

Sherman also poked fun at the audience by asking, "No one is fucking and sucking at Quinnipiac?"

Johnson is known for bipartisan comedy, impersonating both Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Johnson said the response to his impressions from Trump supporters hasn't been exactly what he expected.

"I think (Trump supporters) just really hated Alec Baldwin, and they have no clue who I am," Johnson said. "So if I become a very powerful actor and they care about me because I'm a gazillionaire person, then I think that they'll be tweeting it about me all night."

Besides having opposite performance styles, the two comedians both struggled to pronounce "Quinnipiac" at the start of their set. Sherman and Johnson's camaraderie from performing on SNL was visible through their interactions during the show and backstage.

"I think for a free show, (the comedians) were lovely," Flaherty said. "I think people who came out came out for a comedy show, and that's what they got. They got two very drastically different versions of comedy. Sarah's was a little more vulgar than I expected. But I think a lot of people were entertained by her style of comedy."

Johnson agent's asked him to cover Wake the Giant around noon Sunday after both headliners shot SNL the night before. Despite a long night of comedy and an after-party that ended at 4:30 a.m., Johnson contacted Sherman,

and they drove to Connecticut together to headline the event.

"I was like, 'Sure, I haven't slept in like two weeks, no problem. I'll get behind the wheel of a car and drive,'" Sherman said.

Johnson said that performing in areas like Quinnipiac People's United Center is particularly difficult for comedians.

"I perform at a lot of colleges and colleges are in big cavernous, open spaces that are really hard to hear any laughs in," Johnson said. "It's like if you're a mechanic and you're working in a garage and it didn't have any lights, and you're with a wrench and you're banging on the bottom of a car and you're like, 'Wow, normally I have lights to tell me where to go next and stuff.'"

Despite cancellations, sudden hiring and mislabeled merchandise, Iwatsuki and the rest of SPB did what few could, pulling together an entire event in just eight hours.

"What made it better was that I knew I could trust my team and I knew that we were working really hard and, ultimately, we pulled it off," Iwatsuki said. "I'm super proud of it and I'm super proud of all my volunteers."



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

'Saturday Night Live' members Sarah Sherman and James Austin Johnson put on day-of performances after 'Impractical Jokers' star Sal Vulcano canceled his show because he tested positive for COVID-19.

Quinnipiac students unite and volunteer for the 'Big Event'

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Staff Writer

Students gathered together on a foggy day with shovels in hand to create a garden that will soon be home to a variety of plants.

At this year's Big Event, around 1,600 volunteers from Quinnipiac University engaged in community service activities on April 9, at approximately 100 sites across Hamden and New Haven areas.

Quinnipiac's students, faculty, staff and alumni form teams and lend a helping hand to over 100 nonprofit organizations across the state.

Fiona Doull, a graduate student in the 3+1 public relations program, is the public relations co-chair of the Big Event. She started as a committee member on PR during her sophomore year, which has evolved from a virtual event in 2020 to in person once again.

Doull said joining the event fulfills her love for participating in community service and affords her the chance to use her passion in PR by creating social media posts and graphics.

"I think my favorite part is the day of (the Big Event), because we spend all year planning this event and seeing it all come together on this last day is super exciting," Doull said. "Just seeing everyone come back all wearing their T-shirts, and they are talking about the work they did and what a good time they had, so I think it's really nice to see all our hard work come together and the event finally happen."

The event is great to attend on campus because students can meet new people and work together, Doull said. A lot of students aren't from Connecticut, she said, so they are lucky to be able to go to school here and be involved in an event like this.

"Normally we would expect and hope to have more volunteers but we are really happy with the outcome we had," Doull said. "We are really happy we were able to send over 800 students this year to different sites in the Hamden, New Haven, North Haven area so we are pleased with the turnout this year and hopefully we will grow more and more."

This is Quinnipiac's 13th annual Big Event, which was established by former Vice President of Public Relations of the Student Government Association Jen Waltz. The Big Event takes place at different colleges across the U.S. and was started by Texas A&M University in 1982.

One example of community service was volunteers helping create a pollinator garden at the Albert Schweitzer Institute. There are different garden beds such as ones for bee-pollinated plants, shruberies and a rainbow section that will include various colors and an Indigenous section with relative herbs.

