

FSL Hosts NFL Greek Week

BY BROOKE GODBERSON
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's Greek Life organizations brought the energy and excitement during this year's Greek Week, which took place April 7-12. These six days were packed with NFL-themed events designed to unite students, boost school spirit and celebrate fraternity and sorority life (FSL) across campus.

The week began with a Draft Day Kickoff Party at Thea's Abbey on April 7, followed by NFL Trivia on April 8 in the Martire Forum. On April 9, students competed in an NFL Combine and Banner Contest on the Upper Quad.

One of the most anticipated events, Greek Sing, took place at the Martire Family Arena on April 10, where chapters showcased choreographed performances and themed music mixes. The week wrapped up with FSL Appreciation Day on April 11, featuring food trucks and community bonding, and a Day of Service on April 12, in an effort to give back to local causes.

Leah Navarra, Vice President of Programming for Panhellenic, played a major role in planning the week.

"My role in helping organize Greek Week is that I am the Vice President of Programming for Panhellenic," Navarra said. "We had to come up with a theme that would be universal for both sides of Fraternity and Sorority Life. We then had to organize events that would fit into the theme."

Navarra explained that the inspiration for the theme came from seeing what other schools were doing and then putting a personal spin on it. "I stumbled upon a university doing a NFL inspired competition. It was just one event and I wanted to see how we could expand this idea into a theme for a whole week," Navarra said. "It had a different feel than the past years because it was very hands-on for both ends of the community."

Giovanni Ramos, Vice President of Membership Development and Programming for IFC said the



Mark F. Conrad, Sacred Heart University

SHU's Delta Delta Delta sorority performing at the annual Greek Week event, "Greek Sing."

NFL theme helped set this year apart.

"It gave us a fun and competitive vibe that matched the spirit of Greek Week," Ramos said. "We also wanted the theme to reflect what students were actually excited about, so we used Instagram story suggestions to get input from the community."

The two worked closely with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to plan the events.

"Constant communication and early planning really helped us stay on track," Ramos said. "A huge shoutout to Leah Navarra; her dedication and organization played a huge role in making sure everything ran smoothly."

"Greek Sing! Our organizations put in a ton of work choreographing and mixing music for the event," said Dante DeCesare, Assistant FSL Director. "1,500+ students in the Greek community come to the event every year, and attendance is continuing to grow."

DeCesare also praised the student leadership for making the week such a success.

"Panhellenic and IFC have a designated officer that is responsible for planning Greek Week. They begin the planning process a few months ahead of time with weekly meetings. Our office supports them throughout the process, but I cannot give them enough credit," DeCesare said.

When it came time to reflect, both student leaders shared how meaningful the experience had been. "Greek Sing was my favorite and most meaningful event of the week," Ramos said. "It really captured what Greek Week is all about: community, spirit and unity."

"Now that Greek Week is over, I feel that my team and I have accomplished this whole week with success and have truly made a week that a lot of students can remember," said Navarra.

"I love seeing everyone having a good time together. It's a testament to the work the community, student leaders and our office put into the event," DeCesare said.

This Week in the White House

BY LAUREN KEHRLE
News Editor

On Friday, April 11, the Trump Administration stated that electronics such as smartphones and laptops will be exempt from reciprocal tariffs, import taxes imposed by one country on goods that come from another.

This move may help ensure that prices stay low on popular consumer electronics that are not typically made in the United States as well as benefit big tech companies like Apple and Samsung. It is the latest change the administration has made that counteracts its initial plan to put tariffs in

place on goods from most countries.

While on Air Force One Saturday night, President Donald Trump assured reporters that he would share more specifics regarding the exemptions on Monday, although it remains unclear how long the exemption will last and whether separate tariffs will be negotiated on these products.

In a statement issued on Saturday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt did not directly address the exemptions, but hinted at the Trump Administration's plan to continue pushing for tech companies to move manufacturing to the U.S going forward.

"President Trump has made it clear America cannot rely on China to manufacture

critical technologies such as semiconductors, chips, smartphones, and laptops," Leavitt said.

Neither Apple nor Samsung responded to a request for comment Saturday.

"I think President Trump's tariffs on electronics have both pros and cons," said junior Dylan Brown. "The push to switch to United States manufacturing will increase jobs and revenue domestically, but it will be at a higher price point. The tariffs eventually get passed onto the consumers, so we will see an uptick in prices as tech companies begin to roll out new products."

George Triebenbacher contributed to this article.

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News

From Chatbots to Classrooms: SHU's New AI Minor

BY DYLAN MILANO
Staff Writer



Tracey Deer-Mirek, Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart will now offer an AI minor beginning in the fall 2025 semester for students.

Are you or a friend interested in taking classes on artificial intelligence (AI)? If so, get excited, because the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT) is offering a new AI minor, which is set to launch in the upcoming fall semester.

SHU's AI Lab features 40 computers with advanced processing capabilities, including object recognition and dedicated servers for student and faculty research, according to the Sacred Heart University website.

"I am super interested in taking AI classes next year. I plan on registering for the second semester. I saw the AI lab and it was really cool to see all the detail that went into building that for us students," said freshman Zac Cusick.

