

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Volleyball secures NE-10 Championship Title with 3-1 victory over Adelphi

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN  
Sports Editor

After taking the semifinal win over Bentley University the night before, the New Haven women's volleyball team returned to Garden City, N.Y. ready to finish the job and take the Northeast-10 (NE-10) Conference Championship. After facing Adelphi earlier in the season and getting swept in three sets, the Chargers knew they had their work cut out for them.

The Chargers attacked early in the first set, with opposite side Peyton Mast putting up the first point for New Haven with a kill. This led the Chargers to a 3-0 run to open the match, with another kill added by outside hitter Grace Juergens. The momentum never stopped as New Haven held on to a strong lead throughout the entirety of the set. A service ace by libero Evelyn Kay Girard began the final push for the Chargers, which led to a kill by outside hitter Macy Brown that closed out the first set 25-13.

The second set was back-and-forth at the start as both teams traded opening points. A 5-1 run allowed New Haven to obtain the lead, with two kills from Brown and

one from Juergens. Following this run, Adelphi called their first timeout of the game.

Adelphi was able to take the lead shortly after this timeout, which led to a timeout from New Haven to regroup and slow down the attack. Proving successful, the Chargers came out of the break and went on a 6-1 run to regain the lead before Adelphi called another timeout. New Haven held onto the lead for the rest of the set, separating themselves from Adelphi before closing out the set with a winning score of 25-18.

With the opportunity to beat Adelphi in straight sets, New Haven went into the third set of the night looking to end the match early. Both teams traded points to start, but Adelphi made it clear that they were not going to go down without a fight. Taking the lead early in the set, Adelphi was able to hold the Chargers down throughout the third set. Taking their first victory of the night, Adelphi won the third set 25-18 to change the score to 2-1 in the match.

Opening the fourth set of the night, the Chargers jumped ahead early with a 3-0 run, which featured kills from Juergens and Mast.

New Haven kept a short



The New Haven volleyball team celebrates their victory, Garden City, N.Y., Nov. 19, 2023. Photo courtesy of Geoff Bolte/New Haven Chargers.

lead throughout most of the set with Adelphi trailing close behind. Tied at 20 in the fourth set of the night, the Chargers gave one final push to secure the championship victory with a 4-2 run with two kills from Brown. The stands erupted as the game-winning kill came from middle blocker Kylie Reynolds-Martin to close out the fourth and final set 25-22 and

ending the match with a 3-1 victory for the Chargers.

New Haven finished the match with just two service errors and two receiving errors, while Adelphi finished with ten service errors and seven receiving. Brown led the way for the Chargers with 19 kills and 20 digs in the championship game and was also named the NE-10 Conference Player of the Year,

joined by Michelle Henwood, who was awarded Setter of the Year. Following Brown in kills was Juergens with 17 and Mast with nine. Henwood added 44 assists in the title match.

The Chargers will now advance to the NCAA Division II tournament after winning the program's first NE-10 title since 2017.

## 2024 Commencement to be moved to Zolad Stadium

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Editor-in-Chief

The university is keeping commencement in its backyard for the class of 2024, having recently announced that this year's graduation ceremonies will be taking place at Kathy Zolad Stadium, which the Commencement Committee saw as a choice that they said was "in the heart of our picturesque campus" in a recent email.

The Smurf Turf is set to be the landing spot for three ceremonies, divided this year by level of degree instead of affiliated college.

This means that the entirety of the undergraduate class of 2024 will be sharing one col-

lective ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, May 11. This will be the last of the week's ceremonies, following master's and doctoral candidates from the Pompea College of Business on May 9 and master's and doctoral candidates from all of the other colleges on May 10.

Some seniors disagree with the relocation of Commencement. Samantha Borsari, senior forensic science major, said "We've worked too hard, and deserve a better graduation than our [COVID-19] high school one. There's more reasons than [can be listed] why holding [the ceremony] outdoors on a soccer field on campus is not a good idea."

Senior interior design major Madison Bayles actually

reached out to a number of university officials, including the Dean of Students and the Commencement Committee. In her email, which she has shared, she called the news of moving the ceremony to campus "extremely disheartening and utterly disappointing."

Bayles also listed concerns about accessibility, parking, capacity and access for families traveling for the ceremony. She said, "Please do better for our undergraduate community and consider the complaints that arise as you continue planning to navigate properly."

The response that she received shortly after came from Interim Deputy Provost Christine Shakespeare, who said that she is "sorry to

hear about [her] disappointment about commencement on campus. Many of us are thrilled because we know we can execute a fine event—better than at any external location!"

Shakespeare also wrote, "Please be assured that the event professionals who work on Commencement have planned the UNewHaven Commencement carefully. There will be plenty of parking! Plenty of ADA Compliance! Tickets just as previous graduates have had. We hold your concerns in our hands and heart with sincerity. We do not take the change lightly. We applaud your hard work and you and your family and friends will be pleased with the ceremony."