Sarah Lawson, assistant professor of biology, is conducting a research project on pollinator health and nutrition. As part of her research, she helped put together this event.

A pollinator is an animal, like a bee, that moves pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of the flower.

Last summer, Lawson sampled the garden to see what pollinators were there and their diversity. It is a multi-year project that will continue to be resampled to see how it impacts colony diversity in the area.

"There's been a lot in the news of putting in pollinator gardens, and we wanted some actual data to support what you can actually replace in your garden by bringing back native plants," Lawson said.

Lawson said she loves seeing people join together outside and being able to get dirty, even in the rain. The group can come back and visit, she said, in order to see how the plants have grown over time.

"I'm just wowed by the number of students, we have some alumni coming back, I have some students from my classes, some of my research students are here, so I'm really impressed with the amount of participation," Lawson said.

People in the community can visit the pollinator garden, and there will be activities as well as QR codes to learn about the plants so people can grow their native plants in their houses.

Brooklyn Mastracchio, a first-year occupational therapy major, explained how the group did soil testing in the fall to measure the PH to see what plants go where.

"Our team captain emailed us and we wanted to get more involved because we are freshmen, so we thought this would be fun," Mastracchio said.

Abdoulaye Jobe, a graduate student in the 4+1 business administration and management program, said he joined the event to help Lawson with her project.

"It is my fifth year here, but it's actually my first time going to the Big Event," Jobe said. "I won't be here next year, but it's a really cool thing doing this at Quinnipiac."

Jobe said helping out with everyone and getting a workout is part of the fun.

"I think there's more community with this event, a lot more Quinnipiac students come out, and also it's not based on organization so it's open to everyone," Jobe said.

Callie Lanzel, a senior biology major, started participating in the event because she is doing research in the pollinator garden with Lawson. As a student who transferred to Quinnipiac last year, she said she enjoyed the chance to be more involved at Quinnipiac. The outreach that this event has is what makes it different from others on campus, Lanzel said.

"I think some people are going to the shore to clean up, people are cleaning up cemeteries, so it's not just the Quinnipiac community it's all this central Connecticut down to the coast outreach which I think is very unique," Lanzel said.

Lanzel wants to help bring back native pollinators to this area of Connecticut, giving them a space to reproduce, get food and be supported.

"I think my favorite part of this experience is just seeing so many people come together, we have alumni, we have undergraduates, we have professors working hand in hand in a bunch of different areas supporting the community," Lanzel said.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

The Quinnipiac community volunteered for over 100 nonprofit organizations for the Big Event on April 9.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

One of the activities at the Big Event Allowed volunteers to help plant the pollinator garden at the Albert Schweitzer Institute.



NOT YOUR NEUROTYPICAL SHOW

Quinnipiac film student's series 'What's the Rule?' premieres, receives high praise

By **AIDAN SHEEDY**
Copy Editor

It's queer, it's Jewish and it's neurodivergent.

Quinnipiac University third-year 3+1 film, television and media arts major Justin Janoson premiered episode No. 1 of his limited series, "What's the Rule?" on April 2. It's a coming-of-age tale about two sisters learning the "rules" as they enter high school.

Twin sisters Sam and Jack Schneider are not your standard high school students. They are neurodivergent, which refers to anyone who has a difference in brain functioning to what is considered "typical." Sam is the older twin with ADHD, and Jack is autistic. Each episode will go over a different rule Jack needs to learn in order to get through the treacherous world of high school.

"A show like this has never existed," Janoson said. "I tried to write very general characters ... but with the characters in 'What's The Rule?,' they are very hyper-specialized."

The diversity of characters in the show is immense. The sisters are from a Jewish family and one student is nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns. Another student, played by Janoson, is nonverbal. The show takes on several uncomfortable interactions neurodivergent people have to face every day.

Janoson wrote, directed and edited the entire pilot. He is also the founder and head of the production company that produced it, IndEP Media. The company serves as a gateway for more disabled artists to step through the threshold into the media industry. The cast and crew of "What's The Rule?" was 82% neurodivergent, including Janoson, who has ADHD.

"There are things that I do that make people feel uncomfortable, and they talk to each other about it instead of talking to me directly," Janoson said. "I think that's another huge issue ... it's not an excuse, it's an explanation."

