

# The Recorder

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## The Pressures of Wearing Masks Intensifies

BY NATHALIA BLAIR  
Assistant News Editor

As people's everyday lives return to normal following the COVID-19 outbreak, some students who would otherwise wear masks feel pressured not to use them, while others believe they are unnecessary.

Students are advised to still be cautious of their health as the possibility of getting the flu or COVID-19 is still at stake.

Dr. Amber Cheema said people feel less inclined to get vaccinated as more time passes. People think the likelihood of getting COVID-19 has decreased. People do not believe vaccination will help prevent them from



Photo: Nathalia Blair

getting these infections.

"Now, as more and more people have had COVID, their attitude is like, 'I have had COVID, and it wasn't that bad, so what is the vaccine going to help me with anyways? I could deal with getting COVID,'" Dr. Cheema

said.

James McGuire, junior and English secondary education primary at Central Connecticut State University, said wearing a mask makes him feel protected but is now more uncomfortable as wearing masks is less prominent and wearing a

mask will raise unwanted suspicion.

"Even when people surround me, and no one else is wearing a mask, it's more like I don't wanna single myself out," McGuire said. "I work in customer service. If you're wearing a mask at work, there is

absolutely someone who will be like, 'So why are you wearing that?'"

Dr. Cheema said that wearing masks can reduce transmission of infectious diseases like COVID-19, especially for immunocompromised individuals. Despite potential infection suspicions, they should be self-advocates and inform their peers. Currently, a mix of people regularly wear masks.

"Just because somebody thinks you have an infection when you're wearing it [masks]," Cheema said. "I feel like they [students] should still be self-advocates and stand up for themselves and tell their peers that no, they're doing it to prevent it [an infection]."

Continued on page 2

## Faculty Senate Approves New Writing Requirements

BY NATHALIA BLAIR  
Assistant News Editor

On Monday, the Faculty Senate voted to approve adding a required Writing in the Discipline course to the general education curriculum, meaning all Central Connecticut State University students will need a second writing course to graduate.

The plan requires all students to take an additional three credit

writing course related to their field of study. Despite the Writing in the Discipline course being a general education requirement, it is expected to be achieved within a student's field of study.

"It's expected that this will be accomplished within the major and not require tons and tons of extra English 115 courses," Ned Moore, chair of the Curriculum Committee, said.

For majors that already include a substantial amount of writing, the hope is to create a committee of people experienced in teaching writing to review courses related to the Writing in the Discipline requirement.

"We want to create a volunteer committee from people from across campus who have some experience teaching writing and some expertise there to review things the same

way the EJI Committee reviews courses on equity, injustice and inclusion," Moore said.

Departments will have a period of one year starting with the approval of the policy to create new courses or alter existing ones to meet the Writing in the Discipline requirement.

The Senate also approved the first significant changes to CCSU's general education program since the 1990s, Faculty Senate President Fred Latour said.

Model 2, one of three possible changes,

was approved by the Senate, becoming the new general education program. The model's objective is to add three credits to free electives and combine curriculums such as math and science courses and skill areas two and three.

These changes won't impact advising for the Fall 2024 semester, which begins in late March.

President Zulma R. Toro said she approved of the Model 2 choice and will now present the change to the Board of Regents.

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# The Pressures of Wearing Masks Intensifies

Continued from front page

David Naumec, an assistant history professor at CCSU, said a few students have contacted him about being absent from class because of health conditions, with two students being absent due to a COVID diagnosis.

McGuire said he didn't get ill during the COVID pandemic; he hopes others use masks when sick. But, during flu season, in class, people were openly coughing without a mask on, which was appalling.

"For the most part, I feel safe on campus; I am mildly con-

cerned by people who are coming and coughing [in class] and stuff during the cold and flu season," McGuire said.

Maddie Lawton, a sophomore nursing major at CCSU, said she works at the hospital and is used to people still wearing masks around her. She would prefer people to wear masks when sick and is grateful when they do, but she does not think people must wear masks.

"I don't think anybody who wears masks has COVID. Sometimes they could be sick, could have the flu, could have a cough,

they don't want to pass it along, or they could be somebody who is high risk, and they just don't want to get sick, which I respect," Lawton said.

COVID has become a milder illness due to vaccinations and passive exposure, allowing people to build up their immune systems. Some students have almost no symptoms and often choose not to get tested because they don't think it's COVID.

