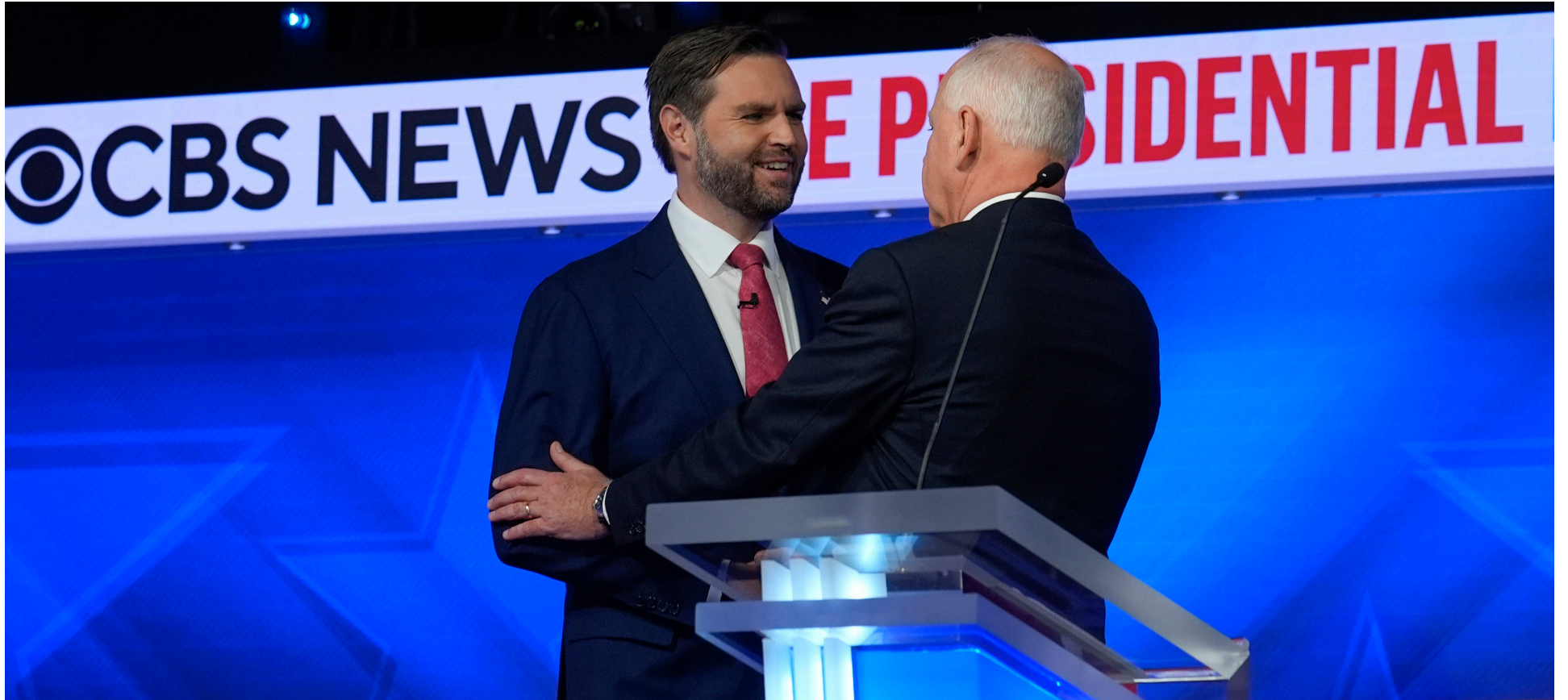


Vice Presidential Candidates Debate Ahead of Nov. Election



Matt Rouke. AP News

Republican VP candidate JD Vance (left) and Democratic VP candidate Tim Walz (right) at the Vice Presidential debate on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

BY ALANNA PARILLO
Staff Writer

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Gov. Tim Walz and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sen. JD Vance met publicly on Oct. 1 at 9 p.m. in New York, five weeks before the 2024 Presidential Election. The candidates engaged in a policy-focused debate that covered a variety of issues.

"I was expecting a lively policy-oriented debate that would demonstrate the current political divide between the two parties," said Dr. Gary Rose, Scholar in Residence and political science professor at Sacred Heart University.

Rose is also an author of many books discussing political topics, including "New England Local Government: The Case of Connecticut."

"My expectations were fulfilled, and I was

especially impressed with the succinct and substantive performance of Sen. Vance. He was more prepared for this debate and more confident compared to Gov. Walz," said Rose.

Sophomore Jenna Neglia noted that throughout the debate, Vance and Walz were civilized with one another and focused their criticism on their running mates rather than one another.

"I thought the debate was congenial. Both candidates were respectful towards one another," said Neglia.

Both candidates made promises regarding foreign policy following Iran's missile attack on Israel on Oct. 1. Walz promised "steady leadership" under Vice President Kamala Harris while Vance pledged "peace through strength" and "effective deterrence" against Iran under former President Donald Trump.

The candidates also discussed the topic of abortion. Vance argued abortion laws should be left to the states, whereas Walz argued that a woman's "basic right" should not be determined by "geography."

Walz personalized the issue of abortion by mentioning Amber Thurman, a woman who had to wait over 20 hours to receive a dilation and curettage medical treatment to clear out the remaining tissue left from taking abortion pills. Thurman developed sepsis and died.

