

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Students hold up signs during the Silent Protest, West Haven, Nov. 29, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Student body unites over advocacy for Palestine

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

Aiya Chahid stood on the edges of the university seal, surrounded by over 50 of her peers. Despite the wind filtering through the Maxcy Quad, the vice president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) echoed her voice across the crowded space, reminding those in attendance that “your voices matter,” and urged her fellow students to “use them.”

And that is exactly what a broad collection of University of New Haven students sought to do on Nov. 29. The MSA headed a protest in which student leaders across campus spoke up “calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and condemning the US compliance with the Israeli occupation of Palestine.”

Immediately upon the scheduled time of the protest, a sea of cardboard signs sharing messages such as “Free Palestine from the river to the sea,” “One Holocaust does not justify another” and “bombing kids is not self defense” flooded the quad, held up by the hands of

the student body.

Chahid said MSA is acting alongside Muslim student associations across the state in a joined effort to take a stand in support of and solidarity with the Palestinians and in doing such said that “every step we take is a step toward freedom for all who are screaming for help as the world does nothing.”

MSA president Youssef Osama spoke about the demands being made to the university’s administration. The next day, a longer version of the demands was posted to the organization’s Instagram account.

MSA is demanding three actions from the University of New Haven.

The first is an accountability for the vandalism committed to the posters placed across campus advertising the protest. The students are requesting a “public and formal acknowledgment” of the vandalism and said, according to the list of demands, that an acknowledgment would “demonstrate the university’s commitment to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment.”

The second request is either the addition of the Palestinian flag in the Bartels dining hall, or the removal of the Israeli one. This, said the MSA, would demonstrate the university’s acclaimed neutrality.

MSA’s final request, as outlined by Osama, is the appointment of a chaplain for Muslim students. This would, according to the demands, recognize “the importance of spiritual support, especially during challenging times.” The request extends to the addition of chaplains from multiple faiths to guide students with various religious backgrounds.

While this message was delivered to members of numerous student organizations who were amongst those partaking in the political stand, no members of university administration attended the event and have yet to acknowledge the protest or demands presented surrounding it.

Nathan Seifeet, associate professor of chemistry, was present at the gathering and he took to LinkedIn to share the experience.

Seifeet wrote that he discovered the protest as he took a break from his work Wednesday morning. “I think I was the only faculty member standing there, but all the same, I was deeply warmed by our students’ impassioned voices and their desire for peace and justice for those displaced in the world. I feel empowered by their voice; our university administration has taken a vow of silence on the matter, perhaps rationally so: it feels like it’s hard as an academic to stand up for what you believe in, in this matter.”

While MSA spearheaded the organization of the protest, collaboration between student advocates from numerous organizations created the speaker lineup.

The Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) had junior president Mason Smith and senior treasurer Annabelle Davis speak alongside their peers. Smith took to the podium to remind the crows that “today we stand united in our demand for justice.”

He then proceeded to delve into the lives of Palestinian

children, who statistically make up the majority of the population of the Gaza strip, which he noted is one of the most densely populated areas of the world. He spoke of their parents, who dreamed about the futures of their children, calling this “a future stolen by senseless and needless violence.”

Davis highlighted the solidarity among the student population around this movement. She also spoke about the role of the United States in the international crisis, and said that “our country is complicit in the perpetuation of this crisis.”

Other groups whose members spoke in support included the NAACP and Pride. Both organizations’ presidents spoke on behalf of their respective groups.

Senior Destiny Ray spoke as a queer member of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, and shared how she understood the threat of cultural erasure: “It makes me angry that there are people that can’t see [the problem].”

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A rise in discrimination across U.S. colleges amid Israel-Hamas war

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Colleges throughout the United States have launched federal investigations with the Department of Education (DOE) since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7. The schools with investigations include Cornell University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Lafayette College, Wellesley College and Harvard University.

The pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli debates across these schools have transformed into reports of physical alterations between students, instances of antisemitism and Islamophobia and deactivation of student groups.

