

Society of Women Engineers vows to support women in STEM

BY PRESLEY DEPUUGH
Arts & Life Editor

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is a national organization that has been based in the U. of New Haven campus since 2011 and has been growing since then. SWE is an engineering-based organization with the mission to support women engineers on campus.

Savanna Pantoja, a sophomore mechanical engineering student and president of SWE, said that the way to empower future women engineers on campus is by “providing professional and social support.”

Some of that support includes hosting monthly design challenges and social events such as their Cardboard Tower Competition held on Sept. 25. Pantoja said that events like these are beneficial to members’ growth.

Pantoja prioritizes growth, not just for the members, but also for the organization. “I want to focus on community outreach so that we can reach the younger generation of female students and show them that engineering is for everyone,” said Pantoja. “I would also like SWE to grow in numbers since the population of female engineers at UNH is low. We need to stick together to provide support for each other.”

Alexis Fernandez, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and the vice president of SWE is another member that thinks there is room for growth. Fernandez hopes for the organization to be the largest on campus, especially since Pantoja



Equipment in the engineering lab, West Haven, Sept. 25, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Presley DePugh.

mentioned that the population of women engineers on campus is so small.

Due to this, Fernandez, along with other members, is working hard on events and recruitment

opportunities to not only reel in members, but also provide moments of growth for anyone interested. For instance, Fernandez said that she had spoken with an employee

from Medtronic, a healthcare technology company, about them coming to the university and speaking with current and prospective SWE members and giving hands-on experience with some of their products.

Fernandez also mentioned attending the annual SWE conferences, which this year will take place in Los Angeles, Calif. from Oct. 26 to Oct. 28. The three-day conference allows women engineers to come together for professional networking and career-relevant programs.

“I hope that in five years, every member of the organization can go to the SWE conference,” Fernandez said. Fernandez added that New Haven’s SWE was given the “wonderful opportunity” to attend this year’s conference.

Aside from hosting and attending events, many members bond with members of the organization; one of those members being Amna Al-Azdee, a first year mechanical engineering major and the media director of

SWE.

Al-Azdee said, “I have been able to deepen my relationship with my friends who are members in this club, but I have also made a lot of new friends through SWE.”

Since Al-Azdee was able to deepen her relationships with current members, she feels motivated to interest more women engineers to join so they can build friendships and find an important community. Al-Azdee said that doing advertisements and social media posts “would be a way for me to find fellow female engineers who are going through or have gone through the same struggles as me.”

While the organization is geared toward women engineers, all are welcome to join and attend SWE events. Check out their events on Charger Connection, and their Instagram unewhaven_swe. SWE holds general meetings every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in Buckman 116.

Helping the homeless with the NAACP

BY JEIRY DE LA CRUZ-REYNOSO
Contributing Writer

Twisted Thursdays were created with the intent of getting students together to engage in a substance-free Thursday night. On Sept. 28, the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation (CSELO) hosted the night with the University of New Haven’s branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The NAACP is a national civil rights organization formed in 1909. The organization works to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights to all persons and eliminate racially based discrimination. Our college chapter at the University of New

Haven has recently been reactivated due to the loss of members during COVID-19. Current President Sadara Funches and Vice President Alicia Lind-Windham have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to reinstate NAACP’s presence on campus, including hosting a Twisted Thursday evening.

This past Thursday in the Alumni Lounge, they were making necessity bags for homeless people. Even those that do have homes are just getting started and often do not have enough money to pay for their basic needs, so bags like these act as a helpful starting point. Alicia Lind-Windham, the NAACP vice president, felt as if calling them homeless was a derogatory way of categorizing these groups of people.

The four main reasons why peo-

ple end up homeless are poverty, redlining, incarceration and access to healthcare. Lind-Windham continued by saying that “people when passing by unhoused people always ask the question, ‘Why don’t they just get a job? Maybe they’ll get somewhere to live,’ but what people never take into account is the reason they are unhoused.”

The night began with Lind-Windham telling the group what they researched and how people should take into consideration the living conditions of others. The rest of the presentation included statistics, such as one that found that in the state of Connecticut, 3,015 adults ended up homeless, resulting in a 2.90%

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CT minimum wage increases by 69 cents

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

On Sept. 18, Governor Ned Lamont announced at a press conference that effective Jan. 1, 2024, the Connecticut minimum wage will be increased from \$15.00 per hour to \$15.69 per hour.

