

WSHU Loses Federal Funding

BY MADELEINE MADEIROS
Assistant News Editor

“The job of journalism is to speak truth to power,” said Brad Dancer, general manager for WSHU Public Radio.

On Aug. 1, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) announced that it started shutting down its operations in response to a rescissions package and the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill for the fiscal year 2026. The bill excludes the CPB from federal funding that would be distributed to independent organizations like National Public Radio (NPR), Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and smaller, local broadcasts like WSHU.

On May 1, President Donald Trump issued an executive order calling out NPR and PBS by name and announcing his intent to defund public broadcasting that would come to fruition three months later.

“Americans have the right to expect that if their tax dollars fund public broadcasting at all, they fund only fair, accurate, unbiased, and nonpartisan news coverage,” said the executive order, which continued by claiming that neither organization represents current events as such.

Prior to the rescission, subsidized public

broadcasting was funded by taxpayer dollars appropriated by Congress to the CPB. However, that cost Americans about \$1.40 per year, according to Dancer.

“As a media arts major here at SHU, it is upsetting to hear that the funding has been cut,” said senior Sonia Giusti. “What worries me is what is to come.”

Having swapped out some established programs for less expensive ones this summer, WSHU is facing the fallout of that decision. WSHU received approximately \$400,000 a year directly from federal funding, which was about 8 percent of its total budget.

“Indirectly, it’s another \$100,000,” Dancer said. “We’re looking at \$450,000 to \$500,000 in total loss of funding that we either have to make up in expenses or generating new revenue streams.”

While WSHU may continue to look different, it plans to stand the test of time.

With total donor funding at a 20 percent increase and one listenership up eight percent from last year, Dancer is looking ahead to the 2026 fiscal year and working to rethink how WSHU spends its time and money.

“The apprehension for us is we’re going to

lose the ability

See WSHU Loses Federal Funding
continued on pg. 2



Instagram, @wshupublicradio

General manager of WSHU, Brad Dancer, wears a pledge gift shirt in a promotional Instagram post to encourage listeners to donate to the Fall 2024 Pledge Drive.

Introducing the Agape Center

BY DANIEL GREENE
News Editor

As the regulations surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) continue to be altered under Donald Trump’s presidency, Sacred Heart University made a midsummer announcement: the Multicultural Center would be rebranded as the Agape Center for Human Dignity.

On July 29, the U.S. Attorney General sent a memo to recipients of federal funding to provide guidance on unlawful discrimination. The university then announced the disbanding of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, which included the Multicultural and SAGE centers. In compliance with the Attorney General’s message and staying true to its mission, Sacred Heart University announced it was opening the Agape Center.

According to the announcement made by President Dr. John Petillo, the name change is rooted in the university’s Catholic intellectual tradition.

“In the Gospels, the Greek word ‘Agape’ indicates the unconditional and outpouring love of God, the same love we recognize in our school’s name, Sacred Heart,” said Petillo. “The new Center will empower Pioneers to encounter each other with integrity, gain knowledge and practice the key skills of intentional reflection and courageous civil discourse that are central to the Pioneer Journey and the strength of our community.”

The change came as a surprise to many within the SHU community and the surrounding area. Students were upset by the announcement, posting their reactions on social media, while local news outlets covered the story. As the campus prepared for the return of students, there was uncertainty over what the changes meant for the university.

“Initially, I was frustrated because I thought we were going to lose the space,” said junior JD Azcona. “My current feelings are relieved because we still have the space from which we can continue to spread positivity and unity.”

Currently, there are no physical changes planned for the space. The Agape Center remains open to all students as the semester progresses.

“It is going to provide a very similar support just housed in the Office of Mission,” said Dr. Miguel Martinez-Saenz, Senior Vice-President for Student Engagement. “The federal guidelines have required us to get away from programs that discriminate.”

Administrators hope that the change to the Agape Center encourages more students to engage with the space and have meaningful dialogue with one another. Over the first few weeks of the semester, students have attended unity club events and Wisdom Wednesdays in the Agape Center.

“[The change] demonstrates Sacred Heart’s dedication to integrating its mission and Catholic identity more fully into student life, while also reaffirming our call to uphold the inherent worth

and dignity of every person as a reflection of God’s unconditional love. This change highlights our commitment to fostering a campus environment rooted in love, compassion and mutual respect,” said Dr. Francis Origanti, Senior Vice President for Mission and Culture.

Opinions on the university’s decision to close the Multicultural Center in favor of the Agape Center have become more positive since the semester began, but individuals still disagree with the decision.

“I respectfully don’t believe that the university made the right decision, but I am grateful that we still have the space,” said Azcona.



Instagram, @wshupublicradio

The Agape Center for Human Dignity is located in the HC Wing of Sacred Heart’s main academic building.

For more... shuspectrum.com @shuspectrum @TheSpectrumSHU @shuspectrum

P. 3 FEATURES | PAGE 3
“BIG CHANGES ON THE MENU” THEA’S ABBY’S NEW MAKEOVER

P. 4 CAMPUS LIFE | PAGE 5
FIRST 50 DAYS: WELCOME TO SHU CLASS OF 2029

P. 6 A&E | PAGE 6
“DANCING ACROSS THE GLOBE” WITH SHU DANCE

P. 7 SPORTS | PAGE 7
FOOTBALL TO NEW CONFERENCE IN 2026

News

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CONTINUED FROM PG 1

to give our listeners everything we want to give them on the programming side, versus whether or not we're going to make it," said Dancer.

He said that the money lost from the rescission was a retaliation of the perceived bias of the aforementioned organizations.

"But the irony of that is, it's not actually affecting NPR or PBS. It affects all the local television stations," said Dancer.

While WSHU may remain standing, the consequences for other local broadcasts may be severe. According to Dancer, there will undoubtedly be stations that can't sustain without this funding.

Dancer, who is on the board of NPR went to Washington, D.C. on two separate occasions to speak to representatives and the Appropriations Committee on behalf of WSHU and other public broadcasts, to no avail.

Even so, efforts to protect free, independent press have galvanized the community. Dancer participates in twice-weekly phone calls with hundreds of participants, including NPR and other general managers—originally meant to organize lobbyists to fight rescission, but now serve to discuss what's next for the industry post-government funding.

For sophomore media arts major Caroline Garside, the funding cuts are disappointing, but not reason to lose hope.

"It makes me disheartened, but also more motivated and inspired to pursue this path in the hopes of creating a positive impact and keeping this industry going," said Garside.

"We're here to keep questioning anybody in power and what they're doing and why," said Dancer. "Our job is to make sure that we do the best thing we can and continue to make sure that there's a new generation of journalism."

Legal Aid Group Sues to Preemptively Block US from Deporting a Dozen Honduran Children

BY LEAH WILLINGHAM AP NEWSROOM

A legal aid group has sued to preemptively block any efforts by the U.S. government to deport a dozen Honduran children, saying it had "credible" information that such plans were quietly in the works.

The Arizona-based Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project on Friday added Honduran children to a lawsuit filed last weekend that resulted in a judge temporarily blocking the deportation of dozens of migrant children to their native Guatemala.

In a statement, FIRRP said it had received reports that the U.S. government will "imminently move forward with a plan to illegally remove Honduran children in government custody as soon as this weekend, in direct violation of their right to seek protection in the United States and despite ongoing litigation that blocked similar attempted extra-legal removals for children from Guatemala."

The organization did not immediately provide The Associated Press with details about what information it had received about the possible deportation of Honduran children. The amendment to the organization's lawsuit is sealed in federal court. The Homeland Security Department did not immediately respond to email requests for comment on Friday and Saturday.

The Justice Department on Saturday provided what is perhaps its most detailed account of a chaotic Labor Day weekend involving the attempted deportation of 76 Guatemalan children. Its timeline was part of a request to lift a temporary hold on their removal.

Over Labor Day weekend, the Trump administration attempted to remove Guatemalan children who had come to the U.S. alone and were living in shelters or with foster care families in the U.S.

Advocates who represent migrant children in court filed lawsuits across the country seeking to stop the government from removing the children, and on Sunday a federal judge stepped in to order that the kids stay in the U.S. for at least two weeks.

The government initially identified 457 Guatemalan children for possible



AP Photo, Alex Brandon
President Donald Trump listens as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, in Washington.

deportation, according to Saturday's filing. None could have a pending asylum screening or claim, resulting in the removal of 91. They had to have parents or legal guardians in Guatemala and be at least 10 years old.

In the end, 327 children were found eligible for deportation, including 76 who boarded planes early Sunday in what the government described as a first phase, according to a statement by Angie Salazar, acting director of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Office of Refugee Resettlement. All 76 were at least 14 years old and "self-reported" that they had a parent or legal guardian in Guatemala but none in the United States.

The Justice Department said no planes took off, despite a comment by one of its attorneys in court Sunday that one may have taken off but returned.

Children who cross the border alone are generally transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which falls under the Health and Human Services Department. The children usually live in a network of shelters across the country that are overseen by the resettlement office until they are eventually released to a sponsor, usually a relative.

Children began crossing the border alone in large numbers in 2014, peaking at 152,060 in the 2022 fiscal year. July's arrest tally translates to an annual clip of 5,712 arrests, reflecting how illegal crossings have dropped to their lowest

levels in six decades.

Guatemalans accounted for 32% of residents at government-run holding facilities last year, followed by Hondurans, Mexicans and El Salvadorans. A 2008 law requires children to appear before an immigration judge with an opportunity to pursue asylum, unless they are from Canada and Mexico. The vast majority are released from shelters to parents, legal guardians or immediate family while their cases wind through court.

Justice Department lawyers said federal law allows the Department of Health and Human Services to "repatriate" or "reunite" children by taking them out of the U.S., as long as the child hasn't been a victim of "severe" human trafficking, is not at risk for becoming so if he or she is returned to their native country and does not face a "credible fear" of persecution there. The child also cannot be "repatriated" if he or she has a pending asylum claim.

The FIRRP lawsuit was amended to include 12 children from Honduras who have expressed to the Florence Project that they do not want to return to Honduras, as well as four additional children from Guatemala who have come into government custody in Arizona since the suit was initially filed last week.

Some children have parents who are already in the United States.

The lawsuit demands that the government allow the children their legal right to present their cases to an immigration judge, to have access to legal counsel and to be placed in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child.

Honduras' immigration director referred questions about the possibility of unaccompanied minors being returned to Honduras to the ministry charged with protecting children and families, which has not responded to messages left beginning Friday. Honduras' Foreign Affairs Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday.

Associated Press reporters Rebecca Santana in Washington, D.C., Valerie Gonzalez in Texas and Marlon Gonzalez in Tegucigalpa, Honduras contributed to this report.

Headlines You May Have Missed This Summer:

June

6/2: Faculty and Staff Honored with Mission and Cultural Awards

6/12: "Sold Out Pioneer Open Raises More Than \$130K for Student Scholarship"

6/16: "WSHU Public Radio Wins Multiple Prestigious Journalism Awards"

6/26: "New Advancement VP Committed to Unearthing Potential"

July

7/1: "Graduate Student Life Aids Students Academically, Personally"

7/9: "SHU Alum Signed to the Bridgeport Islanders"

7/12: "First-Year Student Nadia Anwar Crowned Miss New York's Teen 2025"

7/25: "Professor Discusses Course on College Matters Podcast"

August

8/4: "SHU Employees Lend a Hand with Habitat for Humanity"

8/13: "Death Row Exonerates Documentary Premieres at SHU Theater"

8/15: "Alum Promoted to Chief of Police in Fairfield"

8/25: "SHU Named a Top College by Princeton Review"

For more information, visit the Sacred Heart Newsroom, sacredheart.edu/news-room/news-listing.

Features

Moving into New Beginnings at SHU

BY ALEXA BORNER
Features Editor

Freshmen move in took place over several days during the end of August. All over campus, students busily moved into the dorms, preparing for their first year at Sacred Heart University (SHU).

SHU offers six different dorms for freshmen. The honors pod-style residence dorms include Catherine of Siena, Michael McGivney, Toussaint and Mother Teresa Halls. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Thomas Merton and Angelo Roncalli Halls house the rest of the freshmen in either double or triple style rooms.

Julia Avena, a freshman living in a double style room in Michael McGivney Hall, said that her move-in process went well; although, it took longer than she anticipated.

Avena said that being in a double gives her and her roommate equal space of their own.

“I like that I have a closet and my own bathroom,” said Avena. “I also like that it’s separate from everything else, so when I go to sleep, it’s quiet.”

Her time in college has been similar to what she expected.

“If anything, it feels more homey than I thought it would,” said Avena.

Ava Pohalski, a freshman living in a double style room in Thomas Merton Hall, was thankful that cars were able to park in front of the buildings as it made for a smooth move-in process.

“The only difficulty was that there was no one helping athletes for early move-in,” said Pohalski.

Pohalski said that she feels settled in now.

“Having classes and homework forces me to make a routine for myself, which helps me feel more productive,” said Pohalski.

Pohalski is looking forward to having her parents come for Family Weekend, so they can experience SHU’s campus.

Sophia Kareglis, a freshman living in a triple style room in Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall, said that her move-in was quick and efficient. She enjoys living with roommates as well.

“I like that I can have time to myself, and I can also talk to more than one person in my room,” said Kareglis.

Kareglis mentioned that her dorm is a great environment to be in because everyone is friendly and is excited about the way things are going.

“I have a routine I try to stick to, but sometimes it changes because something comes up,” said Kareglis.

Kareglis feels less stressed than she did in high school, as she has more free time to



Instagram, @sacredheartuniversity

Freshman students carry bags up the stairs to move into their new dorms on Aug. 22, 2025.

manage her own schedule.

Alexis Pacewicz, a freshman living in a double style room in Angelo Roncalli Hall, said that her move-in was effortless, besides the fact that moving in early for athletics meant there weren’t any move-in carts to assist in carrying belongings to her dorm. On the flip side, she was grateful that the elevators weren’t jam-packed.

Pacewicz loves the view from her room.

“We are in the corner room on the 10th floor, giving us a full view of campus and the golf course across the street,” said Pacewicz. “At night time, we always are able to have a really nice view of the sunsets as well.”

“I feel a lot better now that we have started school, because I feel as though now I have an everyday schedule which works best for me,” said Pacewicz.

Pacewicz said that college is just like she imagined it.

“I have a lot of freetime, but am also always doing something to keep busy,” said Pacewicz.

This semester, she is excited to create more friendships and work hard to be successful within nursing.

Big Changes on the Menu

BY SARA HASENEY
Features Editor

When getting a bite to eat around campus, have you noticed anything different? Over the summer of 2025, there have been major changes in the dining halls and meal plans here at Sacred Heart University (SHU).

Thea’s Abbey has undergone the most extensive changes. What used to be a made-to-order style dining hall is now an all-you-care-to-eat café. A lot of students are wondering what is now available at Thea’s, but many of the previously known options remain the same.

“Enjoy a rotating hot entrée station each meal period, along with favorites like the grill, outdoor kitchen, pizza, fresh house-made pasta, New York-style deli, salad bar, açai bowls, and a full-service espresso/latte/cappuccino machine,” said Lisa Tammone, SHU’s Dining Director of Operations.

Similar to 63’s, at Thea’s Abbey students can now use one meal swipe to enter and get whatever they want. Changes were not just made to the layout of Thea’s Abbey, but all meal plans have been updated as well.

Danielle Bahr, SHU’s Dining Marketing Director, said that these new plans include new concepts such as unlimited all access swipes and guest meal swipes.

“Big Red Unlimited and Pioneer All Access plans now include unlimited All Access swipes in 63’s and Theas, so students never have to worry about when or how often they eat. Students can also enjoy two meal exchanges per day without time restrictions, \$325 dining dollars, and five guest meal swipes per semester,” said Bahr.

This change at Thea’s is raising concern for students with the Jefferson Meal Plan, the meal plan designed for commuter students. This plan includes \$500 in dining dollars, but no meal swipes.

Mark Tammone, Resident District Manager of SHU Dining, says that these changes will not impact commuter students’ eligibility to eat at these dining halls.

“Students can use dining dollars to enjoy Thea’s all-you-care-to-eat experience. For added convenience, students can order bundled retail items from the grill or deli using the self-service kiosk or Boost mobile ordering,” said Tammone.

Senior Molly Luchsinger said the new concept of Thea’s Abbey was confusing to her at first. Luchsinger said she feels unsure how popular this new layout will be

amongst students.

“It definitely is a huge change from when I lived in Bowman Hall my sophomore year and would eat at Thea’s Abbey regularly. I think it could be a good option for students who are not in a rush, but I think a lot of students will miss the on-the-go options for a quick meal in between classes,” said Luchsinger.

Aside from the changes in Thea’s Abbey, students can enjoy new stations at various dining halls around campus, according to Tammone.

“We introduced Blends & Bowls in Linda’s, an exciting new concept that replaces Smoothie Lab and offers fresh, vibrant options. In the Library, we added Botrista, serving bubble tea, iced coffee, and smoothies, alongside Sound Coffee, a local partner who helped us create a custom Pioneer Blend just for our students,” said Tammone.

Tammone also said that new additions have been added to the Martire Family Arena as well.

“Dippin’ Dots, featuring exclusive SHU-inspired flavors and colors, has been added to the Martire Family Arena and basketball concessions,” said Tammone.

To stay up to date with any new changes, specials, or events on campus with SHU Dining, students can follow @shudining on Instagram and TikTok.

Instagram, @shu_dining

SHU Dining rolled out a new meal plan for students this year, changing Thea’s Abbey to an All You Can Eat dining hall.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS ON
CAMPUS**

**WEDNESDAY 9/10:
BACK TO SCHOOL
BINGO
STUDENT EVENTS TEAM
HOSTS BINGO AT 10 P.M.**

**THURSDAY 9/11:
SEPTEMBER 11TH
MEMORIAL
11 A.M. AT CAPEL
QUAD**

**FRIDAY 9/12:
CULTRAL COOKOUT
BLOCK PARTY
FROM 1-4 P.M. AT 63’S
PATIO LAWN**

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 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.



SHU Hosts 14th Annual President's Gala

BY WILL MORGAN

Audrey's Corner Editor

On Friday, Sept. 5, Sacred Heart University held the 14th annual President's Gala. Hosted by Sacred Heart President Dr John Petillo at the Martire Family Arena (MFA) on West Campus, students were dressed to impress and danced the night away in the multipurpose arena.

The event was advertised extensively in the week prior, with emails sent and posters placed throughout the main academic building. Students could register for the gala and pick up admission bracelets in the Student Life Suite in the Humanities Center (HC).

Shuttle buses leaving from Seton and Merton dorms transported SHU students to MFA starting at 6:30 p.m., where they had choice of mac and cheese bites, cupcakes and other classic snacks to eat.

Music was provided by headliner DJ Galantis, who played the classics, as well as opening DJ Tom Macari. A pleasant time was had by all attendees. "I had a good time hanging out with friends enjoying the music there and getting to meet new people," said sophomore Alek Rencurrel.



SHU President Dr. John Petillo poses for a photo with the Men's Division 1 Hockey Team at the President's Gala at Martire Family Ice Arena on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025. Instagram, @shuprez

September is Suicide Prevention Month: For counseling services and support reach out to

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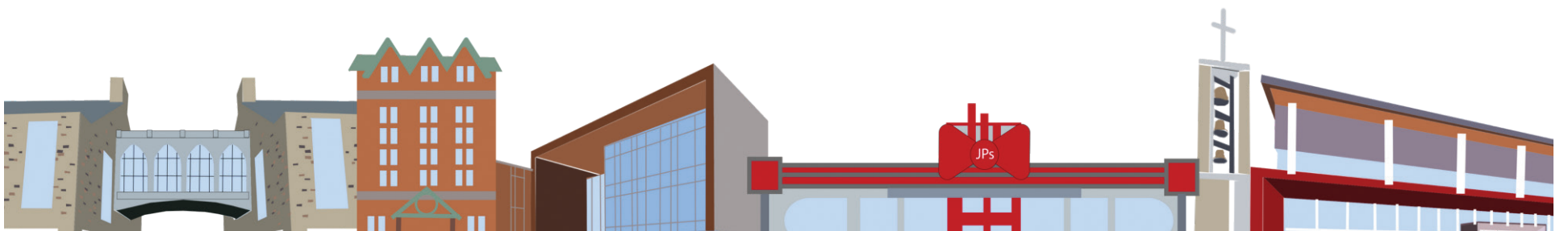
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Interested in contributing to Campus Life? Contact us at spectrum@sacredheart.edu

CampusLife

50 Days, 1 Goal: *Helping SHU Freshman Feel at Home*

BY THEO WEISMANN
Campus Life Editor

The fall semester at Sacred Heart University has officially begun, and to help the incoming first-year class adapt to the significant changes in college life, SHU is hosting its annual series: the First 50 Days.

The series opens during welcome weekend and continues through the first 50 days of the semester. These events aim to make the incoming first-year class feel at home by acknowledging the challenges some students may face during the transition into college life.

“There’s a lot of growing up that has to happen quickly in those first few weeks. So you’re noticing that students are figuring out what that autonomy looks like, and then how to go out and make connections with new people,” said Victoria Vacca, Associate Director of First Year Programs.

Many students enter their first semester feeling isolated, unsure if anyone else shares the same anxieties about leaving home and starting fresh. The first event, the Night Before, aims to directly address this misconception by bringing new students together.

“You can go to these events on your own and know that the people there are going through the exact same thing that you are,” said Vacca. “We had over 700 students attend the night before, which was absolutely amazing. You were seeing people who walked in alone and walked out with someone.”

While the goals of the First 50 Days have remained unchanged since its introduction in 2019, the series has continued to expand as more groups on campus become involved. “This year, we had 425 programs that were submitted to be a part of the First 50 Days,” said Vacca.



Instagram, @shufirstyearprograms

A promotional flyer for a First 50 Days Event that was held on Chapel Quad on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025.

From wellness workshops to more socially oriented events where students can meet the various clubs and Greek life at SHU, the series aims to meet every student’s interests. “I remember the club fair being a great way to see what Sacred Heart offers. From esports to pre-dental clubs, it really shows the wide variety of opportunities SHU has to offer,” said sophomore Oliver Weismann.

Students will be introduced to SHU’s most popular traditions, such as Bingo and Stuff-a-Bear. These events tend to be the most popular in the whole series. “I think the buy-in from the upperclassmen going to these events, and first-year students walking in and seeing that all the seats are filled, kind of continues that tradition moving forward,” said Vacca.



Theo Weismann, Campus Life Editor

Students play a game of Spikeball outside of Merton Hall on March 28, 2023.

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Arts & Entertainment

Dancing Across The Globe

BY EMMA RICOTTA

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Sacred Heart University Dance Company traveled to Bari, Italy, this past summer to participate in the World Dance Movement (WDM), an international dance festival.

Throughout their time in Bari, the dancers were able to take dance classes and learn choreography from Italian choreographers Sabatino D'Eustacchio, Federica Angelozzi, and Australian choreographer Shannon Atkins. At the end of the week, the dancers performed the pieces they learned.

Sophomore Moira Larson was inspired by the three choreographers she learned from. She enjoyed the partnering style that the teachers taught the dancers.

"They had us dance with lights attached to our hands that we used to help convey the story and create interesting pictures," said Larson. "I always left that class sweating, but very fulfilled!"

The SHU Dance Company members had the opportunity to dance alongside and compete with dancers from across the world, including Australia, the Czech Republic, and Malaysia. Some SHU dancers even competed in the World Dance Movement



Instagram, @sacredheartuniversitydance

Sacred Heart University Dancers use for a photo at the World Dance Movement in Italy on July 11, 2025.

Dancer of the Year competition, where they performed their solos in front of a panel of judges. This competition drew the highest level of dancers from across choreographed by Dance Program Coordinator Kelly McGill, alumni Katie Plitt competed a contemporary modern solo that she self-choreographed, and Senior Sydney Bosma competed a jazz solo choreographed by Assistant Director of Dance Taylor Krebuszewski.

Bosma felt excited to perform her solo on the Italian stage, as it was something she had never gotten to experience.

"If you told me I were to perform a solo in Italy, I definitely would not have believed you," said Bosma. "That was one of the best experiences of my life."

Junior Rachel Minto felt that she had learned so much throughout her trip with other dance company members.

"One thing I learned is that I will never forget to always put my all into my movement and be myself," said Minto. "Even if, at times, I do not feel as confident or feel like I am not picking up the choreography as well as I usually do, as long as I put my all into it, my passion will shine through."

WDM's mission is to be a respected source for bridging cultures through dance. The festival prides itself on being a space where dancers from around the world are given a stage through which they can "learn from and inspire each other both artistically and culturally."

Larson's favorite part of the festival was the performance at the end of the week. She says she could feel the WDM's mission throughout her experience in Bari.

"I remember feeling so thankful as I was looking out at the city and up to the stars and feeling it was so surreal to be doing what I love, with people I love in such an incredible place," said Larson. "People from across the globe had just danced on that same stage, and I wanted to take in every second of my performances and soak up the magical energy around us."

Love and Leashes: Sabrina Carpenter's *Man's Best Friend*

BY MOIRA STAPLES

Managing Editor

After months of excitement and controversy, Sabrina Carpenter is back with her latest album, *Man's Best Friend*. Released on Aug. 29, the album has already debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 Chart.

The "Espresso" singer-songwriter, who rose from Disney Channel star to Grammy-award-winning musician, is once again showcasing her iconic style with a unique balance of comedy, sensitivity, and individuality.

From the album title to its lyrics, Carpenter combines her signature wit and emotional vulnerability, with a fun pop production, to reflect on adulthood in a way that many fans, especially young women, seem to connect with.

"It's Sabrina at her very best," said junior Sophie Meyer. "She sounds confident but also more open than ever. My favorite track is 'House Tour.' It feels so personal, like she's inviting us right into her world. I've had it on repeat since the first listen."

"House Tour," like many songs on the record, offers fans a glimpse into Carpenter's life, which, by the sound of the album, seems to be full of humor, romance, and sexuality, which has received its fair share of critique from the media.

When she announced her album back in June, Carpenter was quickly criticized for the original cover art, which depicts her on all fours at the feet of a man who appears to be using her hair as a leash. In response, many on social media called out the artist for catering to the male gaze and promoting a misogynistic narrative.

"I'm not quite sure how I feel about it," said senior Shannon Willard. "On the one hand, she is writing about her sexuality, but on the other hand, it can come off as a little degrading."

Carpenter responded to these claims in a post to social media where she revealed an alternative, more family-friendly cover, calling it "approved by God."

Other fans, however, have embraced the album, applauding Carpenter for trying something new.

"It's bold and confident, and it proves Sabrina knows exactly who she is as an



AP Photo, Evan Agostini

Sabrina Carpenter won multiple awards during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, at UBS Arena in Elmont, NY.

artist," said junior Kate Leunes. "She doesn't sound like anyone else right now, and I love that she's willing to experiment."

Fans, like Leunes, say Carpenter isn't just delivering radio-ready singles; she's telling stories about heartbreak, resilience, and finding joy in the messy, complicated parts of growing up, which listeners seem to enjoy.

"It's a real party for heartbreak, a celebration of disappointment! It's for laughing at yourself and your poor choices as everything is falling apart, it's wondering how loyalty and love always gets you back to third wheeling, spoken sarcastically like a true 25 year old," said Carpenter in an Instagram post for the album's release on Aug. 29.

Salo Pizon contributed to this article.

Sports



Contributed by Daniel Boye, '27

Sophomore running back Chuck Webb breaks a tackle in a 12-7 victory over Stonehill College at Campus Field on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025.

Touching Down into a New Conference

BY TAYLOR MAGUIRE
Assistant Sports Editor

What does it mean for Sacred Heart University's football team to join the Coastal Athletic Association Football Conference (CAA)? For players, fans, and coaches, it means tougher competition, new rivalries, and a fresh chapter in the program's history.

Starting in July 2026, SHU football will officially compete in the CAA football conference. With Sacred Heart's addition, the conference will feature 13 teams: University at Albany, Bryant University, Campbell University, Elon University, Hampton, Maine, Monmouth University, University of New Hampshire, North Carolina A&T State University, University of Rhode Island, Stony Brook University, Towson University and Sacred Heart University.

"We're thrilled to be back in a football conference," said head coach Mark Nofri. "It gives us the chance to compete for an FCS Championship and test ourselves against some of the nation's top programs."

Sacred Heart was previously a member of the Northeast Conference but departed in 2024 to join the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Since the MAAC does not sponsor football, the Pioneers have spent the past two seasons competing

as an National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) independent.

"Back in July, they brought us all into the weight room to tell us the news, and we were ecstatic," said graduate student and team captain Maximus Mongelli.

"It was sudden, nobody really knew it was coming, so joining the conference had everybody fired up," said sophomore Chuck Webb.

Aside from tougher competition, joining the CAA could also reshape Sacred Heart's recruiting efforts. Competing in one of the strongest FCS conferences gives the Pioneers a bigger stage to attract top talent.

"We already have a lot of great football players, but being in a conference changes the way we recruit," said Nofri. "Now we have the chance to bring in some of the recruits we were once in the mix for but lost because we weren't in a conference."

Sacred Heart knows the road ahead in the CAA won't be easy, but the Pioneers are embracing the challenge.

For now they will continue their 2025 season in the FCS. The Pioneers' record stands at 1-1 with their first game of the season being a home opening 12-7 win over Stonehill College on Aug. 30, followed by an 18 point road loss to Lehigh University a week later.

Garcia Gallego Leads Momentum for the Pioneers

BY JACK CAVICCHI
Assistant Sports Editor

After dropping their first two games of the season, the Sacred Heart Men's Soccer team have earned a win and a draw in their last two games. The Pioneers are 1-2-1 through the first four games of the season, with two more non-conference games on the schedule until MAAC play begins.

Coming off of their first winning season since 2012, the Pioneers were ranked sixth, out of 13 teams, in the 2025 MAAC Preseason Poll.

Senior midfielder David Garcia Gallego and senior forward Sam McCann each earned spots on the Preseason All-MAAC Team.

Garcia Gallego was also named Co-MAAC Preseason Player of the Year, sharing the honor with Theo Da Silva of Rider University.

"Everyone knows the preseason in college soccer is very short, so it's crucial to come in fit and prepared. I focused on that, and now I just want to keep contributing with more goals and assists to help the team succeed," said Garcia Gallego.

Garcia Gallego led the Pioneers in goals scored last season, tallying five.

"David's impact for us is huge offensively. He's a very direct winger, with great qualities in 1v1 situations and has been decisive, contributing with both goals and assists so far this season," said Head Coach Anthony Anzevui.

Garcia Gallego has tallied a point on three of the Pioneers four goals so this season.

"I'm really happy with how the season has started, both for the team and personally. These early results are the reward for the hard work I've been putting in over the past three years, especially this past summer," said Garcia Gallego.

Garcia Gallego captains the Pioneers this season alongside senior midfield/forward Javier Lopez Cayuela.

"David is a great leader and example to follow for the rest of the group," said senior goalkeeper Luca Marinelli.

"I think he is doing a great job with the help of Javier Lopez on taking care of the small details with this group and keep us moving in the right direction," said Marinelli.

Despite an 0-2 start to the season, the Pioneers turned things around with a 3-1 victory over Yale in their home opener on Friday, Aug. 19, 2025.

"It was great to start with a win in our home opener. We were pleased with the performance, playing our way, dominating the ball and it was encouraging to see us be decisive on set pieces – we will continue to improve in all aspects, as the team continues to mold together," said Anzevui.

The 1-2-1 start for the Pioneers contrasts their hot start last year, winning five of their first six matches, with a streak of four consecutive shutouts. Despite this slower start, the Pioneers have seen growth in chemistry and results in the past two matches.

"I think it starts with teamwork, when the team begins to flow, winning begins to flow. As we get more and more on the same page, with everyone knowing what we are going to do during the game at the right moments, the chemistry will continue to grow throughout the season, which is the most important thing for me," said Marinelli.

The next match for the Pioneers will be a contest in South Orange, NJ against Seton Hall University on Thursday, Sept. 11.

"We have a winning mentality, and we think that every time we step on the field we should win, and that's the confidence and expectations we have of ourselves," said Marinelli.



Contributed by Graduate Student Andy Trevino

Senior midfielder David Garcia Gallego at practice at Park Ave. Field on August 5, 2025.

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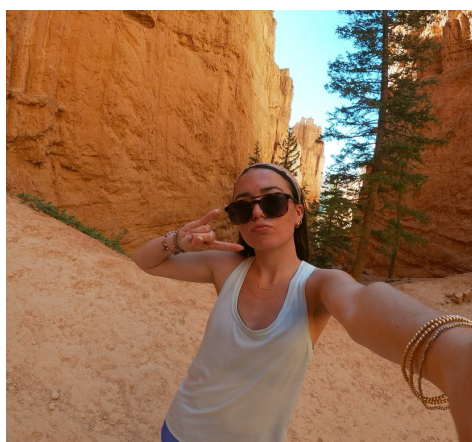
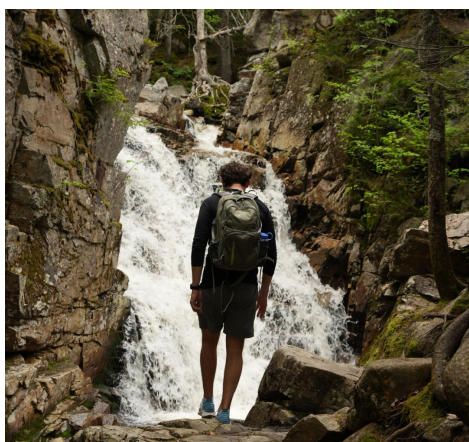
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