

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 103, Issue 14 | February 15, 2022 | West Haven, Connecticut

University of New Haven ultimate frisbee team experiences revival

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

Ultimate, formerly known as ultimate frisbee, was developed in 1968 on the foundations of sportsmanship. USA Ultimate is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the governing body for ultimate in the United States, and sponsors youth, college, club, international and beach competitions.

The game is played on a field that is 70 yards long, 40 yards wide, with end zones that are 20 yards deep. To start, the defense pulls (throws) the disc to the offense. Like most other sports, a point is scored when the disc is caught in the defense's end zone. Players are not allowed to run with the disc, and they only have 10 seconds to make a throw. When a pass is not completed (out of bounds, dropped, blocked, intercepted, stalled), the defense takes over, becoming the offense. Generally, ultimate is a non-contact sport.

The referee—if there is one—is unable to enforce rules, hence Ultimate simply relies on the “spirit of the game,” where players call their own fouls.

The spirit of the game is not just a motto, but a principle written directly into the rules of ultimate. The official rules state, “Highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the agreed upon rules, or the basic joy of play.”

The University of New Haven's ultimate team is over 20 years old and maintains this commitment to sportsmanship, as well as inclusivity.

Captain and Risk Manager Tyler Fitzgerald, a junior majoring in criminal justice, has been on the team since his first year. He



James Lande throws disc during practice at Kayo Field, West Haven, Feb. 7, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone

says his favorite part about being on the team is, “watching [new members] grow and improve. Every one of our members are now friends because of this team, regardless of where they're from.”

Captain and team president Justyn Mikulewicz, a senior marine biology major, says that “being part of the ultimate team has had a huge impact on my experience as a University of New Haven student,” and that he, “[enjoys the team] being able to get together each week and get better at the game.”

Junior cybersecurity and networks major, Matthew Swagerty, who is also serving as team captain and vice president, says he joined his first year and it



Members of the Ultimate team scrimmage during practice at Kayo Field, West Haven, Feb. 7, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone

has “definitely made my experience [at school] better. It's also how I met the majority of my friends.” He says, “it's a fun and easy sport to play. There are no tryouts, and we are welcoming to people of any skill level.”

For those interested in getting involved with the ultimate team, reach out to chargerultimate@newhaven.edu. You can follow them on Instagram, [@chargerultimate](https://www.instagram.com/chargerultimate). Practices are four days a week: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 12-2:00 p.m.



Justyn Mikulewicz prepares to throw a disc during practice at Kayo Field, West Haven, Feb. 7, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone



A player prepares to catch a pass, Feb. 7, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone

Everything you need to know about this year's Grammy Awards

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

This spring marks the 64th annual Grammy Awards show for singers and songwriters all across the world. The date was originally set for Jan. 31 of this year, but with the rise in COVID-19 cases and concerns surrounding the pandemic, the Recording Academy and CBS production teams decided to postpone the event until further notice.

As of Jan. 5, the Recording Academy and CBS released a joint statement regarding the postponement. "After careful consideration and analysis with city and state officials," the

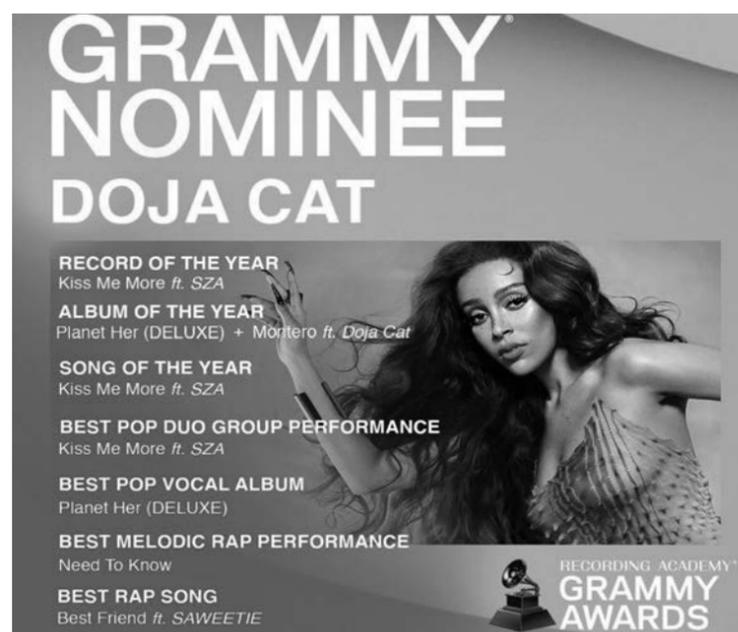
statement said, "health and safety experts, the artist community and our many partners, the Recording Academy and CBS have postponed the 64th Annual Grammy Awards Show. The health and safety of those in our music community, the live audience, and the hundreds of people who work tirelessly to produce our show remains our top priority. Given the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron variant, holding the show on January 31st simply contains too many risks."

As of Feb. 8, a new date has officially been set for the Grammy Awards show. Officials released details about the upcoming events, set to air live on CBS on Sunday, April 3 at 8:00 p.m.

from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. It will also be streaming on Paramount+.

The Grammy nomination lists have also been released. Categories include Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Best Music Video, Best Music Film, Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Dance/Electronic Recording and more.

This year's most nominated artist is named Jon Batiste, who is the bandleader for Stephen Colbert's "Late Show." The second most nominations go to Doja Cat and H.E.R., both earning eight. The third set of artists with the most nominations are Billie Eilish and Olivia Rodrigo, each earning seven.



An announcement of Doja Cat's nominations, Nov. 23, 2021.
Photo courtesy of @dojacat on Instagram.

Team USA combines old and new brand deals for 2022 Winter Olympics

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

The 2022 Winter Olympics kicked off in Beijing this month, and while the focus will always remain on the performance of each country's athletes, our representatives' wardrobe choices also serve as an item to build each country's image over the course of the Olympics.

For American Olympic athletes, their image is held at high value. Snowboarding icon and five-time Olympian Shaun White took to social media to display an entire floor covered in gear given to him to wear throughout his time competing in China. He even discussed the specific outfit that American athletes are expected to wear while receiving their medal on the podium. America's image is seriously considered when dressing its athletes.

