

Is User Privacy on TikTok for Reel?

BY ALENA KLADIS
Staff Writer



Jose Luis Magan, AP News

TikTok CEO, Shou Zi Chew, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

On March 23, TikTok CEO, Shou Zi Chew, testified at a congressional hearing regarding potential data collecting and Chinese spying through the popular social media app.

United States lawmakers are worried this could threaten national security and user privacy. There is also fear that information could be used to promote Chinese propaganda and misinformation.

TikTok just reached 150 million U.S. users with the majority being teens and young adults who are attracted to the app's addictive algorithm and simple interface that contains short videos for entertainment that pertain to the user's interests.

During the hearing, U.S. lawmakers stressed their concerns about the Chinese government getting a hold of American data and believe this app could be a serious threat to America's national security and user privacy.

Chew testified in an attempt to deter lawmakers from pursuing the ban on the app, assuring them that TikTok prioritizes safety for young users and will continue to protect user data from unauthorized foreign access.

"I am making the following commitments to you and all our users. Number one, we will keep safety, particularly for teenagers, as a top priority for us. Number two, we will firewall protect the U.S. data from unwanted foreign access. Number three, TikTok will remain a place for free expression and will not be manipulated by any government. And lastly, we will be transparent and give access to third-party independent monitors to remain accountable for our commitments," said Chew during his testimony at the congressional hearing.

According to the Associated Press (AP), the U.S. public knows relatively little about Chew

compared to Silicon Valley social media giants such as Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg. However, Chew is well respected within the American and Chinese technology communities, and was considered a good fit for TikTok because of his background in investment banking and his time at Facebook and DST Global.

"I don't think TikTok should be banned, and I don't see how they could be taking any valuable or important information about me or any other users," said Sacred Heart University media student and active TikTok user, Megan Agrillo. "My TikTok feed is simply videos that pertain to my interests and I don't believe it's a harmful app to use."

The U.S. government is also concerned with TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, for possible spying on U.S. citizens. Lawmakers are pushing to force ByteDance to give up its ownership stake, according to NPR.org.

Chew defended these claims by stating ByteDance is not an agent for China or any other country, and TikTok plans to store all U.S. user data on servers maintained and owned by software giant Oracle, according to AP News and Chew's testimony.

"ByteDance is not an agent of China or any other country. However, you don't simply have to take my word on that. Rather, our approach has been to work transparently and cooperatively with the U.S. government and Oracle to design robust solutions to address concerns about TikTok's heritage," said Chew in his testimony.

Chew released a video on TikTok, thanking users for their support and assuring users of their privacy and safety. He has gained over 2 million followers since.

"It is our responsibility to protect over 150 million Americans who love and use our platform," said Chew in his TikTok video. "We are proud of the groundbreaking work we are doing to be the most trusted platform in the world."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



Jose Luis Magan, AP News

Supporters of TikTok hold signs during a rally to defend the app at the Capitol in Washington on Mar. 22.

HEY SENIORS!

COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION:

39 DAYS

WATCH THE PIONEERS IN ACTION:

THURSDAY 4/6:
BASEBALL AT CCSU
AT 3 P.M. IN NEW
BRITAIN, CONN

FRIDAY 4/7:
SOFTBALL DH AT CCSU,
FIRST GAME STARTS AT
1 P.M.

SATURDAY 4/8:
MEN'S LACROSSE AT
WAGNER COLLEGE,
STARTS AT 1 P.M.

SATURDAY 4/8:
WOMEN'S LACROSSE
AT STONEHILL
COLLEGE AT 1 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS!

WEDNESDAY 4/5:
COPING WITH ANXIETY
IN HC 103 FROM 8 TO 9
P.M.

WEDNESDAY 4/5:
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
WITH STAND UP AT 1
P.M. IN 63'S HALLWAY

TUESDAY 4/11:
DUST OFF THE DIAMOND WITH SET
AT 4 P.M. ON THE 63'S
LAWN

THURSDAY 4/13:
TAP PRESENTS THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
AT THE EDGERTON,
SHOW BEGINS AT 8 P.M.

News

The Brainiac Olympics

BY JEFF MILLER
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University hosted the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) at West Campus on Sunday, Feb. 26.

Schools from all over the greater New York area came to compete, including students from some of the top schools in the country including Princeton, Yale, Cornell, and NYU.

“Having our kids get to compete with teams like Columbia and Yale is good,” said Samah Senbel, an assistant professor of computer science and engineering. “They get to see that those kids are just like us, they work hard.”

Senbel said that it is very important for Sacred Heart to participate in these competitions, since it helps give students both experience and confidence.

“Coding is like an art and a sport. The more you practice, the better you get,” said Senbel. “It’s the same thing with coding, it’s like brain practice.”

According to Senbel, the ICPC is an important competition in the computer science and coding community.

“I think it’s really cool that Sacred Heart was able to host a coding competition that is so prestigious,” said Chris Simpson, a sophomore finance major. “I’m not in the computer science

program, but just like the finance program, it is in the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology, so I have seen the labs and have seen how hard the computer science majors can work.”

Coding is a very important aspect of computer science and is taught to all the students in the program. SHU received accreditation for its computer science program this past fall, and offers many coding classes.

“Students start coding right away, it’s the first class they do,” said Senbel. “It’s like our bread and butter.”

Sacred Heart is fairly new to ICPC competitions, according to Senbel, who said the program first attended the competition in 2018.

“When going, I noticed we have much nicer labs and facilities than the places that were hosting. All our labs are top notch, the best of the best, we spared no expense on the labs,” Senbel said.

