

Debate Grows Over Trump's Interest in Greenland

BY NICHOLAS MAISANO
Asst. News Editor

Since the beginning of the year, President Donald Trump has been expressing his interest in annexing Greenland and making it part of the United States. While there are economic and political advantages to acquiring this territory, there are also some challenges, including rallying support.

Trump has stated that acquiring Greenland is important for the national security of the United States and to prevent China or Russia from controlling it first.

"Annexing Greenland would also help with the implementation of Trump's Golden Dome initiative, which should be pursued," said Dr. Gary Rose, professor and scholar in residence.

According to congress.gov, the Golden Dome of America is an initiative by the Trump Administration "to develop an integrated air and missile defense system." The goal is to enhance the capabilities of detecting any threat from enemies by air, space, ground, and sea.

"Donald Trump has said that Greenland has geopolitical advantages, but the United States already has the ability to use Greenland for military purposes," said Dr. Steven Michels, Political Science & Global Affairs department chair.

The Pituffik Space Base is the only U.S. military base in Greenland. It is the most north military base, with one of its main functions being missile warning and detection.

Acquiring Greenland has its advantages economically, but the land poses issues.

"There are rare earth minerals and untapped oil reserves in Greenland that if mined and tapped could benefit the U.S economy," said Rose. "The problem; however, is that mining and drilling for oil in Greenland is extremely difficult due to the terrain and the depth of the ice."

While Trump has his sights set on Greenland, Americans and politicians from both sides of the aisle are divided over the matter.

"It's also not popular among Democrats and Republicans in Congress," said Michels. "There's no point in talking about the advantages of conquest."

"I personally don't think it makes a lot of sense," said junior Juliana Morello, president of College Democrats. "Trump wants to show China that he could potentially mess



Felipe Dana, AP Newsroom

President Trump eyes Greenland for its political and economic advantages.

with their interest in Greenland."

"Republicans see the benefits of annexing Greenland, while Democrats are totally opposed to this initiative," said Rose.

"Healthcare, and affordability are on the minds of the American people as we approach the 2026 congressional elections, not the annexation of Greenland. But this does not mean that Trump will give up on his desire to annex Greenland."

One thing most Americans agree on is not taking Greenland by military force.

"According to a Quinnipiac poll, only 9 percent of American registered voters favored the option of acquiring Greenland by force," said Michels.

"Using military force to acquire Greenland could lead to conflict that we can't afford to get into right now," said

Morello. "President Trump has said that he won't use military force to acquire Greenland, and I am choosing to believe him."

On Jan. 21, Trump posted on Truth Social that him and Mark Rutte, Secretary General of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), "have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region."

With this agreement, taking Greenland by military force has most likely been ruled out.

Although a framework for a deal has been created, it is unclear what is next for the United States and Greenland.

"Most of the European countries that are part of NATO are also opposed to the U.S. annexing Greenland. So, if Trump decides to use the military to take over Greenland it would cause a major problem regarding the unity of NATO," said Rose.

Michael Larobina Named Interim Provost

BY MADELEINE MEDEIROS
News Editor

"I write to you as I step into the role of interim provost at the request of the president," said Michael Larobina, Sacred Heart University (SHU) general counsel and university secretary in his email to faculty and staff on Jan. 26.

On Friday, Jan. 9, SHU President Dr. John Petillo announced to faculty that Dr. Robin Cautin, SHU's provost since 2021, will be leaving on a year-long sabbatical starting Feb. 1. Following Cautin's leave Larobina will fill her shoes as interim provost.

"Robin is taking this time to finish her writing projects and prepare for future opportunities," said Petillo in his email to faculty.

According to the Department of Marketing and Communications, a search committee for a new provost is already in the works, consisting of faculty, including deans, and students. The committee members will identify the strongest candidates to fill the role.

"We will appoint an associate general counsel to manage the day-to-day operations, allowing Michael to focus primarily on responsibilities of the provost's

office," said Petillo.

Serving as general counsel since February 2012, Larobina has managed Sacred Heart's legal affairs. As a tenured professor starting in the 1990s at SHU's Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT), he led the college through its Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation, according to Petillo and the Department of Marketing and Communications. Only six percent of institutions with business degrees in the world have AACSB accreditation, according to the AACSB website.

"My career at Sacred Heart has included service as a faculty member, department chair, program director, associate dean, interim dean and, most recently, as general counsel and university secretary," said Larobina.

"Under [Cautin's] guidance, the University made meaningful progress, and her work has provided a strong and durable foundation for the future," said Larobina. "In the coming months, my initial priority will be to listen and learn."

Prior to her time at Sacred Heart, Cautin was the associate provost and dean of undergraduate education at Manhattanville College, according to Sacred Heart

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News

Michael Larobina Named Interim Provost

BY MADELEINE MEDEIROS
News Editor

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University's website. She served as the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean at SHU from 2014 until 2021, when she was named provost. She holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Case Western Reserve University and has numerous published research papers.

In his email, Petillo noted some of Cautin's past initiatives as provost aimed at growing SHU's academic portfolio, and expressing gratitude for her work.

"She led initiatives to strengthen academic infrastructure, enhance student support and faculty development and successfully managed the decennial NECHE review and the development of the 2024-2029 strategic plan," said Petillo.

As for Larobina, stepping into this new role of provost involves being "focused on supporting faculty and creating the conditions necessary for success in their work," prioritizing leadership in "class size policy, curriculum development, budget allocation and tenure and promotion processes," according to the Department of Marketing and Communications.

Moreover, academic affairs and the provost's office is responsible for overseeing "the advising and registration of our students, academic mentoring and tutoring and study abroad opportunities," according to the Sacred Heart University website.

