

Connecticut Presidential Primary Solidifies 2020 Rematch

BY GEORGE TRIEBENBACHER
Staff Writer

On April 2, the Connecticut presidential primary elections were held. They are used to help determine the nominees for the general election, which will take place on Nov. 5.

According to the Westport Journal, voter turnout was lacking statewide.

President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, both of whom are widely expected to win the nominations, won the vote for their respective parties in Connecticut.

According to the Associated Press, Biden received an estimated 84.9% of the votes – 55,697 – for the Democratic party, while Trump received an estimated 77.9% of the votes – 34,726 – for the Republican party.

Dr. Gary Rose, Scholar in Residence at Sacred Heart University, said that Connecticut moved up this year’s primary by four weeks to try to give the state more of a say in the process.

“We were hoping when we moved our primary to the first week of April that it would still be a contest,” Rose said. “It’s not [a contest], and that’s unfortunate.”

Rose said that moving the primary up even further in 2028 could be an option, but it would need to be passed by the state legislature and is too far in advance to tell for sure.

“We always come in when it’s over, and it doesn’t make our primary a real powerbroker, but it would be nice if it was,” said Rose.

According to Rose, the Iowa caucus, New



An older citizen casting his ballot in Pearl, Mississippi.

Lauren Witte, AP News

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New Dorms Named After Michael McGivney and Catherine of Siena

BY CALEB JEAN-PIERRE
Staff Writer

“These new halls will focus on fostering a sense of belonging and community building as they will host a variety of Living Learning Communities (LLCs) that promote connecting students through



Concept art for the new residence halls that will open in fall 2024.

Sacred Heart University

their activities, interests, and academics,” said Dean of Students, Denise Tiberio.

At Sacred Heart, residential halls will become more than places where students eat, sleep, or study. Coming this fall, according to the Sacred Heart University website, two three-story residence halls will open on the northern side of Pioneer Village along with a single-story parking deck. They will be called Michael McGivney Hall and Catherine of Siena Hall.

“Not only does it form a community for freshmen coming in so they are around people with similar interests, but it also adds to the aesthetic for students to enjoy the scenery of the campus,” said junior and Residential Success Assistant, Gregory Dort.

Consisting of four-person suites, the new halls are expected to be open for the fall 2024 semester.

“They are designed for freshmen. They are located

behind Bowman Hall and have a parking garage adjacent to them,” said Director of Residential Life, Gregory Madrid.

In a statement to the Spectrum in March of 2022, Madrid had different thoughts regarding the purpose of the new dorms.

At the time, Madrid said, “Looking at the basic design, it seems like it would fit sophomores since our goal is to bring sophomores from Pioneer Gardens to campus.”

To fit what the university most needs at this time, Michael McGivney Hall and Catherine of Siena Hall will be housing freshmen when they are officially open for student residential life.

“The halls will house over 450 incoming first-year students and will allow us to offer on-campus housing for all first-year and second-year students,” Tiberio said.

According to Madrid, this means that returning sophomore students will be housed in Bergoglio, Bowman, Cabrini, Christian Witness Commons, Frassati, Mother Teresa, Scholars Commons, and Wiesel Halls.

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Behind the Scenes with Students in the New Performing Arts Wing

BY GIA ESPOSITO
Staff Writer

As the curtains rise on the newest addition to our university’s campus, the opening of the new performing arts wing marks not just the unveiling of physical space, but the dawn of a new era for creativity and collaboration within the Performing Arts program. Beyond the presence of new walls, floors, ceilings and everything in between, the wing holds the voices and experiences of the students and faculty who now call it home.

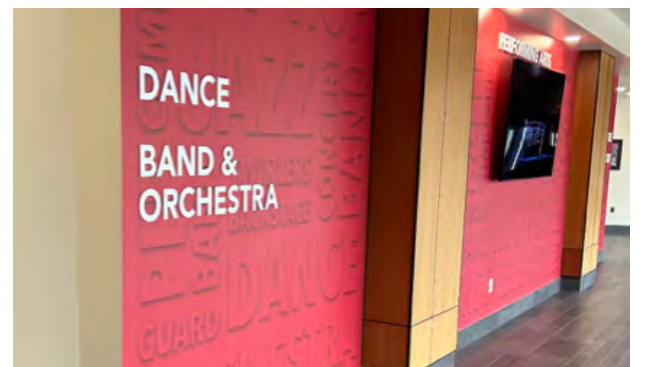
The space recently opened and has been in use

for a few weeks by the university’s Performing Arts programs.

Keith Johnston, Director of Band and Orchestra Programs, has been involved in the proposal and planning of this new space since he first started in 2003.

“My guess is there are going to be around 1,000 students regularly utilizing the space and already you can just feel the buzz around everybody which is fantastic,” said Johnston.

See BEHIND THE SCENES WITH STUDENTS IN THE NEW PA WING continued on pg. 6



Brendan Murphy, Staff Photographer

The new PA Wing is home to spaces for dance, band and orchestra, choir, and theatre arts.