Vance agreed with Walz by saying that Thurman should still be alive.

Vance then referred to the Republican Party's proposals such as tax credits, expanded child care

.....
See VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
continued on pg. 2

SHU-Powered Poll Reveals Youth Climate Concerns

BY GEORGE TRIEBENBACHER
Assistant News Editor

Sacred Heart University's Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice (ISSJ) partnered with GreatBlue Research to produce a poll titled "United States Youth on Sustainability, Social Justice, Climate Change and the Role of Higher Education."

This poll gathered over 2,000 responses nationally from youth aged 15-29 between July 29 and Aug. 5. The results reveal details about the percentage of "eco-anxiety" experienced in the U.S.

The results showed that over half of the U.S. youth population polled are suffering from "eco-anxiety," which refers to the "psychological distress" impacting day-to-day life that is caused by one's concern for climate change.

Michael Vigeant, CEO of Greatblue Research, received a Bachelor of Science in communications from SHU, according to the GreatBlue website. SHU also awarded Vigeant with the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Leadership Award in September 2016.

According to the university website, the ISSJ originated as a section of the Laudato Si' Initiative, which SHU created in 2022.

Inspired by Pope Francis, the Laudato Si' Initiative "commits to nurturing an 'ecological conversation' among all community members."

According to the survey, 90% of the participants responded that they believe climate change is currently taking place. 61% of those interviewees believe that climate change is caused by human activity while 29% cited natural environmental changes as the reason.

"In the 1980s, we hadn't started to see these repeated visible impacts of the rapidly changing climate at that point. So I think

.....
See SHU-POWERED POLL REVEALS YOUTH CLIMATE CONCERNS
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News

Vice Presidential Debate

BY ALANNA PARILLO
Staff Writer

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aid and a more even economy, which would economically help women and children and thus eliminate the need to terminate pregnancies. Walz counters this by saying that such policies can still be pursued while allowing women to make their own decisions regarding abortion.

The candidates also discussed the topic of climate change. Vance argued that moving manufacturing to the United States because of its title as the world's cleanest energy economy is the best way to fight this threat; Walz referred to President Joe Biden's renewable energy investments and record levels of oil and natural gas production in his argument.

Regarding immigration, both candidates agreed that the number of illegal immigrants was an issue in the U.S. Vance said that in Harris's time as VP, she reversed the immigration policies that Trump had enforced when he was in office. Walz argued that Trump killed a bipartisan Senate deal that would tighten border security and improve the processing system for immigrants.

When asked about the events that occurred on Jan. 6, 2021 and if he believed that Trump lost the election, Vance redirected the question by saying that a big threat to democracy was that Democrats try to censor people on social media.

"Both campaigns have reason to be happy: most people will see what they want to see and it's unlikely to change anything about the race," said Dr. Steven Michels, the Department Chair of Political Science and Global Affairs at SHU.

"The Harris campaign had some momentum going into this debate, but it's still a tie," Michels said.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

SHU-Powered Poll Reveals Youth Climate Concerns

BY GEORGE TRIEBENBACHER
Assistant News Editor

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

people were complacent in those days and are still somewhat complacent. However, that is beginning to change," said Dr. Kirk Bartholomew, ISSJ Development Director.

The survey split the U.S. into four regions: northeast, midwest, south and west. Results of questions related to eco-anxiety levels, individual responsibility to climate change and steps people would be willing to take in their own lives related to climate change showed similar results amongst the four regions.

"I thought there would be a difference [in results amongst regions]," said Brooke Suter, a specialist who worked alongside Bartholomew on this survey.

In regards to motivation to act on climate change, 44% of survey participants said that concern for their future motivates them to act, 43% cited personal beliefs, 41% cited a desire to protect the environment and 29% cited information from media and the news.

"I'm worried about a lot of things, but to what degree is this concern actually impacting your life? Not just a worry, but psychological distress," said Suter.

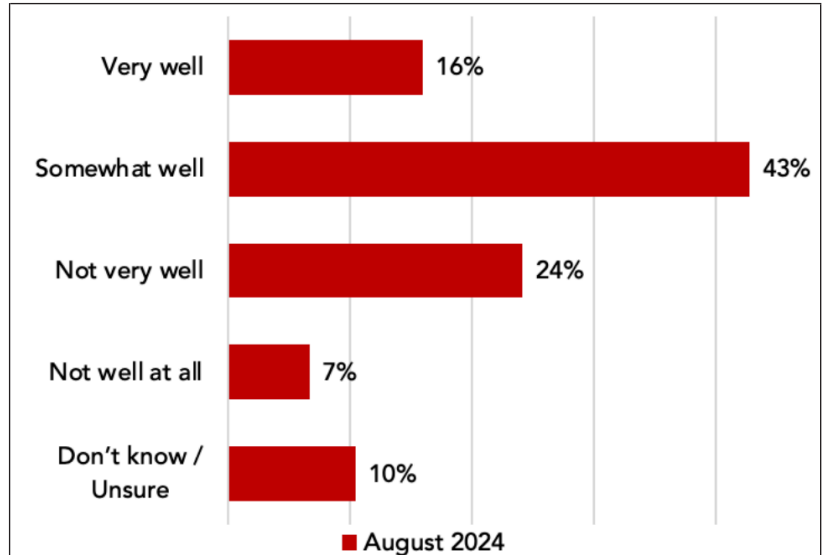
According to the responses, the largest barrier that prevents people from fighting climate change is the lack of financial resources, which was answered by 39% of respondents.