The investigations were launched under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which allows universities and K-12 schools to provide all students with an environment free from discrimination.

The DOE updated their discrimination complaint

form that includes Title VI's protection from discrimination based on race, color or national origin now extends to students who are Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or other ethnic and religious characteristics.

"Hate has no place in our schools, period. When students are targeted because they are—or are perceived to be—Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Sikh, or any other ethnicity or shared ancestry, schools must act to ensure safe and inclusive educational environments where everyone is free to learn," the DOE secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement from the DOE.

At the University of New Haven, there are over 200 Recognized Student Organizations (RSO), including the Muslim Student Association (MSA). This organization is led by Youssef Ossama, MSA president and senior marketing major.

Ossama said the goal of MSA is to "build community within the Muslim community here on campus as well

as non-Muslims...spread the positive side of Islam to the campus community."

The ongoing Israel-Hamas war has led to MSA holding silent protests, raising awareness and money for civilians affected by the war.

When asked about the war, Ossama said, "As MSA president, I completely support Palestinian civilians as well as Israeli civilians, both of them, and I don't like seeing anyone being put in the situations that these people are being put into, it brings me to tears. Whether they're Muslim, Christian, Jewish." Ossama also said, "it doesn't matter where they come from, what the color of the skin is. At the end of the day I can hold a government accountable at the same time just because I support the people does not mean I support the government."

MSA has experienced their own discrimination on campus, relating to flyers they put up around campus last month. Ossama said, "Someone vandalized the

flyers; the flyers were written all over. They removed the word 'Palestinian' and wrote 'we stand with Israel' instead of 'we stand with Palestine.' They put the Star of David all over the flyer."

"This was brought to the Dean of Students Office as a formal report. We've talked to them in person as well as sent them pictures of the said vandalized posters. It's been two weeks since the last time we've sent them flyers and there has been no action taken whatsoever and no investigation to see who did it," Ossama said.

On Nov. 30, MSA released three demands on their Instagram page for administration to help support their organization and provide members of MSA with support.

The first ask is an "accountability for vandalism, we request that the University of New Haven administration take swift action and holding accountable the students responsible for the vandalism of our approved Flyers in support of the Palestinian

people during these difficult times."

The second ask is "either the addition of the Palestinian flag or removing the Israeli flag from the Bartels dining hall" in compliance with the university's stance of neutrality.

The third ask is "to hire a chaplain for Muslim students. Additionally, we advocate for appointing chaplains representing respective faiths to support and guide students from various religious backgrounds."

Not only are these demands important to Ossama and MSA members, Ossama has one last ask for administration: "Just supporting students," Ossama said.

"If someone like President Z showed up to a meeting it would show a lot of support and show that as the President, he stands with us as RSOs. At the end of the day, we are students, we are not like getting paid to lead these RSOs. We're students like everyone else, it would just feel good," Ossama said.

United Nations holds annual climate change conference in Dubai

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference started on Nov. 30 in the United Arab Emirates. It is also known as COP28 (Conference of the Parties) and it is the 28th year that these parties have met. The parties included are part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The mission of the conference that ranges from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 is to discuss different ways to lessen climate change in the next few years. It is a chance for over 160 world leaders, scientists and environmental advocates to establish policies on a global scale and assess each country's progress.

The summit rotates who hosts the conference through different parts of the world each year and this year the United Arab Emirates got the bid to host.

The president-designate of the conference is Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, who also serves as CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. His job is to coordinate the summit and keep the final agreement on track.

United States Pres. Joe Biden is not attending the conference this year and will have Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry stepping in for him.

Three climate change reports have been released prior to the conference. The U.S.-based Fifth National Climate Assessment and global assessments include the UN Climate Change progress report and the 2023 State of Climate Action report.

The Fifth National Climate Assessment is issued by the U.S. every five years. In the report, they found that climate change is "making it harder to main-

tain safe homes and healthy families; reliable public services; a sustainable economy; thriving ecosystems, cultures, and traditions; and strong communities. Many of the extreme events and harmful impacts that people are already experiencing will worsen as warming increases and new risks emerge."