Ralph Lauren has been the official Team USA outfitter for the past 14 years, and has returned for another Olympic Games. All of such clothing was notably made in the U.S.

On Ralph Lauren's site, you can find a number of items in this year's connection designed for Team USA, including attire for the opening and closing ceremonies. The opening ceremony attire designed for this year exhibits a type of recycled fiber created using post-consumer plastic bottles in a motion to make Olympic wear more eco-friendly.

The advancements of the company's technology can also be observed in the new Villagewear Jacket, which uses Skyscape Intelligent Insulation in order for

the material to expand in lower temperatures for greater heat retention.

A new collaboration deal that is gaining much traction this year is that from Kim Kardashian's very own Skims clothing company, which has now released a new Olympic athlete line. Kardashian's shapewear company became the official undergarment outfitter for the team prior to the summer 2021 events, and this year's Olympics in Beijing marks the first winter events of this brand deal. In honor of the games, Skims has released what they are calling their new capsule collection to be sported by athletes this February.

Skims x Team USA's entire collection can be found on Skims.com, a lineup for which Kardashian said, "Our collection of lounge and sleepwear was designed with these inspiring women in mind, and I'm so proud that Olympic and Paralympic athletes will be wearing Skims again during their down time."

Both Ralph Lauren's and Skim's designs, alike, focus heavily this year on a theme of color-blocking, adding a geometric ambiance to the ensemble of this year's Team USA image.



Aja Evans in Ralph Lauren.

Photo courtesy of @teamusashop on Instagram.

Mitski's "Laurel Hell": A fitting farewell to a toxic industry

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

On Feb. 4, Mitski released her highly anticipated sixth studio album, "Laurel Hell." Spanning 11 songs and approximately 32 minutes, Mitski reckons with the idea that in the music industry, she isn't always creating for herself, but for millions of anxiously awaiting fans.

According to InsideHook, the 31-year-old singer-songwriter planned to quit music after she released her critically-acclaimed fifth studio album, "Be the Cowboy." However, after she made this decision, she realized that according to her record label contract, she was required to release one last album.

In her album "Laurel Hell," Mitski goes out with a bang, singing about the death of creativity under capitalism, and the ongoing restlessness she feels.

The album opens with low droning synths in "Valentine, Texas," as Mitski croons about the unknown, "Let's step carefully into the dark. Once we're in, I'll remember my way around." The song starts off slow, but quickly explodes into a beautiful arrangement of synth strings and piano notes.

Although her song "Valentine, Texas" is about the unknown, Mitski does find her way around, and soon realizes that her passion had become commodified in "Working for the Knife."

As a fitting metaphor for the music industry, "Working for the Knife" symbolizes how working for a record contract can be the death of creativity.

"I used to think I would tell stories. But nobody cared for the stories I had," Mitski confesses, with a similar synth sound that



The "Laurel Hell" album by Mitski.
Photo courtesy of @mitskileaks on Instagram.

recurs throughout the album. "I start the day lying and end with the truth. That I'm dying for the knife," Mitski proclaims as the song comes to a close.

Although this characterization of art under the music industry invariably leads to mediocre music, Mitski defies this notion, creating an album that perfectly captures how many feel under the constraints of capitalism. Art is no longer created just for fun—at least for most. Although Mitski is working under certain parameters, she makes this album her own.

"Working for the Knife," is a depressing song, but that doesn't define the album as a whole. The following songs slowly crescendo into an upbeat style reminiscent of that of the 80s.

In "Stay Soft," Mitski sings about sex and pain. "Fury, pure and silver/ You grip it tight inside/ Like a knife, it glints in your eye/ It's why I've arrived, your sex god/ Here to take you where you need to go." This theme of restlessness and repression builds throughout the song until it reaches its climax. "Open up your heart, like the gates of

Hell," Mitski demands.

Throughout the following songs, Mitski embraces the darkness and the unknown, and turns her restlessness into an intense desire for love and human connection. This theme manifests itself into "Love Me More," a fervent expression of desire. "I need you to love me more/ Love me more/ Love me more," Mitski repeats to someone who remains unknown.

This intense desire to be loved, emphasized throughout the following songs, builds up to the album's finale, "That's Our Lamp." In this song, it's clear that Mitski has found her love. The song discusses an intense fight with a lover, where Mitski comes to the realization that she has been loved all along. The song ends with a repeated line, as if Mitski can finally rest. "That's where you loved me," she repeats, until the song fades to a close.

While it's unclear whether or not Mitski will ever release music again, she made an incredibly meaningful album despite the parameters given to her, ultimately finding meaning while working for "the knife."

An analysis of Russia's possible invasion on Ukraine

BY LILLIAN NEWTON
Staff Writer

Perspective

In October 2021, Russia began moving troops and military equipment towards their shared border with Ukraine, causing fears of a potential invasion. Satellite images from late last year showcased armor, military and other heavy weaponry being brought to the border, bringing international attention to the crisis. As of Feb. 7, there are over 100,000 Russian troops stationed at the border.

According to U.S. intelligence, Russia has a war plan that envisions an invasion force of 175,000 troops that far surpasses that of Ukraine's military, even with U.S.-provided training and equipment. Current intelligence reports described by White House officials assess that Russian President Vladimir Putin has not yet made a decision on whether or not to invade.

While this may sound concerning, Russia and Ukraine have been in conflict since 2014. During that time, Russia took control over Ukraine's Crimea region, annexing the land after Crimeans voted to join the Russian Federation in a disputed

local referendum. Over the years, the continued violence between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukrainian military has left over 10,300 people dead and injured more than 24,000, but no invasion has occurred thus far.

Now, concerns about the Russian invasion are dramatically increasing. While this could happen, Vladimir Putin's vocalization against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) expansion seems to be the root of recent military showcases along the border, not an invasion of Ukraine.

In mid-December 2021, Russia's foreign ministry issued a set of demands, calling for a ban on Ukraine from ever becoming a member of NATO as well as a reduction in NATO troop numbers and military equipment throughout Eastern Europe. If these expectations are met, Russia has agreed to withdraw its military forces.