Cautin did not respond to a request for comments.



Melady Hall, where both the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost are located on campus.

Madeleine Medeiros, News Editor

WCBT Dean Dr. David Taylor Resigning

BY DANIEL GREENE
News Editor



Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

West Campus, home to the Welch College of Business and Technology, pictured from above.

"One of the things I always tell students is, 'you never know where you're going to end up.' If you had asked me if I would ever be a dean, I would've said no, that was the last thing I was thinking of doing," said Dr. David Taylor, dean of the Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT).

In January, Taylor announced his resignation as dean of the WCBT to become dean of the College of Business (COB) at Purdue University Northwest. He will

continue to serve as dean until the conclusion of the spring semester.

During his time at Sacred Heart University, Taylor served as an associate dean, professor and department chair prior to being named dean in September 2023. He has overseen the launching of business analytics and financial technology in analytics majors, the accreditation of computer engineering and electrical engineering programs, and the launch of a real estate minor.

"In its first year, about 100 students enrolled in the real estate minor. So, it's been really rewarding for me to see that this was a need that students had and that they have a hunger for these new programs," said Taylor.

Taylor believes it is very important for him to be present for students as a dean, something he attributes to President Dr. John Petillo, Sacred Heart, and his leadership philosophy.

"I was shocked when I heard Dean Taylor was resigning, and I am certainly sad to see him go. I think this will be a big loss for the school, but I wish Dean Taylor the best in his next position," said junior Matthew Meaney, an economics and management double major.

Purdue University Northwest's student population is mostly comprised of first-generation and non-traditional students. Taylor is excited for this new opportunity to make an impact on his new student body as they transition into a new socioeconomic group.

"A lot of their parents have blue collar jobs and have never been to college or had those opportunities. It's a great chance to give these students new opportunities," said Taylor.

Taylor will begin as dean of the COB beginning July 1, but he trusts the faculty and staff of the WCBT to continue the progress that has been made so far.

"We have a great team of faculty and associate deans, and they're not going anywhere. So, I think everyone is set up for continued success, and the students are still getting the great education they came here for," said Taylor.

According to a statement from SHU, "The university will soon announce an interim dean to ensure continuity of leadership at the Welch College of Business & Technology. We thank Dean Taylor for his leadership and contributions to the WCBT community."

**UPCOMING
EVENTS ON
CAMPUS**

**THURSDAY 2/5:
MEN'S BASKETBALL
GAME VS FAIRFIELD
7 P.M. PITT CENTER**

**FRIDAY 2/6:
STUFF-A-BEAR
8 P.M. LINDA'S
FIREPLACE**

**SATURDAY 2/7:
WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
GAME VS POST
7 P.M. MARTIRE FAMILY
ARENA**

Features

Unity Through Jazz and Dandyism

BY FERNANDA GUEVARA

Asst. Features Editor and Circulation Manager

The Black Student Union (BSU) will host its fifth annual Black Love Gala on Thursday, Feb. 12. As part of Sacred Heart University's (SHU) Black History Month programming, this event will bring students together to celebrate Black culture, love and community.

The annual celebration is intended to bring together not only the Black student population at SHU, but the entire campus community. According to sophomore BSU member Emmanuel-Bruno Tabe, the gala serves as both a celebration and a recognition of the broader influence of Black culture.

"The Black Love Gala is a great opportunity to bring together not only the small population of minorities at our school, but everyone to celebrate black culture," said Tabe. "Black culture has had an undeniable influence on society, and this is a recognition of that influence and ultimately a fun time."

According to sophomore BSU member Kathnie Fabre, the purpose of the Black Love Gala is to bridge the celebration of Black History Month and Valentine's Day.

"We dedicate a night to exemplify Black love, history and culture," said Fabre. "The Black Love Gala is one of our biggest events of the academic year, and it's really important to us that it's open to all students."

The evening will be a formal event, with elegant evening attire required. The celebration will feature music and food, creating a welcoming and festive atmosphere where students can gather, socialize and engage with one another.

The event celebrates Black culture through community, self-expression and shared social experiences. Rather than focusing on one specific tradition, it recognizes Black culture as a combination of music, fashion, identity and togetherness, creating a space where students can feel seen, valued and connected.

This year's gala will take place at Edgerton Performing Arts Center atrium, a change from last year's location at Thea's Abbey. Fabre said the move was made to make the event more accessible and encourage greater student participation.

"We wanted to make it more accessible by having it on main campus in hopes of gaining even more students than last year," said Fabre. "With our returning members and the support of student workers from the Agape Center for Human Dignity, we're excited to see familiar faces again."

Fabre also explained that the concept of "Black love" extends beyond romantic relationships and represents appreciation, affirmation and unity within the Black community.



Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart University's Office for Inclusive Excellence in partnership with the Black Student Union hosted the Annual Black Love Gala on Feb. 13, 2025.

"I like to think of Black love as a love letter or a token of appreciation from the executive board to the student body for supporting and attending our meetings and events," said Fabre.

This year's theme, "Jazz and Dandyism," is inspired by the 2025 Met Gala and encourages attendees to use fashion as a form of self-expression.

"Sharing culture and ideas and letting your outfit express your emotion is a big part of the theme," said Fabre. "Love is such a powerful emotion, and we wanted to use that drive to create something creative and meaningful."

Events like the Black Love Gala hold particular importance at predominantly white institutions, where students of color may often feel underrepresented. Tabe shared that throughout his academic experience prior to SHU, recognition of Black culture was limited.

"I went to predominantly white institutions my whole life, but I never really felt recognized or celebrated," said Tabe. "Coming to SHU and seeing how present and accomplished Black students are here was a culture shock for me. It made me feel truly seen."