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News

New Dorms

BY CALEB JEAN-PIERRE
Staff Writer

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The construction of these new dorms will also give upperclassmen more options as Pioneer Gardens will now be available for juniors and seniors to choose.

“It’s been a goal for years to get more first-years and sophomores living on campus,” said Emily Grobmyer, Associate Director of Residential Life.

Sacred Heart’s vision statement highlights its ongoing commitment to fostering a campus community known for its caring and creative atmosphere, rooted in the values of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

According to the university website, “Your Residence Hall is a living and learning community designed to help you grow in all aspects of your life.”

“The addition of the new halls will continue the great living spaces for our students to enjoy as they navigate the exciting college environment here at Sacred Heart University,” said Madrid.

Residential Halls act as an extension of the classroom and will allow students to form long-lasting relationships while at college.

“I think that living on campus helps you grow as a student at SHU. Living on campus is a good way to get connected. You can build relationships with those around you in your dorm or on your floor. It’s a nice way to wind down from the stress that comes with some classes. To be with people that you can connect with is a huge part of living on campus,” said junior and RSA Ryan Freeman.

The dedication of these two buildings is planned to take place in the fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY 4/11:

GREEK SING

MARTIRE FAMILY ARENA

AT 7 P.M.

THURSDAY 4/11:

PROMISES, PROMISES

EDGERTON CENTER FOR
PERFORMING ARTS

AT 8 P.M.

FRIDAY 4/12:

**CONNECTICUT ESPORTS
SHOWCASE**

LORIS FORUM AT MARTIRE
CENTER FOR LIBERAL ARTS

AT 12:30 P.M.

New Chosen Name Policy

BY CAYLA MELLO
Staff Writer

Have you heard about the Chosen Name Policy that was created in August 2023 at Sacred Heart University? This policy was created to allow students, faculty, and staff to use a chosen name that is different from their legal name.

“The SHU Chosen Name Policy informs the SHU community of Sacred Heart’s commitment to honoring all persons’ identities: fostering genuine belonging in its learning, working, and living environments,” said Anne Burmeister, Director of Institutional Equity Compliance & Support.

The new policy was announced on Aug. 1, 2023, after many efforts were put into the process to implement it.

“It began with the advocacy of a few SHU community members who recognized the need. That advocacy raised awareness. The Office for Inclusive Excellence was able to bring together folks across SHU departments and offices to create a policy and procedures to implement it,” said Burmeister.

Multiple departments at SHU were involved in the process of establishing this policy.

“To fully implement a policy like this requires coordination between almost every department at SHU: from information technology to financial aid, from athletics to the registrar, from residence life to student affairs and beyond. This would not have been possible without the commitment of a lot of folks and it serves as an example that the work of inclusive excellence is the work of everyone,” said Burmeister.

She explained the importance of such a policy on Sacred Heart’s campus.

“There are many reasons why someone may use a chosen name, such as a reflection of gender identity, as a nickname, as a westernized or Americanized name, or to recognize family relationships, just to name a few,” said

Burmeister. “SHU is committed to identifying people only by their chosen name in SHU living, learning and working environments wherever possible.”

Kyle Humphreys, SHU’s manager of LGBTQ+ Affairs, also noted the significance of this procedure.

“Names are something that are given to us by somebody else, and as we grow and develop we establish a sense of who we are, we grow into new communities and new identities whether or not you are LGBTQ+. There’s a realm of reasons why somebody would want to go as a name other than the one on their birth certificate,” said Humphreys.

When a student decides to go by a chosen name, they will have to fill out a form and once that form is processed, their chosen name will be displayed on all of SHU systems.

“The SHU community will see the use of chosen names across SHU Systems as this policy is fully implemented. We have worked to identify the most impactful systems changes and address those first,” said Burmeister.

Universities across the country are creating similar procedures.

“This is slowly becoming a more and more common practice in a lot of places because to be quite frank, the ability to change your name legally is a costly process. For me to change my name it costs me over \$200, plus having it published in the newspaper, plus getting copies of the court order for my name change, then having to change my documents, which also costs money and time,” Humphreys said. “These steps are not accessible for everybody, so to allow people to have control over how they present themselves is important, regardless of whether or not your college is embracing of LGBTQ+ people or not.”

This policy continues SHU’s diversity and inclusion efforts.

“SHU’s mission is rooted in the recognition of the inherent dignity in every human being. Policies that make way for this dignity are important to each of us for many reasons,” said Burmeister.

Primary

BY GEORGE TRIEBENBACHER
Staff Writer

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Hampshire primary and South Carolina primary all received more national attention than the Connecticut primary.

Marianne Williamson, an author of several books, got around 2.3% of the vote – 1,497 – in the Democratic primary. An estimated 11.4% of Democratic voters – 7,489 – voted “uncommitted.”

Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina, received an estimated 14.0% of the vote – 6,230 – in the Republican primary, but Haley had previously suspended her campaign. Around 4.8% of the Republican voters – 2,164 – used the “uncommitted” option.

The CT Mirror reported that one of the biggest question marks in this primary was how many voters would vote “uncommitted” as a way of voicing their displeasure in the candidates, among other things.

Connecticut uses a closed primary system, so people can only vote for candidates within the party in which they are registered.

Sophomore John Esteves, who lives in Shelton, said he couldn’t participate in the primary as an independent.

“As an independent not registered in either political party, I never saw the point in primaries, because I feel as though the winners are pretty obvious based on other states,” said Esteves.

Rose said that Connecticut uses a closed primary to provide a representation of each party individually.

“We do believe that if we’re going to express our views about a candidate, then it should be the members of the party, not unaffiliated voters and certainly not members of another party, participating,” said Rose. “There are a lot of independents in Connecticut, as there are in many other states, but the parties have continued to keep their primaries closed.”

Junior Anna Macaulay, president of the College Democrats Club, said that the primary is still significant, as it allows people to be advocates within their respective party heading into November’s Presidential election.



Rogelio V. Solis, AP News

Citizen, Cathie Washington, electronically signing to register to vote before receiving her paper ballot.

“I always encourage people to vote in every election that matters to them,” said Macaulay.

According to Macaulay, the fact that Biden is the incumbent president gave him an advantage in the Democratic primary over candidates like Williamson.

“For an incumbent president, the primary is the least of his worries,” said Macaulay.

Regardless of how the primary results turned out, Macaulay said that she believes that the results of the general election are unpredictable.

“In this historical and unprecedented rematch, it’s hard to determine or predict what will occur come November,” said Macaulay.

For more information on the Connecticut Presidential primary, including voter information in every Connecticut township, visit <https://apnews.com/projects/election-results-2024/connecticut/?r=7002>.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Features

Best Place to Find A Buddy



Instagram, @shu_bestbuddies

The Best Buddies Club hosts a variety of events, including Valentine's Day bingo (pictured) and kickball tournaments.

BY OWEN HACKETT
Staff Writer

The Best Buddies Club has been a staple of the Sacred Heart community for years, leaving a significant impact on its members. According to the Best Buddies website, the program fosters one-on-one friendships between college students without Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and their peers on campus or in the community with IDD. Young adults with IDD historically have been isolated at home or in work environments.

The Best Buddies Colleges program, a nonprofit organization, is changing this by providing the opportunity for people with IDD to be involved in their local campus and community life by hosting different events throughout the year.

Mairead Aiken, President of the Best Buddies Club said, "I believe people should join Best Buddies because their lives will be enriched from the pure joy this club brings. Whether you're having a conversation, meeting for the first time, or sharing an experience together, you're always made to feel like you belong. The people you meet through Best Buddies are always rooting for you every step of the way."

Best Buddies offers a low-stress environment for members to build friendships and meet new people on campus. Students also have the opportunity to engage in activities they might not have pursued on their own.

"Best Buddies means creating a safe and welcoming environment where everyone can be themselves. It means forming a family within the chapter by spending time together, whether it's grabbing lunch with your one-on-one buddy or bowling at Bobby V with the club," said Lauren Cote, Vice President of the Best Buddies Club.

The Best Buddies Club is hosting a fundraising kickball tournament on Sunday, April 21. The tournament will be open to teams of eight to ten people, with a charge of five dollars per person. The tournament will also feature yard games and popcorn and take place in the fields behind Martire from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"Being a member of Best Buddies taught me how to develop meaningful connections. Having the opportunity to lead our chapter these past two years means more than words express," said Aiken.

Prof. Kelly Marino Releases "Votes for College Women"

BY SARA HASENEY
Staff Writer

Prof. Kelly Marino released her new book "Votes for College Women: Alumni, Students, and the Woman Suffrage Campaign" on April 9. The book discusses the generational change in the women's movement, and the College Equal Suffrage League from when the Nineteenth Amendment passed.

Marino has been a full-time faculty member at Sacred Heart University for eight years and focuses her research on women's history and American history. Her book aligns with her teachings, as she covers topics regarding suffrage and gender frequently.

"I was inspired by my early training as a teacher to examine the educational activism of suffragists. The College Equal Suffrage League worked within the academic environment of the campus to teach people about the women's movement and suffrage cause," said Marino.

"Votes for College Women: Alumni, Students, and the Woman Suffrage Campaign" discusses how much the women's movement has changed overtime. It highlights how, throughout history, younger women have begun leading gender and political movements.

"The book explores generational change in the women's movement. In the nineteenth century, leadership positions in women's and social reform organizations often went to older women past childbearing years. But in the twentieth century, younger women become leaders in social and political campaigns sometimes for the first time. The book also deals with changing gender ideology and attitudes toward women in politics," said Marino.