After attending in 2019, she decided that SHU should try to host a competition, so she reached out to the organizers and invited

them to see Sacred Heart’s facilities.

“When they came they were amazed by our campus. They said they had never seen so many labs,” said Senbel.

After getting approved, Sacred Heart was set to host the competition in 2020, but after the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in worldwide shutdowns, they were forced to push the event back until 2023.

Each school in the competition gets to send teams of 3 students to compete. These teams then get a set of 10 problems that they have to solve in 5 hours. At the end of the 5 hours, the team that has been able to solve the most problems the fastest wins.

“It is like the Olympics, but for your brain. You have to code quickly, but also correctly,” said Senbel.

Sacred Heart did not win the competition, but they were able to compete with some of the best young coders in the country.

“Just going is an honor. You get to see the other teams, and get to see what real world competition is like,” said Senbel. “Every time you go you have to improve, so the plan is long term, and one day we hope to win and go to the international competition.”



Mark F. Conrad, Sacred Heart University

Students preparing for the Greater New York Regional coding contest.



Mark F. Conrad, Sacred Heart University

Awards for the winners of the regional coding competition.



Mark F. Conrad, Sacred Heart University

Participants gather at West Campus, where Sacred Heart hosted the International Collegiate Programming Contest.

NASA’s 1st moon crew in 50 years includes 1 woman, 3 men

BY AP NEWSROOM



AP Photo via NASA

This combination of photos shows, from left, astronauts Victor Glover, Jeremy Hansen, Christina Koch, and Reid Wiseman. On Monday, April 3, 2023, NASA announced the three Americans and one Canadian as the crew who will be the first to fly the Orion capsule, launching atop a Space Launch System rocket from Kennedy Space Center no earlier than late 2024

NASA on Monday named the four astronauts who will fly to the moon by the end of next year, including one woman and three men.

The three Americans and one Canadian were introduced during a ceremony in Houston, home to the nation’s astronauts as well as Mission Control.

“This is humanity’s crew,” said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

The four astronauts will be the first to fly NASA’s Orion capsule, launching atop a Space Launch System rocket from Kennedy Space Center no earlier than late 2024. They will not land or even go into lunar orbit, but rather fly around the moon and head straight back to Earth, a prelude to a lunar landing by two others a year later.

The mission’s commander, Reid Wiseman, will be joined by Victor Glover, an African American naval aviator; Christina Koch, who holds the world record for the longest spaceflight by a woman; and Canada’s Jeremy Hansen. All are space veterans except Hansen.

“This is a big day. We have a lot to celebrate and it’s so much more than the four names that have been announced,” said Glover.

This is the first moon crew to include a woman and someone not from the U.S. — and the first crew in NASA’s new moon program named Artemis. Late last year, an empty Orion capsule flew to the moon and back in a long-awaited dress rehearsal.

During Apollo, NASA sent 24 astronauts to the moon from 1968 through 1972. Twelve of them landed. All were military-trained test pilots except for Apollo 17’s Harrison Schmitt, a geologist who closed out that moonlanding era alongside the late Gene Cernan.

Provided this next 10-day moonshot goes well, NASA aims to land two astronauts on the moon by 2025 or so.

NASA picked from 41 active astronauts for its first Artemis crew. Canada had four candidates.

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AP Photo via NASA

A model of the Orion capsule and the service module is displayed at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Friday, Nov. 16, 2018. On Monday, April 3, 2023, NASA revealed the identities of the four astronauts — three US and one Canadian— who will fly around the moon in late 2024. It’s the first moon crew in more than 50 years.

Features

'The Last Hoorah!' for Class of 2023

BY SARAH MARGERISON
Staff Writer



Instagram, @shu.involvement
Poster for the upcoming senior week, beginning on Wednesday, May 10.

Senior Week 2023 is a four day-long experience for eligible seniors to attend events and entertainment before graduation. Senior Week begins on Wednesday, May 10 and concludes with Commencement on Sunday, May 14.

Class of 2023 Vice President Alexis Navarro believes that Senior Week is a great time for seniors to bond and end their college experience in a positive way.

"Senior week, to me, is like the last hoorah for all of us seniors to celebrate together," said Navarro. "It's a weekend to have fun and commemorate all the hard work we have put into the last four years here."

On May 10, events for Senior Week will begin with mandatory information sessions and settling into housing accommodations. Seniors have the option to move into freshman dorms for the duration of the week as a way to reminisce on freshman year.

Outing events begin at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10 at Stonebridge Restaurant in Milford. Other events include a Presidential Brunch in 63's, a night at Mohegan Sun, and the Commencement

"The senior class board has worked very hard this year on our events for the senior class, so I am very excited to see everyone come together one last time before we graduate," said Faraday. "With that said, I think the Commencement Ball will be a memorable night celebrating our time at SHU."

Senior Week is also a time for nostalgia and looking back on college memories, according to senior Katherine Sullivan.

"I am so excited for all of the fun times I am going to have with my friends and all of the other seniors, but I am definitely extremely sad to be leaving SHU and all of the amazing people I have met here," said Sullivan.

Navarro had similar feelings about graduation and what comes after college.

"Graduation coming up is a bittersweet feeling," said Navarro. "It is sad moving on and not being within five minutes of all my friends. Sacred Heart has become my second home, so closing the door on this chapter is hard."

Students must make sure that they are eligible to participate in Senior Week through the Registrar's Office. According to the Sacred Heart University website, graduation and Senior Week are connected in the way that students can only participate in Senior Week if they are eligible to graduate.

Registration and payment for Senior Week were due to Student Life by Wednesday, March 22 for packages. Individual ticket registration and payments are due to Student Life by Thursday, April 6.

