

2026 Founder's Day Celebration

BY JAMIE VAN DER MERWE
Staff Writer

"This is my first job, my only job, and my last job as far as I can tell," said Dr. Sidney Gottlieb of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts (SCMA).

He was honored for 50 years of employment at Sacred Heart University (SHU) as part of the university's 2026 Founder's Day celebration.

The ceremony took place on March 18, in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. The event consisted of individual acknowledgements for the faculty and staff being awarded, as well as an opening dance performance and acapella performances by the SHUpermen and Blended Hearts.

Founder's Day is designed to honor staff who have served for a minimum of 15 years at SHU and reflect on how far the university has come since its founding in 1963.

"Bishop Curtis' vision for founding a Catholic university to be led by the laity was visionary and influenced by Vatican II," said Dr. Michelle Loris, the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and director for the Center of Catholic Studies.

SHU was the first Catholic university to ever have people outside of the Church run the school, as that normally is a task done by religious orders such as the Jesuits.

Sophomore James Scimeca feels that the university still accomplishes this goal today, seeing the ways the university respects not just Catholicism but other religions as well.

"I see a lot of emails from Dr. Petillo about the different holidays. I think there's an interfaith prayer room on West Campus too," said Scimeca.

In the 63 years since the school was founded, it has grown immensely. It began as a small commuter college, but according to their website, SHU is now home to over 9,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students.

"We've changed our programs, we've enhanced our academics, we have built brand new buildings, but our community has maintained a real focus on our mission and being that caring culture that we have," said Denise Tiberio, vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students.

Tiberio is being honored for 35 years of service. She is a SHU alumna, having graduated from the university in 1989, and was hired at the school as the Senior Associate Dean of Students in 1991. For this year's award, she received a golden bracelet.

"Every year it's different. So, one year I got a clock.



Jamie Van Der Merwe, Staff Writer

The staff who were honored for the 2026 Founders Day ceremony standing together on stage at the Edgerton center for the Performing Arts

One year I got a chair that was mailed to my house, and it was a Sacred Heart University black wooden chair. And then this year they did something different. They sent a catalog, and they allowed you to pick," said Tiberio.

During the event, former Dean of Students Larry Wielk, whom she took over for in August 2023, gave a speech dedicated to Tiberio, praising her for her wonderful work with students.

"From my standpoint, I feel like it's been a privilege that I've helped the university build their student experience, along with having the opportunity to work with students over the span of 35 years, while also having the opportunity to work with these amazing colleagues and build these programs that never existed before," said Tiberio.

Throughout his time at SHU, Gottlieb has had many unique experiences

"I've played musical performances and I've been involved with other musicians, such as my friend and

colleague Gregory Golda. We put on a Beatles show ten years ago. I remember it like it was yesterday. When I think back, it's one of the peak moments in my life," said Gottlieb.

Gottlieb got to relive that moment at this year's ceremony, where he and Golda performed "Helter Skelter" by the Beatles live on stage. Afterwards, he was presented a commemorative video honoring him, as was Prof. Domenick Pinto, who was also honored for 50 years of service.

"I think it's a great reflection on the community that we have, and it's nice to have people on campus that have an understanding of the traditions and mission of the university," said Tiberio.

"Longevity means something. So, we'll see. Check back in another five years," said Gottlieb.

Men Against Violence Campaign

BY BELLA MAZZILLI
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 16, the brothers of Delta Tau Delta's Iota Tau chapter at Sacred Heart University (SHU) hosted the 12th annual Men Against Violence Campaign at the Edgerton Auditorium. The chapter was founded in 2013.

The event was hosted with representatives from the Center for Family Justice (CFJ). Students, staff, faculty and community members were in attendance.

Junior Giovanni Ramos, Delta Tau Delta's (DTD) Internal Philanthropy Chairman, opened the event by honoring the 14 women who were killed on December 6, 1989 at the University of Montreal. This tragedy sparked a global movement to encourage men to take a stand against violence toward women.

"We partner with the Center for Family Justice by raising funds, spreading awareness, and volunteering at events that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We chose this organization because of its direct impact," said Ramos.

The CFJ offers 24/7 crisis hotlines, shelter, counseling, court advocacy, legal and self-sufficiency services, and prevention education and training. The nonprofit has served the Connecticut communities of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull

for more than 125 years.

Junior DTD brother Vinny Coccimiglio acknowledged how this event educated him on violence against women.

"It's important for men to be involved because we play a major role in shaping culture and preventing harmful behaviors," said Coccimiglio.

A panel of speakers were on stage to educate audience members on creating a safer and more respectful community. Honorary survivors shared their stories of experiencing domestic and sexual violence, further emphasizing the importance of advocating for this issue. They were joined by Venerable Shim Bo, SHU's Buddhist chaplain, Public Safety Officer Gary MacNamara and SHU alumna Kristen Okesson '06, among others.

Shim Bo gave an opening Shantideva prayer and asked the brothers to stand, saying "may Delta Tau Delta be a sanctuary."

"The difference you can make is in engagement," said MacNamara, executive director of Public Safety & Government Affairs.

As for the Gary MacNamara award, it was presented to Ken Mysogland, an administrator with the Department of Children & Families, State of CT and adjunct lecturer of family violence at SHU.