NATO and the U.S. rejected these demands, warning Russia of retaliation through economic sanctions and other assistance, if Ukraine was to be invaded. NATO suggested talks in other areas, such as limiting nuclear weapons.

These demands emphasize



A row of Ukrainian flags outside the House with Chimaeras, Kyiv, Ukraine.
Photo courtesy of Openverse/Anosmia.

Russian interest in the global affairs and strength of NATO while indicating no intention of invading Ukraine. More likely, Putin has increased the size of their military forces along the border to create a rise in tensions. This ultimately leverages the situation to his advantage in order to have his demands satisfied.

On Feb. 4, Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced their joint opposition against NATO expansion, further solidi-

fying his interests in the matter. At the same time, the U.S. said that Russia was planning a staged attack to justify an invasion into Ukraine. While this could still be a possibility, as Russia was accused of sending thirty thousand troops to Belarus on Feb. 3, Russia has criticized the accusation as "nonsense."

No matter what Russia's intentions may be, there are a number of international leaders taking steps to mitigate the conflict.

President of France Emmanuel Macron met with Putin in the Russian capital, having been the first "high profile" Western leader to do so since tensions arose again in December 2021.

President Macron believes that a deal can be settled with Russia over Ukraine, further stating that Russia's objective was "not Ukraine, but a clarification of the rules... with NATO and the EU."

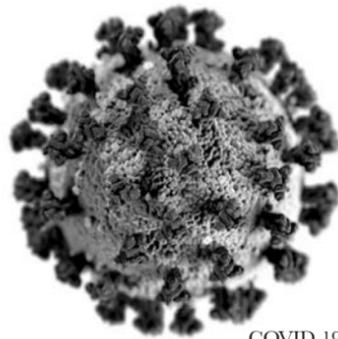
Should we be worried about the new "stealth" omicron variant?

BY JENELLE JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

A new "stealth" variant of COVID-19 has recently been on the rise in various parts of the world. This subvariant of the Omicron variant is scientifically called BA.2 and has a greater possibility for transmission, and higher risks of comprising immune responses compared to the original Omicron variant—which is referred to as BA.1.

BA.2 has been referred to as the "stealth" variant because it lacks certain mutations within its spike protein and can initially appear as another coronavirus variant. Researchers, however, are able to detect this variant by analyzing the genetic sequences of samples from positive tests. The "stealth" variant has been detected in around 49 countries including the United States. Three cases reportedly have been found in the United States at Houston Methodist Hospital in Texas.

In countries like Denmark, BA.2 is now the dominant variant, and they've reported more than 50,000 new COVID-19 infections as of Jan. 28. While the BA.2 subtype seems more contagious, there are no indi-



COVID-19.
Photo courtesy of Pixabay/CDC.

cations that it has an impact on hospitalizations or deaths.

A virologist at the State Serum Institute in Denmark, Anders Fomsgaard said, "we are not so concerned, since we so far do not see major differences in age distribution, vaccination status, breakthrough infections and risk of hospitalization. Also, despite the high infection rate of BA.2, the numbers of hospitalizations [in] ICUs are decreasing."

It is estimated that about eight percent of cases in the United States are BA.2 and it appears to be increasing at a rapid rate. Nathan Gubaugh, an epidemiologist at the Yale University School of Public Health said, "I'm fairly certain that it will become dominant in the U.S."

COVID-19 vaccines, particularly booster doses, have been reported to be just as effective against BA.2, however, this new

variant has appeared to spread more rapidly.

The World Health Organization has said that they don't consider BA.2 to be a variant of concern, but said its "immune escape properties and virulence, should be prioritized independently." As Omicron continues to surge globally, new variants will surface and they will likely be more transmissible than BA.1.

Data from the United Kingdom has shown that the COVID-19 booster was 63 percent effective at preventing symptomatic disease from BA.1 and 70 percent effective for BA.2.

CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen said that "given how similar BA.1 and BA.2 are to each other, it stands to reason that someone who just had COVID-19, and therefore most likely had BA.1, is not going to contract BA.2 in the near future."

Omicron and its sub variants have shown to be less likely to cause severe disease, specifically in people who have received COVID-19 vaccinations.

Scientists are continuing to closely study and monitor the BA.2 variant while preparing for future variants. Until more studies come in and data is released, we won't know anything for sure about the new "stealth" variant.

FDA Advisory Committee meeting postponed

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently postponed an advisory committee meeting to discuss the administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months to 4 years.

The FDA was notified by Pfizer that there were additional findings from its clinical use trials, and upon assessing these findings, members of the government agency decided to postpone the meeting to allow more time to gather data.

The FDA announced their decision in a public statement released Friday, saying, "Being able to begin evaluating initial data has been useful in our review of these vaccines, but at this time, we believe additional information regarding the ongoing evaluation of a third dose should be considered."

According to CNN, the Pfizer vaccine initially appeared to protect infants and toddlers up to 2-years-old, but the "3-microgram dose did not produce the same immune response in 2- to 5-year-olds."

The three microgram doses in question were the ones under regulatory review, explaining

why Pfizer's new data created concern.

This news comes at a time when many parents are awaiting approval for their children to get vaccinated. Although these changes likely bring about disappointment, the decision was defended by acting FDA Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock, as well as Dr. Peter Marks, the FDA director for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

The two said in a public statement, "This will give the agency time to consider the additional data, allowing for transparent public discussion as part of our usual scientific and regulatory processes for COVID-19 vaccines."

Although the meeting was postponed, discussion will resume as new data is collected through clinical use trials.

According to NPR, Marks said that the FDA "realize[s] the need for a vaccine for COVID-19..." and that they "will do... [their] part to move ahead as fast as... [they] can."



COVID-19 vaccines.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Daniel Schludi.

University community discusses interpretations of BHM

BY STEPHEN GANGI
Contributing Writer

When you think of Black History Month (BHM), what is the first word that comes to mind? Is it a celebration, a time to recognize the achievements made throughout history? Is it remembrance, a time dedicated to acknowledging the challenges that many Black people have faced in the past and present? Black History Month has an abundance of different interpretations from people around the nation, but what does it mean to you? Students and staff around the University of New Haven campus were interviewed on their individual interpretations of BHM.