All-Access Packages include the price for all of the events throughout the week for a total of \$550. The General Admission Package also includes all of the events, except for the Family Soiree tickets, for a total of \$500. If students plan on housing in a dorm, there is an additional \$150 fee.

Students can find more information regarding Senior Week through their school emails, online at sacredheart.edu/seniorweek, or at @shustudentgov_2023 on Instagram. The Student Government Office located in Hawley Lounge is also open for students to get further information.

Ball.

Class of 2023 E-Board member Caroline Faraday sees Senior Week as a time for seniors to reflect on the hard work they've put in the past four years, and to celebrate together.

The Humble Dr. Jamie Marotto

BY RYAN MCNEILL
Staff Writer

On Feb. 25, a Sacred Heart University professor was honored with a prestigious award in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Jamie Marotto, Director of the Sacred Heart University Audiology Clinic, was recognized at the Oticon Focus on People Awards for her work as an audiologist.

A statement from Oticon said, "The 2022 Oticon Focus on People Awards honored 12 remarkable people whose courage, vision and commitment are helping to change the perception of what it means to have a hearing loss."

"I won the hearing practitioner category," said Marotto. "Basically, one audiologist in the country is awarded each year, and for 2022, it was me."

Marotto's career as an audiologist and educator also comes with a philanthropic initiative.

"For me, I always felt it was important to give back to others. It's great to be honored for this work, but I feel that volunteer work doesn't need recognition," Marotto said.

The College of Health Professions runs several Global Health Programs and Marotto goes on annual volunteer/service-learning trips to Guatemala.

"We work with them to provide hearing aids to students and teachers in need," said Marotto. "We also donate supplies and provide educational materials so that they can maintain the hearing aids throughout the year."

To sustain and continue this work, Marotto has developed partnerships with institutions such as LAVOSI.

LAVOSI is a school that provides education and training for the deaf and hard of hearing in underserved areas. Without the school, many children would have no proper resources for education.

"LAVOSI truly relies on foreign donations to continue the great work and education they are providing," said Marotto.

These trips enable an institution like this to continue and grow in its mission to aid the hard of hearing.

The most recent trip had 20 students from the College of Health Professions join Marotto in Guatemala.

"We have students from PT, OT and Speech Language Pathology, as well as faculty members from each department who go on this trip annually," Marotto said.

According to a press release from Oticon, "In the clinic, students learn how eval-

uating and treating hearing loss across a lifespan can improve a patient's ability to work, interact socially and minimize health risks associated with hearing loss."

Students are presented with an opportunity to further their education while contributing to a life-changing cause.

"It's really cool to see people within Sacred Heart going out of their way to help out on such a global level," said junior Michael Frieri. "That's a unique chance being provided for these students and that really reflects well on Sacred Heart."

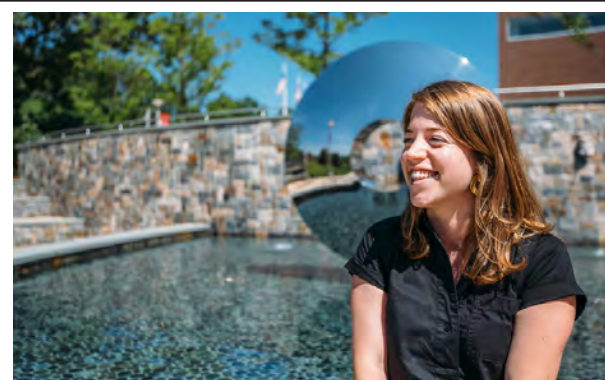
The service-learning trips will continue into the foreseeable future with the goal of maintaining the beneficial relationships developed in Guatemala.

"It is an honor to be nationally recognized so early in my career. I look forward to continuing my volunteer work here and abroad and representing SHU along the way," said Marotto.

"Positive stories like this are great to hear and it is important for people like Professor Marotto to set such a great example like this," junior Victor Ginart said.

The audiology clinic offers full-service hearing health care to the public and the option for students to help others and log required clinical hours under the supervision of a licensed audiologist.

"Here at SHU, we don't volunteer because we want to be recognized; we do it because it is the right thing to do, and it's intrinsic to our values and mission," said Marotto.



Sacred Heart University photo by Tracy Deer-Mirek.
Sacred Heart University professor Jamie Marotto was recently recognized at the Oticon Focus on People Awards.

Lace Up and Save Lives

BY SAMANTHA KATZENBACK
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's Relay for Life club will be hosting their annual event Saturday, April 15 on the Upper Quad from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to help raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is an event that is encouraged for all to attend, even those who are not students at SHU.

"Attending the Relay for Life event will mean helping hundreds of families who are suffering from the impacts of cancer whether that be financially or emotionally," said junior and secretary of Relay for Life Carolina Lopez. "Coming to the event means helping a family get to and from treatments, it means helping a family with chemotherapy costs, it means changing a person's life."

The Relay for Life club has worked hard and diligently to plan this annual event each year. This year the event will include food, games, and giveaways.

Many members of this club have personally been affected by cancer. This club gives students a space where they can relate to and support others who have gone through the

The Relay for Life event not only remembers those who have passed from cancer but celebrates those who have survived.

Students at Sacred Heart University have recognized the importance of this event and are thrilled that they can be a part of it themselves.

"Having SHU host an annual event like this is incredible; it gives students the opportunity to show their love and support to those who have been affected by cancer," senior Arianna Salafia said.

Senior Nicole Lemos agrees. "Having Sacred Heart host an event like this every year allows students and faculty to participate in raising awareness and money for a disease that in some way, shape, or form has impacted all of us," said Lemos.