The State of Climate Action report found that "global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C are failing across the board, with recent progress made on every indicator — except electric passenger car sales — lagging significantly behind the pace and scale that is necessary to address the climate crisis."

The UN Climate Change report showed that "national climate action plans remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement."

"Today's report shows that governments combined are taking baby steps to avert the climate crisis. And it shows why governments must make bold strides forward at COP28 in Dubai, to get on track," said the Executive-Secretary of UN Climate Change, Simon Stiell in a statement after the report was released. "This means COP28 must be a clear turning point. Governments must not only agree what stronger climate actions will be taken but also start showing exactly how to deliver them."

In Connecticut, efforts have been made to develop and support forward-thinking climate-related policies and legislation, as well as participate in groundbreaking regional initiatives. Some programs included in the state's efforts to combat climate change include the Electric Vehicle Roadmap and GreenerGovCT.

The Electric Vehicle

Roadmap outlines pathways to achieve wide-scale deployment of electric vehicles. This roadmap complements existing transportation-sector strategies to drive reductions in harmful criteria pollutants, help the state meet federal health-based air quality standards and mitigate communities' exposure to mobile air source toxicants.

The GreenerGovCT initiative has each Connecticut state agency developing a Sustainability Performance Plan that lists the necessary actions, milestones and responsible parties to achieve the sustainability goals and targets set by Executive Order 1.

From the global to state level, climate change continues to get addressed and more action plans reports are establishing what needs to be changed to prevent more increases of global warming.

Charger K-pop Dance Crew serve up moves at winter showcase

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

On a night in early December, the Charger K-pop Dance Crew (CKDC) held their first big event since their founding in February, their Winter Showcase.

Despite a 30-minute delay to the start of the performance, people were still excited to see dance performances, as evidenced by the large number of people at Bucknall Theater and the cheering throughout the night.

In an introduction to the evening, Julia Inacio, the crew's vice president and junior criminal justice major, said, "We are a newer [Recognized Student Organization], so we want to show you guys a little bit of what we have."

While she spoke, crew members dressed all in black lined up by the rows of chairs in the theater. After Inacio's speech, music began and more crew members came onto the stage and began to dance.

Onstage, six people lined up, swerving out of the line to give well-coordinated moves. Soon afterward, the rest of CKDC came out to dance, each dancer moving quickly and efficiently.

The next performance came

from a dance organization that started this semester, the Tropixx Dance Collective. Tropixx dancers wore blue t-shirts with their organization's name on them. They danced the coca to Afro-Caribbean-style music and midway through, they went into pairs to dance with slow yet calculated hip movements.

Up next was another performance from CKDC that had a Hollywood Western theme, as described by Inacio and evidenced by one of the four dancers on stage wearing a bandana. When the music grew faster and more intense, the dancers matched that tempo by giving quick movements to each beat. Soon, more dancers came out, many of them wearing cowboy hats and a swagger in their smooth entrance.

A technical difficulty tripped up the dancers, but that did not stop them from jumping back in with the on-beat clapping from the audience to support them.

The story told through dance was the "cowboys" on stage getting into a fight, leading to more intense dancing.

Up next were performers who used high school as a theme. The first one of these was a recreation of the "Jingle Bell Rock" dance



Students perform in the Bucknall Theater, Orange, Dec. 2, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Presley DePugh.

from the film "Mean Girls," with each dancer recreating each move perfectly. When the music "malfunctions" as it did during the film's dance scene, it remixes into a different song and the dancers gave hand-based performances while moving around the stage.

After a 10-minute intermission, CKDC members danced, according to Inacio, a "sexier concept" inspired by the Miss Majorettes, another dance organization on campus. The performance began with one person sitting in a chair with others lined up in front of her, all of them wearing black. As

the dancers moved closer to the chair, the seated dancer stood up and moved toward the middle to kick off the dance.

The next performance had a group of five people, one of them wearing a cheer uniform while the rest wore sports jerseys and bunny ears that are reminiscent of "Space Jam." There were many leg sweeps throughout the performance along with collaborative moves.

