

TheCharger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 111, Issue 14 | February 13, 2024 | West Haven, Connecticut



President Jens Frederiksen poses for his headshot, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2024.
Photo courtesy of University of New Haven.

University announces Jens Frederiksen as new president

BY TYLER WELLS
Publisher

On Monday, the University of New Haven announced Jens Frederiksen as the seventh president in university history. Frederiksen will formally take over the role at the end of the academic year, according to an announcement from Mike Ambrose and the presidential search committee. Meanwhile, he will start working with the university's community and stakeholders effective immediately.

President-elect

Frederiksen comes to New Haven from Fisk University, where he was executive vice president for institutional advancement and enrollment management. While there, he oversaw raising \$110 million and helped "spearhead the John Lewis Center for Social Justice and launch Fisk's Business Incubation and Innovation Center," said Ambrose.

"I know Dr. Frederiksen is excited to work with the board and the entire Charger community," Ambrose, who is also vice chair of the university's Board of

Governors, said in the email. "Please join me in congratulating him on earning this richly deserved opportunity."

Frederiksen, a native of Denmark, studied at Vanderbilt University where he earned four bachelor's degrees in political science, history, economics and philosophy, a master's degree in interdisciplinary social and political thought and a Ph. D in contemporary political theory and comparative politics. He has also served as a professor at Vanderbilt, Fisk and the University of the South, according

to the announcement.

This semester, Frederiksen will work with current interim-President Sheahon Zenger to acclimate to the university community. According to the email, students and faculty will also have opportunities to meet Frederiksen this spring.

"On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheahon Zenger for the steadying leadership he provided as interim president over the last 20 months," Ambrose wrote.

Monday's announce-

ment concludes the search led by a constituency of Board members, faculty, staff, students and alumni that began last summer and led to several in-person interviews held earlier this month. The university also worked with WittKieffer, an external search company. Instead of a list of final candidates, the university community was given only updates on the process, that a list had been made and the search committee was moving forward with interviews.

This is a developing story.

Florida bans DEI funding at public universities

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Last month, Florida's Board of Governors and Department of Education (FDOE) voted to have diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs banned at public universities that use federal or state spending to fund the programs. This new rule affects 28 schools in Florida, including The University of Florida, Florida State University and Florida International University.

In a press release, Florida Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz Jr. said, "These actions today ensure that we will not spend taxpayers' money supporting DEI and radical indoctrination that promotes division in our society."

Diversity, equity and inclusion programs and policies help support people of different backgrounds and encourage multiculturalism. According to

a Compass journals, DEI programs and policies help combat inequality throughout society. The rule is now aligned with legislation Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed in May 2023 to defund DEI programs at public colleges.

The Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion assists the university in promoting cultural diversity, awareness and sensitivity throughout the community. The center provides programs, services and activities that promote cultural identity and understanding within a multicultural environment.

According to their website, core values of the center include "connection, belonging, inclusivity, equity, acceptance, and accountability." They hope to provide an environment where students "who are different on many levels, including ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender, military status, religious belief, and life

experiences," feel supported.

The Myatt Center is headed by director Samuel Ortiz, who is in his first year in the position.

"We have this focus on supporting underrepresented students, but we want everyone to be a part of that," said Ortiz. "We want everyone to learn and grow together, and we really can't have an inclusive campus environment if we're ignoring, like, half the student population."

Regarding Florida's ban on DEI programs like the Myatt Center, Ortiz said, "it's essentially going to create a one-size-fits-all type of engagement." He uses the analogy of giving everyone the same shoe, describing it as "treating everyone exactly the same, but if I do that, a bunch of that group isn't going to have shoes that actually fit them."

"In places like Florida, they are saying, 'No, you have to

give everyone the exact same thing regardless of history, regardless of any discrimination, any racism, any prejudice that has existed and still does exist," said Ortiz. "'We're going to pretend like none of that happened or is happening and we're just going to treat everyone equally.'"

One reason Florida banned DEI across state universities was to have its higher education "return to its essential foundations of academic integrity and the pursuit of knowledge instead of being corrupted by destructive ideologies," said Diaz in a press release.