For Zanaiya Leon, the assistant director of the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, the first word that came to mind was “learning.” Learning not only about Black figures throughout history, such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Frederick Douglas, but taking

time to acknowledge and learn the stories of Black resilience and those who overcame their challenges.

According to Leon, she spent a lot of time learning at home, mentioning in particular that when she was younger, her grandfather hosted a Kwanzaa fest.

“I’ve been striving to let people know Black history is American history,” Leon said. “Everyone played a role and many did a lot of work to get us where we are and that should not be disregarded.”

Senior communication major Jada Clarke, said, “the first word I think of when I hear Black History Month is representation.”

Clarke said that proper representation is a vital process involved in Black History Month, as it showcases different cultures and ethnicities. It also brings attention to the many stories and lessons that have been passed down from prior generations, and brings forth role models for newer generations.

“Without representation,” she said, “the Black community would

be misrepresented through stereotypes and assumptions.”

There are many more interpretations of Black History Month at the university. For some, one word just isn’t enough to begin to explain what this month means to them. Members of the university’s NAACP and Black Student Union (BSU), all pitched in their own thoughts.

“When I think of Black History Month, I think of the rich culture, influence, excellence, and success that the Black community has accomplished within the years,” said political science major Saniyah J. Brinney. “The importance in understanding the past, the trials and tribulations that have only led to the allowance of ‘my generation’ to ‘say, be, and do the things that we’re actually able to accomplish and partake in.’”

Tamia Law, Aaron Brooks and Destiny-Jenkins Rubins, executive board members of NAACP, used words such as “representation,” “revolutionize” and “awareness,”

BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the University of New Haven



Graphic courtesy of Mia Adduci.

while describing what Black History Month means to them.

Aaron Brooks emphasized the importance of “supporting and recognizing Black excellence,” and standing behind their community

so that all voices, big or small, can be heard.

So I ask you again, when you think of Black History Month, what does it mean to you?

2022 Winter Showcase highlights cultural expression in university community

BY SAIGE BATZA &
MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editors

On Saturday night, the University of New Haven Music Industry Club (MIC) and Black Student Union (BSU) hosted an evening of music and dance performances to highlight cultural expression through the arts on campus as practiced by student-led organizations.

The Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) performed as the opener, followed by an acoustic performance from MIC. The Monsoon Dance Crew took over next, and MIC followed with an instrumental piece to share with the lively audience. The next performances were made by the Incendio Dance project, then Miss Majorettes.

With spotlights on the performers as the only source of light in the room, all eyes were drawn to the stage.

Performances included songs such as Doja Cat’s “Need to Know,” Nicki Minaj’s “I Get Crazy” and Lil Nas X’s “Industry Baby.”

Aside from choreography to some of the most prominent Black icons in today’s music industry, group performances experimented with synchronized cultural/historical chants and stepping routines from the MGC organizations called “strolling.”

President of Miss Majorettes Rashade Rid, a junior criminal justice major, shared her thoughts on what Black History Month means to her.

“Black History Month is a designated time to be true. Something about it makes me



Students perform at the winter showcase, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

extra proud,” said Rid. “Now I’m starting to see a lot of diverse organizations, like the Multicultural Census, which has always been there, but now we’re starting to see more multicultural RSOs holding events and them being broadcasted.”

The university and the organizations within the student community have been working to advocate the value of culture throughout BHM this year, and these performances, hosted in the middle of BHM, continue to capture the expression of culture through a medium of performing arts.

Another member of the dance crew, Fransheli Ventura, a junior criminal justice major, said it “feels good knowing that instead of having to speak about our culture, we can do it through dance— it’s more receptive since people are usually visual learners.”

Kiana White, a junior business major closed the night with a

spoken word performance.

“I write to you to encourage and uplift you,” she said. “Take this short sentiment as a token of my appreciation to your future accomplishments. Just know that you are valued, appreciated, and underestimated. Stay solid, persistent, and motivated, and be the change you want to see. Be immovable, steadfast, and firm in your stances, in your decisions, and in your aspirations.”

White shared encouragement aimed primarily at Black men listening to her, encouraging her audience to pursue their dreams and be fearless.

“You are overcomers, fighters and warriors. I believe in your success,” said White. “Lift your head high, walk your talk and follow through because you can make it.”

The university is continuing to host events in order to showcase the importance of Black History Month throughout the rest of February.

FGSA: Where first generation students can feel at home

BY DELIANNE
AYALA-RAMOS
Contributing Writer

Every year, the University of New Haven’s list of new Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) becomes longer. One of the newest additions is the First Generation Students Association (FGSA) led by E-board members Mya Oliwa, Elizabeth Hall, Izabella Mancini and Kelechi Kenneth-Gabriel.

The FGSA aims to help the university’s students find themselves and connect with others, while also providing the resources that first generation students need and deserve.

Oliwa, a first-generation junior studying criminal justice, found herself in the latter group. She also recognized the lack of resources here at the university.

“My first year was a struggle,” she said. “Especially with financial aid and getting used to being separated from my people.”

COVID-19 largely affected her sophomore year, but it gave her more freedom to learn about herself and her passions. Now that she’s a junior, she looks forward to passing on the knowledge she’s acquired to other first-generation students like herself.

The experiences Oliwa has had so far with other first-generation students include sharing past struggles and bonding over the changes they’d like to make for the campus community. “It’s refreshing,” she said, “being with other people who feel the same way and being able to make a difference for current and future students.”

Mancini, a sophomore psychology major, however, didn’t have

the chance to share those experiences with other first-generation students before the creation of FGSA. “We don’t have a support group,” she says. “Now that we have this organization I hope to have more stories and to connect with other first-generation students.”

As a first-generation student, she recognizes the effort it takes to succeed and is sure this organization will make a difference in students’ lives.

For Hall, a psychology major, being a first-generation student gives her that sense of pride. “Being first-gen is challenging,” she said. “Basically, you’re walking through this journey alone, so you’re learning all of it yourself. Persevering gives me a large sense of pride.”