"There is no greater event on campus to come

"Men Against Violence Campaign"
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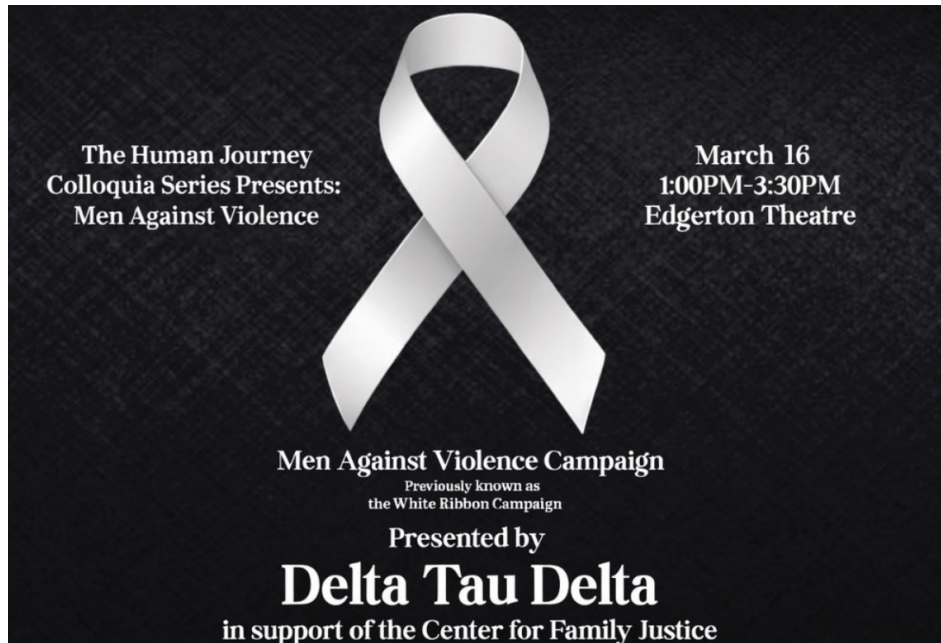
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News

Men Against Violence Campaign

BY BELLA MAZZILLI
Staff Writer

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Instagram, @Shudelts

Flyer promoting the fraternity Delta Tau Delta's annual Men Against Violence Campaign

together now," said Mysogland.

"This event serves as a major stepping stone toward 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' by building momentum, increasing visibility, and engaging the community early," said Ramos.

Okesson, in addition to being a SHU alumna, is the board chair of CFJ and shared her personal experience with domestic abuse. She reflected on how her time at SHU allowed her to redraw the picture of herself.

"It's really heartwarming to see all of you today," said Okesson.

Mark Antonini, a 1983 SHU graduate, is the Chief Executive Officer of the CFJ. He asked all the CFJ employees to stand and acknowledged their work, which prompted a round of applause from the audience.

10 million women are beaten on an annual basis. One out of four college women report surviving rape on campus.

"This event brings a call to action to the violence suffered worldwide, but also people in our community," said freshman Kelly Coletta, who attended the event. "The statistics I learned from this event about women and domestic violence made me aware of how much suffering there is."

SHU alumnus Matthew DeVito '20 is the DTD chapter advisor and on the Board of Directors at CFJ.

"Not knowing enough was no longer a valid excuse to do nothing," said DeVito, who was presented with the Matt Reale award for his continuous efforts against violence.

"Hosting the event and presenting awards was both inspiring and humbling. Being surrounded by individuals who are deeply committed to ending violence against women reinforces the importance of this work and motivates me to do more," said Ramos.

Is the Algorithm Change Challenging Attention Spans?

BY AMELIA SALADINO
Staff Writer

Have you noticed your attention span shortening since you started regularly scrolling through social media?

"100% yes," said freshman Genna Mazza, a psychology major. "I find it especially hard to sit through classes without refocusing myself every couple of minutes or so."

Social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram are adjusting their algorithms to promote longer videos over shorter ones in an effort to increase watch time. This shift may influence how students at Sacred Heart University consume media and maintain focus in academic settings.

Dr. Ololade Afolabi in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts (SCMA) at Sacred Heart University said these changes reflect broader platform goals.

"Social media platforms are generally looking for ways to keep audiences engaged and spend more time on their platforms," said Afolabi. "The push for longer videos is driven both by the goal of capturing attention and by the platforms' economic interest."

Afolabi said that while users may spend more time on a single piece of content, it is unclear whether this will lead to changes beyond entertainment. Students said short-form content has already affected their ability to focus.

"I've noticed that students have difficulty sitting through lectures because they are so used to stimulating 15-second videos," said Mazza.