Both organizers said they hope students leave the gala with a deeper understanding of Black culture and a broader perspective on love and community.

"I hope students understand that love is patient and kind, and that it's more than just romantic," said Fabre. "Everyone is deserving of it, and we hope this encourages students to attend more events hosted by the BSU and other unity groups."

The Black Love Gala is one of several events organized by the Black Student Union throughout the academic year that aim to promote cultural awareness, inclusion and community engagement at Sacred Heart University.

Snowed in at SHU

BY SARA HASENEY

Features Editor and Public Relations Manager

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Connecticut, as well as a large majority of the United States, faced a heavy snowstorm. Bridgeport received roughly 15 inches of snow, causing many school delays and closures.

According to NBC Connecticut, the storm called for a state of emergency, issued by state officials.

"Gov. Ned Lamont implemented a commercial vehicle travel ban on Connecticut highways at 12 p.m. That remains in effect until further notice. The governor also ordered state executive branch office buildings closed on Monday," said NBC Connecticut. "Level 2 state employees were also told not to report to work on Monday. Many cities and towns also closed their municipal buildings and told employees to stay home on Monday."

On Jan. 25, Dean of Students Denise Tiberio sent out a campus wide email issuing classes to be remote for the following day.

"Based on the winter storm conditions, all on-campus classes for Monday, Jan. 26 are moving to remote/online instruction. All on-campus events and athletic/performing arts practices for 1/26 are canceled," said Tiberio.

Although temperatures were below freezing and many inches of snow accumulated, Sacred Heart University (SHU) students still found their way to have fun and make the most of the weather.

In Tiberio's email, she stated that different snow events would take place on campus, such as a snowman building contest, board games and a pool tournament in Hawley Lounge, and different

pop-ups and crafts.

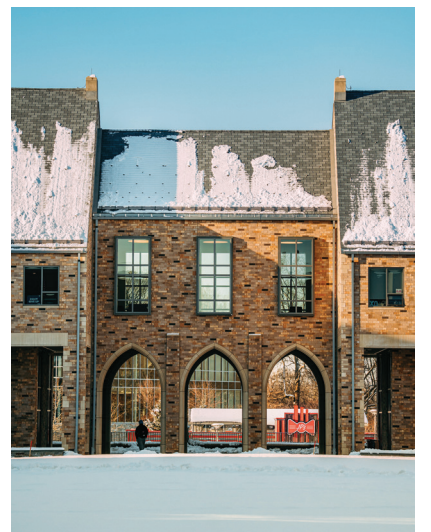
Senior Molly Luchsinger said her favorite part of snow days is seeing the snowmen all around campus.

"I think it's so wholesome when we get snow and there's a ton of snowmen all over campus," said Luchsinger. "I remember when I lived in Bowman Hall my sophomore year, we walked outside and there were at least 40 snowmen on Upper Quad, so I love that students are still building them on campus."

Senior Charlotte Copp said she loves seeing the videos online of students taking advantage of the snow, such as sledding or having snowball fights.

"After a big snowstorm I always see videos on Instagram of students sledding down hills on campus, and students really get creative with what they use as a sled. One time I saw someone use their dorm mattress," said Copp.

Despite having a day off from class, students at SHU know how to make the most of their snowy days, whether that's building snowmen, having snowball fights or sledding down Jefferson Hill.



Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

The first day of spring semester saw a snow covered upper quad on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026.

KD Brings Sisterhood and Service to Girl Scouts

BY ALEXA BORNER

Features Editor and Public Relations Manager

Kappa Delta (KD), one of the biggest sororities on Sacred Heart University's campus, is hosting one of their two Girl Scout events this semester on Feb. 6.

Girl Scouts is one of KD's two philanthropies, along with Prevent Child Abuse America, and members are deeply involved with supporting and fundraising for the organization. This event is one of the many ways that they are hoping to make an impact on campus and in the community.

Sophomore Bella Sheehan, director of Philanthropy and Community Service for KD, said that members of the sorority are given the opportunity to have a "big sister role" in these girls' lives and they hope to be a support system and someone they can look up to.

"This aligns directly with KD's values and creates a lasting impact that goes far beyond fundraising. It emphasizes true sisterhood mentorship, service and personal growth," said Sheehan.

Sheehan said that being involved in philanthropy during college allows women to discover themselves and their role in the community.

"Most importantly, it reinforces the idea that giving back is not a one-time activity, but an active lifestyle," said Sheehan.

"By hosting Girl Scout events, we are able to create a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment where girls can learn, grow, and build confidence while being surrounded by strong female role models who encourage them to believe in themselves," said sophomore Mia Luciano, vice president of Events and Programming.

During the event, the girl scouts can participate in different stations led by chapter members while creating memorable connections with one another.

Senior Honora Saccu, member of KD said that she is grateful to be connected to KD and their philanthropies.

"We are doing a Valentine's theme event where we will have a confidence building activity paired with just talking to the girl scouts as they look up to us," said Saccu. "You don't realize how much you can make an impact with one conversation."

KD has made a huge impact on Saccu's college experience.

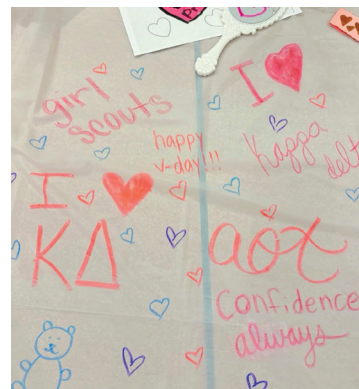
"This made me grow my own confidence and guided me to make my own impacts on campus and become a stronger leader," said Saccu. "An opportunity I will forever hold close to my heart and will always be a part of me."

This event isn't the only time you'll see Girl Scouts on campus.