"I had a friend who ended up catching COVID and was pretty sure he caught it here because people weren't testing anymore," Mc-

Guire said. "I have a massive bottle of hand sanitizer in my bag, and anytime I touch something, I'm always using it."

Dr. Cheema advises students to be cautious even though previously mandated health policies like wearing a mask were lifted. Regular hand washing and social distancing are crucial for preventing illness. Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing around sick people and contacts can help reduce the severity of the flu and COVID. Vaccination is a safer option as well.

## SGA Elects Interim VP And Debates Election Extension

BY EARY BANUSHI  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association voted to elect an interim vice president and extend elections during its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The position of SGA vice president became vacant after the former vice president resigned earlier this semester. Senators Toluwani Adeniyi and Neemit Thammaracksa were the two candidates vying for the position of interim vice president.

Adeniyi and Thammaracksa were allowed to speak to the senate before the vote, outlining their visions and persuading other members to support them.

After the voting concluded and the ballots were counted, Adeniyi was declared

the winner and appointed interim vice president. Senator Leticia Castro said she was happy to see the issue finally get resolved.

"I think it was one of our more successful meetings when you take into consideration that it did take two previous meetings to decide to vote for a VP and have an interim VP," Castro said.

One debate that took place during the senate meeting was on extending the elections for treasurer and vice president, as not enough candidates were running for the positions.

Senator Danaiyla Mendoza motioned to extend the elections by two more days, but the motion failed after a vote. Senator Castro's motion to table the discussion on extending the elections to Internal Affairs passed as Senators could not come to an agreement.

Senator Amya Smith, chair of the Student Issues Committee, said that extending the elections might not help as it did not address the underlying issues keeping students from wanting to run in the first place.

"I'm not surprised that we don't have people rushing to run for election and I am unsure if moving the dates will help," Smith said. "Students widely don't trust the SGA because of past SGA's. They also feel that the SGA is disconnected from the students. That it's like an exclusive club."

Senator Castro said that the SGA must remain united and find better ways to connect with and advertise itself to the broader student body at Central.

"I think that we need to add a face to the name. We need to just stand together as senators," Castro said.

Senator Castro said that last semester

they discussed conducting events including a town hall to help boost engagement and awareness between SGA and the rest of the CCSU students.

"Tabling would be a great option. We mentioned last semester even doing a town hall where you can meet your senators and your executive board, just so students are aware that we are also students. We're not a secret society."

Another vote took place on temporarily reducing senate members' required office hours from three hours to two. The motion, which would only apply to this semester, was passed.

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in the Bel-lin room of the Student Center, with the next meeting taking place on Wednesday, Feb. 28. The meetings are open to all Central Connecticut State University students and faculty.

## Elect Her Campaign and Mayor Stewart Empower Women on Campus

BY ANDREW DECAPUA  
Editor-in-Chief

The Central Connecticut State University Ruthe Boyea Women's Center held its eighth annual Elect Her Campaign Training event on Friday, Feb. 23.

The event featured several interactive workshops, including a conversation with New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and a panel with women members of the Student Government Association.

Stewart, a CCSU graduate and a seven-time speaker at the CCSU Elect Her Campaign, fielded several prepared questions from participants before opening the floor to answer additional questions from everyone in attendance.

One of the more prominent responses from Stewart was regarding the challenges that women in leadership positions face.

"Waiting for the right time to be able to express myself properly and trying to, unfortunately, swallow a lot of emotion," Stewart said. "You have to because if you act it out every time somebody says something that upsets you, you probably won't be elected very long. It's all about the way you carry yourself."

Among the other topics discussed by Stewart was the idea that people are quick to discredit other people or perspectives due to personal differences.

"You have to talk



Photo: Andrew DeCapua

with people that don't see things the way that you see it, and it's okay," Stewart said. "We're in this world right now where we are just so quick to write off anybody who disagrees with us or write off somebody who sees things in a different perspective, and you can't have a mentality like that if you want to be an effective leader."

She also talked about the importance and difficulty of remaining unbiased in order to lead in a way that is best for everyone in the community.

"Sometimes when you're in a leadership position, you have to remove yourself and your personal feelings to do what's best for the people that you represent, and that can be very, very tough to do," Stewart said.

Stewart's presence had a significant impact on those involved in the event. SGA Senator and political science

major Amya Smith said she admires Stewart and had been practicing what she would say to her if given the chance.