Attending this event will help show the positive impact that Relay for Life has had on many people's lives.

"I relay in honor of my father and his memory and for all of those who have someone currently fighting or someone who has lost their fight," said Lopez. "I can't even begin to explain how much Relay for Life means to me, but I can say without a doubt that it has helped me in more ways than I can count."

If you are unable to attend the event but are still looking to honor a loved one, you can sign up to dedicate a luminaria in their name.

"Showing your support on April 15 will help us take one step closer towards our goal while supporting all of the survivors and healthcare workers that will be in attendance. It will also help us remember those we have lost in a way that unites us. I hope to see you all there," said Lopez.

If you are looking to find out more information on how to register to be a part of the event April 15 or to donate you can visit @shu-relay4life on Instagram.



Contributed by Linda Higgins

Sacred Heart University Relay for Life will take place on Saturday, April 15 from 1-5 in the Upper Quad.

same experiences they have.

"My father William passed away from Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, so Relay for Life has a special place in my heart," said Lopez. "Growing up without my dad was incredibly tough, but now having this outlet on campus to talk to other people who can relate and to raise money for something so close to my heart was healing."

Audrey's Corner



Farrington College Anti-bullying Initiative

By Jessica Fontaine, Contributing Writer

Since bullying is still heavily prevalent in schools, the system for addressing it needs remodeling. The Isabelle Farrington College of Education & Human Development at Sacred Heart University is up to the challenge.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 22 percent of students ages 12–18 reported being bullied at school during the school year in 2019.

“Bullying in schools and classrooms is directly tied to how a teacher or school leader sets tone, expectations, climate and community,” said Dr. René Roselle, department chair of Teacher Education and director of the Teacher Education Program.

Verywell Family reported that school-based bullying prevention programs reduce bullying by up to 25 percent.

“We’ve recently done some significant redesigns to our program – for example, the idea of moving away from this concept of ‘classroom management’ to ‘creating positive classroom climates,’” said Dr. Michael Alfano, Dean of the Farrington College. “We’re trying to get ahead of the problem before it actually becomes a problem, so if we can create communities within classrooms where people are individually taking responsibility over their own actions, that can really help lead to a more positive climate in the classroom.”

Due to the redesign, a class that was originally called Multicultural Education is now Culturally Sustaining Ed (CSE).

“Students often bully because they don’t feel seen or known. In CSE, teacher candidates will reflect on their identities, inquire into the experiences of others and examine individual, interpersonal, institutional and systemic barriers that limit educational opportunities and outcomes for many students,” Roselle said.

According to Roselle, another course in the teacher education program is the Intro to Social & Emotional Learning course elective.

“The Farrington College places a large emphasis on social and emotional learning, which is also referred to as S.E.L.,” said senior Sofia Debrot, an elementary education major and president of the education club. “This is the process of developing self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success.”

As part of her curriculum, Debrot teaches in a fourth grade class in Stamford.

“S.E.L talks about being kind and teaching kids how to be kind, and that’s one of the most important ways of preventing bullying,” Debrot said. “We definitely discuss topics about bullying, being kind to students, and being empathetic. And just by observing that, I’ve definitely seen a decrease in the amount of bullying going on in the school.”

Roselle said, “Finally, our clinical experiences/seminar model affords opportunities to practice and process critical incidents/problems of practice as well as learn from experienced master mentors.”

The Center for Disease Control reported that students who are bullied are more likely to have low self-esteem, perform worse in school, and experience mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

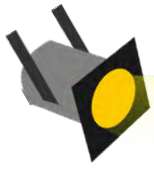
“Bullying is a common problem that doesn’t get enough recognition and attention, and often it is not handled the way it should be,” said Dr. Franc Hudspeth, department chair of Counselor Education in the Farrington College and Program Director of Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

According to Hudspeth, learning about bullying occurs in the curriculum during the human development course, the diagnosis course and the crisis & trauma course. In the first two courses, students determine issues in the upbringing and environment of children, adolescents and adults that could lead to the development of a mental illness.

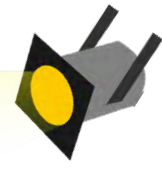
“In the crisis & trauma course, they look at bullying as how it’s traumatic and how it affects the brain development and relationships,” Hudspeth said. “If you look at individuals who have experienced bullying and you compare them to individuals who have experienced other types of traumatic events, there are very similar brain changes from bullying as other traumatic events.”

Dr. Alfano recognizes that the ongoing mental health crisis is infiltrating issues of bullying in school, so future teachers need specific training to mitigate this.

“Not only are they talking with each other and with their professors about issues around bullying and emotional and behavioral health, but they’re actually developing the skills to be able to proactively build communities that are resilient to issues of bullying,” said Alfano.



Spotlight



The Provost's Journey

BY JESSICA FONTAINE
Contributing Writer



Dr. Robin Cautin is the provost at Sacred Heart University. She serves as the chief academic officer who oversees all academic and faculty activities.

Cautin received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware, where she double majored in psychology and philosophy. She pursued her doctorate in clinical psychology at Case Western Reserve University.

“I have to start by saying, I never aspired to be an administrator in higher-education. It kind of happened unintentionally,” Cautin said. Prior to Sacred Heart, Cautin was at Manhattanville College for 13 years. She first served as a psychology professor, then as associate provost and dean of undergraduate education.

“What happened was, I started to get more involved in leadership at my prior institution and found it strangely gratifying. Most faculty saw it as a burden, but I actually found it unexpectedly satisfying,” Cautin said, “I really enjoyed understanding the big picture of how an institution works, where it fits in the broader context and how I can have a positive impact, not just one-on-one with a student in the classroom but on a structural institutional level.”

