

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Awards from the MLK ceremony placed on a table, West Haven, Jan. 25, 2023. Graphic courtesy of *Charger Bulletin*/Andrea Rojas and Erick Cuatzo.

## University holds third annual MLK celebration ceremony

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

The University of New Haven remains committed to fostering a climate which prioritizes the ideals of diversity, equity, inclusion, access and belonging. The university hosted their third annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Recognition Awards Ceremony in the Beckerman Recreation Center this past Wednesday. This event sought to commemorate the life of the late reverend, and offered an opportunity to honor those from our campus community who continuously go above and beyond to practice what King preached decades ago.

The theme for this year's celebration was "This is Our Hope: Celebrating Achievement and Hope for the Future," a reminder that the fight for social justice is a constant and collective one; that only through a shared vision may we accomplish the goal of true equity for all.

The ceremony began with a welcome address from Dean of Students and Chief Diversity Officer Ophelie Rowe-Allen. Following that was an acknowledgement of the program cover designer, Eyosias Teka—a junior business management major—by Assistant Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alvin

Tran. Opening remarks came from Interim President Sheahon Zenger, along with a celebration of life and moment of silence for the recently passed psychology professor, Dr. Kento Yasuhara, conducted by Tran.

A performance of the Black National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was delivered by Maudjeani Pelissier, a freshman music and sound recording major, after which campus chaplain and fire science professor Martin O'Connor delivered the invocation.

Jason Howell Jr., coordinator for the Office of Graduate and International Student Life, kicked off the awards portion of the night by acknowledging the winner of the University's inaugural MLK essay contest—a partnership with high schools within New Haven County as well as Bridgeport—with this year's winner being Linayah Aquino, a junior at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport.

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award was given to Kaelian Barrionuevo, a freshman criminal justice major. In the words of presenter Linda Copney-Okeke, director of the Accessibility Resources Center, this scholarship is "presented annually to outstanding minority students who achieve academic success, and who embody the

values of equality, justice and nonviolent activism espoused by the late Dr. King," and amounts to \$1,631.

Next were the Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Awards, which Tran described as recognizing "individuals who demonstrate a commitment to the ideals and values of Dr. King... and can be considered unsung heroes here at the University." The faculty recipient Yanice Mendez-Fernandez is the associate dean of the School of Health Sciences, and was hailed by her nominator, Director of the Master of Public Health Program Karl Minges, as "a tireless advocate for health equity and reducing disparities in public health, and her research focuses on educational resiliency in the face of natural disasters." Some of her credentials include her work as the inaugural chair of the School of Health Sciences' Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Belonging Committee and the 2021 honoree for the Stella S. Simpson Leadership award for her work at Trevecca Nazarene University.

The staff award was given to David Schroeder, Associate Dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, as he was nominated by fellow dean Mario Gaboury. Schroeder began working at the university after ten years of experience in the New York

Museum of Tolerance. His most famous contribution to the University of New Haven has been his spearheading the creation of "The UNCommon Course," a three credit class which "is designed to allow students to understand that 'traits' are characteristics of people that they did not choose... and to highlight the process by which people often assign social value to those traits."

Two students were also bestowed with the Vision Award. Undergraduate student Peri Alexander, a senior health sciences major with a minor in Spanish, was nominated by university alumna Selena Chom. Alexander currently serves as a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) ambassador for the university and co-founded a student-integrated mentorship program to help new students, specifically global students, adapt to a campus climate. Alexander used her speech to pose multiple thought-provoking questions to the audience, such as "When do we start to initiate diversity and inclusivity in the classroom? How can we make our dreams of equity and belonging come to fruition?"

Graduate student Azza Hussein, who earned her Bachelor of Science in psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and is pursuing a master's degree in community

psychology with a concentration in community research and evaluation here at the University of New Haven, was honored with the second student Vision Award by her nominator Melissa Whitson. Hussein possesses plenty of experience in working to help underserved populations, such as being a founder and Director of Programs and Services for Moving Forward Sudan to volunteering and working at Integrated Refugee Immigration Services. On the refugees which she works with, Hussein says, "Young people are an incredibly vulnerable population, and the added barrier of being an immigrant or refugee multiplies the difficulties that many of these teens I work with experience. Through my work, I try to empower them and remind them that they have agency."

Also recognized were three honorable mentions: faculty recipient Zelda Roland, staff recipient Michael Rossi and Leo Levine-Aquino, a senior forensic science major.

The final award of the night was the Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels Advocacy, Leadership and Service Award, which was presented by nominator Senior Associate Dean of Students Ric Baker to Linda Copney-Okeke, whom Baker recog-

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# Illuminate Dance Club brought to life by founders

BY ANCHAL BHATIA  
Staff Writer

“To continue the tap dance form, the Illuminate Dance Club came into being,” said the Illuminate Dance Club (IDC)’s president, Mallory Rothweiler, a junior interior design major. She and secretary of IDC, Sadie Fraser-Read, a junior hospitality and tourism major, spoke more on the dance group. The IDC is a recent addition to the university that was started in October 2022 by Rothweiler and Fraser-Read, with three additional members on the executive board. The inspiration behind forming this club was to continue the legacy of tap dance at the university. Rothweiler and Fraser-Read, in unison, expressed how they enjoyed being part of the university’s tap club during their sophomore year; however, the club became inactive soon after.

During its inception, IDC comprised 11 members, which according to its founders, was an impressive start. Rothweiler said, “We were majorly satisfied with our group members as we did not have enough space on the stage to accommodate a huge crowd, and we could also simultaneously manage the additional procedures hassle-free.”

The club’s secretary then spoke about the aura and environment and described it in one word: “friendly.” To further explain this word, Fraser-Read said, “We, as the founders, do not believe in creating a strict or nervous environment for the participants.