The group began filming July 6, 2021, and finished 5 days later. After months of editing, Janoson finished the project on March 30. The goal, as stated by Janoson, was to "do what Sia couldn't."

Pop artist Sia released a musical drama called "Music" last year about a recovering drug addict being the new legal guardian to an autistic teenage girl, much like Jack in "What's the Rule?" "Music" was recognized at the Golden Globe Awards for its visually appealing cinematography, but received criticism from media outlets and the neurodivergent community for the crude and false portrayal of autistic people.

"When you don't have somebody (that is) a part of the community take part in the creative process, then you run the risk of creating something unauthentic," Janoson said. "There are



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JUSTIN JANOSON

Jack (left), played by Kayleigh Jayne, and her twin sister Sam (right), played by Jessica Hoechstetter, navigate their way through high school together as neurodivergent teenagers in 'What's the Rule?'

movies that involve autistic people ... but the issue is that they either don't bring them on until later or they don't include them in the creative process. It's not designed for the community, it is made for people to feel good about themselves."

The episode premiered on YouTube Live, accumulating over 2,500 views within the first four days of release. The surprising popularity may have been in part to TikTok.

With no media budget, Janoson created an account for the show, making exclusive content and promoting the trailer. The initial post with the trailer was viewed nearly 33,000 times and was shared by Ariella Elm, a prominent queer, autistic and Jewish influencer. Elm's video reached over 172,400 users. It left many eager to follow the production and release of "What's the Rule?"

During the live stream, the comment section was overwhelmingly positive. User "Mena" wrote, "As an ADHD-Autistic this makes me feel very seen. I can't wait for the next episode!!!"

Another comment by "De A" read, "This is the greatest representation I have seen for autism and adhd. I want to cry. I feel heard and seen. Thank you."

After scrolling through comments for days, Janoson said he was proud that something he made can make a difference.

"I didn't quite know how people were gonna receive it," Janoson said. "It's really interesting to see how unique and special people think this world is, even though it's the world but it's just adjacent to them."

University of North Texas student Jessica Hoechstetter, who played the role of Sam, also has ADHD like her character. She said working on this production helped her be more self-reflective. Hoechstetter said she loved the people around her and thought it was a great environment of imaginative people.

"I learned so much about myself," Hoechstetter said. "It is so much fun. You don't know any of these people coming into it, but then once you're all working on the same thing, magic happens."

Hoechstetter wasn't too sure how the final product would be received, saying that the script was always in editing and had many spontaneous changes. Nevertheless, the result was beautiful.

"To those who can't personally relate, give it a chance," Hoechstetter said. "This is accurate. This is made by the neurodivergent community for the neurodivergent community."

The pilot episode titled "School?" is available on YouTube now, and later episodes are planned to be released on Amazon Prime Video.

GEORGETOWN PROFESSOR DISCUSSES TOPICS EXPLORED IN HIS BOOK, 'BLACKS AND JEWS IN AMERICA' AT QU

By **DAVID MATOS**
Associate Arts & Life Editor

Having meaningful discussions on difficult topics can be challenging but necessary, especially on the correlation between Black and Jewish people in America.

Quinnipiac University's Department of Cultural and Global Engagement and the Peter C. Herold House for Jewish Life hosted a dialogue with Dr. Terrence L. Johnson, an associate professor of religion and politics at Georgetown University, in the Echlin Center's Kresge Lecture Hall on April 5.

Reena Judd, the university rabbi, welcomed guests and expressed her initial experience learning about Johnson and his newest book at the beginning of the presentation.

"Three years ago in the summer, I was watching my favorite morning TV show with Gayle King and I heard this really interesting guy talking about Blacks and Jews," Judd said. "Most of you know me, I just love the topic of Blacks and Jews. It's electrifying to me. And Dr. Terrence Johnson was talking about

his upcoming book, 'Blacks and Jews in America,' and I had this professional fantasy that I would bring him to my school and he would give his presentation."

"Blacks and Jews in America: An Invitation to Dialogue," written by Johnson and Jacques Berlinerblau, a professor of Jewish civilization at Georgetown, acts as a conversational piece between the professors as they broke down the heavy history between Black and Jewish Americans.

From the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter Movement, the Israel-Palestine conflict, Black anti-semitism to Jewish racism, the book features a series of interviews and essays on the common relationship between the two groups.