Cautin joined Sacred Heart in the fall of 2014, where she was the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. She was selected to fill the provost vacancy in the fall of 2021.

“I was really ready to move to a larger, more complex institution that was also student-centered and had a mission that resonated with me,” Cautin said, “I read about Sacred Heart and it almost seemed too good to be true. I said, ‘This sounds perfect.’”

Cautin remembers interviewing for the deanship and feeling comfortable.

“I thought, ‘Wow, I can really work with the people in this room.’”

During undergrad, Cautin’s initial goal was to be in full-time clinical practice, but plans changed.

“I did a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University and realized during that year, that I didn’t want to do full-time clinical work,” Cautin said, “I missed the classroom, I missed the research, and I missed the academic setting. Then I changed my plans again, so every good plan is flexible.”

When asked if the journey to becoming the provost was stressful, Cautin said, “I get bored easily, so I enjoy challenges and a certain intensity to my work life. I’ve always sought that out. So, it can be stressful sometimes, but most of the time it’s a good kind of stress so I enjoy it.”

As SHU keeps growing, Cautin hopes to manage the growth strategically and keep continuity of things that the community doesn’t want to lose, such as the cultural feel that draws many students to the campus.

“We don’t want to lose [that] no matter how big, no matter how complex we get,” Cautin said, “We have to intentionally and strategically nourish and foster culture that is so important to all of us that we feel and what affirms our decision to be here.”

As well as keeping the great things about SHU constant, Cautin believes it is important to adapt to the growth.

“We need to adapt to changing demands and diversifying needs of students so we can remain relevant and remain in sync with our students, our staff and our faculty,” said Cautin.

When she’s not busy strengthening our university, Cautin likes reading nonfiction and spending time with her husband, her two high-school children, and her dog Fred. Her newest hobby is playing piano.

“I just started taking lessons, and I really enjoy playing. But I taught myself when I was younger and it had been decades since I recommitted, and it’s wonderful,” Cautin said.

She also loves ‘80s music and listening to Sirius XM’s ‘80s on 8.

Cautin’s advice to the future generations that want to follow a path like hers is to pursue their passions, be curious, be open to opportunities and focus on learning. She said that many people are afraid to try new things because they are afraid, they won’t be good at them and will fail. However, they shouldn’t let it deter them.

“If you’re not willing to take those chances, you’re really missing out. It doesn’t mean what you think it means,” said Cautin. “Say you made a mistake and you failed. Learn from it. It’s what you do with it, not that it happened.”

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NOMINATE A STUDENT, STAFF,
OR
FACULTY MEMBER!



Arts & Entertainment

Drag Shows Being Restricted Across the Country

BY BRAD HUTCHISON
Staff Writer



AP Photo by John Amis

Drag artist Vidalia Anne Gentry speaks to the crowd during a news conference held by the Human Rights Campaign.

On March 4, the governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee, signed a bill into law that is changing the landscape of LGBTQ+ rights, and creating a conversation across the country. With his signature, Lee made it official that Tennessee will restrict all public drag performances, with the law going into effect on July 1.

The bill that was passed restricts adult cabaret performances in public or in the presence of children, and it bans them from occurring with 1,000 feet of schools, public parks, and places of worship.

"I was honestly really surprised that drag shows are being banned, especially because of the progress that has been made with the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in our society," said senior Catherine Hoblin. "This feels

like another step back from what the community has been working towards for a long time."

Many opponents of the drag show art-form have argued that nudity is present in these shows and that they are promoting ideas to the youth that are not appropriate for them to be seeing. They do not see this as an attack on the community, but rather a matter of safety.

There are several other states that are also debating this topic and might move forward with a bill of their own. These states include Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia.

As supporters of drag look for a way to protest this, users on Reddit did a deep search into the governor's past life and found photos of Lee dressed in drag back in high school. The photos originate from the 165th page of the Franklin High 1977 yearbook, which is the school

the governor attended. The photo is captioned "hard luck women," and it portrays three men who are cross-dressed as women with wigs.

On Twitter, in response to this photo, Gov. Lee stated that there is a big difference between wearing a dress at a high school football game and drag queens wearing a dress on stage.

Opponents of the bill argue that the line is not clear and their rights are being stripped away, as reported by many news outlets. They argue that drag doesn't typically involve stripping or nudity, and all shows are tailored to the audience at hand.

Junior Nicky Duca is somebody who feels passionate about the topic, as he is currently playing a drag character, Dr. Frank-N-Furter, in Sacred Heart University's production of "Rocky Horror." He has also been an avid supporter of the community for years.

"My first reaction to this news is that I am truly heartbroken and saddened. I'm hurt because I have found a home and community in the world of drag and I have felt nothing but love and care from these environments and the people involved with them," said Duca.

With the bill being official, the community is looking to find other ways to continue their art without being victimized for it. The performers will try to work around the language of the bill, and see if there are alternatives they can explore.

"In all honesty, I'm not surprised this is happening because in this country, it has always been challenging to be yourself and truly authentic. I have found a home with the LGBTQ+ community and believe that they stand for love, acceptance, and life," said Duca.



AP Photo by John Amis

The Human Rights Campaign protests against anti-drag legislation in Nashville, Tennessee on Feb. 14.

Lana Del Rey Opens Up about her Life in Ninth Studio Album

BY HAIELY GENZALE
Staff Writer



AP Photo by Interscope

Lana Del Rey's newest album, "Did you know that there's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd."