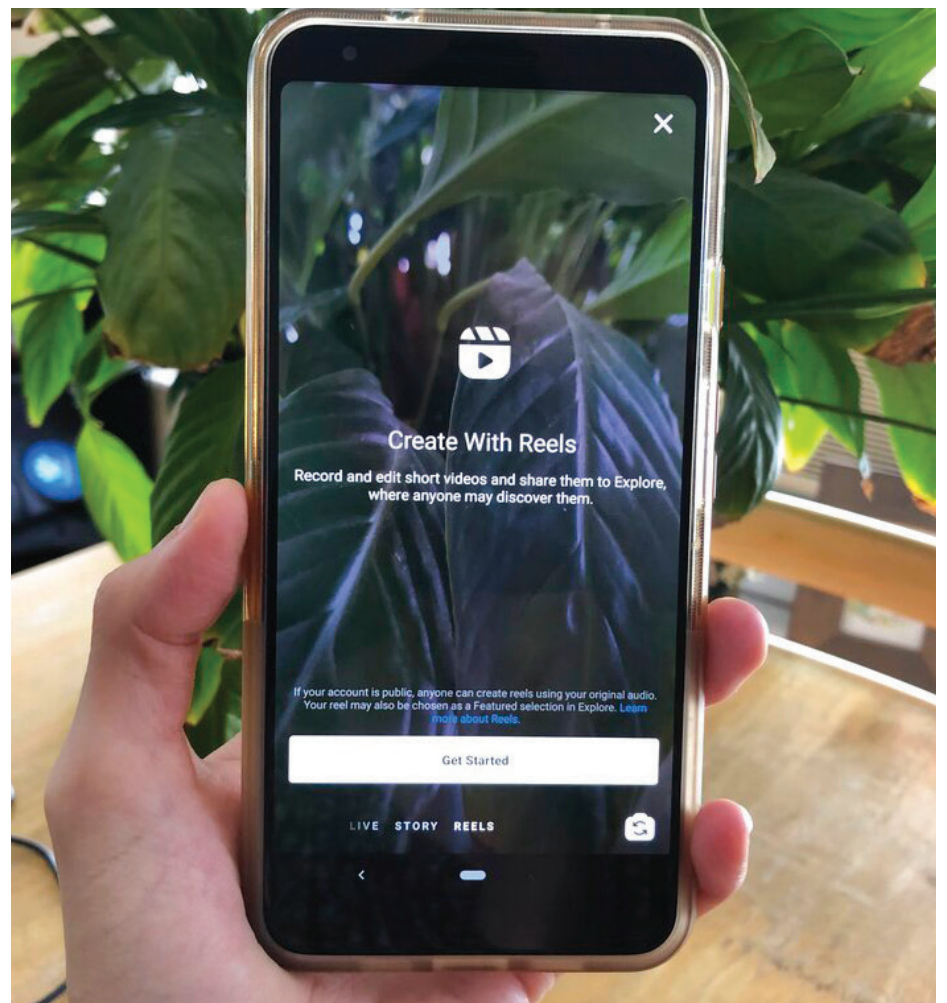
"If I see a post on TikTok or Instagram that isn't visually stimulating enough, I will scroll away," said freshman Simone Kaden. "Usually, factors like fast-talking or vibrant images will keep me engaged."

"Compared to middle and high school, I see a vast difference in my attention span, especially in classrooms," said Kaden. "It is easier for me to grow bored during a lecture and daydream about anything but the present."

According to research published in the National Center for Biotechnology Information, "an increased tendency toward mobile phone short video addiction could negatively impact self-control and diminish executive control within the realm of attentional functions."

Researchers found that this relationship is linked to the prefrontal cortex, where brain activity associated with attention may decrease. The study suggests that because these videos require "minimal psychological effort," users may struggle with the deeper focus required in academic environments.

"I think that this shift toward longer videos will definitely improve attention spans, maybe even in those who struggle with attention deficit disorders," said Mazza. "By making longer videos the standard type of post on these platforms, I believe it will drive users to sit through these videos and even appreciate lengthy



Tali Arbel, AP Photo

Instagram reels being displayed on a smart phone on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020 in New York.

content."

"I don't think it's necessarily harmful or beneficial," said Afolabi. "It really comes down to people understanding why they're using these platforms in the first place, whether it's for social connection, streaming videos or entertainment."

"The action that social media platforms are taking to promote longer videos makes me hopeful for future generations," said Mazza. "I have faith now, rather than hindering students, social media can finally begin to help them."

**UPCOMING
EVENTS ON
CAMPUS**

**FRIDAY 3/27:
SET TEEN BEACH
MOVIE EVENT
6 P.M. LINDA MCMAHON
COMMONS HEARTH ROOM**

**SATURDAY 3/28:
WOMEN'S LACROSSE
VS MERRIMACK
1 P.M. PITT CENTER
FIELD**

**SUNDAY 3/29:
DANCE TEAM
NATIONALS
PERFORMANCE
12 P.M. PITT CENTER**

Features

The Luck of the Draw

BY CASEY MCGRATH
Staff Writer

Anxiety is high among Sacred Heart freshmen, with the release of their lottery numbers that determine their sophomore housing selection taking place on March 25.

The sophomore housing process began in January with emails requesting students to pay their housing deposit and will end in April with room selection. Rising sophomores are required to live in one of the following eight residence halls: Bergoglio Hall, Bowman Hall, Cabrini Hall, Christian Witness Commons, Frassati/Weisel Halls, Mother Teresa



Instagram, @Sacredheartuniversity

Amphitheatre steps surrounded by Frassati and Wiesel residence halls.

Hall, Oakwood Gardens and Scholars Commons.

“My roommates and I are definitely interested in Wiesel, Frassati or Bowman Hall,” said freshman Lila Tarczali.

While students are not guaranteed to select the residence hall they want, they are assured to have a bed on campus or off campus at Oakwood Gardens in the fall.

“We have plenty of housing for everybody,” said Gregory Madrid, executive director

of Residential Life.

Prior to the first day of housing selection, freshmen should figure out not only who they want to live with but also create a backup plan if they cannot select a dorm that fits their group number.

“If you don’t have a backup plan, this is a very, very stressful process,” said Madrid.

Housing selection occurs through the university’s housing portal. The student with the lowest lottery number selects on behalf of the group on their assigned date and time.

“I received number 119,” said sophomore Lily Eglevsky. “I was very grateful that my number was low enough where I could choose housing on the first day.”

If a student receives a high lottery number and cannot select the dorm they want, they can join a waitlist for another residence hall. Depending on the number of people in a group, students have multiple opportunities to receive a lower lottery number.