"I was fangirling, I was practicing my elevator pitch the entire night before," Smith said. "Me and my friends were in my dorm just going over questions."

Immediately preceding Stewart was a panel with women leaders in SGA that included Smith, Senator Kadajah Laidley, Senator Gabrielle Cidern and Senator Ciara Logan.

The panel answered questions and gave advice about being a woman in a student leadership position and how to get involved in SGA.

Laidley, a sociology major, said the best advice she would give to other women on campus who want to get involved in SGA is to apply themselves and not be afraid.

"Be confident, put yourself out there,

definitely apply for the role. Don't be scared," Laidley said.

Smith said when she first joined SGA she was hesitant to speak up, but the other senators helped her feel more comfortable.

"Senator [Shawndia] Jones and Senator Laidley started sitting next to me at senate meetings and encouraging me," Smith said. "Yeah [Laidley] and Shawndia, they definitely made me a whole lot more comfortable; Senator [Leticia] Castro, yeah."

Over the past eight years, the CCSU Women's Center has worked with Running Start and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to bring the Elect Her Campaign to Central's campus.

The Elect Her campaign aims to empower and provide training to young women

interested in running for student government and political office.

Valeryn Fernandez, a strategic communication major and lead student leadership coordinator for the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center, said that the planning for the Elect Her Campaign Training took a few months, and it starts with booking the speakers, followed by reserving a space and setting a date and of course the marketing.

"An event of this magnitude takes around two to three months of planning. It starts by identifying and inviting the speakers to attend," Fernandez said. "Selecting a date for the event and reserving the space. Then the marketing process starts; we start by creating a variety of different flyers and videos."

Fernandez, who is also a woman in a student leadership role on campus, encourages other women on campus not to be scared of taking on leadership roles and to network and learn from others.

"My biggest advice would be to not be afraid to put yourself out there. The only way for growth to happen is by getting out of your comfort zone," Fernandez said. "Try to meet as many people as possible. The first thing that I recommend to anyone that would like to get a leadership role is to find a mentor. Look for a person that you admire in your community and learn from them."

## Life After War

BY YVONNA RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Writer

After dedicating 14 years of his life to serving in the Army, Chris Berry has had to experience the struggles of life after war.

Berry, of New Britain, said he joined the Army when he was around the age of 18 after feeling like he had nowhere else to go. He was deployed twice, once to Iraq in 2009 to 2010, and once to Afghanistan in 2012 to 2013.

During his two deployments, Berry developed post-traumatic stress disorder, with many factors contributing to it. He said one of which was a conversation he had with another soldier in Iraq.

"He was like, 'You know where we were chillin' at all day?' He was like, 'Yeah that's gone,'" Berry said. "That's an eye-opener, you know? Like I was twenty minutes from death? I was twenty minutes from being done?"

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans are more likely to get PTSD than civilians, with 7% of veterans experiencing PTSD at some point in their lifetime.

The Veterans Affairs said that veterans who are deployed are three times more likely to develop PTSD than those who are not. The destination of a veteran's deployment can also affect the odds of them developing PTSD. The VA reports that 29% of the veterans whose service era

was Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom developed PTSD.

The transition from being deployed in Iraq to coming back to everyday life was not easy for Berry. Due to his PTSD, Berry said he would stay home a lot and had trouble with day-to-day activities.

"I'd go to grocery stores and try to get food and if the line was too long, I remember feeling all panicky and I would just leave," Berry said. "I would have a cart full of food and I would just leave. I'd just get out the line."

Berry said that his biggest aid in coping with his PTSD was God.

"Going to church was a huge help," Berry said. "I believe if you have a relationship with God, he's able to put everything into perspective and able to heal you spiritually."

Chris Gutierrez of New Britain, the Veterans Affairs military programs coordinator at CCSU, said some veterans, including one at CCSU, have turned to untraditional methods to cope with their PTSD, including parachuting.

"He got involved with this group that deals with PTSD and coping with these hard times and things like that through parachuting," Gutierrez said. "They invited him to Florida for a three-or-four-day thing and they have workshops about dealing with PTSD and they get to jump out of planes."

Gutierrez said that the Veterans Affairs office at CCSU helps students cope.

He said that they also try to raise awareness about the struggles that student veterans face in college.

"There's things that the faculty need to be aware of," Gutierrez said. "We do events here, educational events, to educate not only the faculty but also fellow students about having veteran students in their classrooms."