As we meet for practice sessions, we assure them that their ideas are extremely important to us; hence, we try to work as a group of friends rather than a strict club. It has been exciting to see the number of friendships built here with one another, which fills me with satisfaction.”

Upon exploring the other segments of IDC, the founders spoke about their plans for the spring 2023 semester. Rothweiler said that she aspires to see more dance clubs in and out of the university coming together and having a showcase. Both founders talked about their plans for building this showcase and planning for it to happen this year. They also added their motives for organizing open classes, workshops and meet-ups in the present and coming semesters.

Rothweiler and Fraser-Read talked about the future of IDC and stated that they wish to see this club alive, even years after they graduate. They said, “We both are going to graduate next year, and therefore, our sole motive is to see the IDC grow more and get handled by phenomenal enthusiasts. Currently, we only practice tap, jazz and lyrical, but we will be extremely proud and happy to see more styles in the future. So basically, we are building the foundation in the present, and we wish to see this group enhance and become more renowned in the future.”

The duo also talked about using Instagram’s vote feature to finalize the name of the club. As inspiring the word “illuminate” is, they found this to be the best

fit for the club’s name. Speaking about some of the challenges so far, the president-secretary duo said that one of these challenges was managing everyone’s schedules and finding a space to practice in that time. IDC and its members meet on Sunday afternoons and evenings, considering everyone’s availability. Their mentorship is beyond the set times, and the IDC members ensure being there for its club participants is a priority. They make it a point to have recorded videos handy for the group members and spare time if anyone needs more practice.

As the dance club has now begun growing, the founders are getting involved in displaying additional efforts to make IDC a successful club, long term. Rothweiler spoke about the club’s future and how it can emerge into a more renowned dance club in the years to follow with the support of funds from the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) and with more promotions. However, she also mentioned a space crunch that the clubs at the university were facing and stated how it would be more helpful if dance and activity clubs would get more area. Fraser-Read added, “A designated dance space is something that we would love to see happening on campus. As we usually perform in the German Club or the Recreation Center, it is sad that availability is sometimes difficult. Besides, even the space stage is quite small, adding to the complexity of accommodating everyone while teaching



The IDC members, West Haven, Dec. 11, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of @illuminate.danceclub on Instagram.

the pieces. We would love to see a special space for the tap dance as it requires special flooring. We currently have a small roll-on floor for the tap, but we would love to see this change in the years to come.”

The duo also stated they would want a maximum number of 20 members in the group. They explained their statement and said managing schedules, spaces and personal interactions would become slightly difficult. The president said, “We would love to give attention to everyone, which may not be as possible if the club fills with large numbers. Therefore, we would love to encourage dancers to seek their spots in their desired dance

groups, and if we cannot take more members, we would love to recommend them to several other dance clubs at the university.”

The Illuminate Dance Club, run by two young enthusiasts, is in its formation and seeks support from several other dancers. They are incredibly open to interacting with others and would love to see the talent of many others at the university. To know more about joining them or cheering for them, they can be contacted through email at [illuminatedanceclub@newhaven.edu](mailto:illuminatedanceclub@newhaven.edu). The IDC is also settling its presence on social media and can be followed on Instagram @illuminate.danceclub.

# University dance team competes at National Dance Association competition

BY LILY FLEMING  
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 15, the U. New Haven Dance Team traveled to New Jersey to compete at their first collegiate level competition for The National Dance Association (NDA) camp. The team put their typical half-time performances on hold to learn new choreography and practice for many hours leading up to the competition, which paid off when they placed first in college pom and jazz.

Emma Planzo, a junior dental hygiene major, shared that the team returned to school a week early before the spring semester to practice. On the first day of rehearsals, the team had access to the gym at North Campus where they practiced for eight hours in one day. Planzo said that “Thankfully, the next day we were able to use our coach’s daughter’s dance studio, where we practiced for another four hours.”

She shared that the night before the team left for New Jersey, they held another rehearsal as well. “Before the competition was intense. Emotions were high, everybody was anxious but excited.”

Olivia Sisk, a senior criminal justice major and one of the captains of the dance team shared that the team was thrilled to be participating in their first competition. Sisk discussed some of the teamwork skills they applied prior to the competition, saying that “We were all supportive of one another and helping each other when we needed it.”

Sisk also explained that this team opened a new chapter for the university dance team and is creating new traditions.

Kelly Mirando, a junior dental hygiene major and co-captain of the team, emphasized that the team felt both nervous and excited to compete. She said, “Those excited nerves helped our performances and

paid off in the end.” Throughout their journey, the team relied on one another for support, which they found really brought them together.

Mirando explained that prior to the competition, she would listen to the routine music and run through the numbers in her head. “Listening to music with headphones and going through the routines helped me leading up to the competition.”

Alyssa Mazza, a senior nutrition major, described that the atmosphere of the competition boosted the team’s energy and excitement to dance. Mazza said, “We were so excited to have the chance to dance at a college competition, we really came together as a team.” Sisk explains that this team opened a new chapter for the university dance team and is creating new traditions.

The dance team is known for their performances during football and basketball games. Coach Ashley McClain shared

that the team held fundraisers to make this competition possible. She said that the team is usually standing on the sidelines cheering others on. “It was nice to be able to put work in that was for us, and us alone,” McClain said.

Through this competition, the team was able to put their talents on display off the football

field. “We have certain roles at a sports game, we’re cheering on the sidelines or supporting the team,” she said. “The team was able to showcase not only their dancing but also that they are athletes as well. They had to put in a ton of work on top of everything they must do for game days.”



The U. New Haven Dance Team and coach at the NDA, New Jersey, Jan. 15, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Ashley McClain.

# U.S. faces debt ceiling crisis at the start of the new year

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

On Jan. 19, the United States hit their debt ceiling, which stands at 31.4 trillion dollars. Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen, is urging Congress to act “to protect the full faith and credit of the United States,” in her letter sent to the newly elected Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy. Congress can make the decision to suspend or increase the debt limit.