14% of respondents indicated that they believe that climate change, sustainability and social justice are not issues in the U.S. and their respective communities.

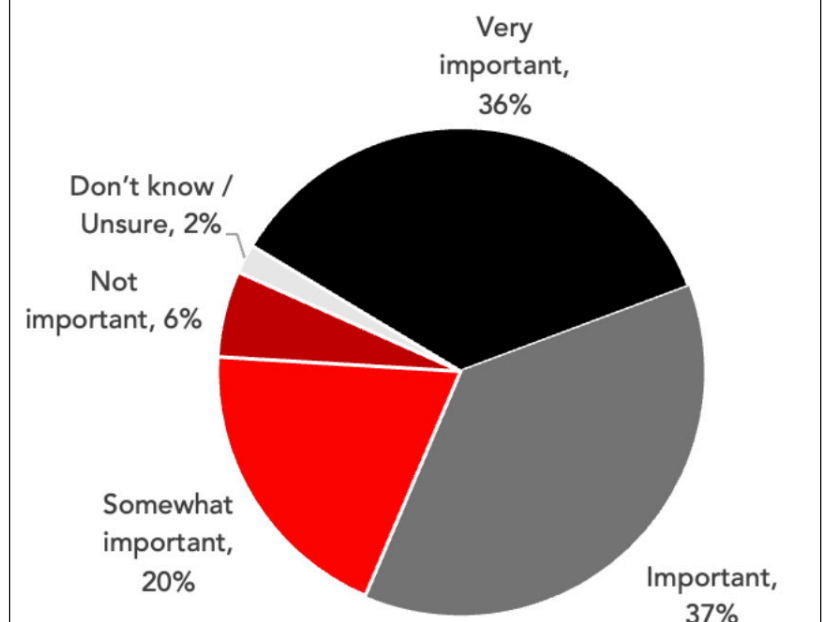
Sophomore Emily Donoghue said that she isn't sure what SHU needs to do to address climate change.

"I believe climate change is a real issue. I just don't know what we can do as a university. I hope the ISSJ can continue to help educate and support us in these matters," said Donoghue.

Results of the survey indicate that 57% of respondents believe that sustainability and social justice are relevant in the choices they make in their personal lives, 51% believe that they are relevant in



Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice, Sacred Heart University
Poll results for how well students think colleges are preparing them to handle climate change issues in their lives.



Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice, Sacred Heart University
Poll results for how important students think it is for colleges to teach about sustainability and social justice issues.

their future employment, 34% believe that they are relevant in clubs/organizations and 27% believe that they are relevant in schoolwork.

7% of respondents believe that sustainability/social justice have no relevance in any area of their lives.

"This is the most challenging issue of our time. It impacts everything," Bartholomew said.

Samantha Madigan contributed to this article.

Do you have an upcoming event
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Features

Fashion Students Visit Vineyard Vines HQ

BY OLIVIA TEDESCO
Staff Writer

On September 30, Sacred Heart University students studying Fashion Merchandising and Marketing (FMM) visited the Vineyard Vines Headquarters located in Stamford, Conn. The students learned about internship and employment opportunities available after they complete their undergraduate education.

The trip was planned in partnership with Sacred Heart's Fashion Club and instructors from the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT). Their itinerary included 30 minute meetings with various professionals holding positions in the Vineyard Vines company.

The students met with Heather Heaney, the Vice President of Merchandising, Mike Heaney, the Senior Director of Men's Merchandising, and Kristy Launer, the Senior Director of Outlet Merchandising. They also had the chance to speak with Jamie Romaniello, the Director of Digital Marketing.

According to the brand's website, Vineyard Vines launched in 1998, when founders Shep and Ian Murray created the American apparel and accessory company. With their first product being neckties sold out of a Jeep on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, the brand eventually developed into a preppy fashion line with clothing for men, women, and children.

Junior FMM student Anna Wilde said the trip allowed her to gain knowledge about not just Vineyard Vines as a brand, but the process and skills that go into working for an apparel company.

"We learned a lot about how things are mechanized in their stores. It clarified what each job position does, which made it more helpful to me to see what I'd be interested in moving forward in my future career," said Wilde.

Jessica Romano is a senior double-majoring in FMM and Finance. As President of the Fashion Club, she helped coordinate the trip. Romano said it is important to provide students with networking opportunities when studying in the field of FMM.

"Dr. [David] Loranger and I worked together on organizing trips for the Fashion Club to help students network," Romano said. "We were able to connect with Sacred Heart alumna Regan Rappoccio, who is now an HR manager at Vineyard Vines. That's how this trip came about."

Romano also highlighted the value of the trip for undergraduates who are still exploring

potential career paths.

"It was important for juniors and seniors to see internship opportunities, but for freshmen and sophomores as well, it was a chance to learn about career options and locations where they could potentially work," said Romano.

"Vineyard Vines is one of the closest retail corporate headquarters to Sacred Heart, and many alumni work there, so it's important for students to see that connection and build relationships for the future," she said.

Dr. David Loranger, assistant professor in the FMM program at Sacred Heart explained the value of the experience from a professor's perspective. Loranger said that the university has an Advisory Alumni Board that includes members like Rappoccio, who serve as valuable networking resources for students.