“It’s not just your number, it’s your group’s number, so there is hope,” said Madrid. “You can have number 1,200, but your friend has number five.”

Although the sophomore housing process has not changed in recent years, students’ dorm preferences do change because of factors such as group number, building or room amenities, and proximity to academic buildings or other facilities.

“We have a group of four and are interested in having an extra living space to all hang out in and most of the halls we like have those within the room,” said Tarczali.

To accommodate over 1,000 students and their preferences, the university uses the lottery system to fairly distribute numbers to avoid conflict.

“I believe everyone getting a number completely random makes a huge difference in giving everyone an opportunity to experience housing here, especially Upper Quad housing,” said Tarczali.

However, students do not need to live on the Upper Quad in Pioneer Village to enjoy their sophomore dorm experience with their friends.

“I ended up choosing Scholars Commons because I eventually decided to live with seven other girls,” said Eglevsky. “We got the dorm we wanted and living with my roommates has only strengthened my friendship with them.”

The housing process teaches students to navigate conflict and challenges them to embrace uncertainty.

“Obviously if the plan doesn’t go as we all have hoped, there will be opportunities for us to find a place where we are all happy,” said Tarczali. “I also believe everything happens for a reason so wherever we end up is where we all belong and will thrive.”

Because of the unpredictability of the lottery, students should remain calm when receiving their numbers and selecting their sophomore housing on their assigned day.

“It’s most important who you live with as opposed to where,” said Madrid. “Everywhere can be a home.”

Hands-On Learning With The Criminal Justice Club

BY BRENNAN TAUBER
Staff Writer

At Sacred Heart University, the Criminal Justice Club provides students with an opportunity to explore the field of criminal justice outside of the classroom. Through a mix of discussion, guest speakers, and hands-on activities, the organization aims to give members a more practical understanding of how the justice system operates.

According to faculty advisor Dr. Analisa Gagnon, the club is intended as “a place for anyone interested in crime, the criminal justice system, and social justice” to come together and engage with topics from an academic perspective. Its mission centers on exposing students to professionals in the field while also offering opportunities to gain applied knowledge, something that complements traditional coursework.

The club follows a consistent meeting schedule, gathering biweekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., with minor adjustments for holidays. This regular structure allows students to attend as their schedules permit, making the organization accessible even for those with other academic or extracurricular commitments.

Importantly, membership is open to all undergraduate students, not just those studying criminal justice. In fact, Gagnon noted that previous executive board members have come from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Senior Abbi Walsh, the club’s president, explained that the organization, established in 2021, was built with inclusivity in mind.

“Any undergraduate student can join,” said Walsh, emphasizing that the club is designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in the field, regardless of major.

Meetings are intentionally flexible in structure, reflecting the wide range of topics within criminal justice. Some sessions focus on organizational updates, while others incorporate interactive or educational components.

Gagnon explained that meetings may include activities such as fingerprinting, or more immersive exercises where professionals guide students through mock crime scenes. This variability allows members to engage with both theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline.

Vice President junior Kylie Handrahan described meetings as typically involving either presentations on topics within the field or hands-on activities like blood spatter analysis. These exercises are designed to provide a clearer understanding of investigative techniques and procedures.

In addition, the club regularly incorporates case studies and discussions of current events, helping students connect classroom concepts to real-world scenarios.

Beyond weekly meetings, the club hosts a variety of events throughout the academic year. These include programming tied to campus initiatives such as Social Justice Week, as well as guest speaker events featuring professionals from different areas of criminal justice.

Past speakers have addressed topics ranging from violence and criminal behavior to career pathways within the field. The club also hosts an annual mock crime scene event led by a Waterbury crime scene investigator, offering students a more immersive learning experience.

While hands-on opportunities currently center around these on-campus activities, there are ongoing efforts to expand. Gagnon noted that the club is working to increase guest speaker appearances and explore the possibility of adding trips or additional experiential learning opportunities in the future.

From a student perspective, the club serves as a bridge between theory and practice. Club member junior Angelina Catino described the organization as “a mix of educational discussions, guest speakers, and hands-on experiences”

that help students better understand what working in the field is actually like. She explained that participating in the club has made the subject feel more practical, particularly through exposure to professionals and real-world case discussions.

In terms of career preparation, the club offers a range of informal benefits. By connecting students with professionals and providing insight into different career paths, it helps members better understand their options within criminal justice.

Guest speakers and alumni connections also create networking opportunities, while regular participation in discussions can help students build communication skills and confidence.

Gagnon also pointed to the personal development that occurs within the organization. She has observed leadership skills emerge among students who take on active roles, as well as strong peer relationships forming over time.

While the club’s primary focus is academic and professional exploration, it also provides a collaborative environment where students can engage with shared interests.



Abigail Walsh, Sacred Heart University

Two Sacred Heart University Students pose before their mock crime scene.

