

Dr. Petillo's Continued Presidency

BY GEORGE TRIEBENBACHER
Editor-in-Chief

The contract of Sacred Heart University (SHU) President Dr. John Petillo has been extended through 2029. The Board of Trustees came to this decision during a series of meetings, which consisted of “thoughtful discussion and deliberation,” held the week of Oct. 13.

The extension was announced in an email sent to the SHU community on Oct. 17 by John Vazquez, chairman of the Board of Trustees. According to the email, “This decision reflects our strong belief in the importance of continuity and experienced leadership as the university continues to navigate the challenges facing higher education today.”

“I am pleased and grateful that the Board has put its faith in me to lead the university,” said Petillo. “I look forward to continuing the work with faculty and staff that has contributed to making Sacred Heart University one of the best in the country.”

Petillo first arrived at SHU in March 2009, where he served as the dean of the Jack Welch College of Business for a year and a half. In October 2010, Petillo was named interim president of the university, before being named the full-time president in March 2011, a role he’s held ever since.

“I’ve had a great experience so far with him here as president so I think it’s a great idea. He’s done a lot for the university, and I’ve seen him at a lot of events around campus, so he’s been a good leader in my time here. I think it’s a good idea for the future of the university,” said senior Dylan Brown.

Some of the advancements SHU has seen in the 14-year tenure of Petillo’s presidency include the creation of the Frank & Marisa Martire Center for the Liberal Arts, the Center of Healthcare Education (CHE), the Martire Family Arena (MFA), the Valentine Health & Recreation Center and JP’s Diner - named after Petillo

himself.

In addition, SHU now owns and operates Great River Golf Club - ranked 14th in Golf Digest’s 2025 ranking of golf courses in Connecticut - after purchasing it in 2015.

“During the 15 years that Dr. Petillo has been president of Sacred Heart, he has proven he is forward-thinking, strategic and mission-driven,” said Vazquez.

According to Petillo, one aspect of SHU stands out to him in particular: the students.

“The university and our community mean everything to me—especially the students, because you are the reason the rest of us are here,” said Petillo. “I enjoy watching your growth while you are here and following what you achieve after you leave.”

Spectrum previously reported that SHU was ranked in the top 25 in seven different categories in the recent Princeton Review’s Best 391 College Guidebook, including a top 10 ranking for student support.

Sophomore Maria Clara Bragagnolo Rose believes that students should have a bigger say in matters at SHU.

“I like SHU, I like it here. However, I do feel like we need more input from young people—students—in the school,” said Bragagnolo Rose.

Vazquez said that the Pioneer Journey is a key focal point for Petillo, as it can apply to any SHU student and incorporates the Catholic intellectual tradition that is heavily integrated in SHU’s message.

“Dr. Petillo is a strong believer that the Pioneer Journey—a road that every student here travels—is a critical part of a SHU education and provides students with the values and skills for a successful life and career,” said Vazquez. “The five pillars of the Pioneer Journey—knowledge, faith, integrity, service and community—reflect his values as do the mission and guiding principles of the university.”

Although the world around them is evolving,



Dr. John Petillo, the President of Sacred Heart University, speaking at an on-campus event.

Instagram, @sageatshu

Petillo and the Board of Trustees will continue to collaborate on the best ways to take the university forward.

“SHU’s leadership team, led by Dr. Petillo and the Board, will be working together to ensure that Sacred Heart continues to thrive even during these current times that are challenging for higher education,” said Vazquez.

In Petillo’s tenure as president, SHU has grown to have nine total colleges and schools - with the School of Performing Arts being the most recent addition - and Petillo credits the people behind the programs to be the keys to SHU’s success.

“Over the past 15 years, I’ve had the privilege of witnessing the extraordinary power of education to transform lives,” said Petillo. “Our university isn’t just a collection of buildings or programs—it’s a community of people committed to discovery, opportunity and service.”

Madeleine Medeiros contributed to this article.

Too Many Swipes, Not Enough Dollars?

BY ARIANNA GIANOPOULOS
Staff Writer

At the conclusion of the spring 2025 semester, Sacred Heart University (SHU) announced a new meal plan program that would begin in the fall. The update was intended to make dining more flexible and simplify how meal swipes could be used across campus. Since the program has been implemented, students have expressed frustration and confusion over the new system.