Oliwa, Hall and Mancini value first-generation students’ voices and want to advocate for them as much as possible, while providing students with a sense of community and giving them a space in which they can learn to be proud of who they are. “There is not nearly enough first-generation representation on this campus,” Hall said. “And the University doesn’t have many resources to help.”

The club’s general meetings are held on Tuesdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Kaplan 101. They look forward to seeing more students attend and participate in the future.

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Find sisterhood during Greek life spring recruitment

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

With the second semester well underway, the university's greek life organizations have been promoting their spring recruitment by hosting tabling events in Bartels Hall and posting informational flyers on social media.

During a recent interview with one of the university's sororities, Delta Phi Epsilon, E-board member Raven Loney, a sophomore graphic design major, said she strongly encourages those who are interested in greek life to join the community.

"We welcome anyone and everyone, and pride ourselves in our philanthropies," said Loney. "We are constantly working to fundraise, raise awareness for current events, and help the cam-

pus and community in any way we can."

As the Coordinator of Website Management and Public Relations for Delta Phi Epsilon, Loney understands the commitment it takes to engage students and encourage them to join greek life at the university. In spite of the stigmas that surround greek life and sororities in general, Loney says their organization encourages all students to participate and join their sisterhood.

"Trust me when I say that I found some of the greatest people I will ever meet once I became a part of Greek Life," she said.

Other sororities at the University of New Haven include Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Sigma Sigma, Chi Kappa Rho, Omega Phi Beta, Sigma Chi, Alpha Sigma

Alpha, Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Alpha Sigma Kappa and Gamma Sigma Alpha.

During a recent interview with Phi Sigma Sigma, GinaMarie Leonardo, a junior forensic science major, spoke about her duties as the public relations chair and historian for her sorority.

Leonardo gave advice to incoming members, saying, "be yourself and allow the experience to guide you. Greek Life is such a welcoming place for students and when you allow yourself to fully experience recruitment, you have an overall appreciation and deeper understanding as to why you may have come out in the first place."

Alpha Sigma is another sorority on campus that is looking for new members to recruit. Shyla Edwards, a junior health science major, shared what it's like to work with a sorority in the public relations and recruitment field. She also encouraged students who are interested in recruitment to step outside of their comfort zone and ask questions.

"Be yourself and be open to meeting all the new girls," Edwards said. "There's a lot of us so it can be a little overwhelming. Keep in mind that we're just as scared as you guys most of the



Inside of the National Panhellenic Conference open house, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

time, so just be yourself and be relaxed because we're nervous just like you."

As the current President of Chi Kappa Rho, Erin Berger encourages all students interested in Greek Life to join the community. "Recruitment can definitely be an exciting and often nerve-wracking time for those who make the decision to go Greek. Incoming members who do decide to join any of the organizations for recruitment should always be themselves."

Berger said that many students may feel intimidated by the process at first, but assured them that the sorority members at the university are "amazing people

that are nothing short of welcoming."

"While Greek life may not appeal to everyone," Berger said, "it's definitely a fantastic way to get involved on campus and a perfect way to make forever friends."

Following the spring recruitment process, Chi Kappa Rho will be hosting several campus-wide events, such as March MADDness and their annual spring fashion show, among others.

If you are interested in joining a sorority on campus, make sure to check out the dates for recruitment each fall and spring.



Outside of the Career Development Center, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

The CDC tips you should know before graduation

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

The Career Development Center (CDC) at the University of New Haven offers a variety of programs that provide students with the tools they need to succeed during their college career and beyond. They have a multitude of resources for students with limited time away from their studies that are available to access through ChargerLink. They offer guidance with internships, resume writing and host workshops for students to attend on campus.

Alana Ratigan, a graduate assistant for the CDC, said that the organization's primary goal is to help students at the university, making them feel supported and "aptly prepared and successful" by the time they graduate from the university.

"Our office is an effective resource for career development for a variety of reasons," Ratigan said, "namely that we take a proactive approach to connecting

with students through hosting workshops and collaborating with classes, residence halls, and student organizations."

"We aim to meet students where they are at, whether it's career exploration or interview practice to grow their skills and confidence," Ratigan said. Ratigan said that the most rewarding aspect of her job at the CDC is having the opportunity to "work with members of the community that I would not have otherwise. Whether it's seeing students grow and develop or gaining insight into how dedicated and creative the professional staff are."

For students who are interested in taking their careers to the next level, they should contact careerdevelopmentcenter@newhaven.edu or locate their office in the Bartels Student Activity Center on the Bixler/Gerber Residential Quad.

To stay up-to-date on all events hosted by the Career Development Center, visit their page on Charger Connection.

New data science minor set to join computer science curriculum for fall 2022

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

As the university continues to make strides towards widening the array of available studies to undergraduate students, the Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science (ECECS) department is in the process of finalizing a new minor program in data science, which will become available for students to add to their degree beginning the upcoming fall 2022 semester.

The new program's content is broad enough to hold value for undergraduate students in a wide variety of degree programs. Professor Vahid Behzadan developed the program within the Taglia College of Engineering; however, they are encouraging students of all colleges and degrees to consider the addition of this program to their studies.

The University of New Haven already offers a Masters program in data science, however the introduction of this new program will expand these areas of study to the undergraduate student population.

Studies under this program are sought to expand students' understanding in the primary areas of statistics, probability, computation and artificial intelligence.

Behzadan said "the program offers a core foundation in data science and trains students in competencies to work with data using computational and statistical techniques and tools as well as applying models and algorithms."

While this minor is applicable to a wide array of major disciplines within the university, it will be especially supplemental in its connections to the areas of science, engineering, business and social sciences.

The minor is set to be heavily student-interactive, with the ability to "design and carry out rigorous computational and inferential analysis for their field of interest" being described by Behzadan as a core component of the training in the curriculum.