CampusLife

Social Justice Week Schedule



SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

22 MAR
SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK MASS 7:00pm
 The Chapel

23 MAR
EMOTIONAL COGNITIVE HEALTH SPIRITUAL 9am- 12pm
 Table times: Table 3, 63s Hallway

23 MAR
SJW KICK-OFF 12pm -2pm
 Edgerton Atrium

24 MAR
HEART FOR GREECE 7:00pm
 Table 4, 63s Hallway

24 MAR
HEART OF IDENTITY 2pm
 HC 217

24 MAR
UNITY IN ACTION: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TOGETHER 4-5pm
 The Loris Forum, Martire

24 MAR
POP-UP FOR A PURPOSE 4-6pm
 Linda's Fire Place (Third Floor)

24 MAR
JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH WAWA GATHERU 7pm
 SHU Community Theatre

24 MAR
HEALTHCARE JUSTICE PANEL 7pm
 The Shine Auditorium

ALL WEEK IN AGAPE CENTER: HYGINE PRODUCT DRIVE FOR CASA KIDS AND 1000 PAPER CRANES



SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

25 MAR
COMPASSION FOR UKRAINE 10am - 1pm
 Table 1, 63s Hallway

25 MAR
BUILD A BRICK FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING 12pm-2pm
 63s Hallway

25 MAR
THE HEART OF ACCESSIBILITY 2pm
 HC 105

25 MAR
THE HUNGER PROJECT 2-3pm
 Toussaint Hall

25 MAR
CELEBRATE YOUR IDENTITY BRACELET MAKING 2:30pm
 West Campus: W143

25 MAR
SELF COMPASSION & WELLNESS 4pm
 HC 105

25 MAR
COMPASSION IS FLEXIBLE 5pm
 Lindas Fireplace

26 MAR
MENTAL MINDFULNESS 1:30pm
 Table 1, 63s Hallway

26 MAR
BUILD A BRICK FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING 2-4pm
 63s Hallway

26 MAR
KATRINA: COME HELL & HIGH WATER MOVIE NIGHT 6pm
 Martire Center (First floor)

26 MAR
MODA DEL MUNDO 7:30pm
 West Campus: East Theater

26 MAR
YOUR MEANING IN MENTAL HEALTH 1-5pm
 63s Hallway

27 MAR
UNITY WALK 2pm
 The Chapel Quad/Lower Quad

ALL WEEK IN AGAPE CENTER: HYGINE PRODUCT DRIVE FOR CASA KIDS AND 1000 PAPER CRANES

Social Justice Week Schedule packed with conversations, events, and activities focused on community, compassion, and action. Instagram, @shulahispanidad

Instagram, @shulahispanidad



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Audrey's Corner

Students Partner with Positive Direction's Mission

BY THEO WEISMANN
Campus Life Editor

As part of their standard coursework in CM-356: Advertising & PR Campaigns, students are organized into groups where they are required to reach out to local nonprofits to apply their public relations knowledge and gain firsthand experience assisting real campaigns.

One group in particular is taking on a partnership with Positive Directions, with the ultimate goal of spreading awareness for their upcoming Spinathon fundraiser.

"Our mission is to be innovative leaders in mental health and provide well-being for all," said Jessica Branson, CEO and Creative Director of Positive Directions. "We never turn anyone away—whoever walks through our doors has access to the support and services they need."

Serving the Fairfield County area for over 50 years, Positive Directions offers a range of services including counseling, prevention education and community outreach programs aimed at improving overall mental wellness.

"We see thousands of clients and families each year, and watching individuals come in struggling with trauma or anxiety and leave feeling supported and heard is incredibly rewarding," said Branson.

As part of the campaign, students have taken on a hands-on role in promoting the event through targeted outreach efforts. Experiences like this highlight the value of service-learning, where students apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges while making a direct impact in the community.

"You are the future—you represent the choices, values and conversations that will shape communities for decades," said Branson. "Being able to reach students now and remove the stigma around these topics is incredibly powerful."

The Spinathon will take place May 3 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Westport YMCA, bringing together students and community members to participate in cycling sessions that raise funds for mental health and substance use prevention. Participants can reserve a bike with a \$100 registration and commit to a \$500 fundraising goal, contributing to an overall goal of \$50,000 to support expanded counseling and prevention services.

Students and community members interested in participating can find additional event details by scanning the QR code on the event flyer.

The Spinathon also highlights the connection between physical activity and mental well-being, which further reinforces the organization's broader mission beyond traditional counseling services.

"Mental health and physical health are intrinsically linked," said Branson. "Something as simple as getting up, moving your body, or taking a break can have a real impact on your mindset and overall well-being."

Events like the Spinathon aim to promote not only fundraising, but also everyday habits that support both mental and physical health.

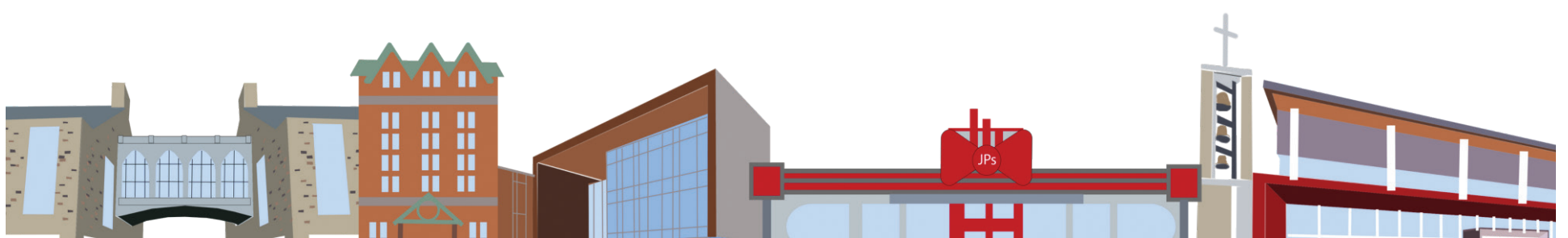


Positive Directions, The Center For Prevention and Counseling
Positive Directions promotes their 2026 Spinathon Fundraiser for mental health and substance use prevention.