"They participate in our big philanthropy events, like Caitlin's Shamrock the Runway, our runway show in March, and Kait's Kickin' It for Kids, our kickball tournament in October," said Sheehan.

Sheehan expresses the impact philanthropic events make beyond college.

"For alumni, seeing these traditions continue reminds them of why they joined in the first place," said Sheehan. "It reminds us all the true purpose and impact that is beyond the sorority itself."



Instagram, @kd_shu

A poster created during the "KD loves the Girl Scouts" event in 2025.

Sheehan and Luciano work together alongside other chapter members and the Girl Scout chairs and Committee to foster a successful event.

"By mentoring and supporting young girls within our local community, we are actively living out our values of integrity, empowerment, and service while making a meaningful and lasting impact on the next generation of young women," said Luciano.

Although this event is not open to the public, Luciano said anyone who would like to get involved in KD can attend future events.

Saccu said to be yourself and be confident if you are considering rushing. The connection she has made within KD is infinite.

"When members work side by side for a cause they care about, it strengthens our bonds by allowing members to see one another in a more genuine and selfless way," said Sheehan.

CampusLife

From Hometowns to Home on Campus

BY WILL MORGAN
Audrey's Corner Editor

On Jan. 20, Sacred Heart University's spring semester began once again. Freshmen returned to their tiny dorms, sophomores to their kitchen suites, and juniors and seniors to their off-campus housing.

For the second half of the year, Sacred Heart was back in full swing with students transitioning from home living back into academic life.

"I've been settling into my new classes well so far," said sophomore Alex Parisi. "Last year, I really struggled with the period after Christmas break. You go from no responsibilities, not a care in the world, to your entire future on your shoulders again just like that."

While the transition back can be stressful, some students enjoy the self-sufficient living aspect of college.

"I get my independence here, I can do things I can't back home, so that's always nice," said sophomore Blake Mattessich.

With independence also comes self-enforced responsibilities. For some students, it's planning a schedule and adhering to your routines.

"I had a poor sleep schedule over break. I would stay up until 3 a.m. and sleep until 11 a.m. Now that I'm back at school, I go to bed no later than 9 p.m. and wake up at 7 a.m. daily. This helps me make the most effective use of my days."

Other responsibilities include adjusting and maintaining their academic workload.

"This semester I feel like the work load is a little heavier than it was in the fall, so that's something I'll have to get used to," said sophomore Matthew Butt.

The transition and adjustments from home to college living can be a struggle within itself; the winter weather also presents its own challenges.

"In the cold weather we have now, sometimes it can be hard to find the motivation to leave the dorm. But you just have to remember it's good for you to walk around, because staying indoors only keeps you feeling worse," said sophomore Hannah Manzo.

With everything included, students are returning to their college living normalcy and finding enjoyment in coming home to campus.

"I can't complain about being back with all my SHU friends again," said Mattessich.

"I like my roommates. I like the big community based housing they have in [Christian Witness Commons]. It's really very nice," said Manzo.



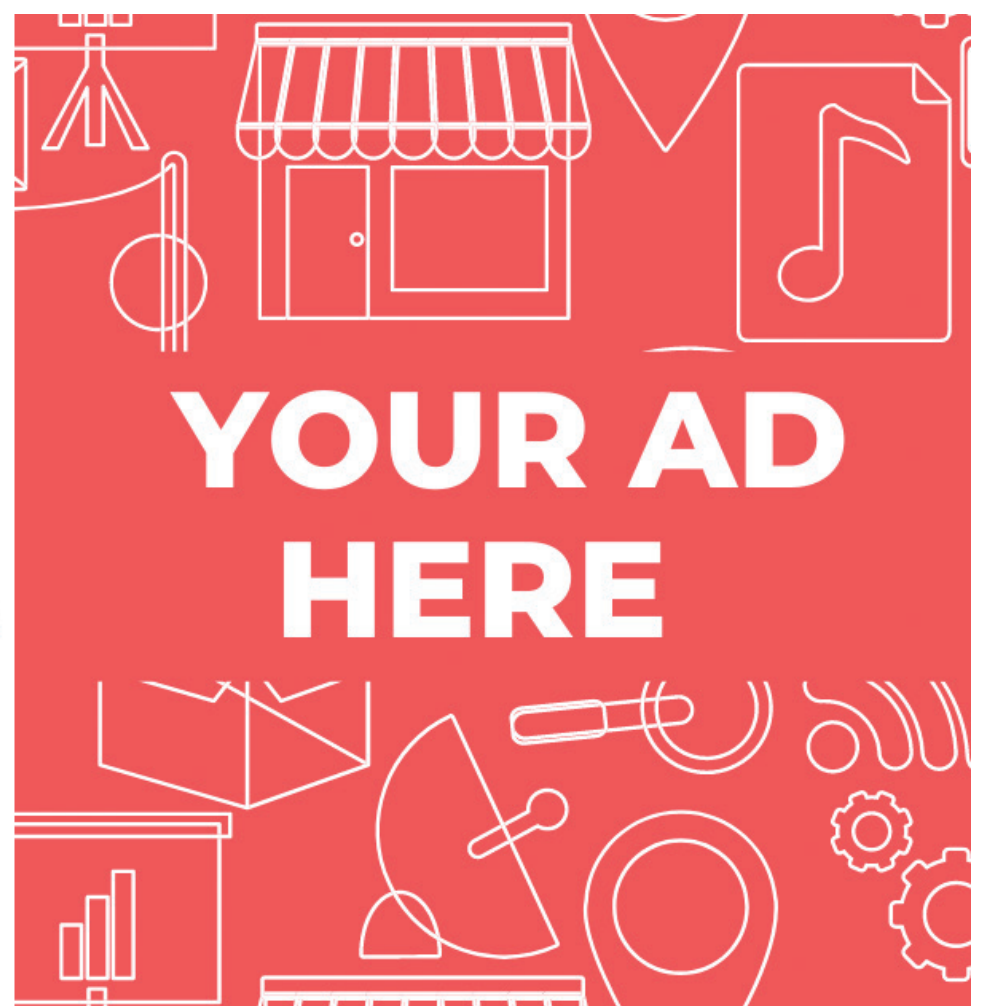
A snow covered upper quad, pictured on Jan. 5, 2026.

Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

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CampusLife

Bring Back 2016 at SHU

BY THEO WEISMANN
Campus Life Editor

“One Dance” by Drake is playing through your friend’s cracked iPhone 6. You blink, and suddenly it’s 2026. As the calendar flipped to a new year, social media feeds began filling with nostalgic vines and filters, making 2026 feel like 2016 again. The trend has gained traction among young adults, who are revisiting what many remember as the cultural “prime” of their childhood.

Many Sacred Heart University students have taken this trend to Instagram, reposting their photos from 2016, often complemented by the staple filters on platforms like Snapchat or VSCO.

The movement has only picked up more traction as the year progresses, with many staple 2016 artists like Diplo and Major Lazer posting old concert footage.

“Whenever I hear Broccoli by DRAM and Lil Yachty, I’m immediately brought back to my middle school days,” said senior Javier Alicea- Kahn.

For others, it is sports moments that define the year. No matter which team you supported, the generational highlights of 2016 were impossible to ignore, from Cam Newton dabbing in the end zone to LeBron James’ historic NBA Finals comeback. Depending on who you supported, some sports moments still carry hard feelings for some students.

“I’m still scarred by Von Miller’s Super Bowl 50 performance where he had two and a half sacks and two forced fumbles, which led them to beat the Panthers 24-10,” said senior Connor Gioia.

But what makes 2016 feel so iconic when compared to other years in our childhood? Many students reminisce on the good old days, whether it be the culture or simply still being a kid with far fewer responsibilities.

“It’s hard to compare my life in 2016 with my current life simply because so much has changed. 2016 was definitely less stressful at times but I also had a different living situation, different friends, and far less freedom,” said Alicea- Khan.

Media theorist Marshall McLuhan famously argued that “the medium is the message,” suggesting that it’s more about how people post about a trend than the trend itself, which often influences how people perceive it. With 2016, currently being shown in this nostalgic limelight, life comes across as simpler than today’s oversaturated media environment.

Whether it be Vine’s six-second loops, Snapchat’s unfiltered

stories, and Instagram’s less-curated aesthetic, 2016 created a digital environment that felt more spontaneous and unserious when compared to today’s algorithm-driven feeds that feel overly polished or completely AI-driven.

Still, not everyone is eager for a full aesthetic revival.

“I didn’t even know the 2016 look was coming back,” Alicea-Kahn said. “And I honestly hope it doesn’t.”

Whether the return of 2016 reflects a genuine longing to go back in time or just a lighthearted internet trend, the resurgence highlights how students choose to remember growing up. For those looking for an extra dose of nostalgia beyond their social media feeds, the official Spectrum 2016 throwback playlist is available on Spotify.



Instagram, @sacredheartuniversity

A post from Sacred Heart University following the “2016 trend” where influencers and accounts post photos throwback photos from 2016.

“Bring Back 2016” Playlist

“Broccoli” - DRAM, Lil Yachty
“Light It Up (Remix)” - Major Lazer, Nyla, Fuse ODG
“One Dance” - Drake, Wizkid, Kyla
“Black Beatles” - Rae Srem-murd, Gucci Mane
“Feel So Close - Radio Edit” - Calvin Harris
“Ride” - Twenty One Pilots

“Adventure of a Lifetime” - Coldplay
“Can’t Feel My Face” - The Weeknd
“Let Me Love You” - DJ Snake, Justin Bieber
“Rude” - MAGIC!
“Love Me Again” - John Newman

Scan the QR Code for the Full Playlist on Spotify



Interested in contributing to Campus Life? Contact us at spectrum@sacredheart.edu

Arts & Entertainment

Harry Styles is Back in Style

BY CAROLINE DAVINO

Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Across campus, students are excited about Harry Styles' return to the spotlight. After four years without new music, Styles is back with a new single, a highly anticipated album, and an upcoming tour that includes 30 shows at Madison Square Garden, which are his only dates in the United States.

Styles last released a studio album in 2022 with Harry's House, an era that influenced pop culture and acted as a major moment in his solo career. Now, students say this return feels different. It is more emotional and reflective, tied closely to growing up alongside his music.

Freshman Nikki Kane said Styles' songwriting has always connected with listeners entering adulthood.

"I think that Harry's music is relatable for a more mature audience, starting in later high school and college," said Kane. "His choice in words, his metaphors, and his emotional maturity connect with people our age."

Kane said the anticipation surrounding this album feels larger than his previous music.

"I think that because of artists who could be viewed as 'placeholders' in the pop culture zeitgeist," said Kane, "His return could be more highly anticipated, because of how record-breaking Harry's House was."

Senior Isabel O'Connell said Styles' career has unfolded alongside his audience. His audience has grown up with his evolving music.

"We subconsciously grew up with him and watched his music progress from the One Direction X Factor audition to where he is today," said O'Connell. "It shows the transition from being kids to moving into our adult years."

She said the four-year break has made this era feel especially meaningful.

"I think given the length of the break, he had the opportunity to never put out music again," said O'Connell. "The fact that he still is makes me feel like this upcoming music is going to be really special."