To that, Ortiz said, "I think that's a really misguided way of looking at success...when students are engaged, when they feel like they belong and they are more likely to be retained, they are more likely to do better academically and more likely to have less mental health struggles. Those are real impacts."

"Taking away funding for DEI programs doesn't just hurt underrepresented people, it hurts everyone involved," said Ortiz. "College environments are less effective and impactful when everyone's the same, so when you start, whether intentionally or unintentionally, weeding out people of color, LGBTQ people, you start losing that diversity of backgrounds of lived experiences."

Other states like Wisconsin and Oklahoma are joining Florida in cutting back DEI initiatives or governors have signed orders to defund DEI in public colleges. According to The Chronicle's DEI Legislation Tracker, such states claim these programs take away valuable financial resources and don't provide much impact.

Ortiz disagrees.

"Diversity is just a win-win for everybody and the pushback and or lack of diversity is really a selfish one," said Ortiz.

Big Tech companies continue to lay off employees

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Over 100 Big Tech companies such as Google, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft and TikTok have collectively cut around 35,000 employees already this year, according to Layoffs.fyi. In 2023, 262,735 employees were laid off.

These companies are financially at the top of their game. According to the New York Times, they generated \$1.63 trillion in sales in their most recent fiscal years, about 81% more revenue than five years earlier. Over the past year, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Apple have gained nearly \$3.5 trillion in market value.

The pandemic and artificial intelligence (AI) have played major roles in the job cuts in companies that seem to be doing primarily well at a financial state.

At New Haven, the computer science program is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations

(CAE-CO) by the National Security Agency, according to their website.

Computer science program coordinator and associate professor, Dr. Medhi Mekni said, "Our program, computer science, is the largest undergraduate program in the College of Engineering."

Mekni has worked in software engineering for more than 15 years and he has worked as a software developer for the financial technology industry, the gaming industry and governmental industry. He started his academic career in 2012 and joined the university in 2020.

Regarding Big Tech job cuts, Mekni said, "It's not surprising by the way they happened in the past and they will happen in the future."

There are three factors that cause companies to lay off their employees in the first place, said Mekni. Some companies need to restructure, which means "they undergo kind of organizational changes, merging units, splitting units and

that," he said.

The second factor could be a shift in business priorities or business focus.

"Companies when they grow, they explore different paths...when those products do not meet those anticipated or expected goals or objectives they usually are abandoned, and more focus is put on what is actually generating those profits," said Mekni.

The third factor relates to the tech sector.

Mekni said, "We use more and more automation in the way we develop software and we operate

softwares. You know, we used to need a lot of people to maintain platforms to take care of the infrastructure, networking, security software, developments, maintenance, evolution and so on. Those profiles are disappearing nowadays."

AI has also impacted the tech sector, according to Mekni.

"I think AI is there to deal with," said Mekni. "It's not an option anymore, it's not a choice we don't have, unfortunately, the luxury to say should we go AI or not. Anyone who will resist AI will basically follow the

path of Nokia when touch screens on phones arrived."

Nokia did not take that shift to touch screens like Apple and BlackBerry and they "have disappeared, literally, as a company," he said.

The introduction of AI to Big Tech companies will cause loss of jobs of "low quality that require human intervention, but it will also open up opportunity for jobs with high caliber, high quality employees coming from the computing and the tech, basically educational programs and industry in general," said Mekni.

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 Whorowski, 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.unnewhavensettlement.com for more information.

Chief Justice sparks inspiration on second visit to campus

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

Bias is a growing issue in the legal system, Conn. Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson said last week to a packed Bucknall Theater.

In fact, Robinson said the initial impression and implicit bias of a plaintiff in the courtroom is “one of the most critical points in the process” of seeking to serve justice.

Robinson worked in lower courts across the state until he was appointed to the appellate court in 2007 and eventually became a justice on the state Supreme Court in 2013. He was named chief justice in 2018, the first Black person in the position.