Scan for the Full Playlist

**Campus Life's
TOP 5
Spring Tracks**

1. E85 - Don Toliver
2. Stateside - PinkPantheress, Zara Larsson
3. Dreams - Fleetwood Mac
4. Be By You - Luke Combs
5. VYZEE - sweetieie



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

Arts & Entertainment

2026 Academy Awards Spark Conversation

BY EMILY RICHMOND
Staff Writer



Instagram, @theacademy

Michael B. Jordan beaming bright after winning Best Actor in a Leading Role for "Sinners" at the 98th Academy Awards. Instagram, @theacademy

The 2026 Academy Awards took place on March 15, recognizing achievements in film across major categories such as Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress. The ceremony highlighted some of the year's most discussed films while prompting mixed reactions from viewers.

The Academy Awards remain one of the most widely recognized events in the entertainment industry, honoring achievements in film across multiple categories. Comedian Conan O'Brien hosted this year's ceremony, bringing humor and energy to the program.

The ceremony included a range of awards recognizing performances, directing, and overall production, with nominees representing a mix of established actors and emerging talent across the industry.

Some viewers said the awards followed the expected outcomes. Prof. Gregory Golda, in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts (SCMA), said the results were largely predictable.

"There were no real big surprises," said Golda. "It was a pretty tame award pool."

Golda also said some expectations were not fully met.

"I was surprised 'Sinners' didn't win Best Picture," said Golda. "I think everybody was kind of expecting that one to be it."

Student reactions to the ceremony vary. Junior AJ Mineo said he believes the Oscars have changed over time.

"Overall, I think the Oscars are on a slow, but steady decline," said Mineo. "It used to be more of an honor, but now it feels like awards are sometimes given based on what people want to see win rather than what actually deserves it."

Mineo also said the awards may influence decisions within the film industry.

"I believe the Oscars have a negative influence on film culture," said Mineo. "Actors and filmmakers may choose projects based on what they think will win awards instead of focusing purely on creativity."

Other students said they agreed with several of the major award decisions. Junior Lucas Orwicz said he supported recognition for certain performances.

"I think 'Sinners' really deserved it," said Orwicz. "And with [Michael B.] Jordan playing two very complex characters in the same movie, that's worthy of recognition."

Orwicz also acknowledged concerns about fairness in the selection process.

"I think the Oscars are definitely biased," said Orwicz. "Sometimes they choose who they want to win regardless of the quality of the work."

Golda explained that the influence of the ceremony has shifted over time due to changes in how audiences consume media.

"We've lost our monoculture," said Golda. "Audiences are more fragmented now, so the Oscars have to work harder to get people to tune in."

While the Oscars still attract viewers, their impact and engagement may not be as strong among younger generations.

"Younger generations don't really care about the Oscars the way they used to," said Mineo. "They focus more on the political aspects than the actual purpose of the awards."

As viewing habits continue to evolve, audiences are becoming more selective about what they watch.

"Award shows are definitely declining in popularity," said Orwicz. "People stop watching if they don't care about the movies or feel disconnected from them."

Creative Talent on Canvas

BY ASHLEY HILLIARD
Staff Writer

On March 15, the Art and Design Program hosted its annual Student Exhibition in the Art and Design Gallery from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students were given the opportunity to showcase their work across mediums from painting, illustration, graphic design, watercolor, oil paint and more.

Graphic design, illustration, and studio art majors were encouraged to submit six pieces through one year of work that demonstrated creative concepts of storytelling and effective use of tone, color, movement, and mark making.

Senior Kayce Lewandowski is a studio art major who had her work presented in the exhibition titled "Hidden in Plain Sight" and "I Am the Walrus."

"'Hidden in Plain Sight' is a slightly looser and more expressive piece depicting a contorted version of myself. I think putting my reality on canvas was one way I faced it, but it also helped me make a powerful piece of art that felt relevant to myself," said Lewandowski. "In contrast, 'I Am the Walrus' graphically highlights the lyrics to the song by the Beatles through text in the background and a foreshortened portrait of my partner using a turntable in the foreground."

Senior Ryan Scerbo channeled his inspiration from his New York upbringing of street culture, music and branding. Scerbo's pieces were exhibited including an article about David Lynch, a Kiss "World Tour" poster and a Nike motion graphics advertisement.

"I usually go off of garments," said Scerbo. "There's a lot of designing and seeing where that art lives in a certain space whether it be a shirt, hood, pants, something like that. The regular process is still the same as the regular artist, so is the foundation sketch and ideas."

Scerbo, Lewandowski and other featured student artists only displayed their final works. The challenging process behind their creations tells a different story.

"Finding enough time to finish my paintings is always my main challenge, and can often come with really late work nights, working between class schedules, or even painting while eating meals," said Lewandowski. "Sometimes areas have to be painted over and redone if mistakes with color or proportion are made."

A year's worth of hard work was considered by six Exhibition judges recruited outside the community that have graduated from Sacred Heart five to ten years prior. Students were awarded with honorable mentions in varied categories, including foundation courses like drawing and design.

"For me, my artwork is not only part of my job but an extension of who I am," said Lewandowski. "It is validating to know that my hard work is paying off and that I am improving as an artist."

"Every year is a big success," said Scerbo. "Everyone has a different style of art, and it's a big diverse group of artists who get to show off their best work. It's a

fantastic opportunity for all ages because it gives the artists the confidence to have people judge it."

The exhibition will be available for people to visit until April 5, and it is located outside of the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts.