Another guest dance group, Incendio Dance Project, involved four pairs of dancers wearing sparkly black tops and black leggings with one

in each pairing either wearing sneakers or sparkly heels. Everyone danced with their partner and smiled throughout the quick movements of their feet and occasional twirls.

To end the night, CKDC began with a few members wearing pink and sparkly clothing. They stood in their respective locations for a while but gave quick moves that were full of energy.

At the end was a gathering of all the CKDC members wearing vibrant clothing and performing the same moves, creating something reminiscent of a well-coordinated dance party.

Student body unites over advocacy for Palestine

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

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Senior Sadara Funches spoke about the wide array of actions that fied as advocacy toward human rights causes, and highlighted the efforts being across the U.S. that "silence and complacency is a luxury we cannot afford."

MSA leadership's advocacy continued further through graduate student Mafiz Shaikh, their community outreach coordinator, said that "we need to be louder than ever," and posed questions on the understanding of those resisting support of Palestine: "Do we need a history lesson to know that what is going on is wrong?"

The collective of unified students maintained their strength in numbers by the end of the event, at which point the quad remained equally as full as the commencement of the protest.



Aiya Chahid speaks to the crowd, West Haven, Nov. 29, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

CMBI socializing and networking event kicks off program for Spring semester

BY ALEXIS DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

The Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program hosted the university's first annual socializing and networking event.

Sponsored by the university's College of Arts and Sciences and the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, this event was a three hour event with the purpose to give students a chance to network with university alumni who have gone on to successful careers in the science field.

Before introducing the alumni, there were opening remarks from Dr. Ali Senejani, a professor in the Biology and Environmental Science department, as well as Dr. Eva Sapi, professor and coordinator of cellular and molecular biology. Senejani spoke about the start of the CMBI graduate program's beginnings, saying that "we had our first set of students back in 1990, a class of four students, all being first-years."

"I was the only instructor at this time," said Sapi. "For most of that first semester, but I was able to successfully show that the students were developing really good skills, and it had brought in other students as well, after another two years of this program being a part-time, we gained the ability to go full-time."

"We built this program around what the pharmaceutical and biotech industries are looking for, what is most important. When you go into this program, you are preparing for both of those fields, gaining experience," Sapi said. "A lot of our students who joined us in getting into the field go on to do things in pharmacology or go on and do work towards their PhD."

When asked about what motivated the creation of the program, Senejani said, "Just like when Alan Turing created the computer, when you create something that only benefits you sure, you will make a lot of money, but you would be leaving a



Attendees of the CMBI networking event, West Haven, Nov. 30, 2023.
Photo courtesy of @cmbi_unewhaven on Instagram.

lot on the table for potential to change the world."

"This degree will enable you to do things that you had never done before," said Senejani.

After the welcoming speeches, the audience was encouraged to play a game of bingo with their tablemates that included questions for them to get to know one another. These questions included ones about favorite kinds of pets, music tastes, where the students are from, among others. Prizes included free shirts and chocolates for the winning tables.

Afterward, there was pizza brought to the audience along with an introduction to university alumni.

Before allowing current students to ask questions to alumni, the doctors guided the audience through several questions on how to network with professionals. They brought up questions such as "what is a day in your life like [at] work?," or "what are your most and least favorite things about working in your position?," or even asking for advice, which the audience opted for.

The biggest piece of

advice the graduates gave to the students was to "get an internship or work-study

earlier in the college career, make those connections early, so that way you can

form relationships and have a success plan for after graduation."

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Unveiling the club behind the sticky notes

BY JEIRY DE LA CRUZ &
PRESLEY DEPUGH

Campus is scattered with sticky notes covered in quotes that seek to be inspiring and words intended to encourage students passing by their message. Typically unsigned, the source of these infamous appearances on campus is often overlooked. This initiative is part of the greater vision of Happy UNew Haven, a club that has only been on campus for five years.

Most people find the notes to be goofy or sweet, but behind them stands the aims to fulfill a more serious purpose.