At the midpoint of his presentation, Robinson formally defined bias as

“the human trait resulting in our tendency and need to classify things,” though throughout earlier parts of his speech Robinson worked toward building to this definition through illustration.

Robinson alluded to the words of his close colleague Steven Gonzalez, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Washington state, who said that “just because something has been politicized does not mean it is political.”

Robinson talked about the power of socio-political events to shift the conversation around bias and said that 25 State Supreme Courts (or their Chief Justices) “publicly said – for the first time that I know about – that there is a problem with our judicial system” following the death of George Floyd in 2020.

In a poll taken among people who attended Robinson’s speech, 66% said that justice should be blind and 34% said it should not.

Robinson presented photos and descriptions of people and the audience was asked to make judgments. He also spoke about the ways people classified nonhuman entities, like visual images or shapes.

Robinson also highlighted the five building blocks of “fairness” which people expect — fair decisions and outcomes, respect, voice, unbiased decision-making and trustworthy motives — and discussed how these expectations can be abandoned in the presence of bias.

For an example, he cited the verdict that a ChatGPT AI system made on the presence of

implicit bias on a lawyer. It had written that the impact could manifest in “various ways,” including “influencing their decisions about hiring mentoring, promoting or evaluating other lawyers or staff,” “affecting their interactions with clients, witnesses, judges, jurors, or opposing counsel” and “leading to unethical or unprofessional conduct, such as discrimination, harassment, or incivility.”

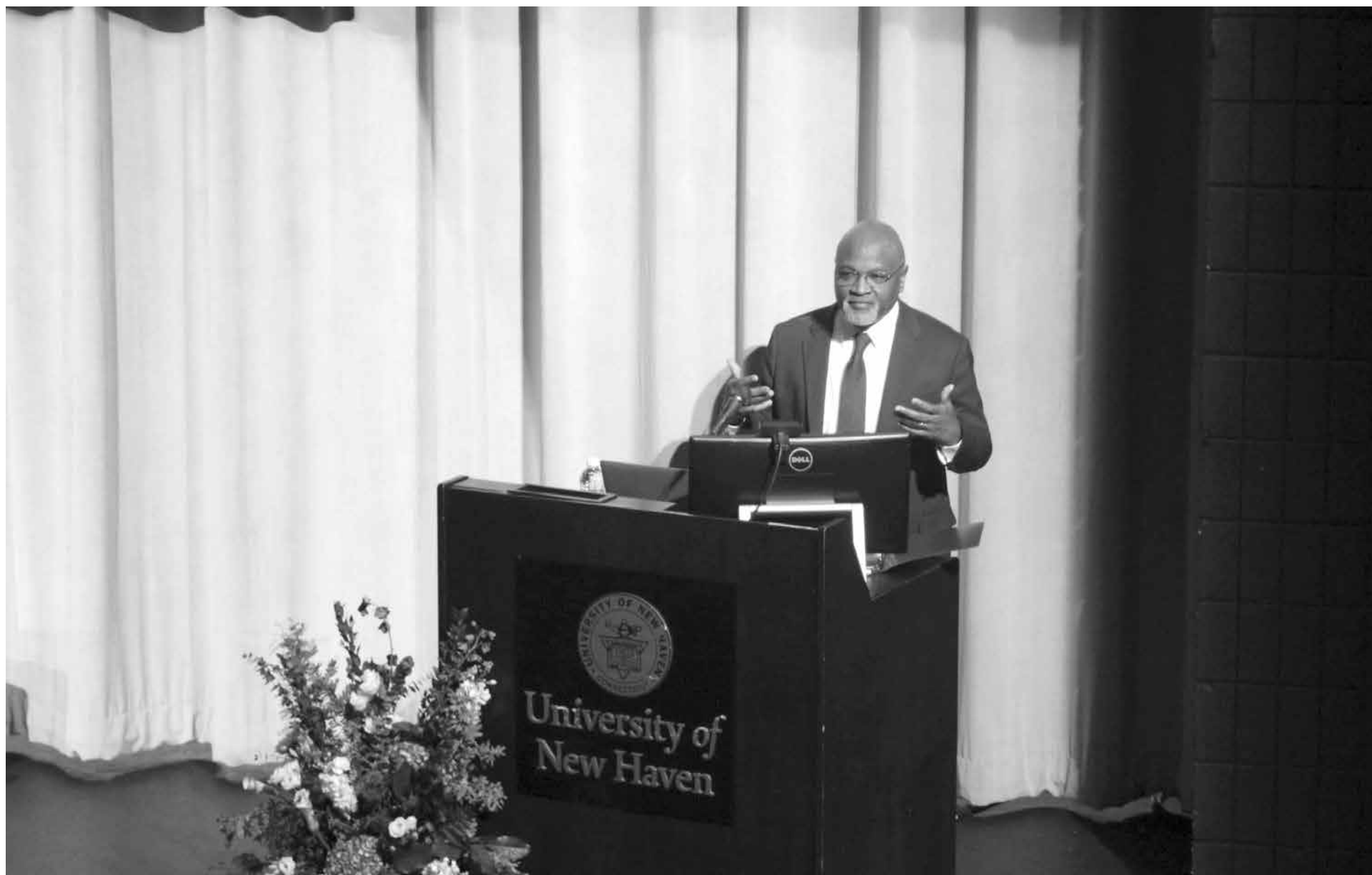
The conversation integrated statistical evidence of the issues being discussed, including a table breaking down the disparity of bonds in Connecticut, which broke down felony and misdemeanor charges by racial categories of “Non-Hispanic Black,” “Hispanic” and “Non-Hispanic White.” For felonies, the racial