Ashley Hilliard, Staff Photographer and Writer

"Hidden in Plain Sight" is an oil painting by senior Kayce Lewandowski, depicting a loose and contorted sense of expression. Ashley Hilliard, Staff Photographer and Writer

Sports

Rallying Late for a MAAC Tournament Run

BY JAMES SPOTO
Staff Writer

As the home stretch of the regular season nears, the men's and women's tennis teams are battling for one of four spots in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament. The men's team is currently 3-10 overall and 2-2 in conference play, while the women's team is 7-7 overall and 3-1 in their conference matchups.

Head coach Mike Guastelle, who coaches both the men's and women's teams, praised the underclassmen on the women's side who stepped into key roles this season.

"We've had some good depth through the lineup, and we're getting some good production," said Guastelle. "And what's good is you can see our confidence growing within the group, and I think we can do something in our conference tournament if we get there."

The women's team had five wins last season and has already topped that number with the back half of the season to go. Junior captain Milena del Olmo emphasized the welcoming environment of the team and how that reflects on the court.

"The main thing we're working on is positivity, which seems really simple, but is important with tennis being a very mental sport," said del Olmo. "We have this rule on our team to be 'uncomfortably loud,' cheering each other on and making each other laugh, which I think has helped us a lot."

The positivity is translating, as the women have won seven out of their last 11 matches after starting the season 0-3. They look to keep up the momentum as they travel to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Sunday to take on Marist University in a conference showdown.

As for the men, they have struggled in close matches, losing 4-3 in five of their losses.

"In the 30 years I've coached, I've never had that happen," said Guastelle. "It shows we're very competitive, and this is a really good group of guys who are working hard to beat these teams."

Senior captain Paul Goncalves praised Guastelle for his trust in the players. He emphasized that freshmen like Martin Macias, Darren Huang, and Tomasz Garbacz are seeing playing time, which is uncommon on other teams in the MAAC.

"We're constantly pushing each other," said Goncalves. "This group still believes, and we know we have a good amount of the season to go."

The Pios have four more conference matchups to get back on track, and that starts on Sunday when they take on Marist in Poughkeepsie.

"We're going to show up in every one of these matches," said Goncalves. "The mentality is different here. We're not just going to show up to show up, we're going to show up to win."

This past weekend, the men's team went 2-0, beating Merrimack College on Saturday and rallying from a 3-0 deficit to defeat Quinnipiac University 4-3 on Sunday. The women's team lost to Quinnipiac on Friday but was able to earn a forfeit win against Merrimack on Saturday.

"Be prepared for us, because we're coming in hot," said del Olmo. "We have so much energy, especially because we're a young team, that we really show up when it matters."

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.



Contributed by Paul Goncalves, '26

Paul Goncalves, captain of the men's tennis team, gets ready to serve.

Pioneers Progress Towards Success

BY ASHTON DAVIS
Staff Writer

The baseball team is off to a slow start, but after a competitive series win over Quinnipiac University and a hard-fought weekend at Bryant University, the Pioneers are showing flashes of hope.

Sacred Heart took the first two games of its three game MAAC series at Quinnipiac, winning 9-8 on March 13 behind a ninth-inning home run from sophomore Dave Yorke and 11-4 on March 14 behind a strong offensive showing, led by senior Will Cook. The Pioneers lost 10-2 in their third game of the series on March 15.

Two days later, the Pioneers traveled up to Chestnut Hill, Mass. for a non-conference matchup against Boston College, where they lost 5-4.

A weekend at Bryant University saw the skid continue, as the Bulldogs took all three of the nonconference games. The Pioneers lost 11-1 on March 20, 6-2 in the first game of Saturday's double header, and 14-11 in the second game. Sacred

Heart now sits at 4-16 overall and 3-3 in conference play, with the first home series of the season beginning Friday, March 27 against MAAC opponent Mount St. Mary's University.

The team's early season schedule was difficult, facing teams such as East Tennessee State University and North Carolina State University, but head coach Pat Egan believes the team is beginning to turn a corner.

"We definitely didn't get off to the start that we wanted to," said Egan. "Sometimes when you're not playing your best ball, especially at this level, guys start to put too much pressure on themselves. I think that was the case early on."

The numbers back up the slow start. Entering the Bryant series, Sacred Heart's team batting average was a mere .208 and the team endured a 10-game losing streak early in the year.

Still, the offense broke through against Quinnipiac, scoring at least nine runs in back-to-back games. The Pioneers are 3-2 this season when scoring six or more runs.

Egan said the offensive jump was less about major changes and more about trust.

"There wasn't a ton that we changed," said Egan. "The messaging kind of stayed the same. It was just a matter of time before guys kind of started to feel better at the plate."

Yorke echoed that message, saying the Quinnipiac series showed what the lineup is capable of when it sticks to the plan.

"I think it was just staying in the work and being able to see the results on the field," said Yorke.

Yorke said the series was important for the team's confidence after such a difficult opening month.

"It was a big step to build off," said Yorke. "There were a lot of ups and still some things that need work on, but the confidence that can build off a performance like that is a huge step forward in the season."

Even in the Bryant losses, Sacred Heart showed flashes of success. First year Ryan Rey went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in Saturday's 14-11 loss, while graduate student Kyle Cincinnati and sophomore CJ Nolan also had multi-hit games in an offensive effort that had two five run innings.

Egan said defining the team's identity remains a work in progress because of the roster turnover, but he likes the direction the group is moving in.