Marino said that young people hold a high importance when dealing with political change and social issues. Her book focuses on these age groups and explores how students on college campuses have impacted these issues.

"I think education can be a powerful form of activism. I also think young people have been and will always be important to social and political movements," said Marino.

The book emphasizes how college campuses have become prominent spaces for women's suffrage protests. Sophomore Madeline Mangione took Marino's Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies class. She said she has learned a lot about the topics the book discusses and said Marino's teachings has allowed her to gain extensive knowledge about women's rights and gender equality.

"In Prof. Marino's class, students can connect historical suffrage struggles with current gender equality issues, providing a deeper understanding of the ongoing fight for social justice," said Mangione.

Marino provides insight regarding the women's suffrage movement and gender issues

through her courses as well as her new book. Mangione said she gained knowledge about activism and how college aged students play an important role in women's movements.

"This class was very insightful, as we dove into the complexities of gender dynamics throughout history. Through thought-provoking discussions, we got to explore the interplay of activism, examining how certain groups used educational platforms and inspired younger generations to advocate for women's rights," said Mangione.

Sophomore Molly Luchsinger took Marino's United States History to 1865 course, where they discussed gender inequality and the role of women during historic periods, such as the Civil War. Luchsinger said Marino's course differs from other history courses she previously took, because it emphasized women's impact on events throughout history.

"Prof. Marino talked a lot about the role of gender throughout history and provided a lot of great insight about how historic events play a role in the issues we see today. I'm interested to dive into her book and further my knowledge about the issues we touched upon in class," said Luchsinger.

Prof. Kelly Marino's book is available for purchase on major websites such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target, as well as the NYU Press Page. Both hard copy and E-book versions are available for "Votes for College Women: Alumni, Students, and the Woman Suffrage Campaign."



Contributed by Kelly Marino

Marino posing for a picture with her book.

The First Lady of Sacred Heart, Dr. Sabina Petillo

BY SARAH MARGERISON

Assistant Campus Life Editor and Copy Editor

Dr. Sabina Petillo, wife of SHU President Dr. John Petillo, has made a mark of her own on the SHU community as well as across the area.

Dr. Sabina Petillo grew up in Newark, N.J. and graduated from Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell, N.J. From there she moved to Rome, Italy with her family and attended John Cabot International College for two years before returning to the states to complete her Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey. After completing an internship and her residency in medicine, she joined her father in a private practice.

"I am forever grateful to both of my parents for the loving and caring environment they created and for the many opportunities and experiences they provided to me and my siblings," said Petillo.

She shared that during her time in Italy, she studied but was also active in her community abroad, even acting as an extra in multiple Italian films during medical school.

She practiced for 30 years before finishing during COVID, but continues to be active on committees at the hospital, keeps in touch with patients, and is active in the community.

"I am still in touch with many of my former patients and I feel that as a physician, I am honored to guide and help people. It is a lifelong mission," said Petillo.

Petillo's commitment spans across the globe from making time for family in New Jersey, to SHU in Connecticut, and all the way to Dingle, Ireland and Rome to spend time with students abroad. She is involved on campus through events put on by the school, as well as being a member of the National Organization of Italian American Women.

Her involvement with Sacred Heart can be seen through her connections and support with students, staff, and her excitement for all that takes place on campus.

"I feel energized by the students—their level of enthusiasm and commitment to the university, their peers, and the community is wonderful," said Petillo. "I am inspired by their commitment to academic achievement, volunteer hours and philanthropies."

She also mentioned how dedicated she and her husband are in forming and maintaining personal relationships with alumni. For many past students, faculty, and staff, Petillo has a talent of remembering specific names and years of those she keeps in touch with, as well as their individual contributions to the school.

Petillo is also engulfed in the activities on campus and attends many school functions. She has been on campus panels as a



Photo of Dr. Sabina Petillo

Contributed by Dr. Sabina Petillo

moderator, attends Sunday mass with SHU students, and attends multiple performances put on by students throughout the year.

"The spring musical is one of the highlights of the Theatre Arts Program. Our students are so talented," said Petillo. "I do not think we have to go to Broadway, we have our own Broadway here at SHU."

Not only does she commend the students for their commitment, but also the staff and faculty.

"The level of commitment and amount of time that so many professors and administrators spend with the students is impressive," said Petillo.

SHU has always been a place of comfort and appreciation, according to Petillo. She wishes that students could be on campus all year, but understands the commitments students hold outside of school.

"From the beginning of this opportunity, we felt a comfort level that is so welcoming," said Petillo. Especially in so many years here, it's been so fulfilling. I can't imagine my life on any other trajectory."