On March 24, Lana Del Rey released her ninth studio album, "There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd." With 16 songs, the album takes a dive into her future, her fears, her family, and the human experience in the real world.

According to AP News, Del Rey has been labeled one of the best songwriters of her generation, and it won't be long until this album hits the billboard charts like her breakthrough album, "Born to Die" did.

"I've been a big fan of Lana Del Rey since she released her first album, so when I heard that she was releasing another, I couldn't wait," said sophomore Brooke Walters. "I have to say this album is just as good as the first, maybe even better."

Fans have been claiming this album to be Del Rey's most personal. According to Variety, Del Rey is considering ostensibly meatier matters — starting, in the opening song, "The Grants," with what both she and her loved ones will be thinking about after her death.

"I was put in a trance when I first listened to the new album, her music is like no other and it just hits different than any other artist's songs," said sophomore Peyton Brooks.

In the album, Del Rey sings specifically about death itself, deaths in her family, her not-so-great relationship with her mother, her loving father figures in her life, becoming

a mother, God, sex, and more.

"I think a lot of people aren't used to listening to music that is about deeper meanings in life, which I think that's one of the things that makes her so special, her willingness to talk about real, true things," said Brooks.

Scrolling through TikTok, it appears that the public has a very positive reaction to it, with little-to-nothing bad to say about Del Rey's new album.

"It's all I've been listening to for the last week, there's nothing I dislike about it," said sophomore Jillian Surfus.

According to the New York Times, at 78 minutes in length, "Ocean Blvd" is Del Rey's strongest and most daring album since "Rockwell," though it's also marked by uneven pacing and occasional overindulgence.

"I admire the way that she has no filter in the songs she writes and sings," said Brooks. "It makes it so much more fascinating and original."

The New York Times also said part of the thrill of Del Rey's music is the sense that she can and will say absolutely anything, regardless of who it may offend, and that is proven through the piercing words of her newest songs.

"One major detail about Lana Del Rey is that she tells a story through her albums, and I think that's why so many people love her," said Surfus. "She tells us very deep details about her life, and we have the pleasure of being able to listen to it."

Del Rey also features other artists within this album including Pastor Judah Smith, the leader of a controversial celebrity megachurch on "The Grants," Grammy award-winning uber talent Jon Batiste on "Candy Necklace" and "Jon Batiste Interlude," producer-musician and Del Rey's most frequent collaborator, Jack Antonoff, as his moniker Bleachers, and Father John Misty on "Let The Light In."

"Even those who aren't a fan of Lana Del Rey should take some time out of their day to sit back and listen to 'There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd.' It's an album that can touch the hearts of many," said Walters.

The Gilbert and George's Exhibit!

BY PAUL KEEGAN
Staff Writer



Instagram, @Sirs_architects

"Gilbert Proush and George Passmore opened 'The Paradiscal Papers' to the public on April 1.

Gilbert Proush and George Passmore, two artists from London's East End, are making an effort to promote their work while they are still alive to see it, unlike many artists who never lived to see their fame.

"Gilbert & George were among artists creating alternatives to traditional painting. They poke fun at proper behavior in a deadpan fashion and include references to drunkenness and sexuality," according to the Museum of Modern Art.

"We felt we were alone," Gilbert said in an interview with the Associated Press. "We have never been part of an art group, never been art groupies. We kept ourselves outside."

"We're always being stopped on the streets of London by young people who say, 'I love your art,'" George said to the Associated Press. "But they'd never seen an exhibition. They saw a catalogue in a house or a magazine. So, we thought, if there is a place where you can have pictures permanently on show, it would be fantastic."

The duo created that exhibit for themselves, self-funding a gallery of their art in Spitalfields, a neighborhood in the London borough of Tower Hamlets.

The exhibition is run out of an old brewery, and entry will be free. The gallery is titled "The Gilbert and George Centre."

Sophomore Marissa Mele, a graphic design major who has been featured several times in Sacred Heart's Art & Design Gallery, spoke about the importance of artists having an outlet for their work.

"Galleries are really exciting, honestly," said Mele. "To know people are going to see it. Everyone loves getting appreciation, especially from a non-artistic eye, it's really nice to get validation. Having your work up somewhere, it proves to you that you're good enough. Sometimes

it's hard to validate yourself like that."

Speaking with the Associated Press, George added that the pair want to make art for "the people, not for collectors." That is why free admission into their gallery is so important.

"I always have respect for people who just want to make their art and give people the opportunity to see their passion," said sophomore Joe Dunn, a poet and actor at Sacred Heart.

"I think it's really great," said Mele. "There is so much art, and not enough places to show it; not enough slots to get in."

As a freshman, Mele submitted three pieces to the Art & Design Gallery, winning in the Foundational category. This year, Mele had five pieces showcased in the Gallery, winning the top prize for a portrait of actor and comedian Robin Williams.

"I love talking about my art," Mele said. "Sometimes I look at it and I don't know if it looks good, because I'm just seeing how I drew it, not 'it' itself. It's hard not to love people throwing a compliment your way."

Gilbert and George's self-funded exhibit, which Reuters reports is being "run as a registered charity," was a way to give the duo's fans a place to see their work in a designated place, a way for their work to be celebrated when they are still around to witness it.

"Look at Van Gogh," said Mele. "He was incredible, and now everyone knows him and he didn't see a lick of it in his wonderful life. It kind of shows where the value of art really is: when you can't get it anymore. There's not as much value in the art itself, but once it's limited, everyone grabs for it."

"The Paradiscal Papers," Gilbert and George's inaugural exhibition at "The Gilbert and George Centre," opened to the public on April 1.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



Instagram, @Sirs_architects

Gilbert and George pose outside their new exhibit for a photo-op.