State legislation signed by Lamont in 2019 allowed for five incremental increases in the minimum wage between 2019 and 2023, followed by future adjustments tied to the percentage change in the federal employment cost index.

“The minimum wage for many years remained stagnant, making existing pay disparities even worse and preventing hardworking families from obtaining financial security. That is why several years ago

I signed a bill into law enacting several increases in the minimum wage and then ultimately attaching it to federal economic indicators so that as the economy grows the wages of low-income workers can grow with it. This is a fair, modest increase and the money earned will be spent right back into our own economy and support local businesses,” Lamont said.

The first increase came into effect on Oct. 1, 2019, when minimum wage could not be less than \$11 per hour. Effective Sept. 2020, it was increased to \$12 per hour. Effective Aug. 2021, it was bumped up to \$13 per hour. On July 1, 2022, the minimum wage increased to \$14 per hour. In June 2023, it became \$15 per hour and in Jan. 2024 it will increase

to \$15.69 per hour.

The state’s minimum wage is adjusted according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s calculations of the employment cost index for the 12-month period ending on June 30 of the preceding year. The commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor reviews this percentage change, then announces any adjustments by Oct. 15 of each year. The minimum wage adjustments become effective on the next Jan. 1.

The latest 12-month period ending on June 30, 2023, the CT Labor Commissioner Dante Bartolomeo reported that there was a 4.6% increase for the employment cost index. This translates over to a \$0.69 increase in minimum wage.

Bartolomeo said, “This

increase will benefit Connecticut’s 160,000 to 200,000 minimum wage workers and help offset some of the effects of national economic challenges, such as higher energy costs and interest rates. I commend Governor Lamont and the legislature for enacting this important wage reform.”

State Sen. Mae Flexer said at the press conference, “Families who work so hard to take care of themselves and keep a roof over their head won’t have to come to the state capitol to fight for the increase that they’ve earned.”

“It’s going to be automatic, and this automatic increase is going to make a real difference for so many of our neighbors here,” she said.

The Current Population survey conducted by the

U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics concluded that around 60% of minimum wage earners in Connecticut are women.

“A lot of people think that the minimum wage is something that teenagers make but, no, there are so many adults out there in our state that are trying to support their families,” Flexer said. “We’re providing financial security to our families, especially our women and people of color who tend to be our minimum wage workers.”

Other states conduct their minimum wage through other national indicators, but Connecticut is the only state that uses the Employment Cost Index to influence minimum wage.

“You work a full day, you deserve a fair wage,” said Lamont.

Biden announces new office for gun violence prevention

BY FAITH ARCURI
Staff Writer

President Joe Biden announced a new office dedicated to gun violence prevention, his latest effort to combat the national crisis through executive action instead of the more sweeping reforms that would require congressional approval.

The office will be led by Vice President Kamala Harris, who pursued gun safety measures when she was California’s top prosecutor. Its focus will be helping the administration coordinate gun policy and pressing congressional leaders to act on the issue.

“We all want our kids to have the freedom to learn how to read and write instead of duck and cover, for God’s sake,” Biden said during remarks in the Rose Garden, where survivors of school shootings were among the hundreds of attendees.

The announcement comes as Biden, who is running for re-election, tries to re-energize the record number of young voters who turned out in the 2020 election, many of whom say they are motivated by the horrors of gun violence in America.

Biden was introduced by Representative Maxwell Alejandro Frost, Democrat of Florida and the first Gen Z member of Congress. Frost was previously an organizer of the youth advocacy group March for Our Lives, started by students who survived the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre in Parkland, Fla.

“As the youngest member of the United States Congress and the first member of Gen Z, I’m often asked what got me involved in this work,” said Frost, who was 15-years-old when a gunman killed 20 first graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “And the answer is quite simple. I didn’t want to get shot in school.”

The American political system has been deadlocked for more than a decade on major changes to gun laws, despite a steady drumbeat of horrifying shootings. Gun violence has become the leading cause of death among young children.

Even with majorities in both houses of Congress during Biden’s first two years in office, Democrats were unable to pass an assault weapons ban and any effort

now is almost certain to fail in the Republican-controlled House.

An official told reporters on a call Thursday previewing the announcement that the office’s mandate will be twofold. It will be tasked with implementing and expediting last year’s Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the president’s signature gun legislation and with finding additional actions within the president’s purview to stem the flow of gun violence.