"We have 18 new players, nine freshmen and nine transfers, so there's a lot of new players," said Egan. "But when we're playing good baseball, it's a fun team to be around."

For Yorke, the goal remains unchanged despite the slow start.

"Success looks like us being the last team in the MAAC standing," said Yorke. "You can't say it was a total success unless you're holding the trophy."

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.



Instagram, @sacredheartbsb

The Pioneers celebrate after securing a big win against Quinnipiac.

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Two Pilots Killed When Jet Collides with Fire Truck at New York's LaGuardia Airport

BY JAKE OFFENHARTZ AND JENNIFER PELTZ
AP Newsroom

NEW YORK (AP) — An Air Canada jet carrying more than 70 passengers collided with a fire truck while landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport late Sunday, killing the pilot and copilot and injuring several others, officials said.

The fire truck was crossing the tarmac after being given permission to check on another plane reporting an odor onboard. Before the collision, an air traffic controller can be heard on airport communications frantically telling the fire truck to stop.

Roughly 20 minutes later, the controller appears to blame himself. "We were dealing with an emergency earlier," the controller said. "I messed up."

About 40 passengers and crew members on the regional jet from Montreal, and two officers from the fire truck, were taken to hospitals, some with serious injuries. Most were released by Monday morning, authorities said.

The impact crushed the plane's nose, leaving cables and debris dangling from the mangled cockpit. Images from the crash site showed the fire truck flipped onto its side, with most of the damage to its back half.

A key question for investigators will be examining coordination of the airport's air traffic and ground traffic at the time of the crash, said Mary Schiavo, a former Department of Transportation Inspector General. "I don't know how many wake-up calls the (Federal Aviation Administration) needs, but this has been happening for years and sadly some of the most horrific air crashes in history happen on the ground at the airport."

The crash shut down LaGuardia — the New York region's third busiest hub — until at least Monday afternoon, during what was already a messy time at U.S. airports because of a partial government shutdown.

More than 600 flights had been cancelled at LaGuardia by midday, according to FlightAware.com. The shutdown was causing some disruptions at other airports, too, especially for Delta, which has a major presence at LaGuardia.



AP Photo, Seth Wenig
A Port Authority firetruck lays on its side just off the runway at LaGuardia Airport, Monday, March 23, 2026, after colliding with an Air Canada jet shortly after it landed late Sunday night in New York.

Passenger says they helped each other escape the plane.

Passenger Rebecca Liquori said that after the plane hit turbulence while descending, she felt it brake hard and heard a loud boom.

"Everybody just jolted out of their seats. People hit their heads. People were bleeding," Liquori told News12 Long Island, a station where she once worked before becoming a nurse.

Liquori, who said she helped open the emergency exit door, recalled passengers helping each other slide down a wing to get out.

"I'm just happy to be alive," said Liquori, who had gone to Montreal for a cousin's baby shower. "I would have never pictured a one-hour flight that I've done countless times ... ending like this."

Pilot and copilot were based out of Canada

The pilot and copilot who died were both based out of Canada, said Kathryn Garcia, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport.

The airport will remain closed until at least early Monday afternoon during the investigation, which is being led by the



AP Photo, Joe Frederick
Pilot and co-pilot killed and several others badly hurt when an Air Canada regional jet struck a fire truck on a runway while landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport.

National Transportation Safety Board.

President Donald Trump called it a "terrible" situation. "They made a mistake," he told reporters. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a statement the accident was "deeply saddening."

The fire truck was traveling across the runway to respond to a separate incident aboard a United Airlines flight, whose pilot had reported "an issue with odor," said Garcia, who deferred additional questions about the sequence of events to the NTSB.

Two Port Authority employees in the fire truck suffered injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening, Garcia said.

There were 72 passengers and four crew members aboard the Jazz Aviation flight operating on behalf of Air Canada, according to the airline. The flight originated at Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

Stairways used to evacuate passengers were pushed up to the emergency exits on the jet, a Bombardier CRJ. Hours afterward, the plane remained on the runway with its crumpled nose tilted upward.

Air traffic controller tried to stop vehicle after giving clearance

The air traffic controller tried to warn the fire truck. "Stop, Truck 1. Stop," the transmission says. The controller can then be heard frantically diverting an incoming aircraft from landing.

Air traffic controllers are not impacted by the partial government shutdown that has caused long delays at airport security checkpoints in recent days. They have been affected by past shutdowns.

The FAA has been chronically short on air traffic controllers for years with some of most recent estimates showing that at least 3,000 additional controllers are needed. But former FAA air traffic control chief Mike McCormick said that LaGuardia is "not a control tower that has perennial staffing problems."

But at the time this crash happened, the tower would have been lightly staffed during the overnight shift, he said. Investigators will also look at how much overtime and how many days in a row the controllers had been working to determine if fatigue could have been a factor.

LaGuardia is one of 35 major U.S. airports with an advanced surface surveillance system that's designed to help the tower keep track of planes and vehicles crossing the airport.

An alarm that can be heard in the background of the air traffic control audio was likely from the system and would have prompted all eyes in the tower to look out the window or at the system's display to find the potential collision, McCormick said.

"It's an aid in a situation like this," he said, but the system doesn't know if someone has given clearance for a vehicle to cross a runway.

FAA statistics show there were 1,636 runway incursions last year.

LaGuardia was 19th busiest in 2024 out of more than 500 U.S. airports, with over 16.7 million passengers boarding there, according to a 2025 FAA database.

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has sent a team of investigators to assist the U.S. officials at LaGuardia.