Happy UNew Haven was founded in 2018 by Mary Lippa, a university alumna, when she was in her first year.

Not only does the organization regularly put sticky notes around campus, but they also upload pictures of the notes on their Instagram, @happyunehaven. A post from Nov. 2 has various pictures of the notes, one on a lamppost by Marvin K. Peterson Library says, “You got this. Keep on truckin,” while another says “Be kind to your mind.”

Senior Jonah Junga, Happy UNew Haven president, said the creation and posting of these sticky notes “is one of the ways that we try to connect to the campus community.”

Happy UNew Haven is an organization with the mission of “spreading awareness and destigmatizing mental health issues that people might be afraid to talk about,” said Junga.

Students may feel that mental health resources are lacking at the university, so club members say they hope that the short notes can act as a personal encouragement and help individuals feel safe.

Happy UNew Haven’s attitude, according to Junga, is known for being “laid back” with most of their meetings including presentations about different men-



Happy UNew Haven meeting in Westside Hall, West Haven, Nov. 30, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

tal health issues and topics. The presentations are meant to help people understand and recognize different issues, some of which might be new to them.

Members have their own reasons for joining but usually they share a motive. Junga said that he joined the club last year because mental health is something that affects everyone he knows. When he heard about Happy UNew Haven from Lippa, he said he wanted to “be a part of” mental health advocacy on campus.

The organization strives to create a safe space for the community and inspire the community to talk about mental health. “We welcome everyone with open arms and we just want to create a calm place,” said Quinny Blaiberg, vice president of Happy UNew Haven.

Blaiberg said they joined because Lippa “provided a very safe space for me.”

Blaiberg also said it felt as if the club is continuing Lippa’s legacy and what she worked for during her time in the university. The organization wants to empower

students to talk about mental health, as resources on this topic are things students may be lacking.

“I think this campus, even though [Counseling and Psychological Services], is a very great resource here on campus, doesn’t do a lot

for its students regarding mental health,” said Blaiberg. “I think if there are more student voices and more student voices that advocate for that, we may be able to make that change.”

If you were a UNH student enrolled in any UNH course as of March 24, 2020 (other than a non-matriculated high school student) and you did not opt out of the Settlement of Krystian Wnorowski, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated v. University of New Haven, Case No. 3:20-cv-1589 (D. Conn.), you will receive the one-time \$200 Non-Cash Tuition Credit described in the Settlement if you enroll or have enrolled in a UNH course commencing in September 2023 or later. Go to www.unehavensettlement.com for more information.

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Practicing gratitude this holiday season

BY SHEAHON ZENGER
Interim President

Gratitude is the most powerful quality a person can embrace daily.

Over a decade of research by Dr. Robert Emmons and other leading scientific experts on gratitude has revealed that gratitude blocks negative emotions that can be detrimental to health and happiness, such as envy, resentment, regret, worry, self-criticism and uncertainty. You can't embody these harmful emotions when you're feeling grateful. Purge these attitudes from your life, and you will live, as one of my favorite thought leaders Matthew Kelly states, "a life uncommon."

As Kelly describes, the realization that we can choose how to show up in the world and define our own experience, although intimidating, is ultimately liberating, "because we can now begin to choose what we will find when we look

at our life in the tomorrows that lie un-lived before us."

While I agree it's important to look ahead, gratitude is also about remaining grounded in the present moment and counting your blessings — even during difficult times. I try to always remember two things. First, I've got a lot, and a lot more than most. Second, never underestimate how powerful it can be to share and to give back to your community.

What I enjoy most about my life, both personally and professionally, is the people. Let's face it — the whole human condition revolves around whether you can connect with others and form relationships. As Martin Luther King famously advised, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Nelson Mandela shared a similar idea from a slightly different perspective, stating, "It is what we make out of what we have given, not what we are

given, that separates one person from another."

So, I hope you'll join me at the end of a busy first semester to carve out some time for yourself and get quiet — even if it's only a couple of minutes — and think about how you can intentionally practice gratitude this holiday season, shining that light on yourself and on those around

you.