The announcement comes just days after a group of congressional Democrats in a letter called on Biden to leverage “the full power of the executive branch” to combat gun violence. In March, a day after a mass shooting left six dead in Nashville, Biden told reporters, “I have gone the full extent of my executive authority to do, on my own, anything about guns.”

Harris, who is taking on a higher profile as the presidential campaign gets underway, has been traveling the country to meet young people on college campuses, asking students to raise their hands if they have ever participated in an active-shooter drill in elementary or middle school.

“Every time a sea of hands goes up because in today’s world, on the first day of school, students learn the name of their teacher, yes, they learn the location of their cubby, and they learn how to quietly hide from an active shooter,” Harris said in the Rose Garden on Friday.

She then illustrated the urgency of its mission. One in five people have lost a family member to gun violence, about 120 people are killed by a gun every day and Black Americans are ten times more likely than white Americans to be victims of gun violence and homicides while Latino Americans are twice as likely to be gunned down.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been more than 31,000 gun violence deaths so far this year.

“We cannot normalize any of this,” she said. “These are not simply statistics. These are our children, our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers.”

David Hogg, a survivor of the Parkland school shooting and one of the founders of March for Our Lives, said the new office was a powerful recognition of the young

people who got Mr. Biden elected and understood his limitations.

“It’s frustrating — I want more to happen,” said Mr. Hogg, who recently started Leaders We Deserve, a political action committee to back young candidates. “But I also know there’s a complex network of things that are stopping us from making more progress. But President Biden is with us, and that’s the message he’s sending today.”

Dr. Chethan Sathya, the director of the Center for Gun Violence Prevention at Northwell Health, a health care network, said the office would help people see gun violence as a public health issue. As a pediatric surgeon at Cohen Children’s Medical Center, he regularly sees children suffering from gunshot wounds. From 2021 to 2022, the hospital saw a 350 percent increase in the number of kids coming in with gun injuries, he said.

“We treat kids from families who are on both sides of the political spectrum,” he added. “I have yet to meet an American family who does not want zero mass shootings, no gun violence and better firearm safety.”

Precious and Rare Pageant contestants shine through a rainy Saturday

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

Despite the cloudy and rainy weather this past Saturday afternoon, people came to the Bucknall Theater to watch the Precious and Rare Pageant hosted by the Alpha Lambda chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc (SIA).

People walking in were given small bags of candy placed in tiny, golden plastic crowns, which were interwoven with the flowered vines on the Bucknall stage. These decorations were part of the pageant's theme of "fairytale."

They knew the show started when all four contestants had walked onto the stage one by one.

First up was Sankofa Benzo, a senior cybersecurity and networks major who represented the University of New Haven's branch of the Women in Cybersecurity student chapter. Benzo strutted onto the stage, wearing a shimmering black dress with a halter neck.

Next up was Delianne Ayala-Ramos, a senior forensic science major who represented Alpha Phi Omega. Ayala-Ramos came onto the stage wearing a shimmering white dress with a sweetheart neckline, a small gold crown with leaves and gold ear cuffs with dangling metallic strings.

The third contestant on the stage was Aiya Chahid, a junior criminal justice major who represented the Muslim Student Association. Chahid wore a high-low black dress with small pink and red flowers on it.

The last contestant to come out was Ari Keelan, a first-year forensic science major. Keelan wore black tuxedo pants and a vest over a white button-down shirt and black tie.

After the introductions, there was a performance done by the Chargers K-pop Dance Crew. They



Participants of the Precious and Rare Pageant, West Haven, Sept. 30, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Presley DePugh.

all wore white and beige colored outfits while giving a synchronized and electrifying performance that reeled the audience in even further. Midway through the performance, five of the nine dancers left the main stage, allowing the remaining dancers to give it their all. At the end of the dance, the whole crew came back together to finish up.

Once the Chargers K-pop Dance Crew left the stage, the talent portion of the pageant had started with Ayala-Ramos giving a Bomba dance, which is a routine based in Puerto Rico. Ayala-Ramos had the Puerto Rican flag painted on her cheek and wore a navy blue, floral top with a white skirt, which she utilized for the Bomba dance by flaring it.

The next performance was a story told by Chahid, who recounted a humorous and dramatic tale of a wedding she had attended in Morocco, which involved distant family members

fighting and said fights being broken up.

The third performance was Keelan, who sang "Same Sky" by the cast of *Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies*. Keelan's voice was mesmerizing, but even better was their outfit, which consisted of a white button-down shirt and shimmering blue skirt that matched a night sky.