gap between average bond postings yielded a bigger than \$30,000 difference between the highest and lowest charged ethnic groups.

Robinson cited the 2019 federal Supreme Court case *Flowers v. Mississippi*, in which judges made a trend of dismissing Black jurors in cases with Black defendants out of fear of bias.

“I wonder if they would have struck white jurors if the defendant was white,” Robinson said.

Robinson drew the presence of bias in to a personal level for the audience, highlighting the implicit assumptions made on each individual person with which you come across. He said that “when you see me, you see 10% of who I am” but the remaining 90% is not so visible.



Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson speaking in Bucknall Theater, West Haven, Feb. 5, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

An inside look at the rising stars: Miss Majorettes

BY ALEXIS
DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

As the school year progresses, clubs and organizations emerge and one of the most prevalent on campus is the Miss Majorettes.

Founded five years ago, Miss Majorettes is an all-Black campus dance organization that performs at games and events.

Members joined for a variety of reasons – camaraderie, a sense of challenge.

“I joined as a freshman to look for something exciting,” said president Nia Fearon. “This organization sheds light on our dance style, and showcases it for the rest of the University of New Haven community, which is why we try to perform at so many events.”

“In the beginning, I

joined because I recognized what they were doing, but I didn’t understand the group, and was unable to keep up with them,” said Taryn Washington, sergeant-in-arms and manager. “However, as I got closer to the girls, I see that they just do really good work. I like what we are bringing to the school, it’s a different perspective.”

“I joined the team because they made me feel like I was at home and was something that I could do on campus,” said Caliya Bowen, the team’s vice president. “With these people I feel like I fit in. It just something to bring in the community.”

“My whole life I have always felt happy in my dances,” said Amber Ramos, the secretary of the Majorettes. “It was really something different,

something that I haven’t seen on campus. However, I feel included here, I can feel happy in my dances here as well, this is really just where I felt the most content.”

The group intends to expand and is preparing for future performances, including the week of April 17, members said, which is the date of their spring performance. “This will be a full week of events, and we will be performing different mixes, such as mixtures of Beyonce, homecoming, and Coachella,” said Washington.

Fearon said the group is always looking for members. “Please say hi and interact with us,” she said. “Try out this semester. It’s open to everyone.”

For more information on the group, follow their Instagram page at unh_majorettes.



Miss Majorettes rehearsing at Beckerman Recreation Center, West Haven, Feb. 2, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

From high school sweethearts to long-distance lovers: is it worth it?