"Jews and Blacks, unlike any other groups in America, have been forced into a certain kind of relationship or set of conversations," Johnson said. "In part because I don't think there are any other two groups that have been put together and talked about in a very similar way."

Johnson said Black and Jewish groups are differentiated by the bodies they were born into, something that is uncontrollable. Because of this, Black and Jewish people have suffered great discrimination from other groups in the U.S., like the Catholic Church, which has twisted the way Jewish and Black Americans are perceived and treated in the Church's teachings.

"It has everything to do with their bodies," Johnson said. "Jews are discriminated against and have been murdered in part because of something about their blood is tainted. Catholicism taught us that Jews are dirty. So, therefore, they should handle the money, and so they were forced to handle money."

Johnson expressed that both Black and Jewish groups have had to confront the concept that physical attributes, like the color of someone's skin, for example, are linked to false narratives.

"For African Americans, their very Blackness is a sign of their inhumanity or their kind of moral bankruptcy, and both groups that had tried to figure out how do we deal with this idea that our flesh is in many ways tainted," Johnson said.

Johnson previously taught a class at Georgetown called "Blacks and Jews," which stemmed from two students, one Palestinian and one Jewish, who wanted to start a reading group on the controversial topics intertwined with the histories of the two groups.

Johnson said though colleagues enjoyed speaking on the subject, many students didn't just want the class to be a simple discussion on the material but "to actually then do something in an independent, profound way."

"For a lot of academics, it's difficult to move from theory to actual practice," Johnson said. "And the Jewish and Black kids said, 'Look, we see a connection here that we never knew before.'"

He vocalized that many of his Jewish students saw the alliance between both groups as they share a history of oppression. However, his African American students failed to see the correlation as they saw their Jewish peers as "simply white."

"We tried to complicate the history of Blacks and Jews and said, 'Look, there's a complicated way in which America created this kind of race project that both groups found difficult but also became conversation partners,'" Johnson said.

Johnson said having discussions on profound subject matters that are rarely discussed due to their controversial nature, like the ones on Blacks and Jews in America, can lead to topical discoveries.

"I want to argue that if we can actually have these difficult conversations around religion and politics that particularly deal with Blacks and Jews, we might actually sort of get some of the core issues," Johnson said.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Dr. Terrence L. Johnson, associate professor of religion and politics at Georgetown University, discussed the complex relationship between Jewish and Black people in America during a dialogue event on April 5.

Scores & Schedule

Wednesday 4/6

WLAX lost 19-9 vs. Fairfield

Friday 4/8

BASE lost 17-10 @ Marist

Saturday 4/9

WOT&F 1st of 17 @ Wilton

Wright Invitational

GOLF 4th of 13 @ Georgetown Invitational

MLAX won 15-10 @ Canisius

WLAX lost 20-15 @ Manhattan

WTEN won 6-0 vs. Marist

ACRO lost 280.660-271.815 @ Gannon

Sunday 4/10

GOLF 7th of 13 @ Georgetown Invitational

RUG won 21-14 vs. Army

RUG lost 12-7 vs. Sacred Heart

RUG won 7-5 vs. Brown

RUG won 24-5 vs. Sacred Heart

RUG lost 26-21 vs. Brown

BASE lost 7-3 & 17-5 @ Marist

SOFT won 6-5 vs. Manhattan

SOFT lost 11-5 vs. Manhattan

MTEN won 4-3 vs. Marist

Monday 4/11

GOLF @ Sacred Heart Spring Invite
(No team results)

SOFT won 4-3 vs. Saint Peter's

SOFT lost 4-2 vs. Saint Peter's

Tuesday 4/12

GOLF @ Sacred Heart Spring Invite
(No team results)

WTEN won 5-0 @ Rider

MTEN won 7-0 @ Rider

BASE vs. Hartford 3 p.m. (Results unavailable
before publication)

Wednesday 4/13

WTEN @ Fairfield 3 p.m.

SOFT vs. Bryant 3 p.m.

WLAX vs. Siena 3 p.m.

Thursday 4/14

MTEN @ Fairfield 3 p.m.

BASE vs. Monmouth 3 p.m.

Friday 4/15

GOLF @ Hartford Invitational 9 a.m.

BASE vs. Monmouth 1 p.m.