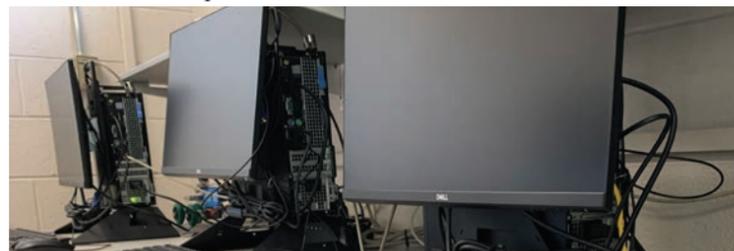
The overarching goal of the ECECS at the university is described to "provide students with the skills and basic background needed to become proficient in

today's technology."

Their department mission statement also reinforces what Behzadan spoke of surrounding the data science program, with an aim to "prepare students from diverse backgrounds for professional practice."

This addition to the university's curriculum will give interested students an opportunity to study content that Behzadan says will yield "practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of data analysis, as well as the ability to think critically about the construction and implications of data analysis and models."

As the program works its way through the remainder of the curriculum approval process, new information will emerge prior to the fall 2022 semester. Students seeking to hear more about adding a minor in data science to their degree should keep an eye out for updates from the ECECS and Behzadan.



Computers inside of Buckman Hall, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

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Printed by Valley Publishing Co. Derby, CT.

Archives can be found at our-schoolnewspaper.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.

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Am I escaping reality by binge-watching?

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

I consider myself an expert in binge-watching television shows, but I'm not sure if this is something I should be proud of. It is difficult to find someone who is eagerly awaiting the release of a new episode in this day and age. Given the option of binge watching after the show airs, and watching an episode as it airs, I would definitely choose the latter. People have developed an inner beast as a result of having access to endless amounts of episodes and seasons at our fingertips.

There's a whole subculture out there that spends their weekends binge-watching an entire series in a single sitting. The more, the merrier. But the bottom line is that the more invested I become, the more painful the heartbreak when all of the content has been watched.

I've stayed awake until morn-



Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek.

ing on countless occasions just to continue binge-watching my current favorite show. It's no laughing matter to bemoan an unfavorable ending.

Grief frequently manifests itself in stages. For me, the first stage is usually rewatching my favorite scenes from the series. The next step would be acceptance, in which I accept the unfortunate reality that I will never

be able to see the show for the first time again. Finally, the most difficult step is to move on and accept that it is time to try another show, despite the fact that no other show will ever compare to the last—then, the cycle begins all over again.

Despite the fact that my subconscious is aware that this is not the healthiest of habits, I can't imagine giving it up. Regardless

of my responsibilities the next day, I will choose to stay awake and watch. Though it always seems like a good idea at the time, I always come to regret it the next day when I am too tired to function. When a show appears to take over our lives, leaving us engrossed and eventually addicted, it can be extremely difficult to turn our attention away from it. The COVID-19 pandemic did nothing more than stoke an already raging fire caused by an increase in free time.

I'm perplexed by those who can only watch one episode or a portion of an episode; I simply don't understand having such self control. Binge-watching has been shown to be an excellent stress reliever. However, some people become so engrossed in it that they are oblivious to the fact that they are using it to escape reality. A much-needed break from reality is necessary from time to time, but escaping for too long can be dangerous.

Ms. Green: A female candy icon done wrong

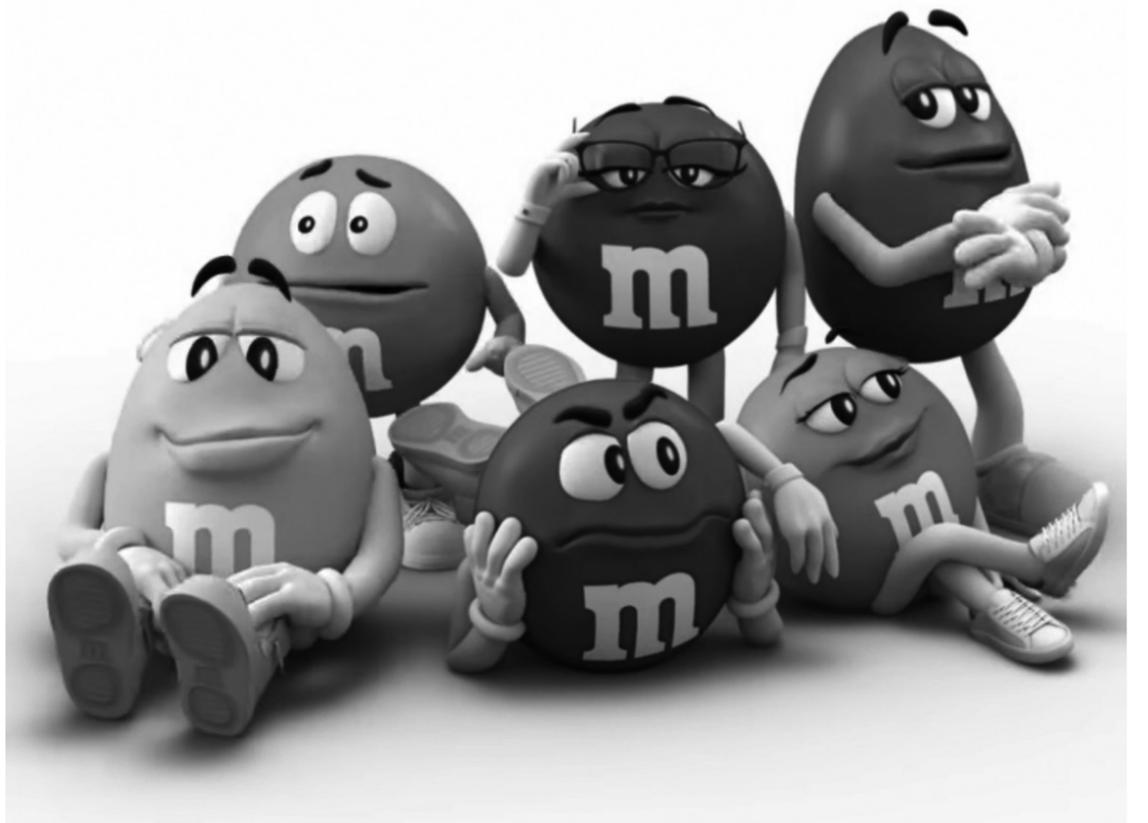
BY ANDREA ALVERCA
Contributing Writer

Many iconic women have walked the Earth: Frida Kahlo, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Tina Turner, Princess Diana, Malala Yousafzai and our beloved Betty White. Yet one icon just got done wrong: the prominent Ms. Green.