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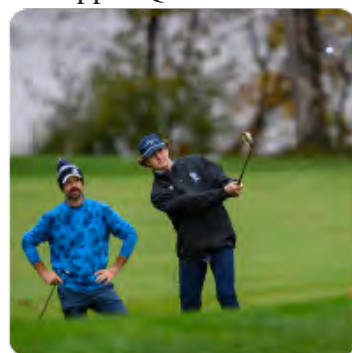
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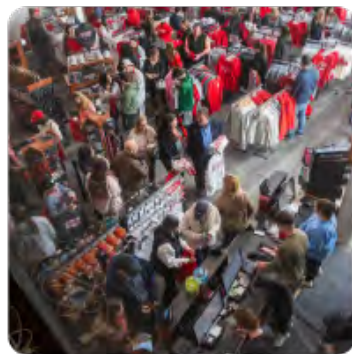
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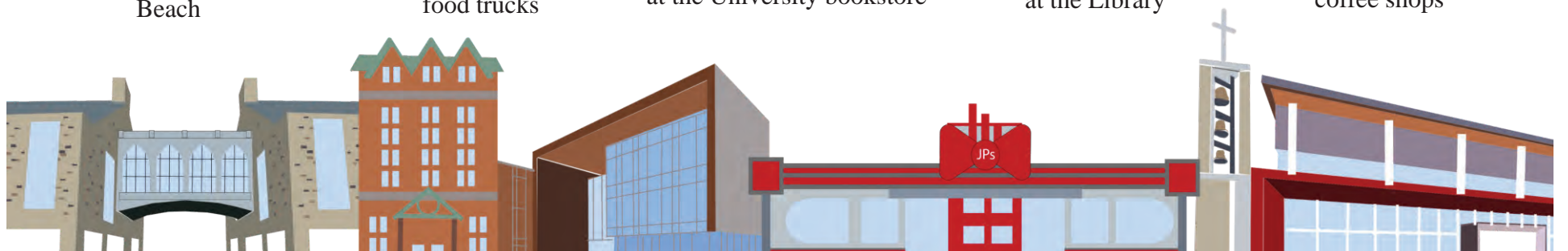
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Arts & Entertainment

Behind the Scenes with Students in the New Performing Arts Wing

BY GIA ESPOSITO
Staff Writer

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The new band room is now large enough to accommodate all of their needs and the new features such as built-in acoustics and soundproof walls allow them to have a more successful practice.

"Hearing is an active part of what we do," said Johnston. "So this space allows me to balance the ensemble and the people sitting in the back can hear the people sitting in the front and vice versa. It is just an enormous difference."

Senior Maryann Drosch, Band President, had the opportunity to rehearse in the space with the first rehearsal being held on March 25.

"Every year we have been somewhere different, so it is really cool to have this new space and know that this was made for us, with us in mind," said Drosch. "It is eye-catching, and it feels so state-of-the-art, and it is going to show any interested students that all of our programs are legit."

The new choir room is also acoustically engineered and large enough to accommodate all members and the need for more cubic volume to hear the sound.

"It is amazing for us to be in a beautiful space that feels really professional," said Dr. Christopher Grundy, Director



Madison Beekman, Manager of Editorial Content
Sacred Heart's SHU Movement professional dance track utilizing the new PA Wing dance studios.

of Choral Programs. "We are able to work on musical balance and detail, and the space makes it easier to focus and do high-level work."

The choral program has had acapella groups from other universities come for an all-day workshop followed by a joint concert at night where they all sang together.

"Having a space where we can handle hosting other choral groups for collaborations is huge," said Grundy, "This puts us on the map for students looking to study music in college and it shows we are serious about performing arts and puts us in competition with really serious performing arts programs. We have had a lot of positive feedback from

the students already and they are excited to start working."

"I am really impressed with how updated and modern it looks. Everyone is super excited about the space; they love the natural lighting and the layout so they are just ready to get in there and work," said senior Arianna Visconti, Choir President. "It's also going to create an even greater relationship between all of the programs."

The dance program now has three new studios and a changing room to utilize with over 400 students in the program.

"Our new space is closer to the Edgerton where we perform so it is definitely more functional than our previous situation," said junior Mikela Pirri, President of Inception Dance Crew. "We are all so happy and excited to be in a very beautiful space and we are grateful to have our own separate spot."

The Theatre Arts Program (TAP) has also had the opportunity to utilize its new space for classes and rehearsals.

"It's just rewarding to walk through a space that you feel like you have made an impact on," said senior and TAP President Grace Posillico.

"It's going to bring so much professionalism to our program and show that we mean business," said Posillico. "Speaking for the program, we are all just like 'Finally this is real.'"

Beyoncé Reinvents the Rodeo with "Cowboy Carter"

BY MADISON DICKISON
Staff Writer

Beyoncé, chart-topping singer and record-breaking performer known for her music styles of pop and R&B, unveiled her venture into the country music genre with her newest album, "Cowboy Carter."

Beyoncé released her first two country songs, "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 CARRIAGES," on Feb. 11 during Super Bowl XLVIII and on March 12, she announced the title of her new album, "Cowboy Carter" to Instagram.