On Nov. 7, members of the class of 2024 came to the Bergami Center to discuss their thoughts on the changes to their commencement. The forum was mostly moderated by Sankofa Benzo, the class president and senior cybersecurity major.

One concern from students was the potential for kickbacks from the athletics department, as one student shared that there were issues with the maintenance of the turf on Zolad after the usage of the field for ceremonies at the start of COVID. Benzo was not given information on this matter.

A number of students also voiced concerns about ac-

cont. on page 5

# Federal Government bypasses a shutdown

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

The United States Senate passed their third temporary government funding package that will end the threat of a federal government shutdown in 2023. The bill passed the Senate, 87-11, and will be sent to Pres. Joe Biden for his signature.

Government funding would have expired on Monday, Nov. 14 if Congress had not passed the bill.

“This year, there will be no government shutdown,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said at a news conference after the bill’s passage.

This is the third time this year that the U.S. has been on the brink of defaulting on more than \$31 trillion in

debt. The first time was this spring and the most recent was October, which led to the ousting of former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.

The new Speaker, Mike Johnson, is a representative from Louisiana serving his fourth term. Johnson serves as the vice chairman of the House Republican Conference, a leader on the judiciary and armed services committees and he’s the deputy whip in the House.

Getting a bipartisan agreement on the bill was one of Johnson’s first battles. He said on CNN, “I’ve been at the job less than three weeks, right? I can’t change, I can’t turn an aircraft carrier overnight.”

The bill contains the same spending levels set by Biden in the spring. The legislation would extend funding for

military construction, veterans’ benefits, transportation, housing, urban development, agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and energy and water programs.

Johnson told reporters he will not support any further temporary funding measures after this bill and will use this last bill as ground to start thinking about long term solutions to the spending arguments in Congress.

The new bill has two deadlines where some funding will be extended until Jan. 2024 and other funding to Feb. 2.

“The speaker has now 10 days to work it out and get Republicans to actually stand up and fight when we get back,” Representative Chip Roy said to Reuters as House lawmakers left Washington for a Thanksgiving holiday

break. “We expect that fight when we get back.”

Congress is on Thanksgiving break from Nov. 18 to Nov. 26 and when they return, they will decide if Biden’s \$106 billion request for Ukraine and Israel funding will be allowed.

“Keeping the government is a good outcome, of course,

but we have a lot more work to do after Thanksgiving,” Schumer said. “I know both sides genuinely care about approving aid to Israel and Ukraine and helping innocent civilians in Gaza. So I hope we can come to an agreement even if neither side gets everything they insist on.”



Caution tape outside of the Capitol, Washington, D.C., Jan. 1, 2019.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Andy Feliciotti.

## White House announces new Women’s Health Research Initiative

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

According to a National Center for Biotechnology Information study, “medical studies have excluded female participants and research data [has] been collected from males and generalized to females.” There is a gender gap in medical research that can result in disadvantages for female patients.

Earlier this month, the White House announced that Pres. Joe Biden will establish an initiative on Women’s Health Research to fund it. According to an official White House fact sheet, the “lack of investment limits our understanding of conditions that are specific to women, predominantly affect women, or affect women differently.”

“I have always believed in the power of research to save lives and to ensure that Americans get the high-quality health care they need.

To achieve scientific breakthroughs and strengthen our ability to prevent, detect, and treat diseases, we have to be bold,” Biden said in a press release from the

White House.

The initiative will be led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council.

In a White House press release, Jill Biden said the initiative “will help change that by identifying bold solutions to uncover the answers that every woman and her family deserves. We also are calling on congressional leaders, the private sector, research institutions, and philanthropy to join us in taking urgent action to improve the health and lives of women throughout the nation.”

The White House Gender Policy Council was established by Biden in 2021 to “advance gender equity and equality in both domestic and foreign policy development and implementation... it covers a range of issues—including economic security, health, gender-based violence and education—with a focus on gender equity and equality, and particular attention to the barriers faced by women and girls.”

The initiative will be chaired by Dr. Carolyn Mazure, founder and director of Yale School of Medicine’s Women’s Health Research, who is also a Yale professor

of psychiatry and of psychology.

“This initiative elevates the importance of women’s health research in the nation, which is really extraordinary,” said Mazure in a statement from Yale School of Medicine. “We have outstanding opportunities to make the progress that we need.”

The initiative will include members of existing departments and agencies across the federal government such as the United States Departments of Health and Human Services and Defense that will recommend actions that

the administration can take to improve how research on women’s health is conducted and maximize the administration’s investments in women’s health research.