Two groundbreaking events occurred on the candy scene in the late 90s. The first was the introduction of the green M&M in 1960. The second was its marketing-character debut as an alluring female with white, calf-high heels during the 1997 Super Bowl. For 17 years, Ms. Green was the only female M&M. Then, Ms. Brown was introduced during the 2012 Super Bowl as a sophisticated boss lady, worthy of our respect. Since then, the spokescandies have taken the nation by storm, but are now being robbed of their most iconic features, lost to the horrors of rebranding.

The reason for the M&M rebranding, said the parent company, Mars, was to give a "fresh and modern take on the looks of our beloved characters and more nuanced personalities to underscore the importance of self-expression and power of community through storytelling."

As the rest of society noticed, they only started changing the female M&Ms. Yes, Ms. Green's go-go boots and Ms. Brown's stilettos make them provocative. Did we forget Tucker Carlson's comment about Ms. Brown? Stilettos have been worn by some of Hollywood's adored



The new design of M&Ms, featuring Ms. Green without go-go boots. Photo courtesy of @mmschocolate on Instagram.

divas: Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo, Rita Hayworth and Marilyn Monroe. Heels symbolize high social stature and refined fashionable taste. Removing Ms. Brown's stilettos takes away the confidence that she has had for a decade. As Monroe once said, "Give a girl the right pair of shoes and she'll conquer the world."

Heels were originally made for men, the most well-known user being King Louis XIV. Ironically, they are now a staple fashion item almost every woman has in her closet. Go-go boots were not

only iconic to Ms. Green's persona, but to history, as a whole. French designer André Courrèges created them for his modern and futuristic collection "Moon Girl" in the '60s. The boots are empowering, and symbolize female defiance, power and independence. Jane Fonda, Pam Grier and Buffy Sainte-Marie were some of the many "take-no-prisoners" females to don the footwear, but Nancy Sinatra was the poster girl of this look. The popularity of the calf-high boots skyrocketed after the release of "These Boots Were Made for

Walking," a female empowerment anthem established in 1966. The M&Ms' confidence came from their personality and their shoes. Trading go-go boots and stilettos with sneakers and kitten heels not only eliminates the female M&Ms defining qualities, but their power as well. Those cartoon candies served as an entrance to female empowerment for young girls of all generations. They're not just sexy; they are confident, smart and independent. Most importantly, those shoes are worthy of role models.

See you on the other side

BY TERESA ZANGARI
Contributing Writer

In September of 2021, our university approached uncharted waters. Students, faculty and staff were mandated to be fully vaccinated by the start of classes in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus. Information was gathered from the CDC and Connecticut's Department of Public Health to ensure people on campus were following the correct protocols. Since then, increasing amounts of miscommunication between the COVID Task Force and Health Services have made students become hesitant and uncertain, and I have a first-hand account.

My first COVID-19 test this semester was positive. After explaining to the nurses that there was no way this result could be true, they admitted that there were most likely multiple other false results on campus, but they weren't sure of how many. With that in mind, I offered to get another PCR test at home, but I was denied. The best advice they could give me was for myself to isolate myself for five days in my off-campus house, and health services would be in touch "when they had the chance."

The only call I received was on day seven. The six other communication attempts prior to that to Health Services and the COVID Task Force were ignored.

Following my clearance, nine days after my positive test, the COVID task force sent me multiple emails telling me to get the booster shot by Jan. 31. If I

failed to do so, the consequences were unclear. Some members of the task force said I would not be able to attend classes and others told me I would be okay. So, which is it?

CDC guidelines advise people who've tested positive for COVID-19 to wait 90 days before getting their booster because of the possibility that the side effects may be more intense or exaggerated. Since I was not eligible for the booster, I confirmed with my doctor that the best option for me was to wait. I tried once again to communicate with the task force and school health services about my issues with their protocols, and I received three different answers: get a medical exemption, wait one month or get it done now. The deadline quickly approached, so I decided that I would wait one month.

As students, open communication is a valuable element. The university's ability to communicate about COVID-19 has caused a countless amount of conflict between administrators and students. Unfortunately, due to this issue, the relationship between the two can weaken and hinder the success of our learning environment.



Graphic courtesy of Kayla Mutchler.



Graphic courtesy of Isabella Hajek.

Being indecisive is part of being young

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

With the start of the spring semester, the pressure to be the best version of ourselves increases. For some, it may feel like time is running out, that there is no time to wander or second-guess ourselves. While we are encouraged to follow our instincts, we are also expected to make the correct decisions for our future.

The pressure to make the right choices can be both positive and negative. Throughout life, we may occasionally find ourselves driving on the wrong side of the proverbial road, but we will swerve back or move somewhere where that's the correct side. This is very much the case for students trying to finalize their decision of college disciplines.

When people are under pressure to succeed, the validation that money and fame bring commonly comes first, resulting in poor decisions for their overall happiness and satisfaction with their life in the future.

At first you can pretend that the money will bring you happiness, but how long can that lie be maintained? Thoughts like, "This is it, this is what I was supposed to be doing with my life," are facades that become increasingly transparent over time. It is when those facades begin to crumble that a person must choose: crash, swerve back onto the road or move to a place where they accept your way of driving. Peer pressure and expectations of monetary wealth are factors in that choice and while some people become stuck in their chosen path, others begin to pave a new

path for themselves in order to avoid a life setback.

As a graduate student, I have friends who are at this crossroads. Some students choose to change their majors, others decide to pursue their own individual interests. It's perfectly fine to be lost on your journey. In this imperfect world, one does not need to be flawless, but you do need to make decisions. Courage is when you decide and take a leap of faith into the unknown, even if it means taking a detour.

True strength is admitting you are unhappy and making a change, no matter how frightening the prospect may be. True success and wealth, is that which no dollar amount, fancy job title or social validation can ever compare to; it is happiness.