Eagerness to participate in the program remains high, even among others who are unsure of its relevance to their future career.

"As a student in the College of Business and Technology, it sounds like it could be exciting, but I'm

a little skeptical on how I can incorporate AI into my business that I hope to have in the future," said freshman Sophia Fiore.

Dr. David Taylor, Dean of the WCBT, highlighted how the curriculum has been crafted with the goal of recognizing AI's role on both a personal and professional level.

"The intent of the minor is to educate the students on how artificial intelligence affects society and day-to-day life, to examine the impacts on artificial intelligence," Taylor said.

This program will focus on the different ways that students can learn the importance of AI and how it influences their daily lives as well as areas such as business and politics.

"The AI-100 course is the best starting point but we wanted to be flexible with prerequisites as the minor gets off the ground, so direct entry based on student interests into any of the courses except the capstone will probably be the norm for the next year or two," said Prof. Brent French, Associate Dean of Affairs and Assessments.

"I would characterize the process as a model of collaboration and attribute that to both Dr. Brent French's leadership and vision and the dedication, expertise and teamwork of the faculty. Everyone was committed to creating something forward-thinking, accessible, and grounded in real-world needs," said Prof. Maureen Ruby, Associate Professor of Educational & Literacy Leadership.

"Our work was grounded in caring about our students' futures. In the end, what excites me most is that this minor opens doors for students from all majors," Ruby said.

"Developing the cross-disciplinary AI minor is a

strategic response to the rapidly-evolving role of artificial intelligence in the workplace," said Ruby. "According to Microsoft's 2024 Work Trend Index Annual Report, 75% of global knowledge workers are already using AI, and 78% of these individuals are bringing their own AI tools to work (BYOAI). This trend underscores the necessity for organizations to establish clear AI strategies to address associated challenges, including data security and ethical considerations."

Along with the growing popularity of artificial intelligence come further opportunities for students to exercise critical thinking skills.

"We don't want AI to be something that students use unthinkingly. We want it to be something that they understand, especially where it falls short," said Steven Michels, Chair and Professor of Political Science & Global Affairs. "Knowing what to do with AI is going to be an essential skill going forward, and we want to make sure that our students are equipped to thrive in a hyper-competitive economy."

"Take the intro course! Even students who might not complete the minor will benefit from it, although I suspect that many will want to take all the courses," Michels said.

Those who are interested in signing up can do so through SHU's Student Planning & Advising (SPA) portal.

"We intended that students will be able to choose from one or two classes along the various colleges. We anticipate it will be very popular and as demand increases we will offer more classes," said Taylor.

This minor will be open to all students, not just those enrolled in the program. The AI lab is located at West Campus East Building room 1129.

Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society Induction

BY WILL MORGAN
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 8, Sacred Heart University's department of history held their annual Phi Alpha Theta Society dinner at the Hearth Room in Linda's Cafe.

Phi Alpha Theta is an exclusive honors society for history majors and minors who have completed a required 12 hours in history and have maintained a GPA of at least 3.1 on a 4.0 scale. The chapter at Sacred Heart is called Phi Iota and has been at SHU since the 1970s.

Dr. David Thomson and Prof. Jennifer McLaughlin led the ceremony, with faculty and student members of Phi Alpha Theta reading from the initiation ritual script.

Each stood for one of the "Six Great Ages." The Prehistoric Age, when early humans learned to hunt, farm, and create. The Ancient Age, when humans began creating complex societies, philosophies and religions, recording it all through writing.

The Medieval Age, when much of humanity lived in prosperity with a renewed ethical view of living. The Early Modern Age, when European colonialism and capitalism spread around the world, and material wealth was viewed as more favorable.

The Contemporary Age, which we currently occupy, where globalization has brought both collaboration and conflict. The ritual reads, "The Historian believes that individuals and nations may approach nearer to the ideal of harmonizing

responsibility with freedom through the study of the human experience of the past which will afford content and wisdom for our lives."

The Future Age, what is yet to be is unknown, but armed with the full knowledge of history, students of Alpha Phi Theta can strive to make it the greatest age.

Next, the new members had to swear to uphold the values and ideals of Phi Alpha Theta: the spirit of respect, the condemnation of injustice and hatred, and to always search for the truth. Once these were affirmed, students were initiated as members of Phi Alpha Theta. New members received a membership certificate and a red rose.

Dinner was served as Thai Chicken, Beef Sliders and Chicken Sliders. Dessert included blondie brownies and red velvet cupcakes.

"Phi Alpha Theta is another instance of where we're able to celebrate our students and their accomplishments in a given year," said Thomson. "In this case, it's a recognition of their journey here at Sacred Heart. It's wonderful to see those students be able to shine and thrive. The numbers continue to grow every year, that's something we are very fortunate to have here given the fact that history numbers as a whole can vary widely from institution to institution, so we're very excited about the direction of the department and the strong numbers that we have."

"It's a real honor and a privilege to be a part of this great chapter and I'm already excited for the newbies to be inducted next year," said inductee Matthew Holfester. "This dinner means a lot,

hanging out with my buddies, some who'll be here next year and some who won't. It's great to take a little time and celebrate them."