According to an official White House fact sheet, there will be set areas of focus that could transform how women’s health is looked at, especially conditions such as heart attacks to menopause. The initiative explores public and private partnerships along with engaging with private and philanthropic leaders to drive innovation and ensure the combined power of the public.

The White House hopes to close the gap between inequalities between men and women’s health research in the U.S.

First Lady Jill Biden said in a White House press release, “Every woman I know has a story about leaving her doctor’s office with more questions than answers. Not because our doctors are withholding information, but because there’s just not enough research yet on how to best manage and treat even common women’s health conditions. In 2023, that is unacceptable.”

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

# University hosts 2nd annual International Education Week

BY ALEXIS  
DAWKINS-MALDONADO  
Arts & Life Editor

The university just wrapped up one of their biggest week-long events of the year: International Student Education Week. This week's function served as a way to recognize all of the international students who traveled from their home countries to come to the university to pursue a higher education, whether they take their degree back home or create a new life for themselves in America.

When asked about the background for the celebrations this week, Jason Howell Jr., the Office of Graduate and

International Student Life's (OGISL's) coordinator for student engagement, said, "International Student Week is really an opportunity for students on our campus to fully explore their cultures and traditions, and really share their religion, as well as their background with the university community, which has been a wonderful experience."

The International Education Week consisted of several events throughout the week, including Music Trivia, Cultural Tabling and International Career Panels. The most notable, according to Dorothy Classen, OGISL's international student life advisor and

Jason Howell, the duo behind the success of this week, was the Diwali Celebration, World Dance Extravaganza and the Taste of Africa.

Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights, representing the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." Diwali was celebrated in the Beckerman Recreation Center, where a stage was set up for several amazing performances to take place, including special appearances from Classen, who had quite a few dance moves up her sleeve. The celebration served authentic Indian cuisine for all of the attendees. Afterward, everyone took to the dance floor where they finished off with exhilarating music, combining modern Western American hits with Indian and Spanish hits as well.

The World Dance extravaganza took place Wednesday, Nov. 15 in the German Club. This event involved the dedication of two clubs: the Nepalese Community Club and the African Graduate Student Association (AGSA). Both clubs had tables set around the central room with each showing photographs and other miscellaneous

items, such as the statue of Buddha for Nepal that represents the country's main culture of Buddhism. Both clubs also hosted performances from several dancers and the AGSA ramped things up a notch by creating an interactive environment, inviting all attendees of the event to learn some basic African Dance Moves. "It was totally their idea, although I wish I had come up with it myself, I will definitely be incorporating this for next year," said Classen when asked about how she came up with an activity she considered "revolutionary."

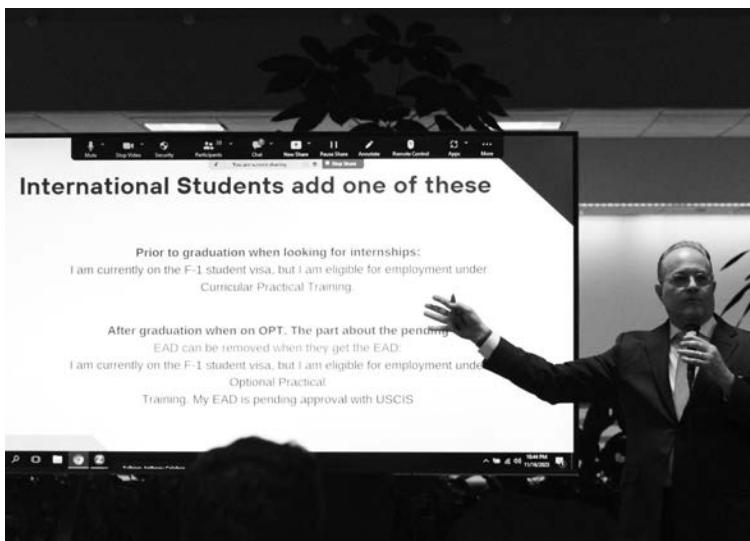
The event with the second-highest number of attendees was the Taste of Africa event, taking place Friday, Nov. 18 in the Bucknall Theater. This event had a mixture of music, stories and dances that filled the seats. It started with a spokesperson describing the beauty, education, religions and traditions of Africa, educating the audience on the continent and the rich and fruitful life that its residents truly live. The next performance was a play that told the story of a king's struggles to keep his chiefs and his people happy

while also changing a religious aspect that was severely inhumane. After several other performances, the emcee announced a fashion show, with pairings walking through the theater with fashions representing the different countries of Africa. The finale for this event was AGSA making a second appearance this week, singing "We are one" and accompanying it with a dance routine, once again providing a mixture between modern hip hop and pop music as well as traditional African music.

Classen said that she "not only gets to know about and get close with students from other cultures, but our students get to have that experience as well."

When asked about the future for this week-long event, Howell said that "if there is something you, a student, thinks that we can offer, let us know and we would be more than happy to work with you on that, so that way we can help you see that come to be something."