Sports

Women's Bowling: So Nice They Had to Do it Twice!

BY JOHNNY GREENE
Staff Writer



Instagram, @necsports

SHU's women's bowling team hoists up the 2023 NEC Championship Banner.

the Pioneers' third NEC title over the past four seasons, previously winning in 2022 and 2019. It also became the program's sixth NEC title of all time, bringing home the championship in 2010, 2012 and 2016, as well.

"It felt amazing to win the title again," said senior Hannah Manetta. "We knew going in it would take hard work and a lot of fight, but it felt so good to win with this group of girls."

SHU began the weekend with a 2-0 win over Saint Francis University (SFU) on Friday, March 24. Later that day, they took on the number one seed FDU, winning the matchup 2-1. This allowed them to move into the second round of the winners bracket on Saturday, March 25.

The Sacred Heart University women's bowling team is heading back to the NCAA tournament, after defeating Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) on March 26 to win their second straight Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship.

This win marks

Their hot play continued into Saturday, as the Pioneers dominated against Duquesne, sweeping the match 2-0. This moved them into the championship game against FDU.

"The preparation was a lot of practice working on individual prep, and figuring out how to work together best as a team. We had a couple of group meetings to see what would work best," said freshman Megan Prettyman.

The Deptford, N.J. native's stellar play this season granted her a selection to the NEC all-rookie team.

After losing the first traditional match against FDU on Sunday, March 26, the girls fought back to earn a 1114-950 victory. Both teams were tied heading into a best-of-seven match as SHU and FDU exchanged wins with one another in the first four games.

The Pioneers locked in and took the final two games, with a tremendous effort from sophomore Rachel Glowniak.

Glowniak was the final bowler for the Pioneers in the game, and she won it all as she knocked down a strike in the final frame to give SHU the 2023 NEC Championship title.

"As a first year, I didn't get to win the conference with the team last year, but I had been committed and watched from home," said Prettyman. "It was awesome to be able to watch this team win, and it felt even better to be a part of it."

The women will head to Rochester, N.Y. for their NCAA match up with Arkansas State University on April 7.

"The thought process for Arkansas is pretty confident to be honest," said Manetta. "We've beaten them twice this season, and if we bowl like we all know we can, we definitely have a chance at going to the Final Four."

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.

Men's Lacrosse Nets Their First Conference Victory

BY TYLER CIAVARELLA
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart University (SHU) men's lacrosse team defeated Virginia Military Institute (VMI) on March 25 by a score of 16-4. This win marked their first conference win of the season for the Pioneers after joining the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

"Honestly it feels amazing," said junior Morgan O'Reilly. "It's a great confidence booster for the team going forward into conference play."

Prior to this win, SHU got off to a rough start to the season with a record of 0-7. While just two of those losses were in conference play, the team was eager to grab their first win in their new conference.

"It definitely takes some weight off everyone's shoulders," said junior goalkeeper Alex Pazienza. "It's something that we all feel was overdue. We are now looking to carry the momentum over into the



Instagram, @shumenslax

Sacred Heart's men's lacrosse team plays in the rain during their game on campus field against Virginia Military Institute.

coming weeks of conference play."

After not seeing the results they had wanted, the men began changing a few things during practice to try and get back on the winning track. They have gone back to sticking with the basics and trying to keep things similar to their past success.

"Keeping things simple and playing within ourselves as a unit has translated to some better lacrosse over the past few weeks," said Pazienza.

The men want to build a winning culture in the men's lacrosse program here at Sacred Heart, but that is not an easy thing to do. It takes a lot of time and hard work not only from the coaching staff, but from all players.

"The culture of the team has been the most important thing to us thus far," said O'Reilly. "Winning is great, but at the end of the day the culture of our team is the true rock of our team. Our culture is courage, grit and resolve and we truly try to embody that everyday."

One thing that the team prides themselves on is their camaraderie and their friendships.

"The team's friendships and relationships together are unbreakable," said O'Reilly. "Our team has done a great job to get to know the freshmen and make sure everybody hangs out together. It always helps tremendously that we are always together playing or even outside lacrosse just hanging around."

The men grabbed their second conference win on April 1 against Long Island University. They look to continue their winning ways as they head to Staten Island on April 8 to face Wagner College.

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.

SHU Hosts 3rd Annual CT ESports Showcase

BY JAKE CARDINALE
Assistant Sports Editor

On Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, Sacred Heart University hosted the third annual E-sports showcase. It took place in the Frank and Marisa Martire forum.

E-sports is known as competitive video gaming.

"E-sports is a genre of gamers who take video games to the next level. They are on the top of their game. It's pretty impressive what they do. I'm proud to be a part of it," said sophomore Brendan Mahon.

Among the games that were played, one of them is known as OverWatch.

"OverWatch is a five versus five first-person shooter. You can play as a tank, who are big and bulky. They know how to block. You can play as a damage hero whose primary job is to get kills and secure eliminations. And then you have supports who are healers," said junior Justin Alter.

Another E-sport that was played this past weekend was Valorant.

"Valorant is a five versus five first-person shooter. Each character is ability based. Each ability can help you win the game," said senior Chris Kelly.

Professor Andrew Miller and Professor Joshua Shuart came up with the idea to have an E-sports Showcase.

"When Professor Shuart and I started the [E-sports] minor a little over three years ago, we designed it with a capstone class, and we thought it made sense to put together an event, and we came up with the idea for a Connecticut collegiate E-sports tournament," said Miller.

There were 10 teams that participated in the E-sports Showcase. A step up from last year's showcase which only had six teams.