Gutierrez said that this education provides veterans with better experiences in college despite their PTSD and allows others to be more understanding of the struggles veterans face.

"Coping with PTSD is an issue," Gutierrez said. "But there's a lot of help out there."

Jason Strickland, of Wethersfield, who served in the Army National Guard for 25 years, had issues coping with his PTSD after getting back from his deployment to Iraq. He was there from February of 2004 to February of 2005.

Strickland said the military provides training designed to prepare you for a wide variety of situations but that he felt unprepared for his deployment to Iraq.

"The training does help in regard to coping with trauma, both physical and emotional," Strickland said. "Being deployed to Iraq in 2004 tested limits in these areas."

Strickland said while he was deployed, he experienced a lot of horrific things.

"I experienced two mass casualties in which approximately 25

to 30 soldiers were injured in mortar attacks," Strickland said. "The visuals will stick with me the rest of my life."

Strickland said he didn't think much about what was happening while it was happening. His daughter was born the day he got to his base in Iraq and he said he used that as fuel to get through everything so he could go home to see her.

Once home, Strickland said he chose to cope with his PTSD by using a lot of self-treatment tactics.

"I wore earplugs to sleep and listened to soft music," Strickland said. "I found out watching comedy shows helped."

Strickland said his symptoms eventually faded away, but, that it had taken him a few years.

Mark Tripp of Vernon, a sergeant major in an aviation unit, has had to deal with the effects of PTSD in more ways than one.

Tripp joined the military 35 years ago after his older brother, who also served in the military, inspired him to join. Tripp has completed four tours and said he has seen the military go through many changes.

"The military has gotten a lot better on supporting their soldiers on mental health," Tripp said. "As long as you ask for help and you can get help they'll provide it."

Not only has Tripp had to deal with PTSD himself, but he had to watch his older brother deal with it as well.

"My older broth-

er passed away from PTSD," Tripp said. "He committed suicide."

Losing his brother to suicide caused Tripp to take mental health more seriously. Tripp said he tries to guide others to seek help for their PTSD by trying to set a good example.

"I do [battlefield] acupuncture. I do tai chi. I do a lot," Tripp said. "If they see me doing it as an E-9 [sergeant major], I told people don't ever be afraid to do it."

Jonathan Pohl, the wellness program coordinator at Central Connecticut State University, said that each veteran who has PTSD handles it differently.

While working in Oakland, California, he said that he had taken a group of veterans who were suffering from PTSD to a baseball game where there ended up being a jet flyover.

"The guy next to me at the game, turns to me in the fifth inning and says 'I'm finally back to normal,'" Pohl said. "So, for about two hours he had to struggle with the physiological, the mental changes that occurred by that flyover."

Pohl said dealing with PTSD can be hard but that there is help out there for veterans who are struggling.

"The VA [Veterans Affairs] runs specialized clinics for PTSD," Pohl said. "What they talk about is what life was like before their trauma experience, the trauma experience, and what is life like after the trauma experience."

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

## LIFESTYLE

THE RECORDER

## BSU's Black Gala Hosts an Elegant Night of Fun



Photo: RLR Visuals

BY NATHALIA BLAIR  
Assistant News Editor

The scene at the Black Student Union's annual gala on Saturday, Feb.

24, was elegant and timeless, as everyone was dressed in ruffle dresses

or outfits accessorized with feathers, canes and pearls.

This year's theme was "A Night in Harlem." Students came in with frilled dresses and warm-colored suits. The night was inspired by Beyonce's album "Renaissance," Zoe Pless, president of the Black Student Union, said.

"I felt like this was a wonderful year to do it, with all the energy around Renaissance in general and Beyonce's album coming out," Pless said.

Jasmine Ross, a junior and psychology major at CCSU, said she was searching for some

time before finding the perfect outfit.

"I was in the mall for 6 hours, I found a dress I really wanted, and then I didn't have enough money, so, college student life, but then I ended up finding a backup later," Ross said.

Pless said the event came together really nicely.

"We started talking about it around August or September and then everything kind of came to life in the last couple of weeks," Pless said.

The night was decorated with beads and feathers on the tables, fairy lights, and a 360

camera to capture the moment for students Saturday night. Every ornament had a touch of gold.

Ross said the gala was just as good as last year and that she looks forward to lively and inclusive events.

"I feel way better," Ross said. "You always feel nervous in the beginning, but once everyone finally gets up and starts dancing, it's always fun."