A debt ceiling or debt limit is the total amount of money that the U.S. Treasury is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations and other payments.

Since the borrowing amount was hit, the Treasury has taken the opportunity to invoke extraordinary measures to ensure that Congress has time to discuss the matter. Extraordinary measures help prolong the risk of a default, which occurs when the Treasury can no longer suspend investments of their funds or suspend sales of their state/local securities. This would catastrophize the U.S. economy and even affect the global economy.

In this case, the extraordinary measures include suspending the



Money from the United States Treasury sits on a table.  
Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock/Jeff McCollough.

Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) and the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHB). These funds are invested in special-issue Treasury securities, so they count against the debt limit.

On Jan. 24, Secretary Yellen sent another letter stating that the Treasury can also not fully invest in the Government Securities Investment Fund (G Fund). All three funds will be made whole once the debt limit is either suspended or increased.

In December 2021, a bill was passed to increase the debt limit by 2.5 trillion, which is something that Congress can elect to do again. At this time, Congress is politically divided, and both parties stand at a disagreement on what decisions should be made. This issue will be developing until early June, as they have until then to make a decision while the extraordinary measures are still in place.

Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy and his Republican

colleagues are seeking to speak with President Joseph Biden about cutting federal spending before raising the debt limit. This could mean revising the benefits of Social Security and Medicare.

“You can’t just increase the debt limit and let President Biden keep spending like he’s done,” House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La) said.

The House Republicans would like many of Biden’s programs and spending to be reduced before they decide on the debt

ceiling.

On the other hand, some Democrats such as Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) believe there should be no time getting wasted on a negotiation since there is a limited amount of time before the U.S. economy fails.

Durbin says, “We shouldn’t play games with the national debt.”

Congress is very divided on this issue and it may take months for them to agree on a decision. If they do not come up with a decision by early June, the United States economy will default.

According to the White House Council of Economic Advisors, if a default occurs “GDP would fall, unemployment would rise, and everyday households would be affected in a number of ways.” People would end up not receiving their Social Security or Medicare benefits, and there would be increased interest rates and credit card debt.

The U.S. has never had to default, so most of the outcomes are unknown at this point.

Congress is delaying setting a resolution, while millions of Americans depend on the majority of the benefits that have the risk of being taken away if the U.S. defaults.

## The Monterey Park mass shooting and the fight on gun control

BY VALENTINA ORTIZ ELIAN  
Copy Desk Chief

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and violence leading the Asian American community to “suffer several high-profile shootings” over the past three years.

On Jan. 21, the mass shooting at a ballroom dance studio resulted in the passing of 11 victims of Asian American descent between the ages of 52 and 76. Law enforcement has identified the perpetrator as Huu Can Tran, a 72-year-old Asian American man. Los Angeles authorities say he was using a 9mm caliber semi-automatic MAC-10 assault weapon, and they believe he was also “manufacturing homemade firearm suppressors.”

Two recent shootings in the California cities of Half Moon Bay and Oakland followed the Monterey Park shooting. The Half Moon Bay incident led to the passing of seven victims, with reports that the gun used was a “semi-automatic weapon, legally registered to the shooter.” Oakland marked the third shooting in a span of three-days, with one victim and no reports of a weapon, but multiple shell casings were found at the scene.

California is known to have the strictest gun laws in the nation, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. The state is known to be the country’s first to ban assault weapons, the possession of grand-fathered magazines and has even

placed magazine limits. Yet, even with these avertions, the Monterey Park incident is being labeled as one of the “deadliest attacks” within reports arising from the Gun Violence Archive about 40 mass shootings in the United States occurring in 2023 so far.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court’s (SCOTUS) decision in the latest landmark case — *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* — has inspired a new standard for state gun legislation across the nation. In *Bruen*, SCOTUS ruled that New York’s proper-cause requirement violated

the Fourteenth Amendment by preventing citizens from exercising their Second Amendment rights.

The decision has led gun rights advocates to challenge gun laws in states across the U.S. as many cases are returned to the lower courts for a reconsideration on gun restrictions.

Gun-right advocacy cases have continued to arise throughout the nation; one case includes a federal judge issuing a restraining order to block New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy’s bill that restricted concealed carry in locations of “high density,” “vulnerability” and

“governmental and First Amendment activity.” Another case arose when a California gun rights group sued the state of Tennessee for the exclusion of young adults, leading the state to settle the lawsuit and allowing 18-to-20-year-olds to carry concealed firearms under Tennessee’s permitless gun carry law.

Meanwhile, members of the Monterey Park community, advocates of gun control and victims of gun violence are demanding for a stronger stance on gun control laws by local officials and the federal government.

On Jan. 25, Vice President Kamala Harris visited the Monterey Park memorial and advocated for stronger gun control legislation, saying “Congress must act. Should they? Yes. Can they? Yes.” Since then, President Joseph Biden has pledged the federal government’s support following the mass shootings in California and hinted towards legislation introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to ban assault weapons. However, the gun-control bill faces a difficult pathway to the Senate with a Republican majority in the House.



A Nevada police car sits with its lights on.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Kenny Eliason.

## Ukrainian transfer student welcomed to the university community

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

The spring semester welcomed both old and new Charger faces, including Kateryna Fedirko, a sophomore international business major and transfer student, who traveled 4,772 miles to the University of New Haven from Odessa, Ukraine. Fedirko's arrival marks another student's journey to academic and professional success at the University of New Haven.

According to a published letter from Chancellor Steven Kaplan to the student body, Fedirko came to the university through a collaboration with EducationUSA Ukraine. This organization helps students from Ukraine continue their education. When she first came to the United States, Fedirko was greeted by Kaplan and Associate Professor of the Division of Humanities Bradley Woodworth.