After receiving backlash and being told that she was "Anti-American" after performing at the 2016 Country Music Awards (CMA), Beyoncé spent eight years working on her country album and according to AP News, "became the first Black woman to ever top Billboard's country music chart."

The title of the album was inspired by the original black cowboys of the American West and the release of this album was very significant. It sparked various conversations across all platforms, whether good or bad.

"Beyoncé releasing a country album is very significant because it demonstrates her versatility as an artist. Many musicians who have high artistic aspirations like her don't appreciate being pigeonholed as simply a 'Pop' artist or an 'R&B' artist," said Darren Litzie, a professor in the music department.

It is speculated that the cover for "Cowboy Carter" symbolized the "reclamation" of the flag while others saw it as paying respect to black rodeo stars, more specifically rodeo queens who hold a flag after a victory.

The cover of "Cowboy Carter" features Beyoncé sitting

on a white horse wearing a red, white, and blue outfit and a cowboy hat, while also holding an American flag.

"I think the cover accomplishes what every effective album cover does. It catches your eye and makes you curious about what the music on the album sounds like," said Litzie.

After the release of "Cowboy Carter" Beyoncé received racist backlash and outrage because it was "born out of" her uncomfortable experience at the 2016 CMA's. She sang alongside the Chicks, previously known as The Dixie Chicks, who were blacklisted from the music industry due to their criticism of George W. Bush's handling of the Iraq War.

"I don't think there is any controversy necessarily behind the album, but I do think that it is about exploring this idea of genre and what this means in art and music. Artistically it is a very interesting album but she is definitely pushing boundaries," said Lori Bindig Yousman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

"This is a very political album, the first track is 'AMERICAN REQUIEM' and a requiem is a musical piece typically written for those who have passed, which makes us wonder what she is trying to say about America," said Bindig Yousman.

Out of all 27 tracks in this album, some of the most popular songs include "YA YA," "II MOST WANTED," "LEVI'S JEANS," and "BLACKBIIRD."

"I think the whole album is really interesting and I really like 'TEXAS HOLD 'EM' because it is fun and catchy and since I have heard it so much. For songs that haven't been played on the radio much, I really enjoy 'DAUGHTER' and



'YA YA' because of their incorporation of other popular songs," said Bindig Yousman.

According to AP News, "COWBOY CARTER" weaves canonized classics into the same breath as Beyoncé's country music evolutions and Black music history preservations."

The album featured a lot of cover songs as well as word-spoken contributions by artists like Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson. Other notable collaborations include Miley Cyrus and Post Malone.

"Overall, this album was very interesting to me and even though it's not my favorite type of music, I really enjoyed listening to her new songs," said sophomore Kaleigh Porcu.

Community Theatre x BOA

BY LAURYN ENGLISH
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart University (SHU) Community Theatre has gained an exciting new partnership with a big-name sponsor for its upcoming jazz series. Bank of America is in collaboration with the 500-seat venue for SHU's set of jazz performances in 2024.

SHU Community Theatre was originally opened in 1920 as a vaudeville house, a theatre which produces a variety of performances such as musicals, burlesque, comedies and other trivial entertainment pieces common during The Roaring Twenties, according to the venue's website.

According to the theatre's website, "In May 2019, Sacred Heart University and Kleban Properties partnered to renovate and reopen the long-shuttered theatre as a contemporary arts and education venue and nonprofit."

"We are so happy to welcome Bank of America as our marquee sponsor of the jazz series," said SHU Community Theatre Executive Director Matt Oestreicher. "Bank of America's commitment to this series helps to bolster an under-supported American art form, ensuring its vitality and resonance in our community."

Bill Tommins, the president of Bank of America Southern Connecticut, discussed the news in a press release from the university on March 19.

"Engaging Southern Connecticut communities through music and performance is critical for expanding our horizons and ensuring that the arts continue to flourish," said Tommins. "The Sacred Heart University Community Theatre is a valued partner and we look forward to witnessing the community's response to this all-star lineup of jazz artists and performances."

The press release also announced some of the 2024 jazz series performances, including

some well-known artists in the contemporary jazz industry. "Upcoming performances include a performance from Grammy Award winner Christian McBride that happened on April 4, Al Di Meola on April 13, Rickie Lee Jones on May 4, Jazz is Dead on June 7 and Spyro Gyra on June 9," according to the press release.

"This will allow the theater to engage Jazz artists on a whole new level," said Prof. Joseph Carter, the Director of Academic Music Programs at SHU. "This new sponsorship will allow the theater to set up concerts with artists that might have been outside of their budget before."

"Live music, and jazz in particular, is something that gives the person attending a different experience and perspective on things, different from listening to a YouTube or an MP3 or any other one-dimensional experience. Music is three dimensional," said Carter. "At a live jazz event, the audience sees the performers performing, they see their fingers on an instrument, they see the passion of the performer, they see how the performers communicate in a non-verbal manner, they see how the performer interprets and put themselves into the performance, and so much more."