The night also included a best dressed contest and a raffle in which prizes were awarded, including AirPods, an air fryer and a \$25 Amazon gift card.

## CCSU's Annual Engineer Week Comes to a Close

BY NATHALIA BLAIR  
Assistant News Editor

Students praised Central Connecticut State University's annual Engineer Week as they received first-hand experience in their mechanical study.

This year, CCSU's Engineering Department combined college students with high school students from the Discovery, Explore, Experience, and Practice program. DEEP is a year-long program with five events where students may engage with CCSU instructors and students via academic hands-on activities and events.

There were three critical speakers for this week. John Noon is a senior electrical engineer of Otis Elevator Company, John Dunham is a construction administrator at the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and Anthony Audette is a CCSU alumnus and a mechanical engineer.

For this week, students learned new methods of processing in electrical engineering, exclusive insight into the project of a construction

company in civil engineering, and how to start from a corporate job to being your own boss in mechanical and manufacturing engineering.

Audette said being a student allows you to be ignorant, ask questions, and be helped by others, making it the only time you can experience this opportunity.

"As soon as you graduate college, you're no longer a student," Audette said. "People expect something more of you, whether your second to last day or your first day graduating. There are two very different things."

Taking advantage of being a student allows for more risks and new opportunities.

"People expect a lot from you because if you tell them you're a student, they'll be like, 'ok, he's learning, I can be more patient with him,' but if you tell them 'I'm an engineer,' and you don't know what you're doing there's gonna be a lot to be said for that," Audette said.

Leticia Castro, electrical computer engineer and a junior at CCSU, said Audette left an impression that she will hold on as a woman

in STEM.

"Cause he's just a big kid. I asked him, 'As ambitious as you are, when do you decide what's enough?' He answered, 'I don't think I'll ever reach that,'" Castro said.

Castro said she was inspired by Audette's journey from working in the aerospace business to eventually becoming an entrepreneur in designing high-end motorcycles, doing what he loves while still being able to provide for his family.

Shashir Kollu, from Newington High School, was debating studying at the University of Connecticut or CCSU, and this was a chance to explore the resources offered.

"I got to learn a bit more about CCSU and the campus ... I came because I had a few friends already doing this, and I decided that it's an engineering thing," Kollu said. "Since I'm already going around that major, I might as well do it."

To wrap up the week, students worked in groups to build a mechanism to protect an egg and make it possible for a tennis ball to travel

back and forth without falling to the ground.

Yung Moo Son said the significance of these activities was for students to learn how to model systems efficiently and effectively in the real world. Moo Son said he was impressed with the students' methods for protecting an egg and how closely the methods were to real-world construction.

"Construction engineering is regarding protecting the people inside," Moo Son said. "To keep people safe from an earthquake, we have to put springs into the structure, a special damper system. I was surprised they could provide that kind of system to the structures."

Students from New Britain High School and Newington High School, Tairan Habib, Michelle Prucnal, and David Sarnacki won both challenges, leaving college students humorously second-guessing their expertise but inspired nonetheless.

When the winners were announced, the room was filled with applause, and the students were given a certificate and an engineer book for their accomplishment.

"We didn't start with any designs," Habib said. "We started to do something and were able to put everything together."

Michelle Prucnal said difficulties came with their communication.

"There was a problem with communication in the beginning, but once we got to it, it got better over time," Prucnal said.

Kim Towler, a social work major, said she participated in Engineer Week to observe Connecticut engineers' efforts to improve the lives of the 'handicapped.'

"I'm here today to see what our engineers are doing for the disabled or the 'handicapped,' that's how I like to say it," Towler said. "I'd like to see our engineers here in the state of Connecticut working to improve situations for the people in the state of Connecticut."

Towler said she'd like for more American citizens to support state universities.

"I'd like to see more American citizens in state universities because they [Americans] are paying for the universities to exist."

## Munch Club Serves Up Peruvian Culture

BY JAYDEN KLAUS  
Lifestyle Editor

Peruvian culture was showcased and celebrated on Central Connecticut State University's campus last week courtesy of the Munch Club.

The event, *Un Viaje a Perú*, offered the opportunity to learn about Peru through its food. Hosted in the Student Center, the event drew many attendees. The room ended up being crowded with people curious to learn about Peru.

At the start of the event, a couple of club members gave a short presentation on Peru that covered various facts about the country. The presentation covered various Peruvian dishes, geographical elements, and facets of Peruvian culture. The presentation was fascinating and educational.