Classen reiterated the availability of their office, and enthusiasm to work with students to coordinate events catered to their interests.



Internships for international students informational session, Orange, Nov. 16 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

## World Dance Extravaganza combines culture and community

BY ALEXIS  
DAWKINS-MALDONADO  
Arts & Life Editor

The university's World Dance Extravaganza drew in a large collection of students, with attendance reaching over 80 students and graduates in the German Club on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Organizations such as the Office of Graduate and International and Student Life (OGISL), the Nepalese Community Club and the African Graduate Student Association (AGSA) came together to organize this event. The two organizations each set up tables, with the Nepalese Community Club showing off Nepal's beauty through photographs of the snowy Mount Everest, as well as the country's main religion of Buddhism.

The event started with the Nepalese Community Club and some of its members with several performances, including a guest performance from Dorothy Classen, OGISL's international student life advisor, who performed a dance that she debuted during last week's Diwali Celebration.

The event took a turn for a

more interactive format when AGSA took to the stage. Instead of a simple performance, they began to encourage the audience to stand and take spots on the dance floor. They taught African dance moves to those who were on the floor, much to everyone's enjoyment. The dance allowed the main performers and some of the audience members to try a few non-challenging, authentic dance moves.

When Classen was asked about how she came up with the idea for an interactive performance, she said that "when we went to talk to them about when they would be going onstage, they told us that they wouldn't be using the stage, it's going to be interactive. I wish I could take credit for the idea but it was all the students' idea."

When asked about any challenges that were faced during the planning of this event, Classen said although the event was successful, it was supposed to be even bigger than just two performances. "We were supposed to have five different groups doing performances, but because of sickness several had to back out at the last minute," Classen said.

A table with water bottles was brought out and Classen along with another Zumba dance instructor took to the stage. The duo hosted a Zumba and cardio remix set of dance lessons for everyone who attended. With encouragement from the two instructors to get up and dance, the audience was led through several sets of dances, including

songs from Indian culture, Western American culture and even Spanish culture.

Classen said in the future of the event that she "would like to find some kind of hybrid where the students are showing their dances but also interacting with the students and teaching them, not just the students sitting and watching."

Jason Howell, the OGISL coordinator for student engagement said "it's all about the student right? So it's really just their ideas coming to fruition, we are just the backbone to help them realize their vision and realize what their reality is as it relates to their culture. It's an opportunity for them to showcase their living through dancing."



Students gathered in the German Club for the World Dance Extravaganza, West Haven, Nov. 15, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

# Campus community reflects on Myatt Center during its 7th anniversary birthday celebration

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

The University of New Haven builds community around the integration of diverse student minds in both social and academic settings. at the core of the initiative is the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, who celebrated their “birthday” on Nov. 14. To celebrate the center’s seven years of service on campus, the organization held a weeklong celebration.

Festivities started on Nov. 13 when the office took feedback from students to help build the future of the Myatt Center. The Myatt Center’s new director, Sam Ortiz, is thinking about ways to bridge gaps between the diversity office and the student body, especially people from under-represented communities.

“I hope that we see a lot more engagement, a lot more collaboration; more communication and exchange,” Ortiz said.

During the birthday party, there was music and cake at the center.

“Generally, what you see [here today] in the Myatt Center - where there’s actually people coming through - there’s music, there’s food,” said Ortiz. “I’d like that to be a consistent thing for the Myatt Center where we’re a place where students want to go.”

Ortiz said he noticed that students do not recognize the center as a place to hang out, but rather as an office.

“Right now, we’re kind of like a stop if you need us or if you even know what we’re about because I think there may [still be] some gaps in what students know about the Myatt Center and what we do,” said Ortiz. “And we have this lounge space, and we have critical resources and support opportunities for students that I don’t think are fully utilized.”

This was a sentiment shared by Youssef Abdelhamid, a diversity peer educator (DPE) at the Myatt Center and the president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and the Undergraduate Student Government Association’s vice president of community,



The Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion’s birthday celebration, West Haven, Nov. 14, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin, Presley DePugh.

advocacy and diversity. Abdelhamid said that the Myatt Center uses the space for their events, such as the ones being held for the birthday week and implemented passive programming such as a sensory toy station to get more people to come.

“That’s [the] kind of stuff that makes people feel more welcome to come in and just want to be at the Myatt Center,” Abdelhamid said. Abdelhamid said he felt that it was “a safe haven for a lot of students.” He said the center was created both by students and for the students who felt mistreated due to their different backgrounds.

He said he is glad the Myatt Center is “a safe place for all students, no matter [of] anything, to come in here and just have fun, get some snacks, join fun events [and] learn something new” and that he found his campus family at the Myatt Center and it made him “more confident and more comfortable.”