Can we please stop de-yassifying childhood cartoons?

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

Satire

Over time, we've seen the image of childhood classic faces get reconstructed with more intensity than some of our favorite celebrities, leaving us to wonder if cartoonists work harder on redesigns than the Kardashians' plastic surgeon.

Does this ruin the ambiance of the characters we thought we knew and loved? Or, does it simply create a new rendition of these faces specific to different generations trapped in the world of American childhood television for entertainment?

Dora

The original Dora has been sweet, innocent, and full of adventure since August of 2000. In 2019, "Dora and the Lost City of Gold" took a live-action form of household favorite Peruvian-American. In this

film, Dora has grown into the teenager displayed in "Dora and Friends: Into the City." Both new renditions of Dora are slimmer, taller, and older, and take the whole childhood persona out of children's characters. In addition to this drastic change, her outfits don't fit her character as well as the classic pink shirt and orange shorts combination.

Charlie Brown

Classic Charlie Brown is meant to be a two-dimensional character. His melancholy personality and simple demeanor are personified with an array of simple lines. In spite of these characteristics, the new renditions of the cartoon have portrayed Brown to be a three-dimensional shape and skin tone that goes beyond a yellow crayon shade. The boy is not complex; let's not force him to fill shoes larger than his personality.

Strawberry Shortcake

The modernization of America's favorite ginger has totally

deconstructed her simple, modest style. The beautification of Strawberry Shortcake killed her mom-friend vibes and turned her into the girl who parties on a Tuesday night.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

How did the media turn a group of goofy, green, Italian-painters-namesakes into a team of buff, bulging turtle-men, seemingly overnight? They don't seem to eat pizza anymore, as their physiques clearly display an increase in arm, chest and leg size, attributed to long days at the gym.

Scooby-Doo

Scooby is a cartoon dog, which makes his live-action persona feel like it's overstepping. I know you agree with me.

Yogi Bear

Seriously, why are we obsessed with making cartoon animals so real? At this point, we could practically fill a zoo with the amount of realistic-looking animals.



The new version of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."
Photo courtesy of @tmnt on Instagram.

The Smurfs

CGI graphics strikes again, just as it did with the remake of Charlie Brown. Cartoon villagers

are comforting, but little blue men running around the real world oversteps its boundaries.

Wrestling club brings new opportunity for University of New Haven students

BY DELIANNE
AYALA-RAMOS
Contributing Writer

As of Jan. 20, the University of New Haven Wrestling Club is up and running. For over two years, juniors Prosper Vignonne and Nolan Wyse have been working to provide an environment where students can learn, grow and achieve their physical fitness goals. Vignonne, the club's president, began wrestling his freshman year of high school.

"Before I started wrestling," he said, "I struggled with self-discipline, motivation, and behavioral issues." With wrestling he said, he developed a new mindset that revolved around dedication and perseverance. During his first year at the university, Vignonne met Wyse, who shared a passion for wrestling. Wyse, who serves as the club's vice-president, also wrestled in high school; like Vignonne, the sport gave him the motivation to improve both his physical and mental state.

The process wasn't easy. As with any other Recognized Student Organization (RSO) on campus, certain criteria had to be met. Their efforts were hindered by the effects of COVID-19; the university-wide restrictions

implemented required social distancing, and many club sports suspended their practices. With these restrictions eased, and with Vignonne's and Wyse's hard work and dedication, the wrestling club has officially become a reality.

Both Vignonne and Wyse want to make this club as inclusive as possible. No prior experience in wrestling is required, and there are no gender restrictions. The club has gathered some support, and their interest list includes over 30 students from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities and gender identities. The club's executive board will also include a Diversity and Inclusion advisor to ensure a welcoming environment.

By creating the wrestling club, Vignonne and Wyse hope to help other students fulfill their greatest potential. Their lives were changed for the better due to their passion for wrestling, and they want other students to experience a new mindset, an increase in physical fitness, a supportive community and lasting friendships.

Vignonne and Wyse are currently working on joining a competitive league with other schools' club teams. But even if a



Wrestling Club executive board: Nolan Wyse (left), Prosper Vignonne (center) and Nick Morgese (right).
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone.

student doesn't want to compete, they can still attend practices to have fun and meet people. As for Vignonne and Wyse, they can't wait to get back into wrestling and see the team grow into an organization that will benefit future students.

If you are interested in joining the wrestling club, you can follow them on Instagram @unhclubwrestling for more information or email them at wrestlingclubunh@newhaven.edu



A member of the Wrestling Club warms up before practice.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone.



Wrestling club members warm up before practice.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone.

Track and field competes at Rutgers meet

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Staff Writer

On Friday and Saturday, the men's and women's track and field teams traveled to New Jersey to compete in the Rutgers Invite track meet. Just ahead of the conference championships, the Chargers looked to have more members qualify, in hopes of competing for the Northeast-10 Championships in two weeks.

In his second meet of the year, sophomore Davon Colon broke his previous record in shot put by .67 meters throwing a career best 14.60 meters. Colon broke his record with his first throw but didn't stop there, breaking the 14 meter stat on his fifth throw to mark his new career best in the event.

Sophomore Carlos Rivera found similar success as he too broke his previous career best in the weight

throw. Coming into the meet, Rivera was throwing just under 13 meters but found a new strength as his weight throw was marked at 14.69 meters. After his first two throws were both over 14, it was his third throw that set his new record.

In his first meet competing in the weight throw, Russel Kobierecki set a new team personal record. It took him just one throw to set the record of 12.23 meters and to establish his standard for the next four years in the Blue and Gold.

Junior Elise Dodel recorded her second best throw in the weight throw championship. After recording her career best throw of 13.11 meters at the Art Kaddish meet earlier in the season, she threw 12.87 meters at Rutgers on just her first throw of the competition.

The Chargers will return to Connecticut to compete at Southern

Connecticut State University this Saturday. This will be their last chance qualifier meet to prepare before the conference championships in two weeks.

Any athletes who qualify will then be able to compete at the NCAA Division II Championships in Kansas on March 11-12. More information on the Chargers' schedule and results can be found at NewHavenChargers.com

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