"It's pretty cool, it just shows that history means a lot to us, and we're able to hang out as a group and have intellectual conversations and get to spend some time together outside of the classroom," said inductee Tori Aufiero. "It definitely has allowed me to have more friends in the history department, I only knew a handful but now I feel like I know a majority of the history majors here tonight."

"I'm looking forward to making more connections with fellow history majors," said inductee Zach Vogt. "It's made me continue to look into topics my friends have talked about in class. This night has it all, good food, good people, good professors and good futures ahead."



Will Morgan, Staff Writer and Photographer

Phi Alpha Theta's dinner honoring new inducted members was held at Linda's fireplace on Tuesday, April 8th.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS ON
CAMPUS**

**THURSDAY 4/17:
ANNUAL WOMEN IN
SPORTS SYMPOSIUM
LORIS FORUM
AT 6:30 P.M.**

**TUESDAY 4/22:
DANCE PROGRAM
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
AMPITHEATER STEPS
AT 10 A.M.**

**FRIDAY 4/25:
COMEDY SHOW WITH
MARCELLO HERNANDEZ
PITT CENTER
AT 8 P.M.**

Features

Granting Wishes With Chi Omega

BY ALEXANDRA POND
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University’s Chi Omega chapter recently raised \$10,000 for their national philanthropy, the Make-a-Wish foundation. The annual event is called Walk for Wishes. At this event, participants listened to a speech from a Make-A-Wish family, played lawn games, shopped at pop-ups and walked a mile around the chapel quad.

Junior and President of Chi Omega, Sydney Robinson, said the Make-A-Wish foundation provides children and families with strength when going through these difficult times. By raising money for the foundation, Chi Omega works to support creating these memories.

“Make-A-Wish creates lasting impacts for children with critical illnesses and their families. A wish for a kid when their life looks so uncertain, can create a bright, uplifting memory for them to look forward to and remember afterward,” said Robinson.

Chi Omega hosts events throughout the year that students can participate in to raise money for Make-A-Wish.

“Students can get involved by participating in our philanthropy events, like being a dancer for Dancing Wish the Stars, or just coming to watch. Besides involvement, students can donate to Make-A-Wish by going to our fundraisers, donating at our table times, or purchasing a ticket to attend our philanthropy events,” said Robinson.

Junior Natalie Coffey, director of philanthropy for the sorority, said she has personally seen the influences of the foundation. By joining Chi Omega, Coffey was able to further dedicate herself to a cause she deeply cares for.

“I have such a strong connection to Make-A-Wish because I have been able to see its impact firsthand. I work as a camp counselor at a day camp for pediatric cancer patients and their siblings, so naturally, many of my campers are wish kids,” said Coffey. “The resilience of these kids is unlike anything I’ve ever seen before and wishes for them are almost like magic — bringing them more strength than you could ever imagine.”

Robinson shared some other events that Chi Omega is involved with. These include Alumni Star Ceremonies and Wish Grantings. The Alumni Star Ceremonies celebrate children who have already had their wishes granted.

Sophomore Sadie Olsen, the organization’s panhellenic delegate, said it’s important for people to be made aware of Make-A-Wish. According to Olsen,

Chi Omega’s major goal is to draw more awareness to the cause.

“Spreading awareness for Make-A-Wish is more than just raising the money, it’s about giving children and families hope. Every dollar we raise brings us closer to granting wishes that are life-changing for kids with long-term illnesses,” said Olsen.

“To me, Make-A-Wish is about contributing to something that is bigger than myself. It’s about giving children with illnesses something to look forward to and smile about. Being a part of a foundation like Make-A-Wish, even in a small way, is super meaningful and something I will always carry with me,” she said.

To stay up to date with upcoming events and more information on how to donate to Make-a-Wish through a campus organization, follow @chiomega_shu on Instagram.



Contributed by Sydney Robinson, '26
Chi Omega successfully raised \$10,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation during their Walk for Wishes event.

Sacred Heart’s Club For Hope

BY FERNANDA GUEVARA
Staff Writer

At the heart of compassion and community service stands Hearts for Hope, a new student-led club dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children battling cancer. With a mission rooted in kindness, empathy and action, the club offers unwavering support to young patients and their families during some of their most challenging times.

Founder and President of Hearts for Hope, freshman Arabella English, said this club not only creates an outlet for students looking to do good, but it also creates a strong community on campus dedicated to serving and helping others in need.

“Having a club like Hearts for Hope is important because it gives students a way to create real, positive change in the lives of children with cancer and their families. It gives students a meaningful way to turn compassion into action, whether that’s by raising funds, volunteering their time, or writing a heartfelt card to brighten a child’s day,” said English.

“It brings together students who share the same passion for helping others and encourages empathy, kindness and awareness. Hearts for Hope serves as a reminder to students of the power that small acts of love can have, and the difference they make,” said Arabella.

Recently, Hearts for Hope organized a successful fundraising effort to support cancer

research, raising over \$1,500, helping to promote awareness and contribute to on-going advancements in the field.

“It was amazing to see how our community came together to support such an important cause. Knowing that every dollar would go directly toward helping children at St. Jude and their families made all the planning and effort feel completely worth it,” said English. “It reminded us that even as students, we have the power to make a real difference, it’s both an empowering and deeply meaningful feeling.”