In his letter, Kaplan said that, "Kateryna is the first of what we hope will be several students who will join us from Ukraine." Fedirko opened up about her major and what courses she is tak-

ing. She said "I like many things in business; specifically marketing [and] human resources." She chose this major because she did "not [want to] pick something specific, but to study everything at once."

The classes that Fedirko is taking are ones that she claims to enjoy. "My favorite class is the Business and Entrepreneurship class with [Hospitality and Tourism Professor Jan Jones]. I think I like it because it's entertaining;

it's creative. We always do some teamwork together," she said. "It is fun to do something as a team and not just listen to a professor for an hour."

Fedirko went on and said that she likes the class setups "be-

cause you have all these different classmates in every class. And everything changes; you meet new people, and you have many connections after that."

Beyond enjoying her courses so far, Fedirko said she appreciates the "diverse community" at the university that she is now part of. She also said that everyone she has met is "very friendly" and "helpful." Fedirko expressed happiness when speaking about meeting new people—both American students and other international students.

Fedirko, like many other students at the university, is looking forward to getting involved with clubs and Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs). She said she is interested in joining the Women in Business club, which enables its members to grow professionally and share their experiences. "This club suits me perfectly," Fedirko said.

Fedirko's educational journey at the university has only just begun, but she stands optimistic in the face of the opportunities ahead of her.



Kateryna Fedirko poses in front of the Charger statue, West Haven, Jan. 26, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett

## Lunar New Year celebration makes a mark at the university

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Lunar New Year is a holiday celebrated by people of Asian descent, and celebrates the arrival of spring. The university's Office of Graduate and International Student Life (OGISL) and the Asian-American Student Union (AASU) collaborated to pull off a Lunar New Year Celebration held in the Bucknall Theater this past Friday.

The Director of Graduate and International Student Life Steve Macchiarolo wished attendees a happy new year and welcomed recent alumni Pearly Ng, who graduated in December 2022 with a Master's of Arts in Industrial and

Organizational Psychology. Ng started off the event by welcoming in the Year of the Rabbit. "I want to wish everyone [an] abundance of joy, fortune, prosperity and most importantly good health," said Ng.

Ng introduced the Lion Dance, which is a dance done by performers dressed in lion costumes. Ng said the dance "brings good fortune and helps chase evil spirits away." Purple and red stage lights came on as two lions with jingling bells came down the sides of the theater and onto the stage, which got cheers from the audience. Once on the stage, the lions commenced a duo performance.

The lights came on before Dr. Henry C. Lee came onstage and thanked OGISL and AASU for

putting together the celebration. Lee explained the Year of the Rabbit, which was accompanied by presentation slides that said, "People born in a Year of the Rabbit are called 'Rabbits' and believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded, and ingenious."

Next, Lee presented Lunar New Year gifts, which include red envelopes, oranges or tangerines and a Lunar Calendar, among many more. He then played questionnaire games with the audience and used red envelopes filled with money as prizes. One set of questions were about Lee, such as when he joined the university, what the most famous case he investigated in Taiwan was and the name of his U.S. television



Above: Yingna Lu playing the violin; Left: the kung-fu performance group, West Haven, Jan. 27, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Krista Smith.



show. Then, Lee asked members of the audience to guess the person they saw on the slideshow; these people included interim president Sheahon Zenger, famous singer Wayne Newton, actor Steven Segal and many more people that Lee got to meet.

After the er-hu performance, Pearly Ng came on stage and talked about Kung Fu – a Chinese martial art – which is "one of the deadliest martial arts in the world," said Ng. Members of the Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy in West Haven gave a performance of their skills, all of which was coordinated excellently and stayed intense throughout.

Abigail Chang, a forensic science

major and executive assistant and secretary of AASU, gave a Tai Chi demonstration. The demonstration went along while a recording of Tai Chi instructions was played.

A piano performance came from Bryan Cadavos, a genetics and biotechnology major and AASU president. Cadavos played two compositions and dedicated them to Dr. Kento Yasuhara, who passed away earlier this year. The AASU President told the audience that Dr. Yasuhara was the founder and advisor of AASU. "I think that dedicating this song will help," said Cadavos.

The night ended with Ng bidding everyone good night and a round of applause from the audience.

## New EV charging stations now available

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

In an email sent out on Jan. 23, Associate Vice President of Facilities Louis Annino announced that the electric vehicle charging stations which have been under construction since before winter break are finally available for use to all members of the University of New Haven community “who have made their own commitment to sustainability by driving electric-powered vehicles.”

Instructions to access the charging stations are detailed in the email, guiding students how to download the ChargePoint app and create an account, entering the code “UNH1920” under the “connections” tab and filling out

your name, license plate and university ID number.

These charging stations are designated as level two electric vehicle charging stations, meaning they are capable of charging between 12 and 80 miles per hour according to Forbes Wheels. The university’s charging service is being offered free of cost, although you will need to submit a payment method when making your account.

There are currently eight charging stations, located across two locations on campus, with plans to create more stations in the future. One location is next to Celentano Hall in the parking spots beside the dumpsters facing Dunham Hall. The other can be found behind the Beckerman

Recreation Center in the parking lot facing Bergami Hall.

Those who choose to use these stations are allotted four hours to charge their vehicles, after which they will be charged five dollars for every extra hour they remain in use. According to Annino, this is meant to “encourage sharing of the charging stations and to ensure ample availability to all users,” citing that four hours is “more than sufficient to fully charge your vehicle.”

Annino did not respond to requests for comment.

To learn more about the initiative, feel free to contact the University’s director of energy and sustainability Laura Miller, reachable by email at [LMiller@newhaven.edu](mailto:LMiller@newhaven.edu).



One of the ChargePoint Stations on campus, West Haven, Jan. 26, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Matthew Mowerson.

## University reflects on the life of late professor Dr. Kento Yasuhara

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

Dr. Kento Yasuhara was a figure within the Department of Psychology whose impact will radiate throughout the community long after his days as a lecturer. In light of his passing on Jan. 11 from a brief illness, members within the university opened up in reflection of the influence he held on their experiences at the University of New Haven.