After the presentation concluded, the attendees were separated into groups to play a game of Jeopardy with questions based on the



Photo: Jayden Klaus

information given in the presentation. A total of five groups were made: the Blue Incas, the Ancondas, Team Alpaca, Inca Kola, and the Lima Lovers.

Everyone worked together in their respective groups to do their best to answer the questions and win as many points as possible. Ultimately, the Blue Incas and Inca Kola tied for the most points. A tiebreaker question was proposed involving a fact about

Peru not mentioned in the presentation. After neither group got the first question right, Inca Kola won the game by correctly guessing the name of Peru's second official language.

Inca Kola's members were given Munch Club merch and allowed to serve themselves first when the food was set out. The Munch Club offered arroz chaufa, white rice, lomo saltado and fries with sausage prepared by members

of the Munch Club. The Peruvian soft drink, Inca Kola, was also offered as a beverage.

The event was a lot of fun to experience. It was cool to learn more about Peru through the presentation and the game of Jeopardy. The club members provided a welcoming environment, and the food was tasty and enjoyable. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a good time between the food and learning more about Peru.

Crystle Adhikary said that this was her first time attending a Munch Club event. She said the event had excellent food and taught her a lot about Peru and its culture.

"The club has a very inspiring motive to let others learn about Peru," Adhikary said. "It was a very welcoming environment."

Club Treasurer Isaac Kissi-Adjei said that the event went well, from the education portion to the game. He said that the Munch Club aims to help people learn more about other cultures on campus.

"Not a lot of cultures are represented on campus," Kissi-Adjei said. "An easy way to bring others together is with food and that's what we want to do."

Kissi-Adjei said that the Munch Club plans to meet weekly and host two to three events this semester. The next scheduled event, Marshmallow and Spaghetti Tower, will be hosted on Wednesday, March 6, in the Clock Tower Room in the Student Center.

## "Madame Web" Is Full of Action Packed Indifference

BY MADISON MUSCO  
Staff Writer

"Madame Web" had the potential to be the clairvoyant guide that Stan Lee imagined when he wrote "The Amazing Spider-Man" comics, but Sony set viewers up for a disappointingly different storyline.

From the opening scene to the rolling credits, "Madame Web" felt forced and unnatural. The initial dialogue sounded like it had been dubbed over despite the film being in English. There was no chemistry or flow between the actors,

whether it was poor acting or stilted dialogue.

The protagonist, Cassie Web, played by Dakota Johnson, is an awkward, child-hating 30-year-old paramedic. Her character is instantly unlikable, despite the director's attempts to humanize her through her backstory. While this seems strategic, it is unshakable. By the movie's end, I wanted to be on her side. Still, I found her character off-putting, which may work in Sony's favor if they want her to become the clairvoyant crone that was originally written into existence in the comic book series.

Tahar Rahim's character as the supervillain, Ezekiel, also felt forced. His acting throughout was mediocre at best and his lines were that of any generic villain. He alludes to some sort of tragic past, but we do not get a single detail of it, making it difficult to connect with him. Part of what makes a good villain is some strand of relatability. If the audience can see even a shred of themselves in the antagonist, we care about what happens to them next. Unfortunately, Ezekiel was distant and abstract.

The most interesting parts of the movie come from the dialogue and actions of three teenage girls who become Madame Web's gang of misfits. Sydney

Sweeny, Isabela Merced and Celeste O'Connor, as Julie, Anya and Mattie, respectively, are arguably the best actors in the film, unless viewers consider Emma Roberts's minor role to be of any significance in the movie.

Throughout the film, we see the three girls' future as superhuman spider-women, but the moment never comes. This ploy is clearly used to get viewers invested in future sequels, and it worked. Despite my lack of emotional attachment toward Madame Web, I need to know what happens to Julia, Anya and Mattie and how they develop their powers.

The saving grace of this film is in the action and special effects. Where the dialogue and character

development are lacking, the fight scenes and suspenseful high-speed chases kept me on the edge of my seat. There was no lack of excitement, despite Madame Web spoiling the outcome of every action moment with her visions.

"Madame Web" left a lot to be desired where the plot and characters are concerned, but if you follow the storyline of Stan Lee's comics, you know that this is a setup for films to come. Predictable and cliché lines will leave you rolling your eyes, and unnecessary scenes that could have been used to give us more insight into the characters' past will leave you cringing, but this movie is a means to an end.