Freshman Allison Benowitz, who is also a member of the Orchestra Program, believes this is a smart move for the university. "I think that the partnership will be good at bringing more attention to not only the theatre but Sacred Heart as a whole," said Benowitz.

"Any music series, jazz or any other genre, is not about being just for an audience who knows all about the genre already. It's just as important for the uninitiated," said Carter. "Everyone can come away with a better understanding and perhaps even a new level of enjoyment but, either way, because of the experience, they will become that more well-rounded individual."

Tickets can be purchased on the SHU Community Theatre's website as more performances for the jazz series will be announced in the coming months.

Sports

A Bet Worth Taking? Jeremy Schapp Discusses Sports Gambling

BY JAKE WALSH
Staff Writer

On March 25, Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN)'s Jeremy Schaap held a discussion in the Dr. Michelle C. Loris Forum on "The Potential and Problems of Legalized Sports Gambling."

Associate professor of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, Dr. Andrew Miller, invited panelists to discuss the rise of sports gambling on college campuses.

Brian Dolan, the Director of the Collegiate Recovery Program at Sacred Heart University, was one of the panelists at the event.

"Gambling attracts college students for many reasons," said Dolan. "One, the brain is not fully developed so risk-taking behavior is more likely. I also think the competition, and social aspect of it is very attractive."

Dolan, who deals with this topic daily, thinks the media makes it harder for students to get away from the problems that can arise with sports gambling.

"I think the media and sports media in particular has created this 24/7 access to sports and live sports that increases betting globally," said Dolan.

Sacred Heart University's Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP) is looking to help students maintain an abstinence-based lifestyle while they thrive socially and academically.

Dolan wants to spread awareness to students who

may be struggling with this issue on campus.

"Students can come to the wellness center anytime to talk about gambling. The Director of Campus Wellness, James Geisler, has been so supportive on training his staff for warning signs of gambling," said Dolan. "If a student does read this and needs help, first and foremost I hope they know they are not alone and to come stop into the wellness center for a safe space and conversation."

Former Sacred Heart student, Liam Roecklein, was another panelist at the event. Roecklein is the Founder and CEO of Relentless Digital Media and former Senior Vice President of Content at PointsBet.

"Currently I am working as a digital media consultant, helping my clients build and execute content strategies, grow their organic audiences, and increase revenues," said Roecklein.

As a former employee of PointsBet, Roecklein has seen the betting industry grow and agrees that the media has played a role in how people access gambling.

"The media brings awareness of gambling opportunities and odds, pushes certain betting types like Same Game Parlays, and is actively changing the way sports are discussed in the United States," said Roecklein.

Sports betting is legal in 38 states, and for people who live in one of these states, it is very easy to access these betting sites. Roecklein said before accessing the site and making a bet, the person should make sure they are making a bet that is appropriate and not chasing a

past loss.

"Responsible gambling is legal gambling for entertainment purposes only, within spending limits, that are appropriate to an individual," said Roecklein.

The event was open to the public and students on campus. Junior Division 1 track and field athlete Jordan Greene attended the event to learn more about this topic as it is growing in the sports world.

"After hearing the panel break down the science of sports betting, I understand why there have been so many victims that have fallen to an addiction to it," said Greene.

With name, image, and likeness playing such a huge role in college sports these days, one thing Greene was interested in hearing is if this would have an impact on athletes falling into the trap of gambling the money they make.

"If someone is a more popular college athlete, they probably won't need to gamble because they are making a lot of money. But for an athlete who is not as popular, they may look to make some extra money and become addicted to it," said Greene.

With betting growing in sports, having speakers come to campus to speak on this topic can allow all to learn about what can come with sports betting.

"I loved the event. The panel did a great job explaining the sports betting industry and informing the crowd on the negative things that can come when sports betting," said Greene.

Women's Lacrosse Unveils 2023 NEC Championship Banner

BY MAURA CONWAY
Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team was honored for their 2023 Northeast Conference (NEC) championship win on March 30 with a banner reveal. A short ceremony to honor the women's achievement was held on Campus Field before their game against Delaware State University.

The banner reveal called the Pioneers to reflect on last season's victory as no current players have won an NEC championship. The players still remember the feeling of winning.

"Winning the title at home on Campus Field was one of the best feelings I have ever felt," said graduate student Emma Kittredge. "There are no words to explain the moment but emotional and overjoyed, and it is a moment I will never forget celebrating with the best team I have ever been a part of."

As a program, the women's lacrosse team had not won a championship in the last 10 years.

"We worked hard to get back into that spot, so it was really exciting to get back to the top again after so many

years of trying to get back there," said Head Coach Laura Korutz.

This will be the Pioneers last season in the NEC. They head to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference starting next season.

"The reveal was a special reminder to our current team to show what is left to be gained this year while also honoring last year's team," said Kittredge.