"Every major in the Jack Welch College of Business has an Advisory Alumni Board," said Loranger. "Students are encouraged to reach out to them for networking, internships, and other opportunities. When students meet people who work in these roles and hear their stories, it humanizes them. They can start to see themselves in those jobs."

By searching for "Advisory Alumni Board" at www.sacredheart.edu, students in the WCBT, and all other SHU colleges, can discover the advisory alumni board for each program offered by the university.

For more opportunities to further careers post-graduation, contact the Center for Career & Professional Development online at <https://www.sacredheart.edu/offices--departments--directory/center-for-career--professional-development/>.



Instagram, @sacredheartfashion

Fashion students and faculty at Vineyard Vines Headquarters in Stamford on Sept. 24.

SHU Student Breaks into Clothing Industry with Daybreake

BY SKYLAR AMIRAULT
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to start your own business, but had no clue where to start? Have you and your friends ever had an idea that might just be crazy enough to work?

Meet Thomas Remmen, Co-Founder of Daybreake, a New York based clothing brand. Remmen is a junior economics major in the Jack Welch College of Business and Technology (WCBT) at Sacred Heart University. He and his best friend, Long Island University student Jack Ryan, started this business together.

"We did not really know what we were doing," said Remmen. "There's not really a cool story on how, but we both just really wanted to do something like this and give it a shot."

Being from different areas of New York, Brooklyn and Breezy Point, the founders wanted their brand to represent the diverse community and culture of their home. Each of Daybreake's products feature designs inspired by iconic New York City images like the Brooklyn Bridge, the waterfront, and the skyline.

"Being open-minded toward new opportunities in life and being a part of your community is the foundation of our brand and it is the lifestyle we present to our audience," said Ryan. "The two of us wanted to create something that was ours and leave our footprints on the world."

Remmen and Ryan started out by selling t-shirts out of their cars at school. Today, their products can be purchased on their website and in select retailers in New York, and they even have a vendor's license with Sacred Heart.

Remmen accredits a great deal of his success to the "entrepreneurial spirit" that SHU fosters in its students.

"I think there's a shared mindset here. There are a lot of kids who want to find out



Contributed by Thomas Remmen, '26

Founder Thomas Remmen (right) wearing Daybreake merch with Caroline Reda (middle) and Joe Cilea (left).

what they really like to do," said Remmen. "I think there's an entrepreneurial spirit at this school that is different from a lot of places, and that's helped me out a lot."

Alongside his classes, Remmen is also a WCBT mentor, helping students acclimate to college life and inform them of the unique opportunities SHU provides its students within the college.

From his time at SHU, Remmen has learned that business is more about the "connections you make and the people" rather than the "technical stuff." This is a mindset that he and Ryan have tried to represent with their business, stating that Daybreake is, "where comfort meets style and community thrives."

Friends and family are encouraged to wear their products and join the Daybreake community to help spread the brand's positive message.

"Its vibrant colors and uplifting messaging inspire me to chase my dream with enthusiasm," said junior Ethan Moise.

"Do not be afraid and go out there and be passionate about it," said Remmen. "If you focus and put the work in, things will work out for you."

To learn more about Daybreake visit daybreakeclothing.com or find them on Instagram @daybreake_.

Design Your Future with the Fashion Club

BY KAYLA FALLARINO-FORTE
Staff Writer

If you are interested in fashion marketing, the Fashion Club here at Sacred Heart is for you. The SHU Fashion Club seeks to showcase the creative side of fashion through different events and fundraisers.

"The main goal of Sacred Heart Fashion Club is to really get students involved and excited about what they are learning," said junior Kara Cooney. "The industry is so vast, with so many opportunities that are not widely known/talked about. We use the Fashion Club as a way to promote more valuable and amazing opportunities to students in the major."

Around campus, the Fashion Club has hosted fashion shows, workshops, and other networking events, each designed to give members experience and opportunities to learn about the fashion industry.

"The main goal of the fashion club is to have other resources for fashion majors," said senior Josephine Derosa, Vice President of Fashion Club. "We offer a lot of networking opportunities from past alumni that were fashion majors and now in the industry, to have networks for when you graduate, people to connect with and talk about future careers with, and to meet different people within the major."

On Oct. 2, the Fashion Club hosted guest speaker, Kaitlyn Melino, a CRM for E.L.F Cosmetics, who came and spoke about her career. On Oct. 21, Laurie Lynch, a recruiter for T.J.Maxx, will be coming to speak in Martire E105 at 7 p.m.

"We do an internship panel too," said Derosa. "Professors will come and people who have had internships already, and they will talk about their experience."

In addition to guest speakers, the club also offers students scholarship opportunities.

Freshmen and sophomores can now apply to the Rising Star Scholarship, a scholarship sponsored by the National Retail Federation (NRF) that will allow them to attend the 2025 NRF Foundation Student Program in New York. Applications are due Nov. 8.

Along with events around campus, the Fashion Club also tries to give back to the Bridgeport community. Each semester the drive is hosted, where they have donated hundreds of clothes to the Bridgeport community closet.

"I joined the Fashion Club because it seemed like the most interesting thing to me, and it has genuinely changed my life," said Cooney. "I have met so many people. I have been involved in so many cool events. I've been able to learn, grow, and experience so many opportunities. It was the best thing I have done at SHU."