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

## SPORTS

THE RECORDER

## Women's Basketball Fall to Sacred Heart 73-55



Photo: Ian Yale

**BY KRISTIN ROSE**  
Staff Writer

The Central women's basketball team could not defeat the Sacred Heart University Pioneers on Saturday in Detrick Gymnasium, losing 73-55.

With the loss, Central dropped to 5-8 in the Northeast Conference, while the Pioneers remain in first place

with a 12-1 record.

Sophomore guard Samora Watson and junior guard Amaya Williams led the Blue Devils in scoring with 13 points each.

With the Pioneers leading in the conference, Watson said the team let the little things slip away.

"This game did not go the way we wanted it to," she said.

"We are going to move forward and try to harp on the little things that we missed today."

The Blue Devils kept the score tight for most of the game. Heading into halftime, the Pioneers led 35-30.

Central's head coach, Way Veney, had an important message for the team before the second half.

"She told us to keep grinding and play hard," Watson said. "Play with heart and win it for us."

At the end of the game, Veney said the team played hard but did not play smart.

"I felt like, defensively, we needed to be a lot better," she said. "We talked about going into the game containing dribble penetration and how we wanted to shut down [Ny'Ceara] Pryor, and

I thought our effort in that regard wasn't what it needed to be."

Sacred Heart's Ny'Ceara Pryor led the Pioneers with 26 points.

Central's turnover struggles helped put the Pioneers up on the scoreboard, as the Blue Devils lost the ball 22 times.

Veney vocalized the importance of moving on and looking ahead to the next game.

"We have to move on to the next game. This game is over," she said. "We got to move on. We still have the same goals, and our team knows what those are."

The Blue Devils will return to Detrick Gymnasium on March 7 to take on the Farleigh Dickinson University Knights for the final game of the regular season.



## CCSU ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

### MEN'S B-BALL

Feb. 29 vs. LIU  
March 2 vs. Stonehill  
March 6 vs. NEC  
March 9 vs. NEC

### WOMEN'S B-BALL

Feb. 29 @ LIU  
March 2 @ Stonehill  
March 7 vs. FDU  
March 11 @ NEC

### TRACK & FIELD

March 2 @ IC4A/ECAC  
March 3 @ IC4A/ECAC  
March 8 @ NCAA  
March 9 @ NCAA

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

March 3 @ Delaware State  
March 6 vs. Howard  
March 12 @ Yale  
March 16 @ Wagner

### SWIM & DIVE

March 11 @ NCAA  
March 12 @ NCAA  
March 13 @ NCAA  
March 14 @ CSCAA

### BASEBALL

March 1 @ Norfolk State  
March 1 @ Norfolk State  
March 2 @ Hampton  
March 2 vs. Marist

### SOFTBALL

March 1 @ William & Mary  
March 1 @ Norfolk State  
March 2 @ Hampton  
March 2 vs. Marist

## NFL Mock Draft: Three Quarterbacks Picked in the Top 5

**BY IAN YALE**  
Sports Editor

### 1- Chicago Bears (via Carolina): Caleb Williams, QB, Oklahoma

This pick seems like a foregone conclusion. Chicago gets to reset the QB clock and build upon their promising core while Williams makes rookie money for the next four years. Expect Justin Fields to fetch about a late third to early fourth-round pick in a trade.

### 2- Washington Commanders: Drake Maye, QB, UNC

Maye would be the No. 1 overall pick in any draft that did not include Caleb Williams. While Williams does his best work outside of the pocket, Maye is the best passer within the structure of the offense that this class has to offer. He will show at the NFL Combine that he can move just as well, and Washington will be on their way to a successful rebuild after this catalyst of a pick.

### 3- New England Patriots: Jayden Daniels, QB, LSU

While Mac Jones remains on the Patriots roster, Daniels showed in 2023 at LSU that he is an all-around superior player, both in the pocket and on the run. The

quarterback position is the most valuable in sports, and it would be foolish to pass on a potential franchise quarterback, even for a potentially generational wide receiver.

### 4- Arizona Cardinals: Marvin Harrison, Jr., WR, Ohio St.

Speaking of potentially generational receivers, Harrison is the best prospect at the position since Julio Jones almost a decade and a half ago. While he is not the burner that some other guys down the board are, he is the best route runner in the nation by a wide margin, and his hands are as sure as almost any NFL receiver. As QB Kyler Murray looks to get back to form, Harrison will provide a launching pad for Arizona's rebuild.