The final performance was spoken word poetry by Benzo. Lines such as "My yearning is delicate and fierce. Unyielding to the logical reasoning prostrated by the head, yielding only to the palpitations of my heart as if it was morse code trying to tell me all the ways you make my heart race," were powerful, but Benzo amplified that with her acting. She would giggle at certain parts and quiet words at other moments to convey emotion.

During the break between the contestant performances and the question-and-answer session, there was a tap dance

routine done by the Illuminate Dance Club, who wore matching jeans and red-orange shirts which added synchronicity to their group.

The question-and-answer session was combined with the best dressed category, which saw the contestants show off outfits relative to the fairytale theme while answering different questions per contestant. Some questions pertained to SIA such as when the organization was founded on campus to personal questions such as what would be one thing that they would change about themselves.

When it came to the costumes, each contestant had put much effort into their respective looks.

Benzo wore a halter neck white gown with a sweetheart neckline and gold threading and flowers embroidered onto the dress.

Up next was Ayala-Ramos, who wore a plain white dress and had flowered vines painted onto her arms and chest, which was

accompanied nicely with a green and black scepter and a flower crown.

The next contestant was Chahid, who wore a gold off the shoulder gown while holding books and a red rose, which is reminiscent of Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*.

The final contestant of the last category was Keelan, who wore a light gold dress and a green capelet, which paired nicely with an antler crown with red, purple and pink flowers attached.

Afterward, there was a dance performance by three members of SIA, who were animated and electrifying throughout their routine.

Once the dance was over, the event went straight into winner placements, which were decided by the pageant judges and audience through a form.

In fourth place was Benzo; in third place was Keelan; in second place was Ayala-Ramos; and the first place winner was Chahid.

University's Guitar Club celebrates first month of being instated

BY ALEXIS DAWKINS-
MALDONADO
Staff Writer

After starting at the end of last fall semester, the Guitar Club has now officially set up residence in Kaplan Hall 204 every Thursday night.

Logan Mason, a junior criminal justice major and president and founder of the Guitar Club, talks about the purpose of the club. "There is no real place for musicians to meet and jam, especially for those who are not music majors," said Mason. "There are other ensembles and concert bands, but those require a lot more commitment than being able to chill and jam with others."

"I was shocked to hear that there had not been a club made like this," he said.

Paul Dickens, a junior music and sound recording major and vice president of the guitar club also said, "It is difficult for non-music majors who like playing to accomplish anything musically around campus," said Dickens, "unless you are part of a regular organization, and that is only situational, depending on your current skill level."

When asked about the future for the club, Mason said, "We would like to collaborate with some of the other clubs on campus [...] not just slapping our name with theirs and calling it an accomplishment, but creating an actual program, perhaps a clinic for guitarists and those who would like to play guitar, and bring a professional guitarist to help teach."

The club also hosts monthly events open to all instruments, which they call Jam Nights. These are set to take place in the German Club. This offers a chance for all those who would like to play in front of their first audience. "I want to give [up and coming musicians] that freedom of choosing whether to perform in front of a safe audience or not," Mason says.

The club invites all mu-



Members of the Guitar Club show off their guitars at their weekly meeting, West Haven, Sept. 28, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin, Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

sicians to join them at the German Club on Thursday, Nov. 2 for their next Jam Night.

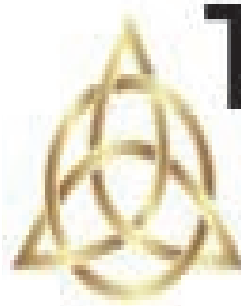
As well as doing community events such as Jam Nights, the club is also attentive to those in their community who are beginners or want to try different techniques, "We do not like to just talk about advanced stuff, we decide whether or not we are going to do something more advanced or easy, such as chords for an easy lesson, or a harder subject such as jazz," said Ava Robertson, a junior music and sound recording major and executive assistant of the Guitar Club. The club recommends and encourages anyone with any skill level to participate in any and all lessons. "Even if you already know the technique, you can always help others who are struggling, it is great for making friends and connections," said Robertson.

The Guitar Club is not just strictly a guitar club, it is a social environment that encourages those who are new to the music industry to begin in a safe environment

while encouraging veteran musicians to come together and teach others the art of music-making.