While the club consists of mostly fashion majors, all are welcome. The club meets on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 p.m., and Wednesdays 8:15-9:15 p.m.

To stay up to date with the Fashion Club, follow @shufashionclub on Instagram.



Instagram, @fashionclub_shu

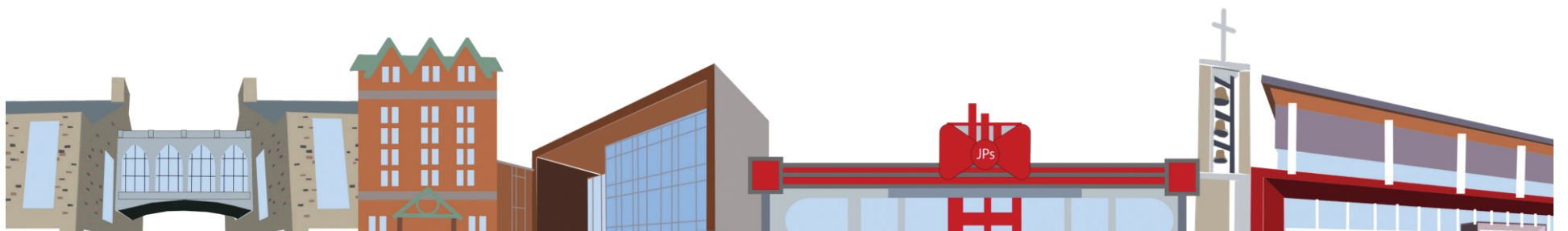
Prof. Gang demonstrating draping fabrics properly for the Fashion Club.

CampusLife

A Peek Into Family Weekend



Sacred Heart University photos by Jackson Sokoloski & Daniel Passapera



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

CampusLife

The Statues of Sacred Heart University

BY EMMA RICOTTA
Assistant Campus Life Editor



Built in 2023

Big Red

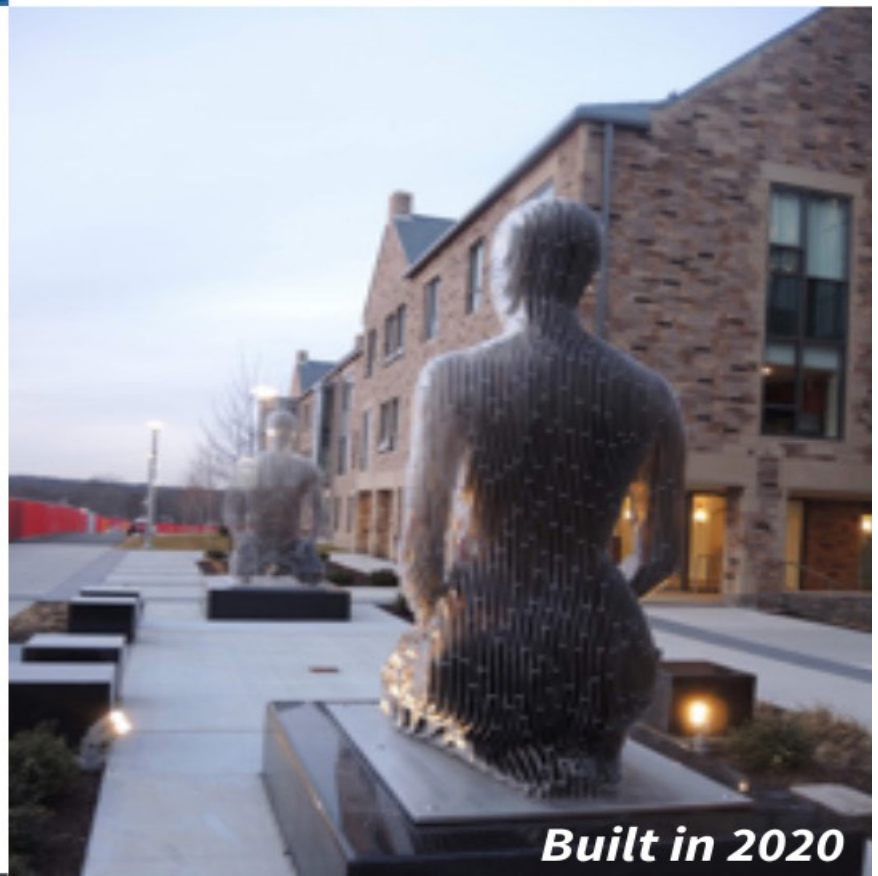
Martire Family Arena

Big Red in full SHU hockey uniform shooting a puck. Welcomes all cars entering and exiting West Campus as they pass the MFA, as well as people walking into the front entrance.

Spannungsfeld

Upper Quad

Inspired by a view of the human body through the lens of quantum physics. It is placed above the upper quad amphitheater steps to invite and welcome all students.



Built in 2020

Big Red Bench

Pitt Athletic Center

Incoming freshmen, and seniors, take a picture with Big Red next to him on the bench. Freshmen take their first picture at the end of their tour of the school, and seniors take their last dressed in their cap and gowns.



Built in 2014

Arts & Entertainment

Sabrina Stuns in “Short n’ Sweet Tour”

BY JENNA REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

The lights came up, the crowd roared and out came singer-songwriter Sabrina Carpenter, in a bath towel that she tastefully dropped to reveal her sparkling pink costume.