Instagram, @heartsforhopeshu

The Hearts for Hope club is dedicated to helping children with cancer and their families through kindness and support.

Beyond fundraising, Hearts for Hope members also participate in activities such as writing letters to children in hospitals, organizing donation drives and hosting awareness events that educate others on the realities of pediatric cancer.

“Hearts for Hope is a fun and meaningful way to get involved and give back to the community. Even doing something so small as writing a few encouraging words can make a huge impact on young kids who are going through their battle with cancer,” said freshman Maeve Fitzgerald, a member of the club. “Being able to know that you are putting a smile on someone else’s face is an amazing feeling.”

Students can join Hearts for Hope by signing up through the SHU Engage page. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in HC 209. All are welcome.

“Being part of Hearts for Hope has truly transformed my college experience. It’s given me a sense of purpose beyond academics. Knowing that the work we do brings comfort, support, or even just a smile to a child or their family battling cancer has been incredibly grounding and motivating,” said English. “This club has taught me the importance of service, leadership, and compassion, and I’ll carry these lessons with me for the rest of my life.”

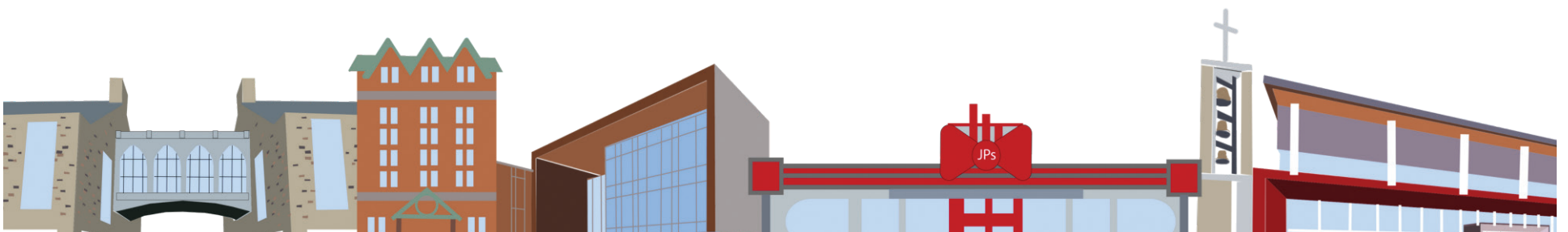
Recent flyer for the first meeting of the student led Hearts for Hope club.

Honoring Audrey Niblo

Audrey's Corner was created in honor of junior Audrey Niblo, a Spectrum staff writer, who passed away from an illness in 2018. In living a life of kindness, positivity and love of animals, Audrey chose to follow a path of joy, even as she was open about the many struggles young people face, including bullying. In articles, creative writing and photography, Spectrum continues to promote the messages of Audrey's life for all students. This year, Audrey's Corner content will appear periodically throughout Spectrum's editions, representing the themes that connect its messages to campus life, news, sports, features, and arts and entertainment. If you would like to contribute your ideas or provide content, please contact Spectrum at spectrum@sacredheart.edu.



Audrey's father, John Niblo, came to visit the Spectrum editorial board during our weekly Sunday meeting on Sunday, April 6. It is a tradition for John to come back and visit the university, as well as see what the board is doing and we were honored to have the opportunity to do this once again. Thank you to University Advancement for helping to make it such a nice afternoon in our office and always supporting the work of both The Spectrum and the Niblo family. We are excited and proud to continue honoring Audrey's legacy for many years to come.



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

CampusLife

AP Photo Collage: National “Hands Off” Protests



AP Photos by Stephen Lam, Andres Kudacki, Zach Gleiter,

Arts & Entertainment

Annual “Literary Spring” at SHU

BY **SALO PIZON**
Staff Writer

The English Department at Sacred Heart University hosts “Literary Spring” every April, which includes a number of activities that promote a community of authors and readers while exploring the literary arts. Activities include open mic nights, theatre productions, student readings, workshops and interactions with authors from areas within and outside the SHU community.

Some events that took place were student open mic night on April 1 in the Edgerton Gallery, a reading and writing event with Oliver Radcylffe on April 3 and a marathon reading of the Odyssey on the Martire Atrium Steps from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 7 and 8.

“I think right now we are sort of facing a crisis of literacy around the country. And I think this generation has kind of a fall of people liking to read. Also, the Odyssey has so many crazy stories, so it draws people in,” said Dr. Emily Bryan, a participant and assistant professor of English in the Languages and Literature Department.

In reference to the Odyssey’s marathon reading, Bryan said, “Well we’ve been doing it in 15 minute increments, so people are okay with it.”

Some upcoming events include faculty readings in Martire E148 on April 17 at 8 p.m., and a storytelling competition on April 23 at 3 p.m. in Martire E253, amongst others. The remainder of the events are detailed in the flyer in a campuswide email from Amie Reilly sent on March 31.

As for getting involved with Literary Spring, sophomore Adam Petrosino said, “I am working on the Talk with Amy Bloom, the Live Interactive Dungeons and Dragons Event and Improv Night. I found this involvement through both my position as President in the English Club and by staying active in the English Department community. Coming to these events and sharing your voice can bring a student far in terms of connection, education, and in finding communities where they can express themselves.”