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

One of the hardest conversations for an 18-year-old often takes place right before their freshman year of college. Two teenagers must make a decision: Break up for the true “college experience?” Or tough it out and face the dreaded term for all high school sweethearts: long-distance.

Beginning college in a long-distance relationship can make an already difficult transition even harder. Being in a relationship where an individual does not get to see a partner for months can be challenging. According to *Survive LDR*, a blog dedicated to providing advice to individuals in long-distance romances, 75% of college students have been in long-distance relationships. Additionally, 32.5% of all long-distance relationships are college relationships.

However, studies show that only 2% of high school sweethearts last through college.

Madelyn Ring, a University of New Haven sophomore, was in a long-distance relationship during her first semester of college. The relationship ended after seven months when the couple succumbed to the pressures and challenges that came with loving someone far away. According to Ring, the main

downfall of her relationship was the lack of trust from her partner.

“He never trusted me, no matter what I was doing,” said Ring. “I was communicative, kind, honest, and extremely loyal. I always went out with the same friends on the weekend, and I wasn’t friends with any guys. I would go weeks without going out with my friends just to ensure he felt secure in our relationship.”

Ring also said that the amount of electronic communication her partner desired was overwhelming for her.

“On a daily basis he needed to talk to me at least three times a day,” said Ring. “Not texts, one-to-three hour calls or facetimes a day. I felt like I was being smothered so I started going out more and then we just ended up fighting anytime I tried to go out.”

The New York Post says that, according to a study of 1,000 Americans who have been in long-distance relationships, the average long-distance couple will send each other 343 texts and spend eight hours a week talking on the phone or video chatting. This can be strenuous for college students who also need to find time for classes, homework, studying and being social. As with Ring’s experience, many students with long-distance partners find themselves being less social than their

single friends in real life.

Texting and calling do not solve all the problems in a long-distance relationship. Lack of physical intimacy can be a significant factor in a long-distance relationship as well. The New York Post survey said that 31% of individuals in long-distance relationships said that they missed sex the most.

A 2024 survey by Sexual Alpha said the top three reasons people say long-distance relationships fail are lack of communication, jealousy and cheating. The study also said that 22% of people in long-distance relationships admitted to cheating on their partner. This can be common among college students who are experiencing living on their own for the first time, often in coeducational dormitories. The threat of cheating and disloyalty can often bring down a relationship even when cheating never actually occurs. When partners are forced to be apart from each other for the first time, there are often issues with trust and communication.

Statistics and horror stories of long-distance relationships in college can be intimidating and lead to the question: Is it worth it? Couples face the challenge with high hopes but still end up being another statistic.

Of course, that’s not always the case. Some couples make it and claim that long-dis-

tance can make a relationship stronger. 81% of the 1,000 surveyed individuals said being in a long-distance relationship made in-person visits more intimate and special. The data also shows that if a long-distance relationship can survive the eight-month mark, the relationship gets a lot easier.

Looking to beat the statistics is University of New Haven freshman, Viana McKinley. McKinley and her partner have been together for two years. Despite the success of her relationship, McKinley has also faced many of the same issues that all long-distance couples go through while trying to maintain a healthy and enjoyable experience.

“The biggest challenges we have faced while being long distance in college is one of the most basic things in a relationship: communication,” said McKinley. “After a while, when you’ve settled in and started to form friendships away at college, it gets progressively harder to communicate as well as you did back home when you lived six minutes from each other.”

Without proper communication, researchers say individuals are left to wonder what their partner is up to. For young college students, those thoughts often lead to worry, which leads to mistrust.

McKinley said that to en-

sure the quality of her relationship, communication is imperative.

“What has worked so far to maintain the relationship is trying to be open about when you are free to have a quick phone call or a catch-up FaceTime,” said McKinley. “We have learned that it doesn’t have to be an hour-long talk but even just a ten-minute catch up about your day goes a long way in making you feel happy and connected.”

Besides communication, McKinley said that jealousy and loneliness are other factors that can have an impact on her relationship and her overall college experience.