What are you most grateful for? How do you find it most meaningful to give back? Email me at officeofthepresident@newhaven.edu.

Wishing you and your friends and family a happy and healthy holiday season. Sincerely,

Dr. Z



Snow falling on campus, West Haven, Jan. 22, 2023.
Photo courtesy of @unewhaven on Instagram.

People pleasing is not something to strive for

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

For the longest time, I have been going through life trying to get as many people to like me as possible. It made me feel as though I was progressing as a person and that I was on the right track in life whenever I walked through a hallway and saw people I knew who waved back.

I constantly made good-hearted jokes about people close to me, which made people laugh. I figured that if I were always at 100% with my humor and clownishness, then everyone would like me. I even turned some of my vulnerabilities and insecurities into jokes, which led to more laughter.

But some of my jokes wouldn't land and it began to hurt my self-worth.

However, this was only with a few people.

In a room of 10 people who laughed at my jokes, it would irk me that one or two people wouldn't join in. Or those couple of people would look shocked or make weird faces at my joke. It made me think that those couple of people did not like me and I still think that.

Despite having to put work and school first, when people stop laughing at your jokes and paying you compliments, your insecurities creep up and your mind will gravitate to those things instead of your tasks at hand.

It was not just the people who would not laugh at my jokes that bothered me. I would think about all the times that people made plans right in front of me to go places or do things,

but not invite me. Or if I invited myself and was either politely denied or just ignored when going. I would think about whenever I had a crush on someone, I counted the calories of what I ate, worked out harder than usual and criticized my haphazard make-up job to cover the acne scars that guys wouldn't find attractive.

After a while, I became quiet and isolated.

That did not help me.

I decided to go back to telling jokes, but instead of trying to amuse others, it would only be jokes that made me laugh. I still worked out, put makeup on and dressed pretty, but I would not try to overexert energy on my looks.

Instead of being sad, I became frustrated, always thinking why don't they like me? That frustration

told me to not be quiet and sad, but instead to ignore those who ignored me.

Whoever did not laugh, did not laugh. And I didn't care.

For people out there who think that they need to be either quiet or loud enough, skinny enough, pretty enough or smile enough to please others on the off chance that they like you back, do not give into those thoughts or those people.

As long as you are not harming anyone, keep doing what you have been doing, especially if you are already happy. Having everyone in the room look at you and smile does not matter, especially if you have to tear yourself down and reconstruct a watered-down yet palatable version of yourself.

Campus Military Veterans talk about community outreach

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

Inside the Beckerman Recreation Center, there is a box where students and staff can donate small and large children's toys for kids in the area. This is part of Toys for Tots, hosted by the Marine Corps, and there are boxes around campus with the help of the university's VA Work Study Program.

Vinny Franco, student veterans outreach coordinator of the university's VA Work Study Program and junior legal studies major, said, "The [VA Work Study Program] this year decided that we wanted to get involved, so the department basically asked the Marine Corps if we could be a spot to collect. And then from there we just started getting more involved with it."

Franco said that he was a Marine and the group being part of the local community through this donation initiative was "awesome" and that he still has "a lot of pride towards the organization."

Franco also said, "Even though I'm not uniform anymore, I'm still very proud of being a Marine, so I decided that I can still help my community and be associated a little bit with the Marine Corps."

Joshua Wyskiewicz, mem-

ber of the VA Work Study Program and junior homeland security major, helped Franco coordinate the donation initiative on campus. Wyskiewicz said he was surprised at the support this initiative has been receiving.

"Everybody's been supporting, it's just been way more than I think many or I have been expecting," said Wyskiewicz.

Wyskiewicz also said the boxes on campus received between 50 – 100 toys.

Franco said this was pleasantly unexpected because "when ever you see these boxes [at] Walmart or something like that, there will be like four or five toys thrown into it. And right now, the university is absolutely crushing it, so it's exciting to see."

Franco also said it was meaningful to see so many university students donating toys, which will be given to children in towns such as West Haven, New Haven and Bridgeport.