“I got so involved to the point where like sophomore year, I was basically a DPE because of how much I was here, how much I was helping, how much I got help also from DPEs and the Myatt Center staff,” Abdelhamid said.

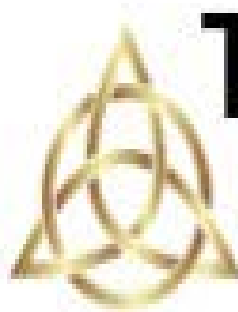
The Myatt Center’s positive impact is heavy on current students that go there along

with new staff such as Ortiz.

“My passion for working with students from under-represented backgrounds has really been at the forefront of my experience so far because the Myatt Center serves

not just students of color, but LGBTQ plus students, students from diverse religious backgrounds, first-gen students - you know different, many different identities,” said Ortiz. “And so that has

definitely allowed me to expand and stretch myself to try to make sure that we’re doing the best we can for these various student communities as well as for the student body as a whole.”



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# Theater Arts Program presents “Three Sisters” production

BY JEIRY DE LA CRUZ  
Staff Writer

“Three Sisters” is a play written by Russian writer Anton Chekhov in 1900 that follows the titular sisters going through hardship in an unspecified time period. The play was translated by Madeleine George in 2020, and the university’s Theater Department decided to use this story for their Fall 2023 play.

As you entered the Bucknall Theater from Nov. 15 through Nov. 18, you were provided with a pamphlet that listed the names of everyone who helped bring the play to life.

The pamphlet also provided attendees with a section called “Understand Russian Names and Dramaturgs Note: About Time.” The first part broke down the history and culture of Russian names and urged people to understand the play better. Dramaturgs Note: About Time breaks down the perspective of the dramaturg, a literary editor who works with authors and edits texts,

on what the play is about or how it revolves around time. A dramaturg is known as the expert of the play or the person to go to for knowledge on the production.

Sidney Guye, the dramaturg, explained to the audience that the production should move playgoers to constantly question the perception of time. We don’t know what time the play is set and they are constantly bringing up “questions about time, and long philosophical discussions,” because “they each have different ideas on what the reason for life is and how that will translate in the future” as wrote by Guye.

The stage was made to look like the living room of the sisters’ home, immersing the audience into the lives of the characters.

As everyone waited for the play to start, you could feel the anticipation that had been building up and you could hear people’s excitement toward the production, as the audience clapped and overall



“Three Sisters” at the Bucknall Theater, West Haven, Nov. 16, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ewan Pecorale.

enjoyed the story that was being told to them.

As the audience watched, the dedication and hard work became evident. The play transitioned from scene to scene and kept the audience engaged.

The play included songs

such as elements of “Akh Vy Seni Moi Seni,” a traditional Russian folk song. While this song was featured, this play was not a musical or based on the songs.

The plotline could have been interpreted in two ways. This was a play about time

and whether we are at the place we wished to be. The other is that this was a play about the sister’s perseverance to go back to where they were from aside from all the hardships they had to endure during their time in their current home.

## Commencement location

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Editor-in-Chief

*cont. from page 1*

cessibility in a field setting, including accessible parking, heat safety and access to seating, among others.

The theme of the night surrounded a lack of communication between the commencement committee and the class of 2024 executive board, as Benzo repeatedly told her peers that they did not have the information to properly address their concerns.

Benzo was able to confirm there has yet to be a feedback form for students or an outlet offered for members of the graduating class to share their thoughts with the committee.

Benzo was joined by members of the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) including president and junior forensic science major Darby Brown, to discuss potential action by the student population.

Discussion surrounded an official petition to move the event back to Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater in Bridgeport. The petition would mirror the formatting of the petition regarding win-

ter commencement in 2021 and would have to be voted on by the USGA. Currently, the 2024 executive board and USGA say they are unsure if there is enough time for the university to still book the original venue, but this has not waived plans to pursue the petition arrangements. More information will be provided accordingly.

“The more noise you make the better,” Benzo said. “Use your voice.”

In justification of the relocation, the Commencement Committee said in an email to the university community on Nov. 16, “We held our Centennial Commencement in fall 2021 at Zolad Stadium, receiving positive feedback about the location and the atmosphere created by hosting the ceremony on campus.”

The committee closed their comments to the university community in acknowledging the impact of the pandemic on the high school and early college experience of the class of 2024 and said, “For these graduates, especially, our vision is to create a memorable Charger Commencement experience that could only occur on our campus.”

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Charlotte Bassett

### Community

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### Advisor

Susan L. Campbell

300 Boston Post Road | West  
Haven, CT 06516

chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu |

www.chargerbulletin.com

Office: 203.932.7182

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## To seek community on a small New England campus

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

With a campus as small as the one at the University of New Haven, how do students go about seeking community? With sparse options for connections, the inherent pressure placed on each one does not generate the most optimistic outlook when we seek companionship. When campus clubs are far too niche to bridge different subsets of individuals, and many groups too closed off to welcome members who would expand the realm of their thinking, how are we to work to evolve as plastic young adults if we are rooted in West Haven's concrete?