Saturday 4/16

RUG vs. Sacred Heart & Dartmouth

WOT&F @ JMU Invite

GOLF @ Hartford Invitational 9 a.m.

SOFT vs. Rider 12 p.m. & 2 p.m.

BASE vs. Monmouth 12 p.m.

WLAX @ Canisius 1 p.m.

WTEN & MTEN @ Siena 3 p.m.

MLAX @ Virginia 8 p.m.

Tuesday 4/19

BASE vs. CCSU 3 p.m.

Samson's Scorecard: Par 3

Bobcat trio makes noise at Sacred Heart Spring Invite despite competing individually



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

By **BRENDAN SAMSON**
Podcast Producer

During the practice round before Day 1 of the Sacred Heart Spring Invite, senior Darby Lillibridge said her biggest goal was to work on her putting during the tournament. One day later, she posted a score of four over par, etching her name into the second spot on the leaderboard for the tournament.

Last year at the same tournament, Quinnipiac rolled out its usual five starters. They combined for a score of 41 over par and a sixth-place finish out of 12 teams.

Among the players competing in 2021 were Kaylee Sakoda, Leeyen Peralta, Elena Ybarra, Mia Grzywinski and Elena Lopez. Lillibridge, Emily Luu and Amanda Tully also competed as individuals.

Fast forward to April 11-12 of this year, and Lillibridge and some other familiar faces are competing in a much different way.

While head coach John O'Connor, Sakoda, Peralta and Lopez joined three other golfers on a trip to Maryland to compete in the Georgetown Invitational this past weekend, Lillibridge, Luu and Grzywinski stayed and competed as individuals in the tournament.

Lillibridge was not the only player flexing her muscles at the tournament. Grzywinski shot five over par and was tied for third place and Luu shot eight over par, tied for 10th place.

The golfers competing individually means their scores are not combined, and they do not factor into the team portion of the tournament. For Grzywinski, this gives her a different mindset when she's competing.

"I'm just still trying to play my own game and shoot the best score that I can," Grzywinski said. "But if anything, I think that it kind of takes a little bit of pressure off because I know I'm just playing for me, it's not for anybody else."

This sentiment was echoed in the goals the Bobcats set for the match, wanting to work on their own games while also shooting their best.

The last time this column ran, there were four main points of improvement that the team needed to address. First was on-course experience, weather permitting. The second, third and fourth areas were putting, putting and putting.

This still rings true five weeks later. The team has rarely been able to practice outside, and Lillibridge's goal of improved putting was reiterated by assistant coach Julia Kemmling during the practice round.

"Coach O'Connor and I feel like that's a way that you can pick up strokes on your competitors if you're better at your short game," Kemmling said. "We really try to focus on having the girls practice their short game, their putting in the offseason and before each of their rounds at tournaments like this. We have them spend a lot of time on the greens to get to know that particular course's speed of the greens, if they're aerated, things like that to get used to."

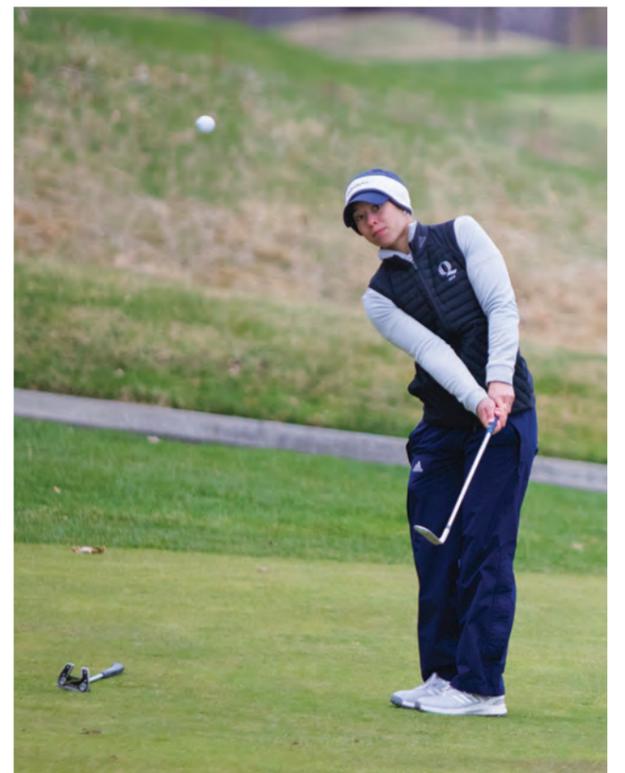
These methods were in use during Sunday's practice round with the wind gusting and rain drizzling. The team focused on taking multiple putts and chips at each hole, tracking the green's undulations and speeds in their StrackaLine books.