“The energy in the arena was electric. Sabrina’s entrance was so fun and really set the tone for the whole show,” said junior Samantha Hart.

On Oct. 2, 16,000 fans filled the XL Center Arena in Hartford, Conn., for Carpenter’s “Short n’ Sweet Tour.” It was the “loudest crowd so far,” Carpenter said on her Instagram channel after the show.

Before heading up to Connecticut, Carpenter performed two consecutive sold-out shows in New York, making her Madison Square Garden debut and following it up with a performance at Brooklyn’s Barclays Center.

Voices of fans filled the arena as they sang along to every song. This energy was captured in videos shared on Carpenter’s official Instagram and TikTok accounts.

Carpenter’s signature look was on full display at the XL Center, featuring platform boots, blonde bangs and glitzy two-piece sets.

“Her costumes were definitely eye-catching. Every outfit was covered in sequins and sparkles. Her hair and makeup were so perfectly done,” said Hart.

Carpenter’s performance showcased not only eye-catching visuals but her wide vocal range.

“Obviously, her regular songs and singing are impressive, but she added in lots of extended high notes, and you could tell she was singing live, which made it that much more impressive,” said Hart.

According to Billboard, “Short n’ Sweet” debuted at No.1 on the Billboard 200, “sold 362,000 equivalent album units in its first week.” Days after tour tickets went on sale, Carpenter sold out her entire “Short n’ Sweet Tour.”

Carpenter’s fame did not come overnight. At 13 years old, Carpenter landed her first lead role in the entertainment industry. She was cast as Maya Hart on the Disney Channel Series “Girl Meets World,” the Grammy Awards wrote. At age 15, Carpenter released her debut EP, “Can’t Blame A Girl For Trying,” which helped her gain recognition as a singer-songwriter.

In mid-to-late 2023 and early 2024, Carpenter opened for singer-songwriter Taylor Swift during her Eras Tour in Latin America, Australia and Asia.

“I always knew Sabrina Carpenter from the role she played on Disney Channel, but it wasn’t until I saw her open for Taylor Swift live that I truly understood her

vocal ability and stage presence as an artist,” said junior Maggie Powers.

Carpenter achieved Platinum status with her Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 hit “Please Please Please” and No. 3 single “Espresso.” Carpenter included both songs in the “Short n’ Sweet Tour” setlist along with all of her top hits.

Carpenter consistently takes to her social media to thank her fans for their support with members of her fandom calling themselves “Carpenters.”

“The sold-out arena had 16,000 of us, and it didn’t even feel that way. She spent time looking at signs, calling out to an audience member before her song ‘Juno,’ and just talking to us while sitting at the end of the stage,” said Hart.

Carpenter kept things intimate until the end, sharing a video message on the arena’s big screen as fans exit. In the video, Carpenter wishes fans a safe drive home and makes playful remarks.

“I am a big fan of Sabrina because of her ability to connect with her fans and make us feel a part of her personal life. Sabrina’s outro video at the end of the night was definitely my favorite part of the concert because it did just that,” said junior Bridget Carolan.

“I would absolutely see her again and recommend other people do too. I would even love to see the same show again as I had so much fun. Sabrina really puts on a performance, not just a concert,” said Hart.



Contributed by Olivia Franco, '26

Sabrina Carpenter’s “Short & Sweet” Tour in Hartford, Connecticut.

Art and the Value of Expression

BY KAYLA HERRERA
Staff Writer

Has making art ever caused you stress? Visual arts are generally considered a relatively low-stress outlet for self-expression. Yet, many people find the need for “perfection” to be a roadblock when trying to create art.

For senior Julia Fernandez, this was the case for much of her artistic career. An artist from an early age, Fernandez received extensive training in visual arts.

From pottery classes to acrylic painting, she has virtually worked with every visual art medium at some point. A double major in art and design and psychology, Fernandez aims to be an art therapist in the future.

Despite her long history working with visual arts, Fernandez hasn’t always found it easy to express herself through art. It wasn’t until a semester abroad in Rome that she seemed to crack the code to unleash her full creative potential.



Camryn McCutcheon, Staff Photographer

Recent “Zine” Art exhibit in Edgerton, displaying student created art pieces.

“Art used to actually cause me a lot of stress,” said Fernandez. “I’m an art student, I study art in classes. I’m kind of a perfectionist, so that was a really big hurdle for me.”

Fernandez, while studying art at John Cabot University in Rome, was met with a new approach to creating art. In particular, a painting assignment where

each student was instructed to create a piece that expressed oneself was the catalyst for this new attitude towards creating.

“They were more interested in idealism and the thought process behind the work,” Fernandez said, regarding her painting instructors at John Cabot. “That really spoke to me because that wasn’t something I had ever focused on in the past, especially in an academic setting.”

A self-proclaimed non-artist, senior Sam Pierre, is more of an analytical type. Admittedly, she never enjoyed art classes in school, and her engagement with visual arts at Sacred Heart University is limited to one online course, Studies in Modern Art.

“I don’t really use art to express myself, but I know how important of a tool it is for others and their self-expression,” said Pierre.

Growing up, Pierre found drawing and painting assignments to be grueling, especially as she had never considered herself a “good” artist. However, she gained a new appreciation for visual arts during a high school photography class. Specifically, she enjoyed the process of developing film.