One of the courses that Dr. Yasuhara taught was Research Methods in Psychology. Presley Hill, a senior studying psychology with a concentration in forensic psychology, commented in reflection of her time under his advisory. “I only had one class with him, but I will say he was one of the best professors I had and I learned so much from him in such a short time. He genuinely cared about his students and truly wanted to see everyone succeed.”

Taylor Bigelow, assistant professor of counseling, spoke in reflection on Dr. Yasuhara, who she remembers as both a mentor and a friend. In regards to his presence within the academic community, Bigelow said that “Dr. Yasuhara cultivated town and gown relationships and community connection by providing psychology student interns internship experiences in the field. In his dual role as professor and clinical psychologist, Dr. Yasuhara fostered student clinical growth as he mentored them as budding clinicians while simultaneously providing quality care to psychotherapy clients in Connecticut. Dr. Yasuhara changed lives for the better, both the lives of his

clients in psychological services, and the lives of the students and colleagues he mentored.”

Bigelow also looked back on her personal impacts from and observations of Dr. Yasuhara, in saying “As an early career educator on the tenure track, his guidance and support has been invaluable. What I am most struck by is how vast his impact was. He made a wealth of students, faculty, and staff feel seen, heard, valued, supported, just to sample from the myriad of adjectives that describe the care he provided so many. I am so grateful that life allowed me to be one of the many humans he impacted for the better.”

Dr. Yasuhara was recognized for his successes in the integration of mental health studies and the criminal justice system, and he has written in the Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice and Criminal Justice and Behavior, and has done research at the National Institute of Mental Health.

His successes as both a clinical and forensic psychologist have made waves in these fields of study.

Since joining the university community back in 2013, he has certainly left his mark on those with whom he has crossed paths.

Dr. Yasuhara is survived by his wife, Clarice, and the rest of his family, who are requesting privacy at this time.

Counseling and Psychological Services is available for anyone seeking grief counseling or someone to talk to, and can be reached at 203-932-7333.

## University issues new mask guidance

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

As cases of COVID-19 and other illnesses see yet another spike across the state of Connecticut, community members are once again reminded of the need to be vigilant. An email from the Dean of Students Office on Jan. 13 advised all members of the campus community to once again consider wearing masks indoors as COVID-19 transmissions are seeing spikes in counties across Connecticut, as well as to contain the spread of other viruses such as RSV and influenza.

Associate Director of Health, Wellness Education and Prevention Diane Polo, sent out the email in accordance with new data from the Center for Disease Control which has highlighted High community

levels of COVID-19 in nearly every county in Connecticut as of the current date, with the only exceptions being Medium community levels in the Hartford and New London counties. The main designation between High and Medium levels is the recommendation to “wear a high-quality mask or respirator.” The CDC’s information is updated weekly on their website.

When asked to give a statement on if the university has plans to further advertise recommendations about COVID-19 and other winter illnesses, Polo said that “[The University of New Haven] will continue to send updates to the University community as necessary to ensure that everyone is informed of illnesses to be aware of and the best ways to protect themselves.”

The University of New Haven is not making any other changes

to their COVID policy, including stances on vaccination, CoVerified, testing, isolation housing and University-sponsored travel, and has remained unchanged since Jul. 26 ahead of the Fall 2022 semester. Campus COVID-19 alert level is currently low-risk.

Last Thursday the Dean of Students Office and Health Services could be found in Bartels Hall tabling together to provide information about Health Services, as well as common winter illnesses and how to report them, and gave out goodie bags with wellness items.

If you’re feeling unwell or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you can make an appointment with Health Services by calling them at 203-932-7079 or emailing them at [healthservices@newhaven.edu](mailto:healthservices@newhaven.edu).

## MLK celebration

Continued from page 1

nized as someone who “may not be the most outspoken voice at the table, but her passion, knowledge, service and experience run deep. People who take the time to engage her are rewarded with a wealth of insight and inspiration.” Okeke has worked at the university for nearly 40 years, and in that time has served as advisor for the Black Student Union and our chapter of the NAACP, helped to found Black and Latino Alumni Weekend, among countless other accolades. At the conclusion of her acceptance speech Okeke made a call to action, beckoning for all who would hear to “not only celebrate our victories, but lock arms with one another and push forward to ensure that there is always a hope for the future for everyone. I encourage each of you to be an advocate, to be a leader and to be that voice for change.”

All nominations and honorable mentions were voted upon by the 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee—a coalition of

leaders on campus consisting of faculty, staff and students, and headed by Dean Rowe-Allen and Tran.

A keynote was delivered by Lamond Daniels, a graduate of the University of New Haven who currently works as the Chief of Community Services in the City of Norwalk. In his deliverance, Daniels touched on a variety of topics, ranging from the inequities of the COVID-19 pandemic felt by African Americans, to mass shootings remaining a prevalent focus in our current news cycle, to the importance of not being an idle bystander. More specifically, he calls upon the common adage “if you see something, say something,” and posed to the audience, “If we’re [going to] talk about Martin Luther King [Jr.] we have to walk away today and say ‘what am I willing to challenge, not with someone else but within myself?’”

This resounding celebration of life, each other and all of the differences which we work so hard to amplify, was concluded with closing remarks from Dean Rowe-Allen.

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## Students should be included more on university decisions

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

### Editorial

Being a student at a medium-sized university can lead to feeling disconnected from the decisions being made behind the scenes. Decisions that affect the daily operations and activities of students on campus. The estimated 7,000 students that attend the University of New Haven deserve to be included in the decision-making process more than they presently are.

For example, the university recently unveiled their new electric vehicle charging stations. While these serve an important purpose, they replaced a number of commuter parking spots without

any prior notice. The complete overhaul of the parking system this summer shows the same problem: students were not part of the process of making these changes.