Junior Aidan Carlson says that being able to look up every day and see that banner at practice is a "motivator" to do it again this year.

"We have pride in this program, and the banner is a reminder of what hard work can accomplish, and I feel very proud to be a part of this program," said Carlson.



Josh Gee, Athletic Communications, Sacred Heart University

The New NEC championship banner being revealed on March 30.

Student Wins ESports EA FC Championship

BY MAURA CONWAY
Staff Writer

A Sacred Heart University (SHU) student won the EA FC Championship and an all-expenses paid trip to Premier League Fan Fest.

Graduate student Foster Abreu recently won at the ePremier league college invitational held at Sacred Heart University on March 23, clinching an all-expenses paid trip after securing a second-place finish in the EA FC championship. The event, held in collaboration with NBC Sports, Play VS, and the ePremier League, saw eight preliminary host venues nationwide, with SHU's AI Lab on West Campus serving as one of them.

During the March event, Foster Abreu displayed his skills in EA FC (formerly known as FIFA) alongside fellow college students from across the country. Foster's performance earned him the opportunity to compete in the EA FC championship held at the Premier League's fan fest in Nashville from April 6-7. Reflecting on his experience, Abreu said, "So basically we arrived around 5:00 and we were invited to a concert at the Sky Bar in Nashville and that was kind of our introduction to everyone working the event."

Despite facing stiff competition, Foster made his way to the finals, ultimately finishing second overall in the country. "I ended up making it to the finals which was played at the EA FC footprint which was a pop-up tent at the fan fest," Abreu said. "I ended up losing to the kid from UT Austin in the finals so I finished second overall in the country, but it was still an insane experience and I

made it further than I thought I would."

When asked about his preparation for the event, Foster shared that he approaches gaming as a hobby, playing his games a couple of times a day weekly until the event. "The rest of the weekend we were able to free roam the fan fest, so I watched some games live with the fans," Foster said, describing his time at the event. "Great experience and made it further than I thought."

"We had VIP access all weekend, so we had free food and free drinks, got to meet some former professional soccer players and also people that work for NBC sports," Abreu, highlighting the perks of attending the fan fest in Nashville.

Professor Andrew Miller highlighted the event held on March 23 and explained the significance of dedicated training and practice in esports competitions.

"Similar to preparing for any athletic competition, an esports competitor must practice extensively to achieve success in a national competition like this," Miller said.

Graduate student Mia Sansanelli reflected on the success of the March event and emphasized the importance of community engagement and preparation.

"I think the key to a successful esports event lies in the preparation and overall interest of your community," Sansanelli commended the efforts of the NBC Sports and Play VS faculty in organizing and executing the event.

"The NBC Sports and Play VS faculty did a great job branding and executing this event and it gave our esports program a good look at what we hope to achieve at our annual Connecticut Esports Showcase in April."

The journey from SHU's tournament to the national stage in Nashville underscores the growing prominence of

esports and the dedication of students like Foster Abreu. As esports continue to gain traction, events like these serve as platforms for displaying talent and fostering a sense of community among gaming enthusiasts across college campuses.



Contributed by Wilson Valois, MA '25

SHU student Foster Abreu holding up the regional championship trophy, which allowed him to cash in a ticket to Premier League Fan Fest in Nashville.

The Total Eclipse of the (Sacred) Heart

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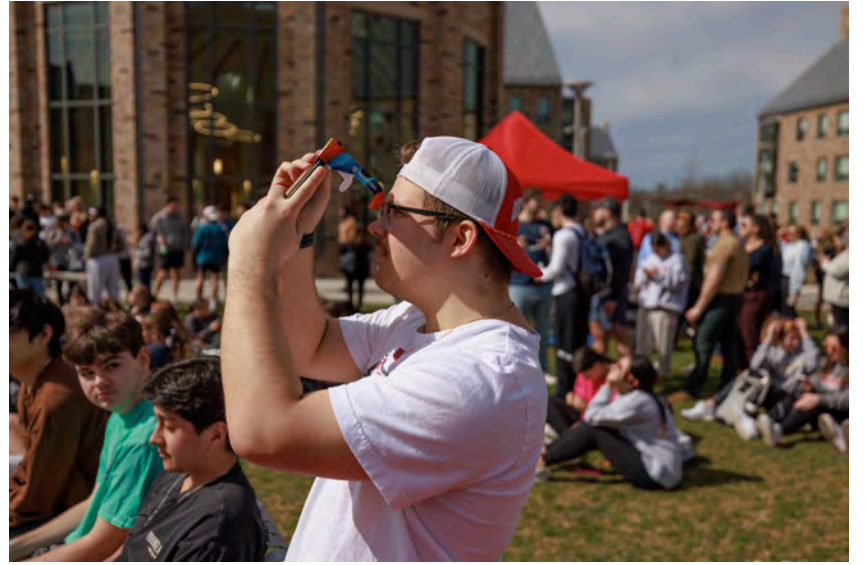
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