“I have been able to still experience college to the fullest extent that I want to while having a boyfriend,” said McKinley. “I have gotten the chance to make new friends and to still excel in school. However, it is a little harder having to see your friends go out and talk about meeting new people or getting crushes when all you want to do is to be able to hug your partner. I think that has been the biggest difference in my college experience in comparison to that of my friends.”

“If you really, truly want it, then you have to work for it,” said McKinley. “Nothing comes easy anymore in college, and that’s the same with long-distance relationships.”

University hosts annual Lunar New Year celebration

BY ALEXIS
DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

On Friday, Bucknall Theater was filled with light, sounds, dancing, martial arts and stories as roughly 200 people came to celebrate Lunar New Year. The festivities jolted the crowd into the celebrating spirit, headlined by the Dancing Lions and their lifesize costumes that are cherished in the holiday’s celebration.

The event was hosted by the Office of Graduate and International Student Life.

Lunar New Year is celebrated on the first new moon of the Chinese calendar. The event usually takes place late January or early February and is known as the Spring Festival to some. Traced back over 4000 years ago, the lunar holiday was tra-

ditionally celebrated with the killing of lambs and cooking the meat, commemorating their masters and cheering for a long life.

The campus celebration began with a presentation and some words of welcome from Steve Macchiarolo, OGISL director, as well as by Henry C. Lee. The presentation included images and stories shared of traditions that took place when celebrating the Lunar New Year as Lee explained how the tradition was brought to campus.

Before moving onto the performances, Macchiarolo and Lee played a game with the audience, testing their knowledge of history. People who knew their history were rewarded with money and gifts.

The next performance was

Yingna Lu and her performance with the erhu, a two-stringed musical instrument, commonly referred to as the “Chinese violin” or “two-stringed fiddle.”

The festival gave senior Bryan Cadavos a chance in the spotlight and he played a short piano composition.

Before the two biggest performances of the night, the MC hosted a short interactive activity for the audience. Urging members of the audience go on the stage for a 15-minute lesson on how to defend themselves.

The festival also allowed the youth to showcase their skills as well. Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy students – some as young as six-years-old – had two intense showcases and gave the audience a taste of their skills in hand-to-hand

combat and synchronized techniques. The second academy performance showcased their skills with different weapons, including broadswords, double-edged swords, staffs, sword

and shield combos and chains.

At the end, Macchiarolo announced that the 44th annual International Festival would be in April.



Lunar New Year celebration in Bucknall theater, West Haven, Feb. 9, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

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Printed by Valley Publishing Co. Derby, CT.
Archives can be found at ourschoolnewspaper.com/Charger

Since 1928, The Charger Bulletin has been the official student news source of the University of New Haven.

Recipient of 1st Place - ASPA Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers, 2020, 2021, 2022.

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The true meaning of Valentine's Day

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

Do we really need Valentine's Day – or, as some call it, Singles' Awareness Day, High Expectations Day, or Go Broke Because You're in a Relationship Day? Do we need an entire holiday to tell someone we love them? Why is there's one day of the year where expectations are raised that our significant others will get flowers, plan a date and spend money on things that they know we like.

Shouldn't a good partner be doing those things all year?

I can answer that. It's money. Valentine's Day is the

second-largest retail spending holiday, behind Christmas. According to Psychology Today, about \$23 billion is spent annually on Valentine's Day, whether it's balloons, chocolates, flowers or lingerie. According to the National Retail Federation, consumers plan to spend an average \$185.81 on gifts for the 2024 holiday. And every year, expectations are higher and higher for people to spend more.

Valentine's Day does nothing but encourage the idea that the meaning of love is how much money someone is willing to spend on you. Valentine's Day is not

about showing love; it's about spending money. Because of that, we are confused and disappointed.

Look at how frequently our expectations are dashed. A 2010 study of Facebook statuses showed that most breakups come post-Valentine's Day. Melissa Orlov wrote in "The Problem With Valentine's Day:" "If happiness is the distance between expectation and reality, Valentine's Day sets up many couples to be disappointed."