This can cause the students to feel like there is no tangible change happening. Issues that have bothered students over the years, notably food and parking, remain issues in many students' eyes today. This is despite said problems being constantly publicized and critiqued.

When the university is looking at changes to make, it is critical for them to turn to the very people these changes affect. The students best know and understand how life is at

this school and they have a number of ideas that could go a long way towards improving life on campus.

There are many other factors that go into such decisions and

the whole student body recognizes this. But this is a big way to not only improve student happiness but also improve the university, from the perspective of those paying tuition.

## Page Six View

### I am disappointed in fourth-wave feminism

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Columnist

### Column

I identify as a feminist but I will not sit idly by while a movement I am proud to be part of promotes ideals that I deem regressive or even gross. Thoughts that have become rampant in some feminist circles are that sex work is a decent type of work, pornography is an acceptable art form and that the word woman should be removed for more inclusive language.

### Sex work is not "just work."

Sex work is not a decent way to make a living, nor is it "just work." The precondition of sex work is the vulnerability of women and girls. Women do not desire to enter prostitution or a similar sex industry because it is a fun career but often because they are facing financial instability and social insecurity.

For perspective, it can be argued that both construction workers and sex workers use physical labor to earn a living. But the difference lies in that a construction worker receives compensation in return for selling their skillset, while a sex worker receives compensation in return for selling herself.

The causes of sex work are what needs to be addressed; these women deserve safety and security. To support sex work is to actively view women as a commodity.

### Pornography is not art.

While what constitutes art is a subjective decision, it cannot be ethical to classify porn as such. Photography is a type of art that serves its purpose as showing our world in its raw state. The purpose of pornography is to sexually excite the viewer, not have them ponder and appreciate lighting or camera angles.

Art should not shrink your brain or reduce frontal lobe functioning. Viewing pornography does both. The porn industry makes aggression towards women seem sexy and normalizes human trafficking – both of which should not be considered works of art.

### Stop censoring the word "woman."

Lately there has been a push to erase the word "woman" from common jargon and to replace it with more inclusive terms such as "uterus owner" or "person with a vagina/uterus." Writing "woman" as "womxn" is now an acceptable way of erasing someone's identity. Feminism should not devolve to become a linguistics movement that seeks to bastardize the English language.

To define an individual by their genitals or body parts is perhaps one of the least progressive things. I will not be identified as a "birthing person" nor any other conglomeration of anatomical bits. Expressing and acknowledging womanhood should not be taboo.

## La vita oltre i nostri confini: Life beyond our borders

BY STEPHEN GANGI  
Executive Business Manager

### Column

The study abroad experience can be a period of enlightenment for any student who decides to venture out beyond the boundaries of their home and into a new world. Whether a particular student has already spent time outside their home country or has never left its borders, the experience of living in an environment so rich in new culture can provide an introduction to what life is beyond our borders.

My name is Stephen Gangi; I am a junior communication major currently studying abroad at our satellite campus in Prato, a small town in Tuscany, Italy.

I have the opportunity to report to each student—whether currently studying at our main or satellite campus—on my experiences abroad, and to inform the reader of the whereabouts of students who choose to study abroad.

When first making the decision to take on this venture, it is important to consider the implications on your academic journey. Using the available elective credits within Degree Audit is one way many students make a semester abroad possible. Consult with your academic

advisor so you can make a plan early enough to dedicate the use of these credits to this escapade.

Once the pre-trip preparations are made, courses are selected and the students are on their way to their new home for the semester, only then does the realization hit. Those first steps off the plane will become some of the most important steps made in your life.

The study abroad experience can open many doors. It presents you with the opportunity to take life by its reins and start mending a bond with it—growing within the realms of independence, maturity and, especially, self-growth. In the few weeks that I've been in Prato, Italy, I have seen massive growth in all of us here. I've seen people find love, make friends, lose friends and handle conflict as it comes.

If you are a student who is uncertain about the study abroad experience, my advice is to take the trip. This will be something I carry with me forever, and I can already confidently say the same will be the case for you.

Throughout this semester, I will showcase some highlights about the Prato campus and share my adventure. I hope, in following along with my adventure, you find inspiration in taking that next step forward in your journey, whatever that may be.



Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy, Jan. 27, 2023  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Stephen Gangi.

# The virtue of consistency

BY CARLOS REBOLLO  
Contributing Writer

## Guest Column

Charging children as adults is contradictory.

In *Thompson v. Oklahoma*, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) overturned the death penalty for people under 16 years old. William Wayne Thompson was 15-years-old when he and three adults— Anthony “Tony” James Mann, Richard Jones and Bobby Glass – murdered Thompson’s brother-in-law, Charles Keene.

In its decision, the court said that “informing the court today is the virtue of consistency” and ruled that “age alone mitigates the crime.”

In the 2010 case *Graham v. Florida*, SCOTUS ruled that mandatory life sentencing of juveniles for non-homicidal crimes is unconstitutional. Terrance Graham was 16-years-old when a judge sentenced him to mandatory life without the possibility of parole for committing two robberies. SCOTUS failed to base its ruling on the “virtue of consistency,” but instead settled for “new psychological developments on differences between juvenile and adult brains that supported the claim that discipline should be approached differently between the two.”

There is much to question about how a court can be informed by the “virtue of consistency” in one case and then 22 years later base its decision on scientific findings about the brain; this inconsistency deserves consideration.

Since science depends on such consistency, the purpose of introducing or requiring science to discontinue the practices of harsh treatments of juveniles is problematic, especially when the inconsistency of charging them as adults remains. Radley Balko addresses this in his Washington Post article, “There seems to be an inescapable tension between the fields of law

and science. Law strives for consistency and finality, so courts tend to look to precedents for guidance.

Science is always changing with new evidence and new research. But of course science is an important tool in the search for justice.”

Science, however, is no substitute for consistency.