Something particularly special about attending a smaller university is the weight at which paths of students will cross invariably. However, where we fall short as a student collective is seen in the ways that we allow those paths to diverge once more without asking what we can

gain from pursuing this fleeting overlap.

There are countless groups created for certain niches of students — whether based on an identity, shared interest or area of expertise — but if we continue to construct these groups in a way that ostracizes even those who resonate with the values of a group, how do we bridge the gaps required for us to foster learning from one another?

Our list of Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) is expansive. We have affinity groups for just about every ethnic and cultural identity, we have groups for members of numerous religions to gather and discuss their faith, we have groups for students to network their way into the professional world, groups to share their experiences as members of protected classes and groups for students who excel in certain areas to take on leadership roles around their peers. These resources are incredibly valuable, and can make the transition into

the undergraduate world easier, and navigation of young adulthood a feat that does not feel like it has to be tackled alone.

When it comes to a campus of under 10,000 students, we do need to be mindful, however. To immerse too deeply into groups made up of wildly similar people is to risk creating divides that strip us of our ability to assimilate with people radically unlike ourselves. We should take advantage of the diversity on our campus and venture into conversations with people who are members of RSOs we might not even completely understand, who discuss things we have never heard of and who celebrate things we have yet to learn about ourselves.

Within our own groups of familiar people, we must also be careful not to generate checklists filled with criteria of the types of people we allow into our circles. There is not one way to be LGBTQ+, or one way to

think as a member of this community. There is not one way to express Black or Latinx cultures, or to express the history of your family. There is not one way to live as a disabled person, or to live your unique experiences. We cannot isolate individuals from these groups on campus who do not celebrate the different items of their identities in the same ways as their peers.

The University of New Haven gives students an endless pool of opportunity to learn about societal integration before even entering the working world, and we as its students will be much more successful in our careers if we use this community to build our own holistic understandings of people around us. We should hear the voices of the people who share our identities and those who do not, to greater understand the world that we are about to begin leading together.

## Be sure to stay safe this holiday season

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

As we all prepare to head out on Thanksgiving Break, the editors here at the Charger Bulletin want to remind those in the university community to stay safe.

### Driving

The day before Thanksgiving is also known as Blackout Wednesday, and it is one of the biggest bar nights of the entire year. As much as we are all itching to kick off the festive season, this also means that early Thanksgiving travels can be coupled with a lot of potential drunk driving. Especially as we stand only a 15 minute drive from Downtown New Haven, for those of us driving home this week, it is essential to stay overtly alert on the roads.

This entire upcoming weekend is the most busy travel weekend of the year, and more people will be on the roads than almost any other section of the calendar. It is essential more than ever to obey speed regulations and

follow local traffic laws when traveling to and from campus this week.

We would also like to remind our peers not to text and drive this holiday season. It is estimated that on average, an individual will take their eyes off of the road for five seconds when texting behind the wheel. If you were driving at 55 mph, this is roughly the length of a football field. Considering that highway limits in Connecticut range from 55 to 65 mph, the risk of reminding your roommate to take out the trash is just not worth it.

### Cooking

Thanksgiving yields the highest number of household cooking fires of the entire year, with the United States Fire Department confirming over 4,000 fires across the country in just this one day. This holiday season, be sure to practice kitchen safety to keep your friends and family, and your turkey, safe.

Keep children away from the stove, and if possible, young children out of the kitchen entirely.

Do not leave food unattend-

ed in an empty house. We know that forgetting an essential part of your meal is an inevitable part of Thursday morning, but it is not worth having the rest of your dinner go up in smoke.

Be mindful of any loose wires, open flames and hot

surfaces.

With all of this in mind, we wish the Charger community a safe, happy and enjoyable break, and we hope students try not to think too much about the finals that greet us not too long after our return.



Highway, March 2, 2018.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/CHUTTERS/NAP

## Thanksgiving isn't one size fits all: Alternative activities this holiday season

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Thanksgiving is an American holiday that, while still popular, many people are starting to write off by not hosting or attending the traditional dinner. There are many reasons for this, ranging from not having a close enough family with whom to celebrate to not wanting to celebrate because of the holiday's roots in prejudice. Whatever the reason, there are other things to do if you can't or don't want to have a traditional Thanksgiving.

### Friendsgiving

Friendsgiving involves having a celebration with food and people just like Thanksgiving, but instead of family, having friends and co-workers. This works out if you don't have family with whom to celebrate. Instead, invite some friends over and have dinner, whether you make the

food or have a potluck.