For more information on their meetings and Jam Night sessions, as well as keep up with future events,

be sure to follow them at [unewhavguitarclub](https://www.instagram.com/unewhavguitarclub) on Instagram.



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Sound on Sound music festival redeems reputation in sophomore year of operation

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

A late start led to day one's bill being cut from 11 bands to only six, eliminating many sets from the earlier half of the afternoon's lineup. This included Steele Pulse, as well as Julai and the Serotones, who performed a free show at Park City Music Hall at 12 p.m. for fans anticipating the chance to see them.

The announcement of this news led passholders to fear a repeat of last year, Sound on Sound first festival weekend, that had its fair number of typical first-time hiccups.

Energy didn't waiver, however, when the delayed gates opened at 2:45 and music began later that afternoon.

Lord Huron brought originality to the stage with lead singer Ben Schneider, who rolled out in a brown suede cowboy hat placed atop a full-face skeleton mask. This getup, paired with a suit jacket and solid white button up, left no competition in the running for day one's top outfit.

The evening ended with a rowdy performance from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, who used every moment of their set to amp up the crowd and bring their trademark energy to the max. You would never be able to tell that the people that spanned the mud beyond the stage had been standing there all afternoon.

Each section was packed to its absolute limit, but fans still found ways to keep their motion up to match the Chili Peppers until their final song. The crowd was rowdy, the stage was

loud and it was a wonder that anyone standing out there had the energy to be back at the gates by 11 a.m. the next morning.

Sunday

The sun finally cleared in time for Snacktime to flood the stage with modern jazz and reggae sounds. The Philadelphia-based group came with full energy, waking up the crowd that had just barely walked through the doors.

Charm was the theme of the morning as Calder Allen from Austin, TX took to the stage to heat it up with some country before leading way to the Gin Blossoms. This group took the crowd back to the mid-'90s through the early 2000s with their classic soft rock hits. Lead singer Robin Wilson commanded the space while the rest of the group shredded it from opening note to stage exit.

Cautious Clay kicked off their set with some unfortunate heart-stopping bass that drowned those within the first few rows from the barricade. Once that died down, their fluid vocals were granted the opportunity to shine through. The band's sound was very dynamic, pulling from backgrounds of different genres from African style to lose indie to complete their set.

Margot Price has a voice that reached the very outskirts of Seaside, managing for her vocals to be just as crisp by the exit gates as they were from the front of VIP. Once she hit the stage, the crowd really started packing in.

Her connection to the stage was deepened further by her decision to perform her set barefoot. Price was

incredibly dynamic, not only dancing freely across the entire setup, but taking her turns at instruments ranging from her acoustic guitar to time in her drummer's seat. The set ended with Price tossing roses into the crowd, her band flooding the stage with a chaotic whirlwind of sound until she ran offstage.

Mt. Joy took psychedelic indie to its greatest heights with smooth instrumentals and hard-hitting vocals. Their background graphics transformed their entire set, taking the coast of the Long Island Sound and converting it to their personal hypnotic pocket of the beach. Deep, heavy swirls of purple and orange served as a backdrop to the evidently deep connection that the band held to their music. This was replaced with some impressive retro scenes that included pulsing nebulas, trippy cars and an assembly of explosions and planets in an ebb-and-flow around them.

They played some of their bigger hits, including "Astrovan," as well as some of their more niche songs for true fans who showed out to Bridgeport for their set.

After some uneventful sets from Dispatch and Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, it was time for the final three acts of the weekend.

Hozier had the barricade lined with fans decked out in his personal merchandise. He opened his set with a duality of his old and new sound that drew emotion out of those that had watched him grow from subway performances to MSG over the last ten years. He entered to "De Selby (Part 2)" from his newest

album, "Unreal Unearth," which just dropped mid-August.

Hozier immediately followed this up with "Jackie and Wilson" from his self-titled album, which came out in 2014.

The rest of his time onstage fared similarly, the crowd hearing everything from "Francesca" off of his latest to "Cherry Wine" from his very first days as a musician. The weekend saw to a near-full moon overlooking the festival stage, but somehow this wasn't the only one illuminating Seaside Park. During "Cherry Wine," Hozier had a dramatic bloodmoon transition from a mere crescent to a full moon, and by the end of the song melted back from a full moon to its original waning form.

Those in the front row were teary-eyed and gripping the metal barricade, swayed by the movement of Hozier's lyrics and angelic vocals.

Even after his set ended, his energy lingered and drew in an even bigger crowd until Alanis Morissette's set began.