It is important to note that, Balko’s article notwithstanding, new evidence and research that is changing science, is also science. And the glue that holds the evidence and research together, long enough to change science is consistency. When *Thompson* was decided, SCOTUS considered all of the 50 states’ laws in relation to a 15-year-old and found a consensus about the assumptions that are made about children under the age of 16. That consensus should have led SCOTUS to pass a categorical imperative against charging children as adults. There is nothing consistent about a child being an adult. Yet, SCOTUS focuses on remediating the consequences of the inconsistency, rather than eliminating the inconsistency itself. The Justices appear to be content with reasoning within the cause of the contradiction of a child being an adult while allowing cases to be argued on the effects of “cruel and unusual punishment.”

In her article “Should Juveniles Be Tried as Adults Pros and Cons,” Natalie Regoli demonstrates this in the following 11 examples:

1. It does not take into account the maturity of the child.
2. It does not usually offer an opportunity for rehabilitation.
3. It creates an element of risk for the child while they are in prison.
4. It reduces the number of options that are available for sentencing.
5. It creates more opportunities for youth to become repeat offenders.
6. It prevents a child from having a fresh start even after they make necessary changes.
7. It does not reflect the understanding of the children in question.
8. It does not always reflect a mea-

sure of culpability.

9. It does not provide them with youth-specific services.

10. It is a process which seems to disproportionately target minority demographics.

11. It does not give a defendant an opportunity to be tried by a “jury of their peers.”

This issue of arguing from a point of consistency is not trivial. Our due process clause is made up of two crucial components. Procedural components is one, which requires the government to follow a strict constitutional process when it deprives anyone of liberty. The second component is substantial, which denies the government the power to deprive liberty, regardless of the procedure they follow, if they act arbitrarily or capriciously. If the due process clause is generated from anything, it is consistency. When the government is required to act under prescribed and substantive rules, there is a presumption of strict adherence to established rules that cannot be under emphasized.

Furthermore, there is a concept known as “expressio unius est exclusio alterius” that is central to our constitutional construction of law. It means that the “express designation of one thing, may properly be construed as the exclusion of another.” It seems obvious that once something is designated, it has to retain its identity for it to be comprehensive.

The idea that the identity of children does not qualify under the same rules of consistency that allow our laws to promote and protect our society undermines everyone’s rights. The threat to our principles of democracy in charging children as adults should be the central argument placed before SCOTUS. To continue to consider mitigating factors, such as brain development, to reduce harsh sentences for juveniles is to allow for injustice while asking that the injustice be reduced, rather than removed.

# A plea for more from our food

BY JESSIE HYOWITZ  
Contributing Writer

## Guest Column

A common scenario for a University of New Haven student: you walk into the Marketplace. You are with your friends and ready to have dinner. You fill your plate with a standard meal: chicken and string beans or codfish and rice. You and your friends sit down at the table. You cut into the edge of the meat and smell something funny. The meat is severely undercooked and you have just lost your appetite.

This is the common UNH student experience. But why? If the average university student is paying around tens of thousands of dollars per semester just to attend this school, why is there such a failure to uphold basic food safety standards? The average unaffiliated student meme page like @unh\_afterdark will show pictures of hair-infested food and complaints of food poisoning.

This, of course, is not to blame the service workers; most of them are wonderful. But even a sweet smile or sound advice

from the Beach Grill cannot stop the symptoms of salmonella. No, the food issue at the university is a systematic one. Everyone reading this article already knows that. The students, the underpaid service staff and the saintly professors who pay \$12 to eat the mediocre Sodexo food all complain about the obvious issue. I am not going to pretend that I am not preaching to the choir here.

The reason I wrote this article was not to beat a dead horse. That would be redundant. I am writing this article because I have a sliver of hope in change. Our former athletic director and current interim president, Sheanon Zenger, will officially take the highest position at the university next semester. He has known ambitions to take our school to D1. Zenger seems to care about the students and our school.

Perhaps, with his new administration, he will take our food quality from a grade D to an A. If not, then at least we have enough memes to get us through the winter.



A live chicken in a sandwich, Jan. 29, 2023  
Graphic courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Andrea Rojas.

If you are interested in more news for this week, check out the QR code (left) for our Link Tree to visit the Charger Bulletin website, or to view our weekly news broadcast.

Also check out a digital audio story from Videography Editor Jason Kull on the RSO Involvement Fair from Jan. 20. Scan the QR code (right) for that story.

The Charger Bulletin also wants to officially introduce our new staff members for the Spring semester: Erin Smith as Politics Editor, Justin Coviello as Campus News Editor and Jason Kull as Videography Editor. We are excited to welcome them all into our editorial staff and are looking forward to another great semester covering the campus’ news.



## Women's basketball gears up for second-half surge

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

The New Haven women's basketball team bounced back in their last five games, coming away with huge wins over conference rivals - Southern Connecticut State, Bentley, Pace, Adelphi and Franklin Pierce. Coming off a tough stretch of games that saw them slip in the standings, the Chargers were able to rebound and put themselves right back in the playoff race. Now sitting at 11-7 on the season, New Haven enters the final stretch of games with the opportunity to make a deep playoff run.

Over the semester break, New Haven's offense fell into a slump, averaging only 56 points during

their five-game losing streak. Facing off with three of the top four teams in the conference during the skid, offense was hard to come by, with an average of just 48 points in those three games.

Guard Camryn DeBose joined elite company for the Chargers, tallying the 1000th point of her career as her strong season continues, averaging a career-high 16.9 points per game. Graduate forward Leighanna Lister was a catalyst for the resurgence of the offense, posting a 16-point, 16-rebound game against Southern to get the Chargers back in the win column.