Students also said Styles' sound and image appear to be maturing as he grows older.

"I think his sound and image has matured significantly," said O'Connell. "The last time he put out an album he was in his mid-20s, and now he's in his 30s, which feels like a big shift."

Freshman Erica Dellaglio described the new era as calmer while still staying true to who Styles has always been.

"His sound feels more mature and emotional," said Dellaglio. "It feels more timeless compared to Harry's House, which was very loud and upbeat."

One of the most talked about parts of Styles' return is his upcoming tour.

His decision to perform 30 shows at Madison Square Garden has become a major point of conversation among students and people in Gen Z.

"Madison Square Garden, the most famous arena in the world, is no easy feat," said Kane. "His decision to host 30 shows displays that there is a testament to the level of fame and respect his music has gained."

Dellaglio said the residency illustrates the loyalty and range of his fanbase.

"Harry Styles has an extremely loyal fanbase that spans years and generations," said Dellaglio. "The fact that my mom, sister, and I all love his music really shows how diverse it is."

Students described this new chapter of Styles' career as both emotional and courageous.

"I would describe this new era as courageous," said O'Connell. "Continuing to put out music after everything he's experienced makes a huge difference to a lot of people."

As Styles steps back into the spotlight, students say his music continues to offer comfort and nostalgia while reflecting their own growth. To others, making this return feels less like a release and more like a shared moment.

"I love getting to grow up and watch all the different eras of his style and music," said Dellaglio. "I can't wait to hear his new music as a college student."



Instagram, @harrystyles

A promotional post shared to Harry Styles' Instagram for his upcoming Together 2026 tour.

Amélie: Kindness on Stage

BY EMMA RICOTTA

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Theatre Arts Program is bringing "Amélie" to the Black Box Theatre from Feb. 6-22.

The musical is based on the 2001 French film "Amélie" that tells the story of Amélie Poulain, a woman who decides to secretly perform acts of kindness for the people around her.

While focusing on giving joy to others, she struggles with loneliness and finds the courage to pursue her own love story. The musical encourages audience members to find happiness in small moments.

Senior Emily Vandal is the leading cast member as Amélie.

"It is a really beautiful story about the growth of Amélie and seeing her come out of her shell and her actually taking a step," said Vandal. "It could also help other people realize that they need to make a change."

Vandal was ecstatic when she found out she received the part of Amélie.

"I turned my ringer on on Monday just in case the email came," said Vandal. "The ringer went off, and I ran from my door to my bed and saw the email, and I just started sobbing."

The musical is directed by the guest director Chase Brock, a New York-based director and choreographer, as well as the artistic director of the Chase Brock Experience.

"With Chase, he is very open to your ideas, and I felt immediately welcomed and supported by him," said Vandal. "Feeling a sense of welcome while also working is really important for me."

Ashley Newman is the choreographer of Amélie and the director of dance at Sacred Heart University. She is also the director of education and engagement of the Chase Brock Experience and close friends with Brock.

"It is super exciting to choreograph a show my best friend is directing," said Newman. "We have done many projects together, but this is the first time where he is the director and I am the choreographer for a musical."

Newman's goal with being the choreographer for the musical is to bridge the performing arts programs of dance and theatre together.



Instagram, @shutheatrearts

A promotional post shared to Sacred Heart's theatre arts account promoting "Amélie."

"One of my goals when coming to Sacred Heart was I wanted to choreograph a musical, so it was lovely that they asked me right away," said Newman. "I would also love for the theatre students to take more dance classes and I'd love for our dancers to be in the musicals."

This being Vandal's first time as the lead in a musical, she has learned many valuable lessons, especially how Amélie is focused on the idea of connection and embracing risks.

"The whole theme of our show is time," said Vandal. "For me, it is about creating the version of yourself and who you are going to be."

"You're going to laugh, you're going to cry, you're going to have the full set of emotions that you want to have when you see a good show," said Newman.

Tickets are \$5 for Sacred Heart students and \$25 for the general public.

For more information on "Amélie" and where to purchase tickets, go to <https://edgertoncenter.org/events/amelie/>.

Sports

Super Bowl LX: A Rematch 11 Years in the Making

BY COLLIN MACLEOD AND JACK CAVICCHI
Sports Editor and Asst. Sports Editor

Super Bowl LX takes place this weekend, Sunday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in Santa Clara, Calif. The New England Patriots will face off against the Seattle Seahawks. This same matchup took place in the Super Bowl 11 years ago, with one of the most iconic moments in Super Bowl history being the Malcolm Butler goal line interception to seal the game for New England.

Will history repeat itself and New England prevail, or will Seattle get their revenge?

The Patriots come into this game as four and a half point underdogs; they look to prove that they are meant for this stage, despite being a young team.

Both second year quarterback Drake Maye from the Patriots and veteran quarterback Sam Darnold will make their Super Bowl debuts.

Junior Zach Parker has been following the playoffs closely all postseason, along with the betting side of it.

"I've had really high hopes for the Patriots and Drake Maye in these past few games," said Parker. "In reality, he has been letting me down, so instead I will be rooting for the Seahawks this time around."

Maye has recently underperformed his standards. There is speculation that he might have a hurt shoulder, although the Patriots must hope their star is able to perform in the biggest game of the season.

Darnold, on the other hand, has been playing some of the best football of his journeyman career. He looks to pull off what once seemed like an unlikely result for himself earlier in his career.

Let's rewind back to the Conference Championship Weekend to see how both teams got to this stage.

The American Football Conference (AFC) Championship saw the second-seeded New England Patriots defeat the first-seeded Denver Broncos 10-7 in Denver, Colo. on Jan. 25; a game where neither offense could find its footing, partly due to the inclement second half weather.