“We did this assignment where we had to use light coming through the window,” said Pierre. “So, I used my best friend as the model, which was fun.”

To her surprise, Pierre found a medium and a subject to express herself.

Although he is more interested in musical arts, such as playing the piano and making DJ sets, junior Cristian Triay is drawn to 3-dimensional art. It was at Norwalk Community College, in a prehistoric art history course, that Triay’s interest in sculpture peaked.

Despite not having much experience with visual arts, Triay appreciates the process of making art, especially the therapeutic aspects of the creative process.

He finds the intricacy of sculptures and molds to be fascinating; “Particularly ancient pieces where the techniques and technology used to create them were more primitive than what we have available today,” said Triay.

Perceived standards in the visual arts world may prevent individuals from getting their hands dirty and jumping at the chance to create.

“There are no rules for making art,” said Fernandez.



Sports

Women's Club Ice Hockey Plays Triple-Header Weekends

BY **SEBASTIAN DEGOLIER**
Staff Writer

The Sacred Heart University women's club ice hockey team opened their season with a three-game weekend on Sept. 27-29. This marked the third season of women's ice hockey as an official club sport at the university.

Since their start in the 2021-2022 season, the team has been continuously developing, growing from 14 games in the entire 2022-2023 season to 14 games in the fall semester alone.

"It's really great, when I was younger, women's club hockey wasn't as big," said sophomore Nicole Partridge. "It's fun to be a part of that because some teams think we weren't that good three years ago but then they play us again and I think we've gotten a lot better each year."

The women went 1-2 on their opening weekend with a 3-5 loss to the University of Rhode Island, a 6-7 loss to the University of Connecticut and a 4-2 win over Holy Cross University.

These games were the first played under the new coaching staff of Madison Bakos. Bakos has previous experience in coaching hockey at the high school level and is bringing what she learned from her previous teams to her first collegiate coaching job at SHU.

"It doesn't seem like [the women] are playing club just to play club," said Bakos. "I felt that a lot of the players on our team actually want to play."

This weekend was Bakos' first time coaching in the newly built Martire Family Area, and it was the team's second full season calling the arena home. Sophomore and assistant captain Michelle McCabe believes it is a privilege to be able to have their games there.

"Playing there is honestly so incredible and I can't believe I'm fortunate enough to play

there," said McCabe. "The environment is just amazing no matter what time of day, who's there or what's happening."

Going forward with the rest of the season, the women have goals set in place, with one already in progress to be achieved.

"One of their team goals is to have a three game winning streak at minimum," said Bakos. "It does help that we ended on a win, hopefully they continue to win off of that."

The team will have a chance to continue to reach their goal of a three game win streak, as they prepare to play against Boston College on Friday, Oct. 18, Assumption University on Saturday, Oct. 19 and Merrimack College on Sunday, Oct. 20.



Instagram, @shuclubhockey

The Sacred Heart women's club ice hockey team pictured at the Martire Family Arena.

New Hub to Stream SHU Sports

BY **JOHN HEINZE**
Co-Asst. Sports Editor

Sacred Heart University has a new way to stream Division 1 sports on campus. Pioneers+ is a streaming platform that allows fans, students, faculty and family to watch their favorite SHU teams. Production is primarily orchestrated by SHU students.

"We wanted to create an identity for both ourselves and our students and freelancers, who are working for us so that they felt a sense of community when working together," said Aaron Such, the assistant director of production at SHU.

Along with creating an identity, Pioneers+ provides recognition towards sports that may not have gotten as much coverage in the past.

"It is our way of having an internal platform for our smaller programs that may not get ESPN coverage or SNY coverage," said Such.

"We wanted to make sure that there was always a way for those people to be able to watch their teams, whether it's families who are in California or across the country or even internationally," said Such. "We want to make sure that if you had some type of investment to the team that you could watch your son, your daughter, your husband, your wife, your boyfriend, your girlfriend, compete and play."

Aside from providing extra streaming options for the viewers, Pioneers+ allows for undergraduate and graduate students studying within communications fields to get

experience putting together broadcasts. Through internships, classes, and graduate school, there are numerous ways for students to get involved.

"The experience you can get working live events is priceless, and if you are someone interested in working in sports, this is the place to be," said graduate student Robert Finizio, the former head content editor for the Spectrum.

Working live production allows development of skills that students may need entering the workforce out of college.

"First and foremost, you learn to think on the fly and think critically. Problem solving through technical difficulties in a small time frame is one of the biggest components of successful broadcasting, and these streams help develop those skills," said Finizio.

As Pioneers+ continues to grow, there will be increasingly more opportunities to experience

new sports. Currently, Pioneers+ covers 18 of the 33 Division 1 sports offered at SHU. Most limitations regarding the sports not covered are because some teams compete at off campus facilities.

"We've explored options of expanding to places such as where equestrian competes, where swimming competes, and we've even looked at golf in general over at Great River [Golf Club] since it is a facility that we own," said Such.

Sacred Heart continues to grow its fan and student experience with new innovations, such as Pioneers+. You can tune in to games streamed on Pioneers+ at <https://sacredheartpioneers.com/watch/>.



Instagram, @shupioneersplus

Sacred Heart University's brand new Pioneer Plus streaming logo allowing you to watch SHU's live sporting events.

Club Rugby Team Takes Over Campus Field

BY **ANDREW DAYTON**
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the Sacred Heart University men's club rugby team began their season against Massachusetts Maritime Academy on Campus Field.