### Celebrate a different holiday

Not everyone celebrates Thanksgiving, so there is room to celebrate a different holiday. There are a multitude of festivities that are celebrated in November and December including Diwali, Christmas, Chanukah, among many more. You can either celebrate a traditional holiday or something just for yourself or a group of friends.

### Volunteer Work

Traditional Thanksgiving celebrations involve people making tons of food that is either put into the refrigerator for a week or thrown out and wasted. If you are not doing that and would rather do something charitable, there are opportunities to give back to your community. You can look for opportunities on Volunteer Match to see what local volunteer activities are still available and are right for you. If you have any non-per-

ishable goods to donate, you can give them to the Campus Closet/Pantry until Tuesday, Nov. 21; drop-off locations are the Dean of Students Office in the Bartel's Campus Center, Office of Residential Life in Bixler Hall and the Campus Pantry at 21 Ruden Street.

### Stay in

Thanksgiving is associated with being surrounded by family for a big celebration, but staying in is a good option for people who prefer to be alone. Making or ordering a meal for oneself and watching a movie or television show could be good for people who might be alone, even something that is holiday-related for those in the mood. Or you could get some tasks done such as responding to emails, cleaning, or doing bills.

### Go out for the day

If you do not have somebody to spend Thanksgiving with but still want to be

around other people, you could go out to have fun and try something new. If you are still on campus, there are some things that you could do in the local West Haven and New Haven area. Some of these establishments include restaurants and café's such as the Mew Haven Café, Prime 16 Tap House + Burgers, The Coffee Pedaler among others. There is also a list of things to do in the local area that pertain to nature or the arts such

as visiting the Yale University Art Gallery, East Rock Park or Long Wharf Theater.

If you search for an activity or place of interest and write "New Haven" or "West Haven" next to it, you will likely find something of interest. While finding something to do in lieu of the traditional Thanksgiving tradition can be hard, this list is a start toward searching for something new to do.



Pumpkins, Nov. 2, 2017.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Kerstin Wrba.

## Men's Club Soccer and Rotaract Club partner for dodgeball tournament

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

On Nov. 16, the university's Men's Club Soccer and Rotaract Club had partnered up to hold a dodgeball tournament that served as a fundraiser to raise money for purchasing winter supplies for the West Haven community.

Sam Kaplan, president of the Men's Club Soccer and senior sports management major, said that the tournament was a good way to raise revenue.

"There's not a lot of ways you can raise revenue within the school, so fundraising is a huge opportunity for clubs on campus," said Kaplan. "So, fun things like dodgeball tournaments are a perfect way to generate revenue and provide more opportunities for the students who are participating."

An event like this helps to get people to come and learn about the clubs, especially the Rotaract Club who help with community service and outreach. Marcus LeGare, president of the Rotaract Club and senior forensic science major, said this dodgeball tournament helped bring out a lot of people to not just have fun, but also interact with the clubs.

"We all see dodgeball as something really fun that we can do. I know that the weather is getting colder, so we couldn't really do a soccer [event] like we wanted to," said LeGare. "We thought dodgeball could be something really fun. I know a lot of people get into it [and] it's not something that [has] a skill barrier to. It's just a simple, fun game that the university likes."

Many students showed up to the dodgeball tournament, letting the fundraiser hosts raise a lot of money going toward buying winter supplies for the West Haven community.

The game was set up on one side of the Rec Center's Multi-Activity Court where there were blue and gold dodgeballs to represent the school's Charger Pride. Spectators were allowed as long as they paid to get in and sat by the corners to avoid the area of the court.

Spirits were high as players were laughing and jumping around in anticipation for the event to start. Friends showed up to form teams with one another or to see their peers play.

LeGare said that events such as these help to get the word out about the clubs and

help "build up the community that we support."

LeGare mentioned trying to increase the number of Rotaract Club members who know and care about charity and outreach by next year. "We really want to build it up next year, get some of these freshmen and sophomores who [do not] really think about doing community service into the

idea of really helping out the community, and I think this is a great way to get them exposed to this environment," said LeGare.

Kaplan also said that the partnership between the Rotaract Club and the Men's Club Soccer helped make the event successful.

"They do a lot of fundraising on their own, so we felt

like it was a good opportunity to join along with them as they have great experience on fundraising and we have a lot of connections as a lot of us are part of different organizations," Kaplan said.

After the event, LeGare informed the Charger Bulletin that the fundraiser raised \$205.



Student throws a dodgeball in the Beckerman Recreation Center, West Haven, Nov. 16 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

# Football drops NCAA playoff tournament opener to Charleston

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN  
Sports Editor

It was a tough loss for New Haven on Saturday, Nov. 18, as their 2023 season came to an end in Charleston, W.Va. A costly first quarter determined the outcome of the game as the Chargers played from behind for the entirety of the game against the University of Charleston.