The Patriots recorded 206 total yards of offense, with Maye, an MVP candidate, completing 10 of 21 pass attempts for 86 yards. The Broncos recorded 181 total yards behind quarterback Jarrett Stidham, who stepped in for an injured Bo Nix and had not thrown a pass since 2023.

"Even though Stidham hasn't thrown a pass in years, I was still worried coming into the game," junior Matt Curran said. "I watched his highlights on YouTube in the week leading up to the game and he looked good."

Entering the second half, the winds picked up and heavy snow began to fall and coat the field,

resulting in a total of three points being scored across the half. Special teams began to struggle, as each team missed relatively short field goals and fought to keep punts in bounds.

"The weather made kicking so difficult, typically both kickers are automatic from inside 50 yards, but the snow makes it entirely different," said junior Liam Bailey.

The National Football Conference (NFC) Championship was a sharp contrast from the earlier AFC game, with the first-seeded Seattle Seahawks defeating the fifth-seeded Los Angeles Rams in a 31-27 shootout in Seattle, Wash.

Despite nearly 500 total yards of offense from MVP candidate quarterback Matthew Stafford and the Rams, the Seahawks took a 17-13 lead going into halftime and never looked back.

Quarterback Sam Darnold passed for 346 yards and three touchdowns, with wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (JSN) putting on a dominant performance, making up over a third of these yards and a touchdown. Smith-Njigba has been dominant throughout the season and is the favorite to win the National Football League (NFL) Offensive Player of the Year award.

"JSN has been so good all year, I am excited to see how he matches up against Gonzalez in the Super Bowl," said Curran.

Cornerback Christian Gonzalez has been a star in the Patriots' secondary this season, and last week had a crucial interception late in the 4th quarter to help seal the AFC Championship game. It will be interesting to see how he matches up against Smith-Njigba.

Will New England prove doubters wrong and show that they are a Super Bowl caliber team or will Seattle get their revenge from Super Bowl XLIX?



Brynn Anderson, AP Photo
New England Patriots quarterback Drake Maye arrives, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, in San Jose, Calif. ahead of the Super Bowl 60 football game between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks.

Post Season Fuels Men's Lacrosse 2026 Push

BY TAYLOR MAGUIRE
Asst. Sports Editor



Jack Cavicchi, Senior Photo Editor and Assistant Sports Editor
Members of the men's lacrosse team celebrate a goal in the MAAC Championship game vs Siena College on May 3, 2025.

What does a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament appearance change for a program heading into a new season? For Sacred Heart men's lacrosse, it has set a higher standard as the Pioneers begin their 2026 season with postseason experience and unfinished business.

"The biggest thing coming out of last year was realizing we had to figure out what was missing, why we couldn't get over the hump," said head coach Jon Basti.

"After talking with the guys and our graduating seniors, we realized our relationships, while strong, weren't strong

enough."

Sacred Heart has named four captains for the 2026 season: graduate student Luke Catolico and seniors Craig Daria, John Murray, and Finn Hoey.

"The biggest lesson I took away is that every single day matters," said Hoey. "Seeing those seniors last year realize it was over made me understand that every film session and every practice matters, so we don't end up with the same result."

The Pioneers fell short against Siena College in the 2025 MAAC Championship Game.

"In the MAAC, a lot of teams are pretty similar, so one of the lessons I learned is that our team needs to find a way to put an edge over everybody else, especially in the playoffs," said Daria.

"One thing we focused on in fall ball was building stronger relationships between the whole roster, and I feel very confident about where our team could go this spring," said Basti.

After reflecting on what last season revealed, Sacred Heart has shifted its attention toward applying those lessons as the team prepares for the 2026 season.

"Our mindset is simple: play harder, play faster, and bring more effort than everyone else," said Daria. "If we control our energy and effort, the rest will take care of itself."

"Success for us is knowing we maximized this group, maximized their skill, their energy, their grit, and their resolve," said Basti.

The Pios want fans and students to know exactly what kind of team will be taking the field.

"We play fast, we play hard, and we're loud on the sideline," said Daria.

"Wins or losses, every game is going to be high energy and a lot of fun to watch," said Hoey.

Sacred Heart men's lacrosse team opens their season on Friday, Feb. 6 against Stony Brook University at Campus Field.

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.

Mahoney Dives into Action

BY NICHOLAS DILAPI
Sports Apprentice

The women's diving team has been performing well as of late, in large thanks to freshman diver Ryleigh Mahoney.

Mahoney has been excelling in her first year with Sacred Heart University (SHU). Mahoney earned the Metro Athletic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Rookie of the Week for her performances against Fairfield University, University of Bridgeport and the College of the Holy Cross.

Her great performances from the week were highlighted by the meet at Holy Cross, on Saturday, Jan. 24. Mahoney won both diving events, scoring 273.83 on the one-meter dive, and 315.98 on the three-meter dive.

Mahoney has been succeeding all year, but her key to success has been positivity. After being asked what has contributed most to her success, Mahoney said, "having supportive people around me."

Mahoney said being lifted by her teammates and coaches keeps her going.

"My teammates and coaches create a positive environment that makes every day enjoyable and something I look forward to," said Mahoney.

Diving Coach Adam Vance, who has been with the program since 2018, has taken his team to levels of success never earned.

Some of Vance's accolades include 2025 MAAC Diving Coach of the Year and winning Northeast Conference Women's Diving Coach of the Year in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Vance sees Mahoney's positive mindset at practice all the time.

"She can tell when things are getting a little tense at practice and she is the perfect person to bring the lightness to it for the team," said Vance. "She doesn't take herself too seriously, she has a lot of fun at practice."