Lillibridge, Grzywinski and Luu have all played the course at least once, even upward of 10 times if you're Grzywinski, who played at the course during her junior golfing days. This comfort and experience at the course allows her to go into depth when jotting down notes about the track.

"A big thing for me is I'll kind of put a star at places that I want to aim, or I want to get the ball to," Grzywinski said. "So, for example, if I really want to be on the right side of the fairway, because it gives you a better angle, I'm going to put a star there. Also, just looking at the green maps is helpful because we get pin sheets before the tournament, so we know where the pins are going to be each day, so marking those on the green maps is super helpful."

While the green maps help the players prepare for the rounds, the Great River course posed a problem that the books could not fix. The greens had been recently aerated, making them abnormally slow. This led to multiple three-putts for the team, dropping strokes they could have gained.

Both Grzywinski and Lillibridge finished the tournament in the top five, with Grzywinski finishing nine over par and Lillibridge finishing 12 over par. Having already competed in tournaments earlier this season, their strong scores at SHU may put them in the lineup that competes for the MAAC in two weeks.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

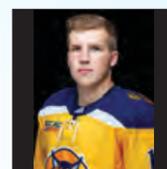
Mia Grzywinski (above) and Darby Lillibridge finished in the top five of the Sacred Heart Spring Invite.

Quinnipiac Winter Sport Athletes in the Transfer Portal

Men's Ice Hockey



Dylan St. Cyr
Graduate Goaltender



Ethan Leyh
Junior Forward



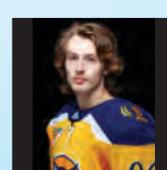
Nick Bochen
Sophomore Defense



Jack Babbage
Freshman Defense



Liam McLinskey
Freshman Forward

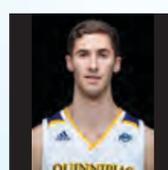


Ty Smilanic
Sophomore Forward

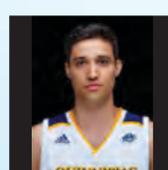
Men's Basketball



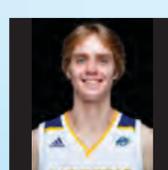
Bernie Blunt
Freshman Guard



Brendan McGuire
Junior Forward



Elias King
Junior Forward



Brody Limric
Freshman Forward

Women's Basketball



Sajada Bonner
Junior Guard



Halee Smith
Sophomore Guard



Amani Free
Senior Guard

INFOGRAPHIC BY CONNOR LAWLESS, PHOTOS FROM QU ATHLETICS

PETE'S POND from Page 12

Graduate student goaltender Dylan St. Cyr hit the transfer portal after backing up freshman Yaniv Perets. Now headed into his sixth year of college hockey, St. Cyr likely wants a starting role or just more starts overall. In the 13 games that St. Cyr played, he allowed only 14 goals and had a .936 save percentage.

Fortunately for Quinnipiac, familiar faces are set to return and give the team another year of contending status. Firstly, Perets will be back between the pipes for the Bobcats after a historic freshman season. Perets passed up the opportunity to sign a professional deal, instead deciding to return for a second year with the Bobcats.

Then the ball started rolling as one senior after another decided to come back. Likely holding leadership roles are forwards Ethan de Jong, Mike Lombardi, T.J. Friedmann, Desi Burgart and defenseman Zach Metsa.

Forward Wyatt Bongiovanni and defenseman Marcus Chorney are the only seniors to be undecided.

Three players from other schools that entered the portal are confirmed to be joining Quinnipiac next year. Graduate student defensemen Jacob Nordqvist from Lake Superior State and RPI's Jake Johnson add more veteran presence on the blue line.

The third addition is Collin Graf, a freshman forward from Union who fills a crucial gap for Quinnipiac by potentially receiving first-unit power-play time with a right-handed shot. Graf finished the season on a heater, scoring six goals and dishing out nine assists over the final 17 games.