Charleston was the only team to score in the first quarter, putting up 10 points to take an early lead. Mistakes began early as a tackle by running back Jayden Shrewd on the opening kickoff was wiped out by an offsides penalty. Starting their first drive near mid-

field, Charleston already had the advantage. The defense for New Haven held their ground with a pass break-up by defensive back Giye Jenkins and pressure from defensive lineman Davon Colon, forcing Charleston to settle for a field goal.

On the Chargers' first possession, running back Christopher Ais got the ball inside the Charleston 40. Shortly after, offensive lineman Brody Peacock recovered the ball after a fumble from quarterback Daelen Menard and a false start pushed New Haven in 3rd-and-long. The missed opportunity for the Chargers proved costly after Charleston advanced their lead in the first quarter, using a fake punt to set up

the touchdown from running back Chavon Wright. Freshman cornerback Jabron Solomon prevented Charleston from adding to their lead with an interception in the end zone.

Trailing by 24, the Chargers started to close the gap at the end of the first half as Menard connected with wide receiver Dev Holmes followed by a one-handed catch from tight end Kevin Foelsch to set up the 15-yard scoring pass from Menard to Holmes. This touchdown advanced the score to 24-7 going into the second half of the playoff game.

The Chargers closed the gap even further at the start of the second half after a kickoff return from utility

Kha'lil Eason helped set up the nine-yard touchdown run by Ais. Charleston was quick to answer back, taking just three plays to go 54 yards with Wright capping the drive off with an 11-yard run.

After falling behind 31-14, a 29-yard pass from Menard to Holmes set up the touchdown from tight end Dante DeLorenzo on a two-yard pass from Menard. However, this momentum was stopped short when Charleston wide receiver Tae Marrero returned the following kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown. Shortly after, another touchdown run by Wright added to Charleston's lead, leaving New Haven trailing by 24 at the end of the third quarter.

New Haven began their comeback attempt at the start of the fourth quarter with a 16-yard touchdown pass from Menard to Holmes that was followed by another touchdown for Charleston by Wright. The Chargers gave their final push with two touchdown passes from Menard to Foelsch and wide receiver Kasi Hazzard, along with two-point conversion passes to Hazzard and Holmes. These plays left New Haven trailing by eight with less than two minutes left in the game. The Chargers were unable to close the game within those two minutes, finalizing the score at 52-44.

# Volleyball headed to NE-10 Championship with semifinal win over Bentley

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN  
Sports Editor

Coming off of their first-round sweep against Saint Michael's last Tuesday, Nov. 14, the New Haven women's volleyball team traveled to Garden City, N.Y. for the semifinal round of the Northeast-10 (NE-10) playoffs.

With just two games standing between a conference championship, the Chargers took the court ready to continue their championship hopes. New Haven had faced Bentley two other times earlier this season, with both teams putting a win

under their belt.

New Haven took an early lead in the first set thanks to points from outside hitter Grace Juergens and opposite side Peyton Mast, followed by outside hitter Macy Brown. Bentley fought back and took the lead in the middle of the set, as the Chargers pressured back but were unable to regain the lead. The opening set ended in favor of Bentley by a score of 25-23.

Now trailing by one, the Chargers went into the second set ready to put up a fight. After splitting the first two points, New Haven went on a 5-0 run with kills from setter

Michelle Henwood and middle blocker Amihan Johnson. Carrying this momentum throughout the second set, New Haven was able to hold onto the lead and take their first set of the night 25-15, evening the score to 1-1.

The third set started back-and-forth with both teams putting up points to fight for the lead. New Haven took a steady lead after a 3-0 run led by a kill from Brown to put New Haven ahead. This run forced Bentley to call an early timeout in an attempt to interrupt the momentum. New Haven left the break unphased as they continued to attack on offense and extended their lead even further with a 6-0 run with a kill from Johnson and an ace from libero Evelyn Kay Girard. Refusing to step off the gas pedal, New Haven continued to rally defensively. Things looked up for the Chargers as they closed out the third set with a 5-2 run, ending with a 25-13 victory. Now in the lead, there was only one set that stood between New Haven and the NE-10 championship game.

New Haven came out strong in the first set, leading with a 4-0 run as Henwood took control with a pair of aces. Despite the momentum, the Falcons made it clear they were not going down without a fight. As Bentley fought back later in the set, they were shut down by strong defensive plays and set up Johnson to finish off the fourth and final set with a

winning kill.


The set ended 25-20 as fans and players erupted with joy and excitement. New Haven advanced to the championship game for the first time since

2021. Leading the Chargers to victory was Brown with 19 kills and 19 digs, followed by Juergens with 15 kills and 14 digs. Henwood also added 42 assists and 17 digs.



New Haven's Michelle Henwood, West Haven, Nov. 14, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

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