"We just really didn't want children in our community on these holidays [to wake] up to nothing," said Franco. "Giving back to my community is something that I always love to do."

Franco and Wyskiewicz said another community outreach initiative is a Military Appreciation Night scheduled for

7 p.m. Jan. 6 at Bridgeport's Total Mortgage Arena.

"A large amount of the veterans on campus [will be] the ones that are actually going to be unfolding the flag," said Wyskiewicz. "They also are doing a special deal with

us on selling the university tickets to other veterans and whoever else wants to come at a highly discounted price, and we're going to all sit in one section of the arena all together. Then they're going to give us shout-outs and stuff

like that."

There is a link for anyone to purchase tickets at \$18 to go to the game and support fellow military veterans.

For the Toys for Tots donations, you can donate toys until Dec. 10.



Military and Veterans Office collecting toys in the Rec, West Haven, Dec. 1, 2023.
Photo courtesy of University of New Haven Work Study Program.

Employment opportunities for university students

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

With the fall 2023 semester ending, students are gearing up to build semester schedules and looking for internships or on-campus jobs.

There are a variety of student jobs for next semester and next year.

Orientation and Transition Leader (OTL)

Students who want to take on a mentor role for incoming first year and transfer students should consider becoming an OTL for the Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) in the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation. This position entails leading groups of incoming students on four dates between June 10 and July 20, 2024, with some

dates from mid-August to Oct. 27. OTLs also assist with events such as Charge In, Welcome Week and Family Day during the fall semester. Compensation includes a \$3,000 stipend, meals and on-campus housing for OTLs and being permitted to move into your fall housing in early August if you are a residential student.

Information sessions will be held in the Alumni Lounge:

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 7

12 to 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 19

7 to 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 23

Applications, which are due Feb. 2, are on Charger Connection.

Resident Assistant (RA)

Students interested in taking on a year-round leadership role can apply for the 2024 – 2025 RA position out

of the Office of Residential Life. This entails living in and interacting with and leading students in a residence hall section. Other responsibilities include hosting programs in your residence hall, being available to your residential community during resource hours and completing administrative tasks.

The last information session will take place 8-9 p.m. on Dec. 6 in Westside Hall's first floor lounge. The application, due Dec. 10, can be found on MyHousing.

President's Public Service Fellowship

Students who want to be paid while working for a local nonprofit organization can apply for the President's Public Service Fellowship out of the Dean of Students Office. Students who apply and are accepted into the

highly selective program are paid to spend 11 weeks over the summer as leaders in New Haven nonprofits. This position involves doing public service work, attending educational and career workshops, having one-on-one meetings with your coordinator and writing a weekly reflection paper.

The next information session will be on Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Moulton Lounge. All questions can be directed to Ric Baker at rbaker@newhaven.edu.

Student Game Day Worker

Students who are interested in the university's athletics and want to get a behind-the-scenes look at games next year can apply to be a Student Game Day Worker in the university's Charger Athletics office. According to the description on Charger

Link, this job involves attending sports games to help set up and take down video and audio equipment, assist with ticketing and game attendance and help maintain statistics among other duties assigned by the associate director of athletics for internal operations, coordinator for internal operations or associate director of athletics for strategic communications. This 20-hour-a-week position is open to current students. The job application is due April 30, 2024. The pay for this position is not yet available.

If you are looking for leadership and employment opportunities, refer to the above list or check out options on Charger Connection and ChargerLink.

Women's basketball drops close home game 65-60 against SNHU

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

The New Haven women's basketball team took the court for their second home game of the season on Saturday, Dec. 2, dropping a close game 65-60 to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

Junior guard Charlotte Bassett contributed a career-high 12 points, one of two players reaching double-digits during the game. Forward Lindsay Hogan finished with a team-high 19 points in the match up against the Penmen.

Bassett led the duo, shooting five for seven from the field. She also grabbed five rebounds, added an assist and tallied two steals. Hogan connected on six of her 10 shots from the field, making all four of her free throws. Both players were also perfect

from beyond the three-point arc. All eight players who saw game time added at least two points, as senior guard Gabrielle Stickle and junior forward Bianca Pendleton followed Bassett and Hogan in scoring, each putting up six points.