The SHU English Club is essential in planning these gatherings, promoting scholarly conversations and many kinds of creative writing. The group is open to all full-time undergraduate students and occasionally holds open mic nights so that students can showcase their work.

As for how more students can get involved Petrosino said, “All of the Literary

Spring Events are built for student participation, whether it be asking questions afterwards, reading their own works, or actively participating in the creation of an event!”

The intention of Literary Spring is to reflect SHU’s dedication to fostering artistic expression and critical thought. It is meant to be a time where stories matter and students are empowered to find their voice, share their truths, and engage in the larger cultural conversation through the written and spoken word.

“As is tradition, we kicked off Literary Spring with a student open mic on the first day of the month. Many students read poetry or short works of creative nonfiction, and we had several musicians play guitars and sing,” said Prof. Amie Reilly. “Students also participated in the marathon reading of The Odyssey and, throughout the rest of the month, can compete in the storytelling competition or improv night, and we have several excellent readings coming up.”

Looking ahead, on April 23, at the Dr. Michelle C. Loris ‘70 Forum, the Center for Irish Studies will present a poetry reading with Irish poet Sara Berkeley. Literary Spring, the Human Journey Colloquia Series, Health Humanities, Languages & Literature and the Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice are co-sponsoring this event.

“My favorite part has to be connecting with other readers and writers because I feel like it’s so important and special to connect with peers in that way. Especially since those are the fields I’m studying in,” said sophomore Isabella Vazquez.

Bella Generazo contributed to this article.



Salo Pizon, Staff Photographer and Writer

The English Department held a 24-hour reading of The Odyssey on April 7-8, 2025.

Students Make Magic in the Disney College Program

BY **SUNNIVA HALVORSEN**
Staff Writer

Would you like to learn about the Disney College Program (DCP)? If so, many Sacred Heart University students have participated and can tell you what the program is all about, what the application process is like, and where the student interest tends to spark from.

“The DCP is a program you can do in college or at least 24 months post-graduation, where basically you will go in and you will work for Disney in one of their many areas, they pick for you,” said senior Juliana Balzano, who is going to be participating in the program in the summer of 2025.

According to the DCP application webpage, the program allows students to “grow personally and professionally through immersive, uniquely Disney learning and career development opportunities,” as well as, “make magic and gain new skills in an operational role at one of the top entertainment companies in the world.”

There is an array of jobs that accepted students can be assigned to in Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

“Some of the jobs can include food and beverage, hospitality, merchandise, operations [attractions, transportation], recreation [lifeguard, children’s activities], entertainment [performers, character attendant] and custodial/housekeeping. When getting placed for a role/job, it is completely random, and you do not have much of a say or preference,” said senior Amanda Valency, who has previously participated in the program and will begin her next program in summer 2025.



Contributed by Amanda Valency, '25

Senior Amanda Valency poses with Disney characters Winnie the Pooh (left) and Tigger (right) at Disney World.

is given different roles. You could audition for a character performer, and if you don’t get that, you will be placed somewhere else,” said Balzano.

“I could be taking your photo in front of Cinderella’s castle, or I could be the one serving you at a quick-service restaurant. I could also be greeting you and swiping you into Magic Kingdom. There are so many different opportunities, which is the really cool thing about the program,” she said.

The DCP is a competitive program, especially in its character performer role.

“They had four cities hold auditions for character performers, and roughly 150-160 people were selected,” said Balzano. “The application process is actually really simple. They will post on their Instagram when the applications are open for the desired semester that you want to do, you just have to fill out a form, and they will review it.”

The program hosts a variety of learning activities designed for participants to make the most of their time at Disney and beyond. With hands-on learning and gaining knowledge for the real world, students are ready for a professional career.

“Overall, I had a very positive experience. I enjoyed being able to spend my days off in the parks with my roommates, and I made some great friends through my job who I still talk to today,” said Valency. “When I did the program, I worked at a hotel food court at the All-Star Movies Resort. At first, I was not sure if I would like this job, but I ended up loving it. My coworkers were great, and I had a lot of fun serving the guests. My favorite part was being able to make the Mickey waffles in the mornings since it is my favorite Disney food.”

Bella Generazo contributed to this article.



Contributed by Amanda Valency, '25

Senior Amanda Valency poses outside of the Disney University building at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

Sports

Best Buddies Prom Sponsored by Women's Club Lacrosse

BY KEANE PELLETIER
Staff Writer

The women's club lacrosse team held a charity game on April 4 against Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). The team raised money and supported the Best Buddies charity, an international non-profit organization that provides opportunities for friendship between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Sacred Heart also has a Best Buddies club, which supports the program more locally.

"We were raising money for the Best Buddies program for their prom to be more specific. So, it was kind of a thing where we wanted to do it because it's giving back in a direct sort of way. So it gives us the chance to give them an experience that they might not have had before," said sophomore Katherine Taylor.

The team emphasized how much it meant to them to be playing for Best Buddies and how important giving back is.