So, the holiday isn't just miserable for single people. People who are coupled are pressured to buy the perfect pres-

ent, plan the perfect date and create a perfect day on some random day in February that historians decided would be a holiday to leave out single people and stress out people in a relationship. The day of love becomes a lose-lose situation for everyone.

It's great to tell someone you love them. Someone who truly loves you will treat you like it's Valentine's Day every day, minus the insane expectations and billions spent. Whether you're single, dating, married or your Valentine is your mom, love isn't about spending money or buying gifts.



Valentine's Day Treat.
Photo courtesy of Pexels/Monstera Production.

Men's basketball falls short for second consecutive loss

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Managing Editor

Coming off a tight loss against Adelphi University, the New Haven men's basketball team were looking to get back in the win column against the number one team in the Northeast-10 (NE-10) conference; the Saint Michael's Purple Knights. Coming off back-to-back conference wins, the Chargers were able to stay with the Knights, but were unable to mount a comeback in the second half to erase their deficit.

Saint Michael's jumped out to an early lead in the opening minutes, scoring the first five points of the game. Forward Davontrey Thomas put the Chargers on the board first with two of his game-high 22 points. New Haven's defense could not stay with Saint Michael's third ranked offense in the conference as they took control early with a 12-2 lead in the first six minutes.

The Chargers continued to play from behind until just over halfway through the first half when guard Ethan Sim-

mon knocked down a jumper to tie the game at 14. The two teams continued to exchange scores as the Knights held on to a 22-21 lead with four minutes left after a layup from guard Jah'Likai King. After a missed free-throw by King, Saint Michael's added to their lead with a 13-7 run to close out the first half, capped off by three-pointers from guards Romar Reid and CJ Crews.

New Haven was faced with an eight-point deficit as they came out for the second half, but the Knights were once again the first to score with a free throw from Reid. The Chargers cut the deficit down to five with a layup from Thomas before the Knights' offense went on a dominating 12-0 scoring run. Now trailing by 16 with 14 minutes remaining, New Haven could not generate enough pressure or scoring chances to bring themselves back within striking distance.

After a jumper from forward Tyler Saint-Furcy, Saint Michael's forward TJ Henaghen knocked down a three to put

their lead back to 15. Reid and guard Alan Brzezinski added a pair of threes to make it a 59-38 game.

New Haven stormed back in the middle minutes of the second half with a 10-2 scoring run to bring it back to a 13 point deficit. Thomas and King led the Chargers offense in the final minutes of the game, but were unable to climb out of the hole they left themselves in as

the buzzer sounded, giving the Chargers a 69-59 loss.

King finished the game with 16 points and forward Joshua Hopson also tallied double-digit points for New Haven. The Knights' ability to shoot from anywhere proved to be too much for the Chargers to handle as they shot 40% from both three-point range and the field.

New Haven will stay local

for their next matchup on the road against Southern Connecticut State University at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Coming off two consecutive losses, the Chargers enter the final stretch of the regular season before the NE-10 playoffs with an 8-15 record (5-12 NE-10). More information about upcoming games and the program can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



Tyler Saint-Furcy goes up for a layup, Middletown, Feb. 10, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Victoria Gonzalez

Track and Field finishes strong in last meet before conference championships

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

With the Northeast-10 (NE-10) conference championships one week away, the New Haven track and field teams competed in their final meet before conference. The Chargers traveled to Staten Island, N.Y. to compete at the Fastrack National Invitational Meet and secure their seeding in the conference standings.

Multiple Chargers advanced their seeding at this weekend's meet, just in time for conference. Jacky Marescot moved into second place in the NE-10 for the men's triple jump with a mark of 13.83 meters. With the new mark, Marescot passed his brother, Jackson Marescot, in the standings. Heading into the NE-10 champion-

ships, New Haven holds the top five seeds in the men's triple jump, along with eight spots in the top 15.

Marescot also placed second overall in the men's high jump with a mark of 1.80 meters. Caleb Agbor placed fifth in the event.

The distance medley relay team was composed of Micheal Celatka, Justin Ortiz, Elijah Espinal and Ryan Friedman. The team moved into third in the conference after the weekend meet with a time of 12:11.34.