However, to be able to have this lighthearted mentality, Mahoney needs to be able to have the drive to succeed regardless of failure, and her success as a first-year diver is an example of this.

The regular season has now ended for the Pioneers, and they are looking ahead to the postseason. They will be competing in the MAAC Championships in Geneva, OH from Wednesday, Feb. 11

through Saturday, Feb. 14.

Looking ahead to the MAAC Championships, the diving team is making sure to perfect their performances.

"It's more of the fine-tuning process right now. Their repetitions have gone down a bit because we're working on more specific details," said Vance.

However, for Mahoney, the MAAC Championships will not be any different in her mind.

"I will treat the MAAC Championships as any other meet I have competed at this year by trusting my training, staying positive, and focusing on one dive at a time," said Mahoney.

After the MAAC Championships, the diving team will then compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Zone Qualifiers on March 9 and March 10.

For the competition in March, Mahoney plans to "carry the same energy and attitude to be able to dive my best," referring to her lighthearted and positive mentality.

The women's diving team returns to action on Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Geneva, OH to compete in the MAAC Championships.

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.



Greg Vasil, SHU Athletics
Ryleigh Mahoney dives during a meet.

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More Than a Halftime Show: Puerto Rico Takes Center Stage

BY **CHRISTIAN ESCUDERO**
Guest Contributor/SCMA Graduate Student

When Bad Bunny steps onto the Super Bowl halftime stage, it won't just be another performance in a long list of iconic shows. It will carry history — the kind that settles in your chest and reminds you who you are, where you come from, and what you can become. For Puerto Ricans everywhere, this moment is bigger than music; it's cultural validation, pride, and affirmation on the biggest stage in the world.

Just last Sunday night at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards, Bad Bunny made history by winning Album of the Year for *Debí Tirar Más Fotos* — the first time a Spanish-language album has ever taken home that top honor. He spoke mostly in Spanish. He spoke about immigrants. He spoke from the heart. There was no attempt to soften his words or translate his identity for comfort. He stood fully in his truth — Puerto Rican, emotional, unapologetic — and the world listened. That alone felt monumental. And now, just days later, he's preparing to headline the Super Bowl LX Halftime Show, a cultural platform that reaches millions of viewers and defines moments in American pop culture.

What makes this moment hit so deeply is knowing where his journey began. Before the awards, before the sold-out stadiums and global recognition, Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio worked as a cashier and bagger at a grocery store in Vega Baja. He scanned items and clocked in, living a life many overlook, while quietly making music in his free time. There were no guarantees. Just effort, belief, and the sound of Puerto Rico in his veins. That part of his story matters because so many Puerto Ricans — whether on the island or in the diaspora — know what it feels like to work jobs that don't come with applause and to carry big dreams quietly, passionately, and persistently.

That persistence led him home to Puerto Rico in one of the most powerful ways an artist can return. His residency in San Juan — *No Me Quiero Ir De Aquí* — wasn't just a concert series. It was a tribute to his roots. The staging included la casita, plantain trees, and imagery that evoked the rhythms of island life. In spaces where history, landscape, and everyday culture intersect, he created a celebration of Puerto Rican identity on his own turf. That residency wasn't just a show; it was a statement: "This is where I come from, and I'm proud of it."

From there, his influence only expanded. He's now in the middle of a world tour that's selling out arenas across the globe, bringing his sound and his message to millions of fans in cities far from Puerto Rico. Each night, he carries the spirit of Borinquen with him — the rhythms of bomba and plena, salsa, the pride of Spanish lyrics, the authenticity of someone who never forgot his roots even as the world chased him. They cheer. They dance. They listen — and maybe for some, they're hearing something they've never heard on such a scale before: an artist who doesn't trade his identity for acceptance.

For me, as a Puerto Rican from New York, this moment feels incredibly personal. Growing up in the diaspora means balancing two worlds — English outside, Spanish at home, American life under your feet, Puerto Rico in your heart. It means loving an island you may not see every year, carrying stories of calypso sunsets, the sound of the coquí at night, the echo of bomba drums, domino tables on the corners and in the plazas, car speakers blasting reggaetón, and an island that never leaves you. It means feeling pride that the world doesn't always recognize until someone like Bad Bunny brings it into the spotlight. Watching his rise feels like watching our communities rise with him — the ones that were always there, even when they weren't always acknowledged.



AP Photo, Evan Agostini

Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio (aka Bad Bunny) attends the premiere of "Caught Stealing" at Regal Union Square on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, in New York.

This Super Bowl halftime show is historic not just because of who is performing, but because of how he performs. Bad Bunny doesn't erase his roots to fit into mainstream culture. He brings them with him — Spanish lyrics without apology, Caribbean soundscapes, imagery that feels like home. That matters. It tells young Puerto Ricans and Latinos — on the island and around the world — that they don't need to shrink themselves to belong.

For Puerto Ricans everywhere, this is validation. It's proof that our culture is powerful, our language is worthy, and our stories deserve space. We come from people who turned pain into rhythm, who survived literal and figurative storms, who found joy in music even when life felt heavy. That resilience lives on in moments like this.

When Bad Bunny takes that stage, I won't just be watching an artist perform. I'll be watching a reflection of what it means to be Puerto Rican and to be Latino — to stay proud, and never forget where you came from, no matter how far you go. From grocery store aisles to Grammy stages to the Super Bowl, his journey mirrors the perseverance of our people.

This isn't just a halftime show. It's a heartbeat. And this time, the world is finally listening.

¡Pa'lante, Borinquen!

Tune in to Super Bowl LX this Sunday, Feb. 8th at 6:30 p.m. on NBC and streamed on Peacock.



Instagram, @applemusic

Bad Bunny is set to perform the Super Bowl LX Halftime Show on Feb. 8.

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