"Playing in the charity game with Best Buddies meant so much to me and my teammates. It was a chance to not only do what we love but also give back to the community in a meaningful way," said senior captain Amanda Beberman. "It was amazing to see how sports can bring people together for such a great cause. It really strengthened our bond



The SHU Club Women's Lacrosse team raises their sticks in a huddle before a game.
Instagram, @shuclubwlax

as a team and reminded us of the bigger picture beyond the field."

The Pioneers were able to defeat CCSU with a score of 15-4 and defeated Stony Brook University on April 6 with a score of 16-4.

"One of the best things about our team is that we are goal-hungry. Each player on our team is capable of scoring, which allows for us to outplay our opponents. This past weekend, outsourcing our opponents 31-8 is a testament to how well we've been executing those strategies," said Beberman.

The team finished their season with an impressive 6-1 record. Their strong bond off the field has led to their success on the field.

"We just have a really good team dynamic. All of us are really close, and we all support each other a lot, which is really great on and off the field because when we're on the field if someone makes a mistake no one dwells on it. We just kind of help each other and lift each other up," said junior Madison Conklin.

"Another standout quality of our team is the unwavering support we show each other. Regardless of who's on the field, we all cheer enthusiastically when one of us succeeds. Our bench is always loud with encouragement, as are the players actively participating in the game. Personally, those cheers always bring a smile to my face and motivate me to push forward," said Beberman.

Another key contributor to the team's success this season is head coach Ashley Lane. Last year, Lane led the team to nationals for the first time in school history, showcasing her strong leadership and ability to bring the team together.

"She really emphasizes helping each other out and helps build the bonds between all of us, and I really think that is why we do well," said Conklin.

This two-game weekend wrapped up the Pioneers' regular season, and the team remains hopeful for a return trip to nationals, which will take place in Round Rock, Texas.

Women's Track Running Through Records (Again!)

BY JAYDEN HUNTER
Staff Writer

Runners to your mark, set, go. The Sacred Heart women's track team is steaming hot, with multiple records being broken weekly.

Most recently, the team came out successful at the Walton Banks Invitational at George Mason University in Virginia, with broken records from pole vault, 110-meter hurdles, 100-meter dash and the 4x100 meter relay events.

Junior Magdalena Brogioli was a part of three broken records, one in the relay, and two individual records in the 100 and 110-meter hurdles.

"I like to think that being a strong contributor helps highlight the success of our entire team and the amount of talent we have as a program," said Brogioli.

This is not the first bunch of records she has taken over. Last winter, Brogioli broke records in the 60-meter hurdles and the 4x200 meter relay.

"I did not expect to be breaking this many records throughout the year so far," said Brogioli. "I honestly was super surprised with some of my performances so far, but it is rewarding to see the work I put into practice paying off. I would like to say that after breaking these records, it helps motivate me to continue practicing hard and hopefully continue breaking them."

Alongside the dash and hurdles, Brogioli was able to break another record. For two consecutive weeks, the 4x100 meter relay team consisted of Brogioli, sophomore Annalise Nassy, two-star freshman Nyah Musa and freshman Mackenzie Fuhrer.

"Coming into this outdoor season, I knew our relay could do some big things, and this is only the start," said Musa. "Track can be a very individual sport, as oftentimes it's you against your teammates, but to break the school record twice in the past two weeks shows how close we are as a team. Our trust in each other and our drive to leave everything on the track pushes me to do my absolute best for myself and my teammates."

The final record broken through the weekend was from senior Jenna Engles. She soared up to 3.82 meters and finished the competition in third place.

The New Jersey native and former all Northeast Conference Award winner, prior to the conference change, has had great success. Her successes have helped guide the Pioneers toward the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships coming up in May.

During the indoor season, the women were able to capture an overall third place finish at the MAAC Championship, proving analysts wrong, as they were originally projected to only come in fifth place. Rider University finished in first place, and they have now won the MAAC Championship three years in a row.

With resurgence on the minds of the Sacred Heart track athletes, the team is looking very promising with multiple records and personal bests for the team. The Outdoor MAAC Championships are scheduled for May 10 and May 11 at Rider University.

"My end-of-the-year goal is to keep getting better every day because the next personal record is never out of reach. Every meet is an opportunity to PR; this is only the beginning, watch out for the Pio's come May," said Musa.

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.



Jayden Hunter, Staff Photographer and Writer
Nyah Musa, '28, preparing for her 4x100 meter relay at Rider University for the Rider 5-way meet.

Pioneers Pursue Playoffs

BY RYAN BRADLEY JR
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University's Division 1 baseball team is 17-17 and looking forward to their final stretch of the season. Coming into their April 8 game against Stony Brook University, the Pioneers were handed a conference series loss against Fairfield University.

On April 4, the Pioneers played a double-header at Fairfield, the first two games of a three-game series. They lost both games to start the series, finishing 10-1 and then 4-2. Looking to rebound, Sacred Heart rallied back and took their April 5 game 20-2 finishing the series against their cross-town opponent.



Jack Cavicchi, Assistant Photo Editor and Web Manager
Sacred Heart Pioneers sophomore shortstop Gavin Donohue fields a groundball during a game against the Manhattan Jaspers on Friday March 21.