As for the incoming freshman class, 16 of the 18 starting lineup slots are taken with only two forwards spots left. With Bongiovanni still undecided, ice time will be limited for them. Although, a couple of the fresh-

men could immediately make an impact during their first season.

Forward Sam Lipkin enters Quinnipiac following an impressive season in the USHL as the captain of the Chicago Steel. Lipkin is still playing in the USHL playoffs, but as of publication, he's 14th in the league among forwards for points with 33 goals and 30 assists in 54 games. He also ranks 11th in the league in points per game (minimum 30 games played).

It'll be tougher to crack the lineup on defense, but don't be surprised if defenseman Matthew Campbell makes some appearances. In his first full stint in the BCHL, Campbell collected 11 goals and 28 assists in 52 games, the fourth most among defensemen.

The backup goaltender position is up for grabs now with St. Cyr transferring. Freshman Noah Altman didn't receive any time in net this season. The 6-foot-7 goalie out of California will need to beat out incoming freshman Chase Clark for a share of starts next season.

Clark posted excellent stats for the New Jersey Hitmen in the NCDC during 2020-21, but this year has not been as consistent in the USHL. The Washington Capitals' 2021 sixth-round draft pick also has considerable size with a 6-foot-6 frame. At this point, it's a coin toss who earns the backup role.

Last offseason Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold referred to all the transfers as "chaos." This time around there's less confusion about moving parts for this Bobcats roster. With so many returning players, Pecknold should have an easier time implementing his culture in order to contend for next season.



CAMERON LEVASSEUR/CHRONICLE



Sports

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AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Pete's Pond: QU's highest-ever NHL draft pick Ty Smilanic hits transfer portal

Players leaving and returning, plus incoming freshmen for 2022-23

By **PETER PIEKARSKI**
Sports Editor

Losing to Michigan in the Allentown regional final meant two things for Quinnipiac: a failed mission and a period of uncertainty surrounding the Bobcats' roster for next season.

The questions mainly revolved around what the graduating seniors would decide to do, whether they would return for a graduate year, head to the transfer portal or sign a professional contract. Over two weeks since that game, many of those speculations have been answered.

Forward Ty Smilanic, the highest-drafted player in Quinnipiac history, appears to have his sights set elsewhere for next year. After an underwhelming second half to his sophomore season, Smilanic will likely end up on a team focused more on offense now that he's in the portal. The goal probably is to bolster his collegiate stats before potentially signing his entry-level contract with the Montreal Canadiens.

That's just speculation as of now, but this season was a downward trend for Smilanic. After a strong freshman campaign, he opened his sophomore season as a driving force for the offense. In his first 16 games, he scored eight goals and four assists. However, over the next 25 games, Smilanic scored just five goals and added six helpers.

Adding salt to the wound, save for Smilanic's two-goal games against Harvard and St. Lawrence, he only managed to score four goals in 20 games against ECAC Hockey opponents.

Likely, the injury he suffered at the IIHF tournament in late December lingered and affected his play for the remainder of the season. His nightly impact disappeared as the fastest and most explosive player on the team played like a ghost in the second half.

It's a crushing blow for Quinnipiac as the talent and skill Smilanic possesses is something the Bobcats rarely have at their disposal. Smilanic was drafted in the third round of the NHL draft. To put that into perspective, Quinnipiac competed against a Michigan team with nine players drafted in the third round or higher. Losing a player of that caliber negatively impacts future recruiting for the school.

Additionally, a couple of depth pieces in junior forward Ethan Leyh and sophomore defenseman Nick Bochen will wear new threads next season as they transferred to Bentley. Two freshmen, defenseman Jack Babbage and forward Liam McLinskey, also intend to play elsewhere after seeing little to no ice time. Babbage recently committed to UNH.

The foreseeable moves centered on graduate student

transfers defenseman Griffin Mendel and Brendan Less and forward Oliver Chau, who signed professional deals.

Both Mendel and Chau signed amateur tryout contracts with the Chicago Wolves and Tuscon Roadrunners of the AHL, respectively. Less signed an ECHL deal with the Worcester Railers HC.

See **PETE'S POND** Page 11



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Captain and forward Wyatt Bongiovanni is one of two seniors yet to announce if they're returning to QU.