Before the singer stepped foot before the crowd, the stage rolled through a dynamic highlight reel of Morissette's career. It laid the foundation for her actual set, which has the entire crowd dancing as if they were the only pockets of people in the venue.

She swayed around stage playing classics that everyone knew (even without realizing it, such as "Ironic.") Her set, despite being over an hour, was one that seemingly came and went in the blink of an eye.

The weekend closed out with John

Mayer, an American household name for actual fans and Taylor Swift stans alike.

The weekend's lineup truly appealed to a wide range of generations in attendance, making the event fit to feel personally-catered to every face in the 35,000-person daily crowd.

Beyond the music

Even past the viewing areas of Sound on Sound, the Park was flooded with energy and a powerful sense of community. Surrounding the ferris wheel whose line didn't waiver once, local charities and a wide range of food trucks drew crowds throughout the weekend.

Be the Match, a blood cancer donation charity, was joined by Make-a-Wish, Life Bridge CT (with 168 years of social services) and a collection of other charities.

Food trucks served everything from vegan wraps and smoothies, to hamburgers and hot dogs, to tacos and breakfast sandwiches. As long as you had half an hour to spare in line, festival goers were guaranteed to be fueled from the peak heat of the afternoon, well beyond sundown nearing midnight.

Sound on Sound saw couples weaving between people camped out on crowded collections of blankets in the mud. It saw people ruining white sneakers to sink into mud waiting for their favorite artists to come out. It saw kids in noise-canceling headphones too big for their head, resting on their parents' shoulders. Sound on Sound saw the potential of major music events rooting themselves in Connecticut and we should all be here for it.

NAACP cont.

Continued from Page 1
increase compared to last year. There was also a 7.06% increase in youth homelessness.

There was also information highlighting a discrepancy between rates of homelessness amongst different races, with Black and Indigenous people found to be homeless at higher rates than white counterparts.

After the presentation, those in attendance grabbed gloves and started packing the bags, which included items such as lotion, water,

toothpaste and toothbrushes, sun protectant and deodorant. All of these items selected are ones that can be used daily.

The bags will be delivered to the Columbus House Inc. in New Haven, which "serves people experiencing homelessness or imminent risk by providing life-saving outreach, shelter and housing by fostering their personal growth and independence," as stated on their website. They pride themselves in being able to provide and guide homeless people into a better life.



NAACP members making necessity bags for the homeless, West Haven, Sept. 28, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

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Suicide awareness doesn't stop at a calendar date

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Suicide Awareness Month has come to a close, but this doesn't mean that suicidality suddenly evaporates until next September. The need for essential conversations doesn't stop when the calendar turns past the first weeks of fall. People don't stop wanting to die. People shouldn't stop wanting to understand.

Suicide is one

of the leading causes of death in the United States, taking almost 50,000 lives annually, and an average of 132 every day. This has yet to tell the whole story, though. Beyond those who succeeded in their attempts, the U.S. saw over 1.7 million suicide attempts in 2021. We cannot expect people to want to stay if their struggles are minimized, or misunderstood.

We open our minds up each September to empathize, or at least attempt to empathize, with those who lose their sense of purpose in this life. This is isolating, all-consuming, and in some cases hard to mask. The energy exhibited throughout Suicide Awareness Month must make its way over into the remaining 11 months of each year.

If you are strug-

gling, the National Suicide Hotline is always available at 988, and the University of New Haven's Counseling and Psychological Services is also available around-the-clock at 203-932-7333.

You are not a burden for asking for help. You are not alone and should not ever feel like you bends to be. Mental health recovery is never a solo effort. Do not force that upon yourself.

*Revenge served with a smile*BY WILLIAM HINCK
Staff Writer

While I'm not a fan of revenge, I can understand the satisfaction that comes from growing beyond those who had hurt you in the past. A wave of joy comes roaring from the schadenfreude of overcoming those who stabbed you in the back.

The quote "revenge is a dish best served cold" rings true when your hand is hovering over the airlock button that is begging to launch your enemy into the cold and uncaring vacuum of

space. However, we must stay in reality and realize we have gravity in both our words and actions. We cannot solve all of our problems with a violent revenge fantasy and since I'm someone with opinions and an outlet to express them, I would like to share my thoughts on this matter.