With just eight games remaining in the regular season, New Haven will play in seven conference matchups as they look to continue

their recent hot streak in which they allowed just 52 points per game. The team's defense has been a driving factor in the four-game win streak and has come at a perfect time to help get the team to the conference playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

Entering a week-long homestand against conference opponents Saint Rose, American International and Saint Michael's, New Haven has a prime opportunity to move up even further in the NE-10 rankings. The team is currently ranked sixth in the conference, right behind AIC who has a conference game in hand over the Chargers, setting up a must-win game to determine positioning for the playoffs.



New Haven's Camryn DeBose shoots a floater against Adelphi University, West Haven, Nov. 16, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

## Men's basketball builds on strong season

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

New Haven basketball currently sits third in the NE-10, with the opportunity to make a final run before the season ends. Defense and all-around team play has been crucial to the team's success.

Nationally ranked, third place, buzzer-beater, conference championship, powerhouse

Currently sitting in third place in the Northeast-10 conference, the New Haven men's basketball team is in the middle of a strong season with a 13-6 record. Coming off a crucial part of the schedule which included a buzzer-beater win against nationally-ranked Bentley, the Chargers have put themselves in a good position to make some noise in the playoffs and potentially be a top-ranked team in the country.

New Haven received votes to be ranked nationally across Division II as they have the chance to return to the regionals for the second consecutive season.

The defense has been the driving factor by allowing the lowest points per game (64.3) by a team. Also ranked fourth

in the conference in rebounds per game and second in blocks, the Chargers have been able to control the game and take advantage of strong play in transition to come away with big wins.

A big part of the defensive success this season has been center Majur Majak, who leads NE-10 players in total rebounds, rebounds per game, field goal percentage, and blocks per game.

With just seven games left in the regular season, New Haven has the chance to continue their winning ways for the rest of the season. The team has had post-season success in recent years, and made it to the conference quarterfinals and regional semifinal last season and all the way to the conference championship in 2020.

New Haven will begin a three-game home stand this week, starting against The College of Saint Rose on Wednesday, followed by Saint Michael's College and American International College. In the final stretch of the season, the Chargers can show why they are a conference powerhouse and continue their recent dominance over their opponents.

## Looking ahead to spring sports

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

As we start another semester, New Haven's spring sports will be back in action, looking to build off a strong season last spring for the baseball, softball and women's lacrosse teams. Baseball and softball will kick off their seasons at the end of February, and lacrosse will start their season on Mar. 1 on the road in a non-conference matchup.

The baseball team will kick off their season in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on Feb. 24 against Wilmington University. Their first six games will be played in South Carolina before traveling to Boca Raton, Fla. for five more games before coming home and playing their home opener on Mar. 17 against Bridgeport.

Finishing with a 24-19 record in 2022 and coming up just short of the playoffs, the Chargers will field together a mix of young and experienced talent to get back to postseason play for the first time since 2021.

The softball team will begin their season in Murfreesboro, N.C. to play in the Chowan Hawks Softball Classic for three

games. They will then head down to Leesburg, Fla. where they will play 10 games in seven days before starting conference play on March 25 on the road against American International. Their first home game is on March 28 in a non-conference matchup with Molloy.

The Chargers will look to regain form from their amazing 2021 season in which they finished 28-9 overall and made a trip to both the conference and regional championship.

The lacrosse team will get back into action coming off a 2022 season in which they finished with an 11-7 record, reaching the conference quarterfinal and getting eliminated by number one Stonehill.

They will not have their home opener until Mar. 11 in a Saturday afternoon matchup with Jefferson University. Coming off a successful season with a lot of young talent, the Chargers will look to build a championship-contending team and get back to the NCAA regional for the first time since 2017.

It should be a great spring season for all New Haven teams as we enter the final stretch before they are able to play.

## New Haven athletes earn NE-10 weekly honors

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

As the school kicked off the spring semester, New Haven saw some of their players from men's basketball and both men's and women's track and field teams come away with weekly NE-10 conference honors. It was a tremendous all-around week for New Haven athletics, bringing everything from new school records to undefeated stretches.

Sophomore sprinter/jumper Nathaniel Peters was named the NE-10 Track Athlete of the Week after setting two personal bests in the 600-meter run at the Ramapo College Opener and a 6.72-meter jump at the William Sutherland Invitational. Peters came home with medals in each event. His time of 1:22:16 at the Ramapo Invitational broke Byron Simmons' school record that has stood since 2017.

The Chargers' track team also came home with Relay of the Week honors for their 4x400 relay. The team of junior students Ryan Williams, Nile Col-

son, Jordany Dely and graduate student Blake Jandreau finished second in the Ramapo College Opener with a time of 3:22:21. Their time set an NCAA provisional mark.

The women's track team saw two of their field athletes sweep conference honors in two meets last week. Graduate student Kristen Washington earned the Field Athlete of the Week honor while freshman Gabrielle Teel was named Field Rookie of the Week.

In their meets last week, Washington came away with top honors in three events and she was a runner-up in a fourth event after winning the triple jump and second in the long jump at the Ramapo opener. Her success continued at the Sutherland Invitational, coming away with first place in the same events and a new season-high 11.76 meters in the triple jump, giving her an NCAA provisional qualification.

Teel also set a new personal best in the triple jump at 11.21 meters, good for second only behind Washington. In the

triple jump event at Ramapo, Teel finished in seventh place and also finished seventh in the long jump at the Sutherland.

Graduate guard Quashawn Lane was named NE-10 Player of the Week, the team's first honor of the season, leading the Chargers to a 2-0 week by beating conference rivals Bentley University and Pace University. In the two games, Lane averaged 19.5 points per game on 51.7 percent shooting from the field.

He finished with a game-high 21 points playing the full game, most notably with a buzzer-beater against Bentley to come away with a huge comeback win in which they were down by as many as 27. He followed his clutch performance with another strong game against Pace with a game-high 18 points, adding on six assists, five rebounds, and five steals.

For more information on each athlete's performances, future schedules for each team and stats for other games, visit [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).