### 5- Los Angeles Chargers- Joe Alt, OT, Notre Dame

The Chargers need to protect Justin Herbert in the worst way. Pairing Alt with Rashawn Slater to book-end the offensive line is an excellent step. Alt has the flexibility to play either tackle or guard position, a vital trait for the hospital wing that is the Chargers offensive line room. Everything went wrong for L.A. in 2023, but they are truly one weapon and some protection away from competing for a playoff spot.

## Athlete of the Week: Brooke Morabito, Track and Field

BY IAN YALE  
Sports Editor

The Central women's track and field team took home their third straight Northeast Conference championship on Monday, Feb. 19. The Blue Devils were led by Most Valuable Performer and Most Outstanding Track Performer for Distance Brooke Morabito, who was responsible for three of CCSU's six first-place finishes.

Morabito, a graduate student in the clinical mental health counseling program, placed first in the 3000-meter race, finishing with a time of 9:46.33. She also won the 5000-meter race, finishing at 17 minutes, 56.5 seconds.

In addition to the solo wins, Morabito was part of the winning team in the Distance Medley Relay.

To top off her



Photo: Ian Yale

performance, she placed second in the mile with a time of 4:54.87, just .05 seconds behind Central teammate Ashley Dana.

Morabito's contributions to her team were vital to CCSU's threepeat, the first in program history.

Morabito was a

part of all three championship squads and said it meant a lot to her to be able to contribute.

"It's definitely really special," she said. "It's really cool that we were able to pull that together."

Although she consistently churns out

dominant performances meet-to-meet and season-to-season, Morabito said she doesn't plan out her races.

"Doing a lot of races, I try to take it race-by-race," she said. "People always ask me what my plan is going into a race, and I never know

until 20 minutes before because I don't want to get too stressed thinking about all the other races I have to do."

As one might imagine, Morabito's days are filled with running, but not always in a strict training regiment.

"I run a lot, and I do some cross-training, too," she said. "... [I like] keeping it fun, like doing fun things with running."

Morabito said she likes to look ahead and make long-term goals to help her stay motivated.

"This outdoor season, I'm hoping to make it to NCAA regionals," she said.

As far as what comes next for Morabito, she said it remains to be seen.

"I would definitely like to try and make [running professionally] a thing," she said. "I have a little bit of eligibility left, but I am definitely looking into it."

## Whittaker Tosses No-Hitter as Blue Devils Stay Undefeated



Photo: Ian Yale

BY JASON HARTMAN  
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Central Blue Devils softball team swept the twin-bill against the College of the Holy Cross Crusaders on the back of senior Kaylee

Whittaker's dominant no-hitter, the first in program history at the Division I level.

Offensively, Central was led by a pair of two-run home runs by juniors KC Machado and Ava Cino in the first and fourth innings, respec-

tively. Sophomore Ashlyn Desaulniers tacked on an RBI single in the sixth, and CCSU cruised to a 5-0 win.

The second game proved to be a much tighter contest, as the Blue Devils held a slim 2-0 lead into the final frame,

courtesy of two fielder's choices.

The two-run lead almost proved insufficient as the Crusaders scored a run in the top of the seventh to pull within one. They had the go-ahead run on second base before freshman pitcher Liz Hamilton shut the door, securing a slim 2-1 victory.

Blue Devil pitching held Holy Cross to just five hits and one run combined across the two games. Two freshmen, Hamilton and Adriana Green, who started the game, held the Holy Cross offense in check for the entire second game.

"It felt good," Green said. "I felt that we all came together and did our job."

Whittaker, who completed her first career no-hitter by striking out the side to end the first game, said she was nervous but stayed silent and kept her nerves in check.

"Nobody, including myself, said anything

because we didn't want to jinx it," Whittaker said. "Going into that seventh inning, I definitely had some nerves just because I knew what was on the line. But you just got to take it like any other inning."

Undefeated at 6-0, the Blue Devils are off to their best start to a season since 2016. Head coach Breanne Gleason hopes this is only just the beginning.

"It's great to see these kids win," Gleason said. "It's nice to see all of their hard work pay off. Obviously, we have a long way to go, but I think we're seeing a lot of good things right now, and it's nice to see them having a good time."

The Blue Devils hit the road for the next few weeks to play in warmer climates before returning to New Britain on March 16 to open Northeast Conference play against the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights.