

## SHU Nationally Ranked by Princeton Review

BY **ARIANNA GIANNOPOULOS**  
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University has been named a top college by Princeton Review’s Best 391 College Guidebook. For the last 30 years, the Princeton Review has ranked top colleges by highlighting institutions that excel in student life, campus resources and academics. SHU was ranked Top-25 in seven different categories, including Best College Theater and Best Campus Food.

Counseling services have been named top 10 in the nation for student support, specifically for the commitment to mental health. The Maureen Hamilton Wellness Center is committed to supporting everyone in the SHU community by assisting students who may need extra support.

“The Wellness Center offers both individual counseling and group counseling free for full-time undergraduate students. For students who need an urgent appointment that cannot wait to be scheduled, same-day appointments are also available,” said James Geisler, executive director of Wellness Services.

“97 percent of students who receive services in the counseling center agree that they feel better than when they started counseling,” Geisler said. Students can utilize these resources by calling the wellness center’s phone number on the Sacred Heart website and making an appointment.

Sacred Heart’s dining services were ranked 25 for Best College Food. The university uses Chartwells to operate their dining halls. Chartwells’ motto, “Where Hungry Minds Gather,” highlights the company’s focus on providing dining services while also aiming to create a space for students to gather and connect.

“The students’ opinions are vital to our success,” said Danielle Bahr, marketing director for SHU Dining. “It’s talking to our students every day, ensuring they know we are here for them and listening that really drives what we do and how we respond. We take every comment seriously and work collaboratively to resolve concerns and use suggestions to continually enhance



Dan Passapera, Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart University’s Chapel is pictured on a fall afternoon. Sacred Heart University was recently named a top college by the Princeton Review.

the dining experience on campus.”

Sacred Heart was also ranked 11 for Best College Theatre. Any student is allowed to participate in the Theater Arts Program (TAP) regardless of major and class year. Students can perform onstage as early as their freshman year.

Each year, TAP produces two main stage shows in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts and four smaller productions in the Little Theatre. SHU’s theatre arts facilities prepare students to apply the skills that they learn in the classroom and take it with them on stage or in any field of theatre.

“We give them the extra edge so they can go out

and think, ‘Wait a minute, this is like Sacred Heart, except it’s just more people,’” said Jerry Goehring, executive director of Performing Arts. “We give them a taste of what the real world is like right here at Sacred Heart University.”

“I really enjoy attending productions. You can see their hard work and dedication from the audience,” said junior Madelyn Jones.

Goehring said that the recognition “validated everything that they’re doing and what they believe in.”

## Trump threatens to take over DC police again over immigration enforcement

BY **GARY FIELDS AND CHRIS MEGERIAN** AP NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday threatened to once again federalize Washington, D.C.’s police force, in what he suggested could come in response to the city’s mayor’s stated refusal to cooperate with immigration enforcement.

Trump’s emergency order, which took over the local police force, expired last week. Hours before it elapsed, Mayor Muriel Bowser said that the city would not cooperate with Immigration, Customs and Enforcement in their continued operations in the nation’s capital. Earlier, she had said the city would work with other federal agencies even after the emergency order expired.

In an early-morning social media post on Monday, Trump said his intervention into the D.C.’s law enforcement had improved crime in the city, a claim Bowser has backed up, though, data shows crime was already falling in Washington before the law enforcement surge began. The tragedy has sparked national reflection on the importance of engaging with differing viewpoints amid political divisions.

Trump said crime could increase if cooperation on immigration enforcement ceases, in which case he would “call a National Emergency, and Federalize, if necessary!!!”

The mayor’s office declined to comment.

The White House did not say if Trump would follow through on his threat. It also did not say whether the president had considered trying to extend his previous order that placed the city’s police force under federal control. The order was not renewed by Congress and lapsed September 11.

Bowser issued an order September 2, setting up how the local police will continue working with the federal law enforcement agencies that continue working in the city. The order listed a number of federal agencies she anticipated working cooperatively with the MPD, the local police, including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Secret Service, among other agencies. Absent was ICE.

Speaking September 10 at a ribbon cutting ceremony, the mayor said “immigration enforcement is not what MPD does,” referring to the local police department. She added that when the emergency order ends, “it won’t be what MPD does in the future.”

Data analyzed by the Associated Press during the emergency period showed that more than 40% of arrests were immigration related, highlighting that the Trump administration continued to advance its hardline immigration policies as it sought to fight crime in the nation’s capital.

Federal law enforcement agencies and National Guard units from D.C. and seven states are continuing operations

See Trump Threatens to Take Over DC Police Again Over Immigration Enforcement in the city. *continued on pg. 2*

# News

## Campus Reactions on the Death of Charlie Kirk

BY DANIELLE GRILLO  
Staff Writer

On Sept. 10, Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot and killed at Utah Valley University. Tyler Robinson, a 22-year-old Utah resident, was arrested on Sept. 12 as the prime suspect in Kirk's targeted attack and remains in custody pending formal charges.

Kirk was the chief executive and co-founder of Turning Point USA, a nonprofit conservative advocacy group that, since its launch in 2012, has grown into the nation's largest conservative youth movement. The tragedy occurred at an event held at the university marking the beginning of his "American Comeback Tour," with 14 other campus events initially planned for the upcoming months.

"What happened to Charlie Kirk is the manifestation of the polarized and intolerant character of today's politics," said Dr. Gary Rose, professor and scholar in residence of Political Science and Global Affairs at Sacred Heart University. "Rather than debating issues in a civil and respectful fashion, there are people who feel that violence is the way to make their point known."

According to the Associated Press, Jeff Long, Chief of the Utah Valley University Police Department, stated that approximately 3,000 people attended the event, and six officers were working in coordination with Kirk's personal security team. In addition to the event being held outdoors on campus, students reported that they saw no metal detectors and had no bag checks.

"Public safety measures are always changing and adapting. We are already looking at this tragedy, evaluating our procedures and seeing whether there are things we can learn," said Gary MacNamara, executive director of Public Safety and Governmental Affairs at SHU.

Following the single gunshot, the university immediately went into a campus-wide lockdown. Students subsequently fled the scene in a panic or were escorted off campus, as many remained in shock after witnessing the event.

"The death of Charlie Kirk, in my opinion, will probably make people more hesitant to engage with political discussions on campus," said junior Juliana Morello, president of College Democrats.

Others emphasized the need to keep political conversations open and ongoing, as it is essential for fostering dialogue, understanding different perspectives, and promoting engagement.

"Fear should not suspend political discourse. If we are apprehended by fear, we stop learning," said alumna Julia Gambardella, former vice president of the Women's Political Engagement Commission (WPEC).

Ahead of the event, an online petition urging university administrators to bar Kirk from appearing received nearly 1,000 signatures. However, the university responded, citing First Amendment rights in support of his visit.

"Charlie's death was so much more impactful than people realize," said senior Taeva Parent, president of College Republicans. "It's not just the death of a father, a husband and a political figure, but also an attack on



Charlie Kirk, Turning Point USA founder, interacts with the crowd at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, before speaking at the event, Sept. 10, 2025.

freedom of speech."

"Free speech is not only a constitutional right, but it allows for exposure to new perspectives, a really important aspect in understanding the world around us," said senior Gracie Patriarco, executive president of Student Government.

President Trump broke the news to the nation that Kirk had died, via social media, calling him "great, and even legendary," and urging the public to pray for him and his family. According to the Associated Press, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox called the incident a "political assassination," stating, "it's a tragic day for our nation."

Leaders from both parties also condemned the violent incident on social media, stressing that political disputes must never be met with violence. Former President Barack Obama called it "despicable" and said it has "no place in our democracy," while former President George W. Bush reminded Americans that "members of other political parties are not our enemies; they are our fellow citizens."

The tragedy has sparked national reflection on the importance of engaging with differing viewpoints amid political divisions.

"I believe that every American is entitled to their opinion and that they should be able to freely speak it," said senior Sofia Magliocco, vice president of College Republicans.

"This is the real world, and in no world are we all going to agree. Exposing yourself to different viewpoints and trying to find a middle ground is the only way we will move in the right direction," said Gambardella.

Ultimately, Kirk's death has led many to confront the stakes of political discourse and the consequences when debate turns dangerous.

"Respectful dialogue, compromise, and debate are how a democracy should function," said Rose. "Once that ends, then we are done as a free society."

*The Associated Press contributed to this article.*

## Trump threatens to take over DC police again over immigration enforcement

BY GARY FIELDS AND CHRIS MEGERIAN AP NEWSROOM

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Trump's threat comes the same day that the House Committee on Rules is taking up several D.C.-related bills, including a proposal to lower the age at which juveniles can be tried to 14 from 16 for certain serious crimes, as well as restricting the district's authority over its sentencing laws and its role in selecting judges.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a similar hearing last week.

The district is granted autonomy through a limited home rule agreement passed in 1973, but federal political leaders retain significant control over local affairs, including the approval of the budget and laws passed by the D.C. council.



Officers from Metropolitan Police Department, FBI, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) at Cardozo High School in the Columbia Heights Neighborhood in Washington, Sept. 12, 2025.

# Features

## Student Ambassadors Prepare for Tour Season

BY MACKENZIE FLYNN  
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart University (SHU) offers many events to introduce prospective students to the SHU community, including tours, open houses, and information sessions. With the arrival of fall, the Undergraduate Admissions Office and its student ambassadors prepare for their busiest season.

“We have about 10,000 prospective students on campus between the spring and fall semesters, and a large portion of that is in the fall, due to open houses,” said Mia Coluccio, Senior Associate Director of Campus Experience.

With such high attendance, the Undergraduate Admissions staff prepare student ambassadors months in advance. The recruitment process for student ambassadors starts in February, followed by a five-day onboarding over the summer.

“We do tour practices, run through scripts, and get to know the other ambassadors,” said Sophia Leak, Senior Admissions Assistant.

About 50 new ambassadors are selected each year to be a welcoming guide to incoming students. Once chosen, ambassadors take on many important roles.

According to Senior Student Ambassador Victoria Grillo, ambassadors are assigned roles the night before open houses during a preparation dinner. Roles can range from specific resident hall tours to checking people in or providing information and guiding families to locations.

Jackson Tse, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, said his positive experience as a prospective student years ago has made him want to replicate that feeling for today’s students.

Coluccio explains the sense of pride she experiences when she sees previous students that she guided on a tour commit to Sacred Heart or return for an open house.

“It is such a rewarding position, and so much more than just a work study,” said Coluccio.

“I love open houses. It’s so great to see returners,” said Leak, when asked about her favorite part of the job.

Right now, amid the tour season, Coluccio and Tse oversee the recruitment calendar and work closely with various departments to ensure tour season runs smoothly.

To name just a few of their undertakings, office staff confirm availability of spaces like lecture halls and event venues, arrange registration systems and signage, and monitor inquiries.

Meanwhile, student ambassadors review and practice scripts, making sure they know all the proper information for inquiring families.

“We speak to every facility around the SHU campus to get up-to-date information,”



Caroline Davino, Staff Writer and Photographer

Sacred Heart University’s Curtis Hall is located on Main Campus. At Curtis Hall, find the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Financial Assistance.

said Leak.

Not only are the ambassadors preparing physically, but they are also preparing mentally by working on public speaking, time management, hospitality, and fact retention.

Even after the tours and open houses are concluded, the job still isn’t done. Feedback is gathered from students and families to make future events even better, and attendance is tracked to adjust schedules and meet demand.

Although there are many tasks and responsibilities to take on, student ambassadors and office staff report positive feedback.

“I don’t really see it as work. It’s just so rewarding, seeing how my tour could affect their college decision and possibly lead them to SHU,” said Grillo.

“You get to see students excited about their future,” said Leak.

“The ambassadors all become very bonded to one another,” said Coluccio.

Anyone interested in becoming a student ambassador can look out for applications coming out in the spring semester and check out the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on the Sacred Heart website.

## Oh, the Places You’ll Go!

BY NICHOLAS MAISANO  
Staff Writer

Are you interested in travelling around the world while learning? Study Abroad programs at Sacred Heart University (SHU) give students a unique opportunity to be immersed in culture from different parts of the world, while staying on track with their academics.

Students that study abroad can stay on track of their education while also experiencing different cultures and ways of life that they may not experience anywhere else.

“Study abroad is a highly transformative experience with many academic, professional and personal benefits,” said Renee Pang, Director of the Office of Global Education. “Students broaden their networks and perspectives while making progress in their overall academic plan.”

According to the SHU website, students have more than 60 programs to choose from in over 30 countries, and credits from courses taken abroad can transfer to their academic transcript.

“Students can choose from a variety of programs, which include countries like SHU Dingle in Ireland, John Cabot University in Italy, Hellenic American University in Greece, or faculty-led programs in France,” said Amy Jennings, Study Abroad Coordinator.

Pang also said that these programs include a variety of learning experiences.

“Many of our programs include classes with experiential learning components like internships, clinical experiences and historical/cultural site visits,” said Pang.

During the winter, spring, and summer terms of 2025, nearly 450 students studied abroad.

“Currently, there are 42 students studying abroad in Dingle,” said Jennings. “About half are visiting students from other universities, which can include Villanova University, University of Scranton, University of Southern New Hampshire, and others depending on the time frame.”

Senior Andrea Haggerty, a nursing major, studied abroad in Dingle, Ireland during the spring semester of her sophomore year. Haggerty said the coursework was very comparable to her coursework taken at the SHU campus in Fairfield.

“The classes were relatively similar to SHU. I found the professors to be very engaging, interactive and personable,” said Haggerty.

Haggerty also said she had the opportunity to go on different excursions, and really feel immersed in Irish culture.

“There are a lot of experiences like a sea safari, multiple hikes, and over 50 pubs. A lot of pubs have live music and even an Irish dancer at night. In Dingle, everywhere is walkable,” said Haggerty.

In addition to the academic opportunities, students are able to explore the country they are studying in. Senior and Global Ambassador Olivia McManus went to Dingle for the spring semester during her sophomore year.

“Students can travel around Ireland and the rest of Europe on the weekends. The SHU in Dingle Program will take students to Galway, Ireland and to London for a weekend,” said McManus.

Scholarships a student earns at SHU can also carry over to cover tuition abroad. Certain scholarships are available through the college of study a student is in.

“The Welch Waiver is available for students in the Welch College of Business & Technology, which is about \$1,950 that would apply and can be used for short-term programs or full semester programs taught by SHU faculty members. Honors program students also get a \$500 scholarship to study abroad,” said Jennings.

It is never too early to think about studying abroad. Students that are interested in studying abroad need to submit an online application.

More information about Study Abroad programs including program details, deadlines, and events can be found by visiting sacredheart.edu or by following @shuglobal on Instagram.



Dan Passapera, Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart students walking at Slea Head along the coast of Dingle, Ireland.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS ON  
CAMPUS**

**WEDNESDAY 9/17:  
HACK THE  
CONSTITUTION  
MARTIRE CENTER LORIS  
FORUM FROM 5-7 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY 9/17:  
NASHVILLE NIGHT  
WITH S.E.T.  
FROM 5-8 P.M. AT 63'S  
PATIO LAWN**

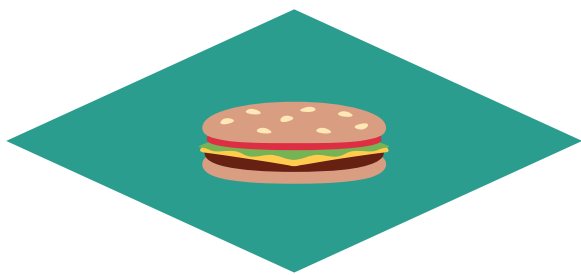
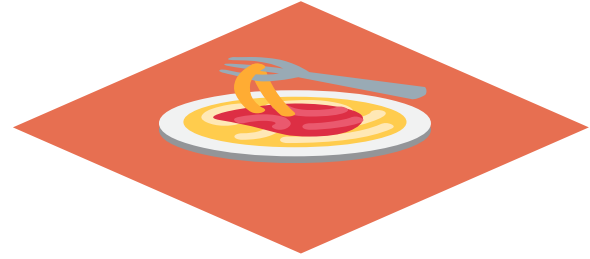
**SATURDAY 9/20:  
RUGBY VS  
DARTMOUTH  
11 A.M. AT PARK  
AVENUE FIELD**

# CampusLife

## Student Voted: Top 5 Off-Campus Dining Spots

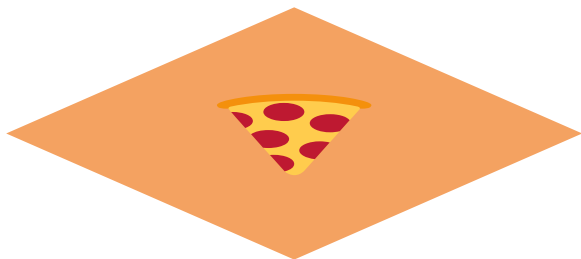
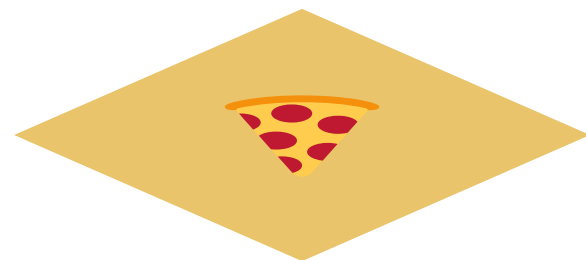
BY THEO WEISMAN  
Campus Life Editor

**1. Romanacci**



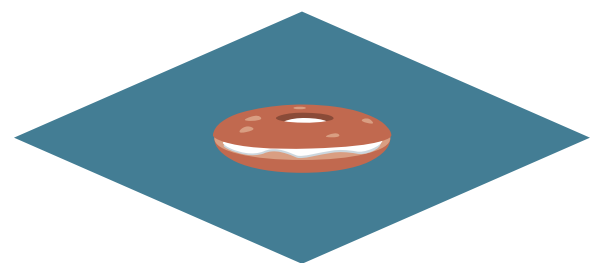
**2. Sitting Duck Tavern**

**3. Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana**



**4. Colony Grill**

**5. Bagel King of Bridgeport**



[shuspectrum.com](http://shuspectrum.com)

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

**Counseling Center**

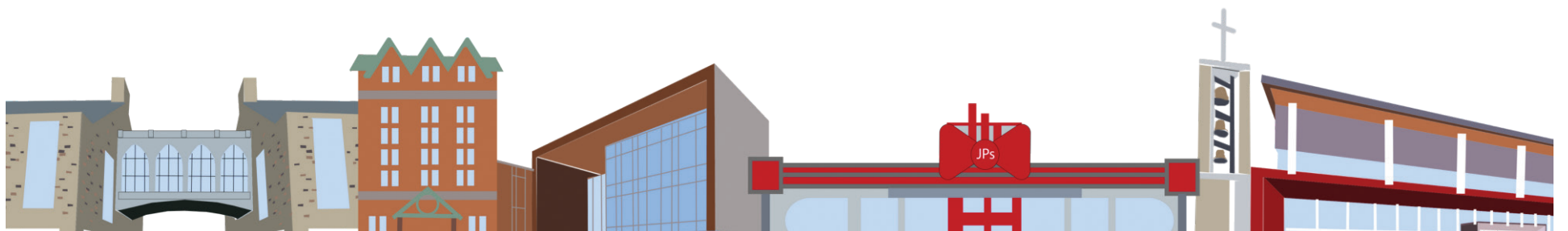
Open 9-5 on Weekdays  
Walk-Ins Welcome or Make an Appointment: 203-371-7955

**s.w.e.e.t. Peers**

Follow the s.w.e.e.t. Peers on Instagram @shu\_sweetpeered and stay updated on the programs run by their team

**Public Safety**

Routine Calls: 203-371-7995  
Emergency Calls: 203-371-7911 or 203-374-9352



Interested in contributing to Campus Life? Contact us at [spectrum@sacredheart.edu](mailto:spectrum@sacredheart.edu)

# CampusLife

## 20 Back to School Songs to Kick Off the Semester

BY WILL MORGAN  
Audrey's Corner Editor

1. Sally, When The Wine Runs Out-Role Model
2. Manchild-Sabrina Carpenter
3. The Subway-Chappell Roan
4. Tough Luck-Laufey
5. MUTT-Leon Thomas
6. What Was That-Lorde
7. Illegal-PinkPantheress
8. Sugar On My Tongue-Tyler, The Creator
9. Show Me Love-WizTheMC, bees & honey, Tyla
10. NUEVAYol-Bad Bunny
11. Unwritten-Natasha Beddingfield
12. She's Leaving Home-The Beatles
13. august-Taylor Swift
14. Elderberry Wine-Wednesday
15. September Gurls-Big Star
16. Hold My Life-Replacements
17. Going Away To College-Blink 182
18. Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)-Billy Joel
19. Move On Up-Curtis Mayfield
20. September-Earth Wind & Fire



Kansas Anymore (The Longest Goodbye) Album Cover



The Subway Album Cover

**Do you have an upcoming event  
or new business?**

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HERE**

# Arts & Entertainment

## From Rehearsals to Reels: “Dancing With the Stars” is Back

BY CHLOE KEBBE  
Staff Writer

ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars” has released its celebrity and pro pairing on Sept. 3 on “Good Morning America”. This has already started a stir about season 34, which premiered on Tuesday, Sept. 16.

This is an influencer filled season with the celebrities including Alix Earle, Whitney Leavitt and Jen Affleck. This has drawn more young adults watching the show and following along with their favorite celebrities on social media.

“Now more than ever, ‘Dancing with the Stars’ just lives online, by the shows own social media,” says Dr. Lori Bindig Yousman, a professor in the School of Communication, Media & the Arts and associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Arts & Sciences.

In addition, she said that the show’s social media combines with the cast members’ reach to draw in audiences and create buzz.

“Dancing with the Stars” casting director, Deena Katz, has been expanding the show’s reach in recent seasons by featuring relevant celebrities. Choosing celebrities like Corey Feldman, famous for “The Goonies,” Danielle Fishel, known for her role as Topanga on “Boy Meets World,” and with professional athletes cast a wide net for an audience.

“I am excited to see the span of talent this year and people I know like Alix Earle, Jen, Whitney, and the singer from 5th Harmony,” said sophomore Kendall Souza.

This year, “Dancing With the Stars” is switching up its pro dancers with Sasha Farber’s leave of absence after four seasons. The show is welcoming back three-time winning Mark Ballas and new member Jan Ravnik. Ravnik is most known for being a dancer on Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.

“That was a deliberate strategy to shake things up,” said Yousman. “You can see the videos about people who were past pros creating drama, it’s very hard to know if that’s legitimate or if that’s all just part of the marketing cycle of the show to get controversy out there so people want to tune in and watch.”

This media attention is working, as last season’s finale brought in six million viewers, a 16% increase from the season before. Last season also had a lot of engagement as Disney stated the seasons finale broke the fan voting record with 32 million votes for the finalists.

Being its 34th season, “Dancing with the Stars” has continued to catch viewers’ eyes and has become a bucket list activity for celebrities.

“I’ve always been a fan of ‘Dancing with the Stars,’” said Earle, in an interview with E! News.

Earle and Robert Irwin were revealed to be competing on the show before the



Alexa Piscino, Staff Writer and Photographer

Sacred Heart University student rewatching old seasons in preparation for the new one.

pro pairing on “Good Morning America.” In an interview with E! news, Earle said, “I’m ready to challenge myself, I think it’s gonna be a lot of fun.”

Irwin said to E! news, “I am over the moon to be joining ‘Dancing with the Stars’ this season.”

The excitement around the show has allowed more relevant celebrities to be a part of this season’s cast. In the past, celebrities may have included athletes, reality TV stars, celebrity relatives, and individuals from the “Bachelor” franchise. This season, Earle is one of the first social media influencers to take the ballroom.

“She’s a great example of an influencer as she’s a really authentic person,” said sophomore Alexandra Vorlicek. “I think it will be fun to watch her improve.”

The pro and celebrity pairing being revealed on “Good Morning America” is a tradition used to create excitement for the new season of the show. “Dancing with the Stars” fans and the celebrities’ followers alike are already looking forward to the new season.

“I’m really excited for the new season, not only for the competitors on it but to see what’s in store for the dancers,” said Souza.

## Emmys host Nate Bargatze pokes fun at the TV industry and fails with gag to keep speeches short

BY ITZEL LUNA  
AP Newsroom



Chris Pizzello, AP Photo

Host Nate Bargatze speaks during the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nate Bargatze, the host of this year’s Emmy Awards, kicked off the ceremony Sunday with a string of jokes poking fun at the television industry.

The show opened with a sketch where “Saturday Night Live” stars Mikey Day, Bowen Yang and James Austin Johnson joined Bargatze, who played television inventor Philo T. Farnsworth. The audience was warm to Bargatze’s jokes as he, while playing Farnsworth, opined on what the future of TV will be like.

“We create a world where the finest artists craft stories of staggering beauty that millions of people will watch on their phones while they’re sitting on the toilet,” Bargatze said.

Bargatze, a 46-year-old stand-up comic from Tennessee known for his friendly style, was not a typical host. The gig left some wondering how Bargatze would approach it.

Bargatze joked that 77th award ceremony is “not a big one, like 75 or 80, but it’s the one that gave me.”

“A lot of people are wondering, like, why am I hosting?” Bargatze said. “I’m a stand up comedian. I’ve not had a ton of success in Hollywood, but let me tell you, boy,

is it going good everywhere else.”

During the opening sketch — which played out much like Bargatze’s popular “SNL” skits where he played George Washington, Bargatze-as-Farnsworth laid out what the future of television would look like. The Learning Channel, he joked, would be where “hoarders, people who eat couch cushions, Dr. Pimple Popper,” would dominate.

Bargatze went on to mention that there would be Black Entertainment Television. When asked if there will be a network for white people, he replied, “Why, CBS of course.”

Bargatze said streaming will be “a new way for companies to lose money.” Streaming services, he said, will create their own stars, who will be “real-life murderers, mostly.”

Yang’s character assumed “the viewer pays the fee, so there are no ads,” to which Bargatze joked, “if only it were that simple.” When Johnson said that is unfair to the consumer, prompting Bargatze chastised him that, “We don’t say that out loud. Get out. Go sit in the back with the people who are probably going to lose anyway.”

The Emmys don’t have a routine host, unlike other major awards shows like the Oscars, which has Conan O’Brien returning in 2026 and Nikki Glaser returning to host the Golden Globes. The last four Emmys have been hosted by Eugene and Dan Levy, Anthony Anderson, Kenan Thompson and Cedric the Entertainer.

“My parts will be dumb and silly,” Bargatze told “Entertainment Tonight” on the red carpet ahead of the show.

Bargatze, who wrapped up three shows in Denver on Saturday and Friday ahead of the award ceremony, has emerged as one of the most popular stand-up comedians today. He sold more than 1.2 million tickets in 2024, according to Pollstar and has released three Netflix specials, including December’s “Your Friend, Nate Bargatze” and has hosted “Saturday Night Live.”

Bargatze also dreamed up a creative way to ensure winners keep their acceptance speeches under the 45 second limit. The comedian pledged to donate \$100,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs. He said he would deduct \$1,000 for every second a winner goes over the allotted time and will add the same amount for every second under.

Seth Rogen’s acceptance speech for the first category announced, lead actor in a comedy series, was under the allotted time, which bumped the donation to \$106,000.

“Don’t go crazy though cause like, I am paying for this,” Bargatze said.

By the end of the show’s first hour, the total had plummeted to \$74,000. By the time the show was nearly over, with only a couple of awards left, the tally was negative-\$60,000.

After “The Pitt” was announced as the night’s drama winner, Bargatze had one last announcement about the donations: CBS was donating \$100,000 to the organization and he would give it \$250,000.

# Sports

## Women's Field Hockey is Working Overtime

BY NICHOLAS DILAPI  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 5, the Sacred Heart University field hockey team scored a walk off goal in overtime against Georgetown University to improve their season record to 1-2.

Coach Sydney Van Der Merwe has been the head coach for the team since 2016. When Georgetown scored with less than 15 minutes left in the game to take a 2-1 lead, Van Der Merwe motivated his players to not give up.

"Keep your heads up, keep fighting, keep pushing, keep going," said Van Der Merwe.

First-year goalie Ruby Butler had two saves in overtime to keep the Pioneers alive.

"There was never a doubt that Ruby wouldn't let up a goal," said senior captain and forward Ines Braithwaite.

Braithwaite had an assist on a crucial play, when junior Blaire Sparks had her second score of the day, which tied the game with five seconds left in regulation.

Senior captain Jaden Ray also shouts out Butler for her performance.

"Having the saves from Ruby, we knew everyone was doing their jobs," said Ray.

After the saves from Butler, Van Der Merwe told his players to be patient.

"Let the ball play, keep position, move the ball. If the opportunity comes, then take the opportunity and finish the game," said Van Der Merwe.

Sophomore Celia Benson, a midfielder for the Pioneers, had the game winning shot in overtime. Benson had the opportunity to score moments before, but was intercepted. Her teammate got the rebound, and immediately gave it right back to Benson to win the game.

"I was given a second chance to put it back in the net," said Benson.

On Sunday, Sept. 7, the team suffered a tough 3-1 loss against Towson University, lowering their record to 1-3.

The Pioneers are trying to build off of the win against Georgetown, despite the loss to Towson.

"We're taking the positives out of the game and focusing on what we do best, but also not neglecting the stuff we need to work on," said Braithwaite. "We need energy in practice."

Van Der Mwe's message to his players this week is clear.

"Learn from our mistakes, learn how to execute," said Van Der Merwe. "What happened against Towson is behind us and we have to learn how to work together as a unit."

Benson has no doubt that the team can turn things around the rest of the season.

"The vibes have felt different, there's a collective desire to win," said Benson. "I don't think our record this far in the season is holding us down or deterring us."



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.

Braithwaite believes that having these issues earlier in the season is better so that the team can work on their issues sooner than later.

She also feels that the team's camaraderie and closeness with each other will help them overcome the rough start.

"We trust each other, on and off the field, so we have really good relationships and play well together," said Braithwaite.

Many of the players are also fiercely committed to winning a championship this season.

"This season is my senior season, and I'm not leaving without another ring. If we're all really hungry, it could lead to positives," said Ray.

Van Der Merwe has confidence that the team will improve from this start.

"They push themselves at practices and on gameday they push themselves to win," said Van Der Merwe. "They are in a good place going forward."

The Pioneers defeated the University of New Haven Chargers on Friday, Sept. 12, in an away matchup.

On Friday, Sept. 19, the Pioneers travel to University of California, Davis for a 7:30 p.m. matchup.

*Athletic Communications contributed to this article.*

## Three Pioneers Earn MAAC Weekly Honors

BY ANDREW RABER  
Staff Writer

On Sept. 2, three Sacred Heart University Women's volleyball players were honored with weekly Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) awards. Freshman Ryleigh Short earned Rookie of the Week, redshirt sophomore Ava Roodbol earned Setter of the Week and sophomore Miliani Villarreal earned Libero of the Week.

These awards came after the team's three game weekend on Aug. 29-30, in which they played Gardner-Webb, UNC Greensboro and Queens (NC).

Short averaged 3.09 kills per set, and 3.09 digs per set. While some freshmen take a couple of matches to adjust to the college game, Short wasted no time, notching 20 kills and 22 digs in her first collegiate match.

"She's just scratching the surface. She is so skilled. She has a legitimate Division I arm that is a real problem for other teams," said head coach Rob Machan.

Even with the stellar performance in her first match, her mentality is to continue improving.

"You just keep working because there's always room for improvement. If the awards come, then they come, but you always want to be getting better and pushing yourself and your teammates," said Short.

Roodbol took home Setter of the Week, with 10.27 assists per set, and assisted on 113 of the team's 140 kills, 55 of which came in the first match against Gardner-Webb. Even though she is a transfer and is in her first full season as a Pioneer, her presence has been felt immediately.

"Her leadership skills are off the charts, and she's just getting more and more comfortable. In the weight room, she's out-working anybody, nobody works harder. She is the first there, and the last one to leave. She's just one of those people who is a natural leader," said Machan.

The leadership she displays is reflected in her attitude towards awards and appreciation for her teammates.

"It's a team award, we always talk about that. Us getting those awards are the team, because I wouldn't get those awards if it wasn't for how amazing my teammates are," said Roodbol.

Villarreal took home her ninth career Libero of the Week award. She won the award eight times her freshman year, winning it four consecutive weeks, two times.

"She's one of the best right now. I think she is the best libero in the conference.



Contributed by Josh Smith, Athletic Communications

Ava Roodbol readies her stance, preparing to serve during the match.

In my opinion, she was clearly the best libero because she understands the position. She doesn't only do the flashy things, she does the things that are necessary all the time," said Machan.

"Last season was last season, and this season my goal is to get better. I'm not focusing on these awards, I'm just focusing on the team first," said Villarreal.

Although the team has started off 1-5, there is certainly a positive outlook on the rest of their season, with Machan expressing his belief in his team.

"This is one of our most balanced and complete teams we've had. We can attack you from all the pins, our middles are physical, our setting is good, barrel play is good. We have a lot of new players on this team that are good but haven't played together, and they're just figuring it out," said Machan.

The team traveled to the Lehigh Invitational on Sept. 12-13, where they went 1-2. The team lost 3-1 against Lehigh University and 3-0 against Valparaiso University, but defeated the New Jersey Institute of Technology 3-1.

They are set to play Brown University at the UConn Invitational on Saturday Sept. 20 at 1 p.m.

*Athletic Communications contributed to this article.*

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## To Bear Witness: A Photojournalist's 9/11 Story

BY PROF. RICHARD FALCO

When I first heard about the attack, I was out of the city. My wife called me from work—her voice urgent. “Do you know? Do you know?” she asked. I rushed to the television and saw that one of the towers was on fire. A short while later, the second tower was hit. At that moment, I knew this wasn't an accident. A massive explosion followed, and it was clear the world would be changed forever.



Photos contributed by Prof. Richard Falco

My goal at that point was to get downtown and see what was going on, get to what became known as Ground Zero. What I immediately discovered, as well as the rest of the press, was that we were going to be denied access to the site. Mayor Giuliani had decided no one was going to get in. He was arresting the press, confiscating cameras, confiscating equipment and press passes. Several of my colleagues ended up in jail for several days. This, to me, was a great assault on freedom of the press, particularly to an issue and an event of such magnitude and importance.

That night, I took advantage of the darkness and chaos and snuck in. I wanted to see the actual destruction and what activities were going on. This gave me a great sense of where I needed to be, particularly when the light came back up and I could photograph again. As a photojournalist, I felt an overwhelming need to see and document what was happening.

For me, photographs serve as documents. They bear witness to the times. And at this moment in our history where the news is vilified, when fake news is spreading and promoted, and when people are desperately seeking information but struggling to discern what is real and what is not, the role of journalism has never been more vital. Without truthful, factual reporting, how can we make informed decisions? How can we participate meaningfully in our democracy, protect our communities, or hold those in power accountable? In a world flooded with noise, facts are not just important — they are essential. In many respects, a photograph serves as a catalyst. It provides the vehicle which starts the action which leads to the future. That's the power of visual storytelling.

I spent the next five days photographing throughout the area, but by Friday, I was just too exhausted I needed to get out. I decided to leave and go back home. I returned to the city the next day. At that point, I had heard that the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine was doing a special service, and I decided to go up and see what was going on. When I arrived at the cathedral, people were very, very quiet. They were staying to themselves. The mood was extremely somber. Everyone was very much lost in their own thoughts. There was a malaise that fell upon everything. You could feel it. It was something you could touch.



When the ceremony started, the altar boys began walking down the aisle with incense and the smoke coming up from the burners. In that moment I froze. I thought, “Smoke. Smoke. No more smoke.” We had been living in smoke for the last couple of days. At the end of a day, my clothes were covered in ash. The wretched smell of dust and smoke was embedded in my nostrils. It just reinforced the terrible feelings that I found and felt when I was at Ground Zero. But at that very same moment, the choir burst into sound. Their voices seemed to rise above the smoke and into the vault of the cathedral. In an instant, something shifted. I could see it in the eyes of the people around me. I felt it myself. It gave us strength. We realized that within this moment of tragedy, this moment of negation and despair, that there is a way forward. I think it gave a lot of the people a sense of hope. It created a small light at a dark time.

This was never just another assignment for me. As a New Yorker, it was deeply personal. I had to document it. I've always believed that photography and journalism are the first drafts of history.

I did not want to simply photograph the horror of this event. My goal is to show that no matter how difficult the task or how evil the moment, there are also individuals who will rush toward adversity and reach out their hearts and hands to help others rise above the ashes.



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