The Pioneers lost 41-15 in their first game. Despite the loss, Head Coach Jack Corcoran was still pleased with how his team played throughout the match.

"It was a great first task," said Corcoran. "Playing tough teams early shows you where you are and where to improve."

It was also the first time that the Pioneers had a rugby game at Campus Field. All previous home games were played at the Park Avenue Field.

"It was pretty cool to be under the big lights," said senior Stephen Palermo. "The depth of the field was a little hard to adjust to, but Campus Field had a lot of good vibes."

Sophomore Michael Putt and graduate student Cody Kelsey each scored a try towards the end of the game. Corcoran felt that the Pioneers showed a lot of fight during the whole game.

"They are buying into what I am trying to teach them, but we definitely need more practice to work together," said Corcoran. "We need to improve on physicality, defense and intensity."

Last year, the Pioneers ended their regular season with a record of three wins, one loss and one tie. They made it to the playoffs and finished in second place.

Corcoran said he enjoys working with the players and thinks they have a strong

dedication to the game and to each other.

"Our culture is the best part of the team right now," said Corcoran. "I really like the fact that we have a bunch of good guys who hold themselves accountable and try."

Two of the leaders on the rugby team are sophomore Zach Parker and junior Jeremy Suhr. Suhr is the team president, and Parker serves as the vice president.

"Serving as president of the rugby team is the biggest honor I could possibly ask for," said Suhr. "It gives me an opportunity to lead and grow this team in many different ways, which is extremely important to me."

Both Suhr and Parker make sure that each player on the team shows up to practices and games. They also lead the team with fundraising for trips and other events around campus.

The team helped raise suicide awareness by organizing an annual Suicide Prevention Walk on the Upper Quad on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The Student Nursing Association and Alpha Delta Pi sorority were also part of the event's organization.

"It was a great opportunity to unite everybody and show the importance of mental health on a college campus," said Suhr. "The best part about the event was selling every single one of the shirts and raising \$5,378 to donate to suicide prevention charities."

Another event hosted by the rugby team is a spring tournament every year to honor former player Peter DeSalvo, who committed suicide in 2020.

"The Peter DeSalvo Tournament is one of my favorite memories," said Palermo. "It was my first time playing and I scored two tries, so I was pretty fired up."

The next game will be against Central Connecticut State University on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. on Campus Field.

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Embracing Time

BY **EMMA RICOTTA**
Assistant Campus Life Editor

As I open a new Word Document, I'm not sure what I'm about to write. All I know is that when I'm writing, it's just me. It's just myself and my thoughts. I feel present, and I want this feeling to last forever.

I'm a junior now. I am a junior in college, and I feel like I only just graduated high school. The idea of time continuously passing actually terrifies me. A day passes, and then weeks, then months, then before I can even realize it, I'm going to be the one going to Red's to see the countdown for graduation.

When I was a freshman in college, I remember feeling lost. Like every day was a daydream and I was just going through the motions of my day-to-day schedule. I didn't find people that shared the same values as me, or even just cared about people the way that I did.

However, there was one place where I didn't feel as lost as any other places. When I walked into the dance studios, it felt like nothing else mattered. When it was time for dance, I knew I could leave all my worries at the door and feel totally present in that space.

This was all thanks to the people I surrounded myself with at dance, especially the sophomores at the time. They welcomed me with open arms, and I feel so proud to say that I have learned so much from them and that they have made me not only the dancer, but human being I am today.

Those sophomores are now seniors, and I'm going to have to say goodbye to them in just a few short months. They'll leave me with all the things that they have taught me, and I will carry on those lessons to other people that need them like I did.

Next thing I know, I'll be that senior. I'll be the one saying goodbye hoping that I had left a positive mark on others and knowing that I didn't take any moment for granted.

Throughout my few years at Sacred Heart thus far, I have achieved and completed things I never thought I would do. I have successfully choreographed my first dance piece my sophomore year, become an assistant editor for the Spectrum, obtained a spot on the executive board of the SHU Dance Program, been given a position for my sorority.

I was an exercise science student my freshmen year and I remember sitting in biology class knowing that wasn't the right place for me. Then, I found media arts and journalism, and I began to feel passionate about the things I was learning in class.

If you were to tell my freshmen year self that I was going to be an editor for the school newspaper, I wouldn't have laughed, and I probably wouldn't be too surprised. I would have felt excited, intrigued and relieved to know that I had found the right place for me.

I hope that in a couple years, once I've graduated and feel that my life is coming together, that I read this editorial with a smile on my face. I know I'll remember this feeling and feel proud of the place that I will be in.

Instead of being terrified, I want to be excited. My life is just getting started. I am going to be so grateful for the lessons I've learned at college, the people I've met, the relationships I've formed.

Yes, time is passing, but we're not stuck. But I feel that it is time for myself to start to associate the idea of time moving forward with the idea of experiencing new things and growing.

Time is moving way too fast. I'm getting older. We're growing up. But I'm here, I'm writing. And right now, that's all that matters.



Emma Ricotta, Assistant Campus Life Editor

The editorial page is an open forum. Editorials are the opinions of the individual editors and do not represent the opinions of the whole editorial board. Letters to the editor are encouraged and are due by Sunday at noon for consideration for each Wednesday's issue. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation, and length.

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