"This showcase is amazing. It's a chance for other schools to show off their E-sports programs. Last year when I played in it, we did it at West Campus in the AI Lab which is a tiny room and now we have a giant set up with state of the art PCs. I am very grateful that we have this experience," said Alter.

The E-sports Showcase is trying to help increase the popularity of E-sports.



Tracy Deer-Mirek, Sacred Heart University

Students compete in online video gaming in West Campus' AI Lab for last year's E-sports showcase, that included less teams and a smaller set up than the 2023 showcase.

Editorial

A Thank You to my Professors

• COLLIN MOURA

• PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

• With the spring semester rapidly approaching its final day, I am left in awe of all that I have learned this year. This semester has undoubtedly been my all-time favorite three months of school, and I credit that to my incredible professors in the School of Communication Media, and the Arts.

• My classes have not only taught me so much about the field but have placed me directly into it. I have thus seen myself grow into both a better creator and evaluator of media. Each one of my professors this semester has their own distinct teaching style, and each has impacted me in ways that I will never forget.

• In Digital Photography, I have greatly improved my photography skills, both from a creative and technical standpoint. I credit this to Prof. Rick Falco, a world-renowned photographer who excels at getting the best out of each and every student. The class is structured through photo presentations and critiques, spearheaded by the innovative and entertaining photo analysis of Prof. Falco.

• Every week, I look forward to Tuesday at 5pm for Media Literacy with Prof. Belinha De Abreu. This is without a doubt the most engaging class I've ever been a part of. It isn't every day that you walk into a class and see 30 students eagerly sharing ideas and opinions on worldwide issues. There is never a dull moment in this class and alongside her vast knowledge of news and the media, Prof. De Abreu's constant support and encouragement has been truly one of a kind. I'll never forget when she passed out snacks and gifts to each student on Valentine's Day.

• Prof. Sid Gottlieb is one of the most passionate teachers I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. My appreciation for cinema has grown so much over the past three months, all thanks to History of Film II and the inspiring lectures of Prof. Gottlieb. His vast knowledge of film and eagerness to share it with his students is genuinely captivating to be a part of.

• My production classes have sent me out into the field, creating original content through practical application. Prof. Greg Golda has taught me how to edit video better, how to story tell more effectively, and of course all about the benefits and drawbacks of Artificial Intelligence. His wit and booming personality makes every my Multimedia Field Production class an enjoyable adventure.

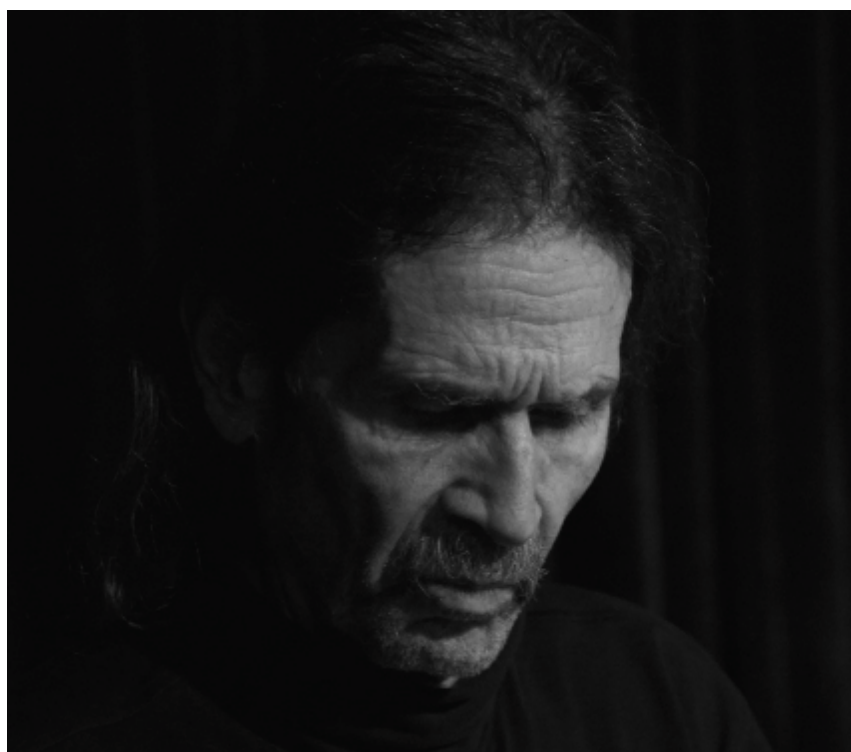
• In Prof. Taci Batista's TV Studio Production class, I have learned how to be a production chameleon, rotating through each studio position. My comfortability and confidence as a stage manager, technical director, and on-air talent has skyrocketed this semester. The hands-on style of this class, combined with Prof. Batista's vision and energy has turned me into a well-rounded media producer.

• The skills I have picked up and knowledge I've acquired this semester has been invaluable. I cannot wait to continue working with these incredible professors as well as the rest of the SCMA department through my next two years at SHU. To all of my professors this semester, thank you so much. You are what has made my Sacred Heart experience so great.



Collin Moura, Photo Editor

Prof. Golda: A friendly face for all SCMA students as well as Sacred Heart's official AI guru.



Collin Moura, Photo Editor

Prof. Gottlieb: Both his love for film and his passion for teaching shine through in every lecture.

The editorial page is an open forum. Editorials are the opinions of the individual editors and do not represent the opinions of the whole editorial board. Letters to the editor are encouraged and are due by Sunday at noon for consideration for each Wednesday's issue. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation, and length.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 600 words and should be emailed to spectrum@sacredheart.edu. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers voiced in this forum.

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