The Chargers finished the game shooting 36.8% from the field, making 21-of-57 attempts, with seven of those coming from outside the three-point arc. New Haven also shot well from the free throw line, finishing 11-of-14.

The score remained close throughout the entirety of the match. New Haven was just two points behind at the end of the first quarter trailing 15-13. The second quarter resulted in a similar score, with the Chargers putting up 12 against the Penmen's 15, ending the first half with a

score of 30-25.

Taking the court after halftime, New Haven did everything they could to keep up with SNHU. The Chargers were able to put up 14 points in the third quarter, just one point behind the opponent's 15. The fourth quarter was the only quarter where the Chargers were able to lead in points scored, putting 21 points on the board to SNHU's 20. The Chargers last-minute push was not enough to take the lead and the game ended with New Haven just five points behind the Penmen.

New Haven ended with 41 rebounds on the night, surpassing SNHU's 23. 18 of the 41 rebounds came during offensive possessions. The Chargers also managed 12 second chance points off of



Gabby Stickle drives to the hoop against SNHU, West Haven, Dec. 2, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

their 18 offensive boards. Hogan led the way on the rebounds for New Haven, finishing with eight. Following Hogan was graduate forward Aurora Deshaies, adding five. The Chargers now have a 2-4 overall record and are 0-4 in the Northeast-10 confer-

ence. After a four-game losing streak, New Haven will look to get back in the win column against Adelphi at home on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The tip-off will take place at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Volleyball season ends after quarterfinals loss against Mercy

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

After winning the Northeast-10 conference championship, New Haven was unable to advance in the NCAA Division II East Region tournament after losing to Mercy College in the quarterfinal round. The game ended in four sets with a score of 3-1, as the Chargers finished their 2023 season with a record of 23-10.

Mercy took the first set of the night by a score of 25-17. The set began back-and-forth, as both teams traded opening points. The first point of the night was scored by outside hitter Macy Brown with her first of 11 kills for the match. The score remained close throughout the beginning of

the set, but Mercy took the lead after a 7-2 run that resulted in a 13-8 set score. After the run, New Haven called a timeout to regroup and then began to come back with kills from Brown and middle blocker Kylie Reynolds-Martin.

However, this was not enough to take the lead; Mercy jumped out to a 1-0 lead. After losing the opening set, Reynolds-Martin put New Haven on the board with one of her 11 kills. The Chargers kept a two-point lead before increasing their lead with a 4-1 run that featured kills from opposite side Peyton Mast and outside hitter Grace Juergens. The second set ended in a victory for the Chargers, 25-20, tying the match

at one.

The pressure was on for New Haven going into the third set. Mercy took a quick lead and went on a 7-2 run before the Chargers called a timeout. After the break, New Haven tied the score at seven.

Continuing to step on the gas, the Chargers took the lead in the middle of the set after kills from Brown, Reynolds-Martin and middle blocker Amihan Johnson. Mercy recovered the lead after a 5-0 run and forced yet another New Haven timeout. The damage was already done as the Chargers were unable to regain the lead, with the set ending 25-20 in favor of Mercy.

Trailing by one with Mercy just one set victory away from the semifinals, it was now or never for the Chargers going into the fourth set of the match. Reynolds-Martin put up the first point with a kill but Mercy reciprocated with two points. After going back-and-forth, New Haven stretched their lead in the middle of the set with a 4-0 run that resulted in a Mercy timeout. The timeout seemed to work for Mercy, as they went on a 5-2 run that took the lead and forced a timeout from the Chargers. Mercy closed the fourth set with a 4-0 run and ended with a 25-20 score that closed the Chargers' 2023 season.


Leading the Chargers in kills was Juergens with 14 and setter Michelle Henwood added 44 assists in her final

collegiate match. More information about the team and the program can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



Members of the New Haven volleyball team, West Haven, Nov. 11, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

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