"I'm not one to put a label on any one team or series that we play," said Head Coach Pat Egan. "Honestly, I have a coaching mindset of wanting to kick the crap out of anyone we play, and I don't like getting caught up in certain series meaning more than others. I think that can create a fragile mindset in other series that aren't named Fairfield."

Sophomore Gavin Donohue led the charge against Fairfield in their second game, going 4-7 at the plate and earning six runs batted in (RBI's). This has been a common theme for the Pioneers, as Donohue leads the team in home runs and hits.

"I think Gavin is learning every day what it takes to be good at this level. We ask a lot of Gavin and some of the younger players on our team at times, but we wouldn't ask it if we didn't think they could handle it," said Egan.

After their weekend series, SHU shifted their focus to Stony Brook. After scoring seven runs in the bottom of the ninth inning, Stony Brook completed an unexpected comeback against the Pioneers, defeating SHU 14-13.

On April 9, SHU traveled to Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) for the second of five games this week. They breezed past the Knights winning 14-1 in the 7th inning. Senior Alex Ungar was one of the Pioneers that played well in both games, going a combined 4-9 at the plate with four RBIs.

"His growth as a person and leader is what I am most proud of and to be able to see the personal growth he has had over the two plus years I've known him, is something I want all my guys to take after," Egan said about Ungar.

On April 11, Sacred Heart University played a double header against conference opponent Canisius University. After splitting the double header, SHU notched a series victory by a score of 13-0.

Currently, the Pioneers sit fourth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), and after hosting the University of Massachusetts (UMass) on April 15, Sacred Heart will travel to Rider University. They will play three games starting on April 17 and ending on April 19, preparing the Pioneers for the playoffs.

"We are a much better and tougher team than what our record reflects. Each game we get closer to the team that we really are and come playoffs it will all be put together," said Ungar.

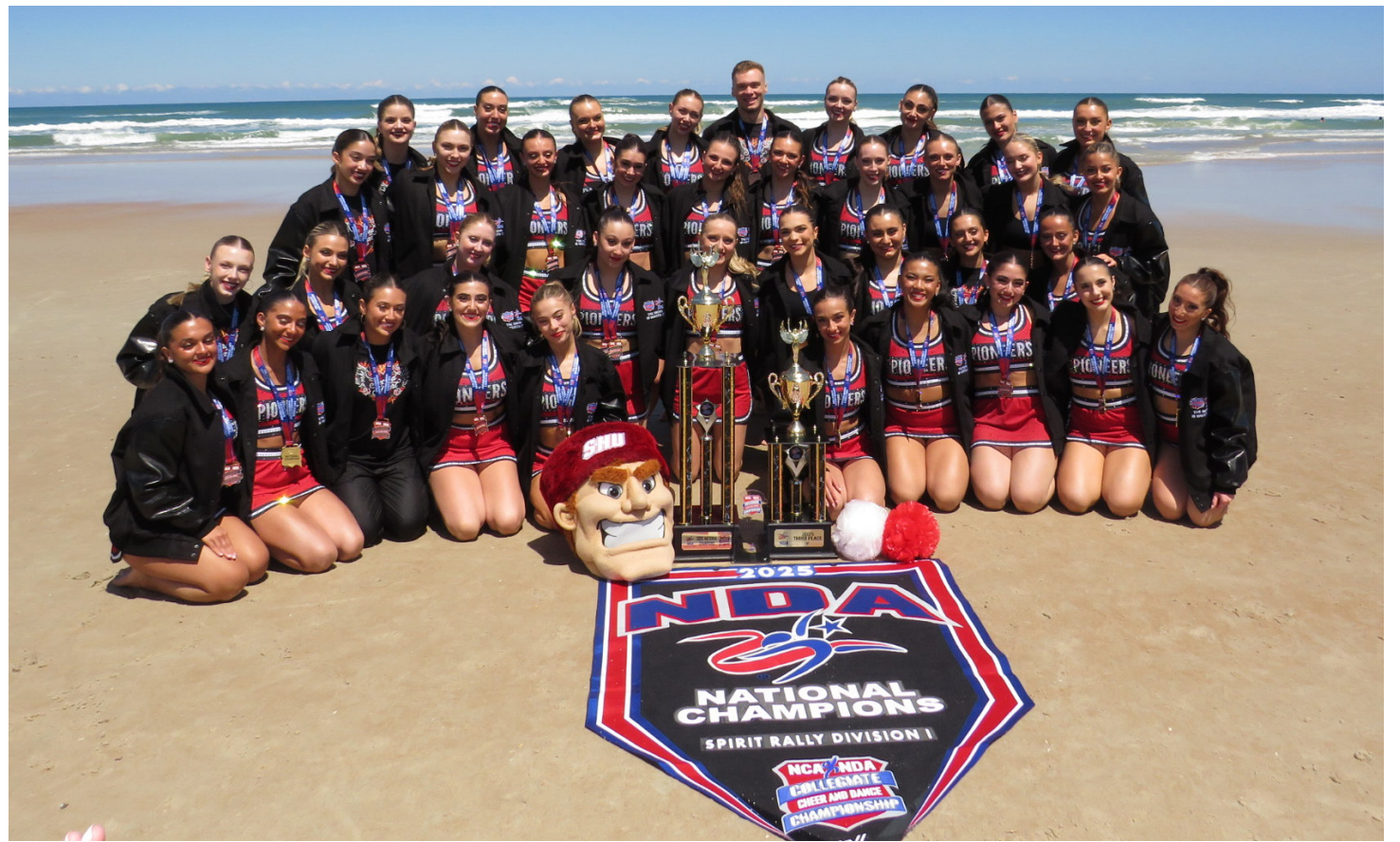
"I know for sure me and the boys are all excited. No better time of the year for baseball. It's when we really see how a team plays baseball and what they are willing to do to win," said sophomore Chuck Tallman.

Sacred Heart Athletics contributed to this article.

Sports

SHU Dance Team Wins National Title

BY TAYLOR MAGUIRE
Staff Writer



Contributed by Taylor Maguire '25

The Sacred Heart University Dance Team placed first in spirit, third in hip hop and fifth in jazz at NDA College Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla.

What does it take for a college dance team to turn years of hard work into a history-making win? Sacred Heart University's Division 1 dance team has some answers.

The team won its first-ever national championship in Daytona, Fla. at the National Dance Alliance (NDA) College Nationals. From April 10-12, the team competed against other collegiate-level dance teams in three categories: Hip Hop, Spirit Rally and Jazz.

This year they placed first in Spirit Rally, third in Hip Hop and fifth in Jazz. The dance team continues to make history each year but, most impressively, this year with their first-ever win.

"The nationals journey is very long, but it's all worth it in the end," said senior captain Jillian Angeramo. "It can be stressful at times, but overall, it's so rewarding."

Reina Van Florke is coming on her sixth season as head coach with support from her assistant coaches, both SHU alumnae, Rielley Coles and Bella Tolomeo.

"We set goals early in the year and had a focused goal on where we wanted to end up at nationals this year," said Van Florke. "We were pushing ourselves not only physically, but mentally, while at nationals. The team was able to stay extremely focused and not get flustered by last-minute adjustments that needed to be made, no matter how big or small they seemed."

The team has a roster of 38 dancers, but legally, each dancer is only allowed to compete in up to two routines. This year, Spirit Rally consisted of 29 dancers, Hip Hop had 20 and Jazz had 23.

Costuming is a crucial part of dance. If not done properly, it can affect the uniformity of the team. After Hip Hop prelims on Friday, the team managed to put together a new costume for finals the next morning.

"We were excited about our hip hop costume, but as soon as they walked on the stage, we realized that having two-tone color-blocked pants was a disadvantage," said Van Florke. "Several judges made comments about how it affected the cleanliness and staging of our routine, so we did some quick shopping and did what we had to do to have a new look the next day."

The new look consisted of solid black cargo pants bought from a nearby Target, a maroon long-sleeve that

was part of the original costume, and an oversized black t-shirt with a screen-printed Sacred Heart logo.

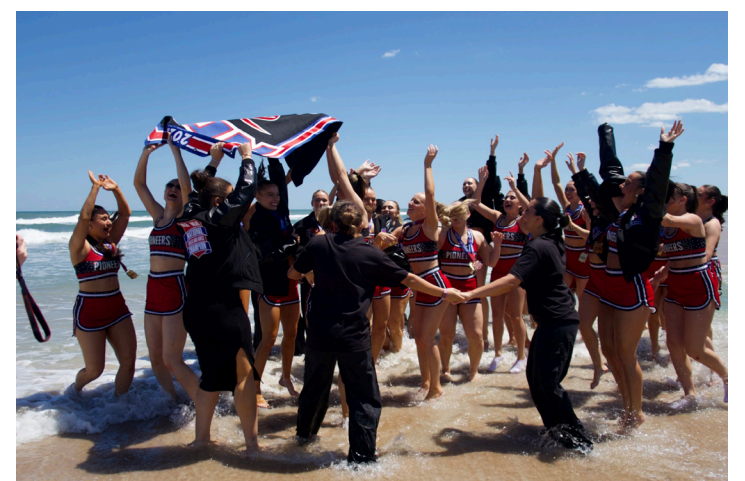
This year's Spirit Rally routine consisted of a one-minute pom performance to SHU's fight song and a one-minute stylized halftime routine to popstar Tate McRae's "It's ok I'm ok." After Spirit Rally prelims, they were in first place, only 0.425 points ahead of second place. This means they had to fight extra hard to stay in first for finals and win the Division 1 Spirit Rally national championship title.

"Going into finals, I was confident in us moving up, or, for Spirit Rally, staying where we were in first, but at the end of the day, dance is so subjective, so you never know," said Van Florke.

The team's score went up by 0.95 points, which kept them in first place at finals, receiving the program's first-ever national championship.

"Winning a national championship was a surreal experience. We worked so hard for this, and it's so rewarding to prove ourselves, not only to other teams in our division but also to our athletic community at SHU," said junior Julia Laspina.

"On the coaching side, we're really proud of how the team worked together all week, and we're so happy with the performances that we put on," said Van Florke. "For next season, I hope to just ride this momentum and upward trend we've been going in."



Contributed by Taylor Maguire '25

The Sacred Heart University Dance Team celebrates in the ocean in Daytona Beach, Fla. after winning a national championship.

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