Jordan Emile ran a season-best in the 60-meter hurdles and placed seventh overall at the meet. Emile ran a time of 8.55, which moved him into sixth place in the NE-10 conference.

Lastly, Nile Colson ran a season-best in the 200-meter dash and

finished with a time of 22.62. This moved him into sixth in the conference, tying with teammate Jason Lorent.

Going into conference championships next weekend, the New Haven track team holds multiple high seeds. After the

previous two meets, New Haven has climbed up the standings to put them in a solid place going into conference championships.

The NE-10 conference championships will begin on Friday, Feb. 16 and conclude on

Saturday, Feb. 17. The championships will be held in Boston, Mass. at The Track at New Balance. All championship updates, schedules and post-game recaps for the team will be available at NewHavenChargers.com.



Declan McGrellis in the pole vault, Middletown, Jan. 27, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Neva Bostic

Women's basketball defeats Saint Michael's 71-42

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Contributing Writer

The Chargers hosted the Saint Michael's Knights on Saturday as they looked to break a six-game losing streak. In an all around dominant performance on both sides of the floor, the Chargers won in convincing fashion with a 71-42 final score.

With a strong start from the Chargers, the Knights' defense was unable to keep up with their persistent offense in the first half. Showing improvement from prior games, New Haven went into the second half leading by 28 points.

Guard Charlotte Bassett led the offense for New Haven again with a career-high 24 points and finished the game shooting 11-of-17 from the field. Bassett went 2-for-5 from behind the three-point arc and tallied 11 rebounds and one steal.

Following behind Bassett was forward Makaela Johnson with nine points, five rebounds and four assists. Guard Sabira Ahayeva went 2-for-3 from beyond the arc and went 2-for-4 at the free throw line. In addition to contributing eight points for the Chargers, Ahayeva had four rebounds, a set of assists and a steal.

After her career-high performance, Bassett said, "I try to get shots up with my team-

mates after practice and that's really fun, so it just carried over."

Aside from the leading scorers, six other Chargers were able to put up points. Forwards Aurora Deshaies and Bianca Pendleton scored seven points each. Pendleton came off the bench with a strong start making her first shot from behind the three-point arc and finishing the game shooting 3-for-6. Pendleton added three rebounds, an assist and a steal. Deshaies was right behind Bassett as she tallied 10 rebounds, three assists and a steal.

"Well, I just wanted to work to get a win for the team," said Deshaies. "I try hard in practice, I work hard. I have Merit and BP battling me, so they definitely pushed me to my limit."

Guards Lindsay Hogan and Eveani Okwuosa both added six points. Adding to the team's effort, Hogan had four rebounds, four assists and a strong block. Okwuosa finished the game shooting 3-for-5 from the field and added three steals and a rebound. Guard Nayeli Dowling and forward Merit Innocent both tallied 2 points and two rebounds. Dowling also had a steal.

Against the Knights' 29.1% shooting from the field, New Haven finished the game shooting 49.2%. In the fourth quarter, the Chargers went 6-for-18



Nayeli Dowling drives to the hoop, West Haven, Feb. 10, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Victoria Tyler Rodriguez.

from the field but the Knights were not able to close the gap that New Haven asserted from the start of the game.

As they broke out of their six-game losing streak, the bench was supportive of their teammates and the effort they left out on the court.

"We have the best bench and sideline ever," said Bassett. "I love it and I even love some-times when I'm on the bench, I

get to cheer."

The Chargers held the lead throughout the game and took dominance over Saint Michael's. The Knights ended the game with only 22 rebounds while New Haven tallied 49 alongside their 19 assists, nine steals and one block.

With playoffs shortly ahead for New Haven, Deshaies said, "We just have to stay together and come together as a team.

It's not an individual sport, it's a team sport, and moving forward we are going to take this win and keep going."

After the win against the Knights, the Chargers now have an overall record of 7-14 and are 3-14 in conference play. New Haven will host Southern Connecticut State University at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. For more information, please visit NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven's bench celebrates against Saint Michael's, West Haven, Feb. 10, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.