While I'm on the topic of philosophical sayings, I would like to add another: "The best revenge is a life fulfilled." Like all sayings, there are many ways to interpret this. One view is that time heals

all wounds and living a happy and full life is the best way to see that through. Those who kicked you while you were down want nothing more than to see you stay there, so rising from the ashes stronger and satisfied with the life you have built in spite of their feeble attempts is the best way to prove them wrong. Both paths are tempting since you can technically do both. Some days you walk the path of nobility and some days you walk the path of positive spite and pettiness.

Every day, with-

out fail, I smile. Not because my life is some glowing ray of joy and fortune, but because I know that I've overcome bad times in the past. I smile because I know that I've fought my demons and won. I smile because I know that whatever my future throws at me, I will be strong enough to overcome that too. I smile because I know that if I stay on the ground, those who brought those demons into my life will win. Even if it's out of spite, I will survive and grow stronger and happier.

University leaders host first State of the Union Address

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

Last Wednesday, the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA), Graduate Student Council (GSC) and Office of the President opened the doors of the Bucknall Theater to host their first annual State of the Union Address.

Beyond USGA President Darby Brown, GSC President Malick Bojang and Sheaton Zenger, the interim university president, Dean of Students and President of DEIAB Ophelie Rowe-Allen partook in the event, opening the union before any of the triad of presidents took to the podium. She highlighted the number of expert staff in attendance to aid in answering questions beyond the scope of those in the center of the state of the union.

Brown, Bojang and Zenger all gave opening remarks, speaking on the goals that they have for the community, initiatives that they are enforcing and the values they hope to be exercised through collaboration of all three branches of leadership.

Brown explained that the aims of the State of the Union surrounded goals “to bring graduate students, undergraduate students, staff and faculty together” to answer questions.

Bojang repeatedly said that he saw the goals as driving the initiative to “unite students under one umbrella.”

Following these remarks, Rowe-Allen acted as a moderator for the question portion, which worked to delve into a number of subsets of student life on campus.

The first point of discussion responded to a student submitted question asking how these leaders could ensure participation in DEIAB awareness about disabilities.

Brown said that the USGA’s focus would be on promotion through their high-traffic channels and heightened visibility of their leaders at events on campus. This was in application to all events that students find important, as Brown’s initiatives were clarified as not being limited to only a



USGA President Darby Brown, Interim President Dr. Zenger and GSC President Malick Bojang, left to right, West Haven, Sept. 27, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

certain set of campus activities.

Bojang said that the GSC values everyone’s unique experience on campus and that they as a collective aim to engage with the university to increase accessibility.

Barbara Lawrence, the university’s new vice president of DEIAB and Title IX coordinator also spoke on the subject of accessibility and disability awareness.

On the matter, another student submission posed questioning of how the university will focus on accessibility, “as it has not been a main focus.”

Speaking on behalf of the Office of Facilities in addition to her own roles, Lawrence said that it was “unfortunate that is the perception, that accessibility is not a main focus, but it is.”

She continued by saying that “Lou [Annino] and his team and others of us are here to let students know

that it is a priority,” and referred to accessibility improvement as “ongoing work.”

Both Lawrence and Zenger took the time to talk about the “we” of campus accessibility efforts, and the need for full staff involvement in these improvements.

Brown also took the time to establish that one of the main reasons she joined student government was to be an advocate and to “amplify student voices.” She repeatedly offered for USGA to facilitate conversations between students and staff to advocate with and for them for accessibility.

Eventually, the inquiries on parking resurfaced and were faced by Ronald Quagliani, the associate vice president of public safety. He spoke about how the University of New Haven went from “nothing but parking,” to a more residential campus focused on being

a more walkable and safe community.

Increased quality of life for graduate and international students was another matter of discussion. The international student task force created by former Chancellor Steven Kaplan was mentioned, as was the predominantly international executive board of the GSC, who Bojang said is bringing these things “to the forefront.”

At one point, the discussion of greater support for fraternity and sorority life took to the table. Darby acknowledged that this “promotes a sense of unity and a sense of belonging” on campus for many people. Greg Overend, executive director for the Center of Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation discussed how the University of New Haven is a deferred recruitment campus, meaning that students cannot go out for

recruitment as first-semester students. Following many requests to change that, this fall for the first time, pan-hellenic fraternities could recruit first-semester freshmen, which has increased the number of students going out for recruitment. This model is set to be experimented with more groups on campus starting next year.

Nearing the end of the discussion, the panel of presidents was asked about bridging the gap between administrative decisions and students’ needs. To this, Brown said that her role was to amplify students’ voices to those who are capable of making those changes. This was in addition to her goals for greater outreach to students via social media, as it is less daunting than emails and transparency between the motions of her executive board as they are conveyed to the student body.

Field Hockey wins 1-0 over American International College

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 30, the Chargers welcomed the Yellowjackets of American International College (AIC) after suffering a tough loss against Assumption. It was a close game, with solid defenses from both sides. Freshman forward Emma Beaujouan stepped up for New Haven, earning her first collegiate goal and achieving victory for the home team.

The first quarter was back and forth between both teams, with aggressive forward lines and strong defenses. AIC earned the first shot on goal but New Haven was quick to answer back. Junior forward Abby Nixon was the first to get a shot on goal for the Chargers, with not just one but two back-to-back shots in the circle. This momentum continued when senior forward Kat Trammel also added two shot opportunities, however the forward line could not seem to net one in the first quarter.

The second quarter was

similar to the first, both teams fighting for the ball in the midfield throughout the 15-minute period. Neither team could find the opportunity for a shot on goal until nine minutes into the quarter. The first shot of the second quarter was awarded to sophomore defender Eliza Caven, who capitalized on an offensive penalty corner. Unfortunately, the shot was deflected by AIC's goalkeeper. Despite this save, the Yellowjacket defense could not seem to fully clear the ball, which resulted in two more penalty corners for the Chargers. The back line for New Haven was as strong as ever, not allowing a single shot on goal for the entirety of the second quarter.

The Chargers went into the second half with energy and ambition, looking to put a number on the scoreboard. The forward line refused to stop pushing, spending the first nine minutes of the third quarter with offensive possession in American International's defensive circle.

During these nine minutes, New Haven had four shots on goal, looking to tire the de-



New Haven field hockey's starting lineup, West Haven, Oct. 1, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

fense and the goalkeeper just enough to put one through. This game-winning goal would come from Beaujouan, netting her first collegiate goal and putting the Chargers in the lead. AIC attempted to even the score, yet only found one shot on goal during the third quarter.

Going into the fourth quarter of a one goal game, both teams were determined to take the win. The stakes were high, with just one goal needed to tie it and two needed to win,

the Chargers took the field ready to defend. The forward line refused to let down, pressuring the AIC back line with numerous shots on goal. AIC would be awarded two penalty corners later in the quarter, and while two shots were taken, neither were able to even out the score. As time ran out, the Chargers were unable to add to the score, resulting in a 1-0 win.

With a game total of 14 shots on goal, it was clear

that the forwards for the New Haven was nothing short of determined. The defense also held their own, only allowing six shots from AIC in their circle. This game was just one of two that the Chargers played this weekend as they faced off with Bloomsburg University on Sunday and suffered a 4-0 loss. For more information on both games, visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Men's soccer falls 3-0 to Franklin Pierce

BY IGNACIO FUENTES
Contributing Writer

Earlier this week, the New Haven men's soccer team took on Assumption University on Tuesday, Sept. 26 and came away with a dramatic 4-3 win. They would stay at home for their next matchup with Franklin Pierce University on Saturday, Sept. 30. The Chargers were unable to get anything going offensively, dropping the contest in a 3-0 loss.

The first half saw the Ravens maintain possession of the ball as they applied consistent pressure with multiple shots on target. New Haven's defense was able to hold off their attack and did not allow any of the

shots in the back of the net.

As the second half began, the Ravens stayed on the attack until the 59th minute when Franklin Pierce opened the scoring with a goal scored from defenseman Aitor Cuenca Retuerto. New Haven did not go down without a fight, but they were unable to get on the scoreboard as striker Younes Addar Khanoussi put Franklin Pierce ahead by two. Seven minutes before the referee blew the whistle to end the game, midfielder Antonio Lampreia Lima secured the victory with the team's third goal.

Overall, the tactic for New Haven to defeat Franklin Pierce was to

keep possession of the ball and to keep pressure on the opposing team. The Ravens' attack was too strong for New Haven to handle, as they allowed 22 shots with

three being on goal.

New Haven will be traveling to New York City this coming Wednesday, Oct. 4 and face off against Saint Rose College. The game

is scheduled to kickoff at 4 p.m. as they look forward to bringing home three points. For more information, you can go to NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven men's soccer celebrates a 4-3 win over Assumption, West Haven, Sept. 26, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.