Under the revised meal plan system, students saw changes in both pricing and meal swipe access.

“This year, the Big Red and Pioneer plans for freshmen and sophomores have been combined into the Big Red Unlimited Plan. As part of this new plan, dining dollars have been reduced to \$325. However, students can now swipe up to 15 times per day for meals, snacks, fresh fruit, specialty coffee drinks and acai bowls. Additionally, the plan offers two meal swipe exchanges per day, which can be used at any of our eight retail locations with no time restrictions,” said Mark Tammone, resident district manager of SHU Dining.

While the goal was to offer more dining options, many felt that their choices were limited by the new meal plan.

“The new plan was a change for me because I was used to having a lot of dining dollars over meal swipes, although I like having unlimited swipes, I wish we had more dining dollars to spend on other items,” said sophomore Katherine Snyder.

Previously, there were stricter guidelines on where and how swipes could be used. Meal swipes could only be used for certain meals during certain hours. However, the revised meal plan allows students to pay with meal swipes throughout the day. The only restriction is that students can only use another meal swipe 45 minutes after their previous one.

“You could go in unlimited and get a coffee if you want to, but then if you want a banana 45 minutes later, you can go back in and grab a banana. You can go back in and eat with your friends at Thea’s 45 minutes later,” said Dean of Students Denise Tiberio.

One of the most significant changes involved the dining hall Thea’s Abbey. What was once a grab-and-go style dining hall like Linda’s, is now an all-you-can-eat style like 63’s. Thea’s was known for its variety of food stations, where students could use swipes or dining dollars on their meals.

The transition of Thea’s was intended to offer more value for meal swipes. However, students who preferred the previous options at Thea’s have voiced that the new format feels less convenient and lacks the old variety.

“My favorite food that I would get from Thea’s I am no longer able to get anymore,” said sophomore Sydney Diaz.

The updated plans were marketed as offering more variety, but some students argue that there is less variety.

“I was initially not very happy about the

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See Too Many Swipes, Not Enough Dollars?
continued on pg. 2

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News

The “Heart” of HeartLines Magazine

BY DANIELLE GRILLO
Staff Writer

“It is the most rewarding project I have worked on during my 17 years at Sacred Heart because it has developed from an idea to a fully flourishing community of dedicated student editors who bring their talents and passion to each issue,” said Prof. Marie Hulme, faculty advisor of HeartLines.

As HeartLines Magazine nears the release of its sixth edition, SHU students are once again bringing their creativity to print. Through the continuing partnership, Notre Dame Prep students are also collaborating with editors of this edition and may soon see their own writing published alongside university contributors.

Run entirely by students, HeartLines is a literary magazine at Sacred Heart that features a diverse range of creative work, from poetry and fiction to flash fiction, creative nonfiction, and visual art. Submissions are open to students from all academic majors, serving as an outlet for expression and a space where creativity, storytelling and individuality come together.

“HeartLines highlights the creative writing and artwork of our students,” said Hulme. “I think it represents the ‘heart’ of our creative community here, and it offers student writers and artists a public platform for showcasing their talents.”

Since Sacred Heart University acquired Notre Dame Catholic High School - now called Notre Dame Prep - on July 1, 2024, the opportunities offered by HeartLines have since expanded to include its students.



Danielle Grillo, Staff Writer and Photographer

Notre Dame Prep was acquired by Sacred Heart University in 2024, marking the start of an academic partnership between the two institutions.

Through a mentorship program, these students collaborate with HeartLines editors, gaining hands-on experience and a pathway to be published. The initiative was spearheaded by Hulme in partnership with Dr. Chris Cipriano, principal of Notre Dame Prep, with the goal of providing students with a chance to develop their skills and contribute to a professional publication.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for our kids to learn from Sacred Heart students and become better writers,” said Cipriano. “Any opportunities like this are so unique for high school students, so with the partnership with the university, it just gives us a great opportunity to spotlight our students.”

Each edition centers around a theme that contributors are free to interpret through their own creative lens. The upcoming issue, themed “Journeys and Identity,” encourages students to reflect on the experiences, perspectives and moments that form one’s sense of self.

“It offers writers and artists a wonderful opportunity to explore physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual journeys that may have impacted how they see themselves,” said Hulme. “It is broad enough to allow students to think about ways in which their identities have been shaped by the different paths they have walked in their lives.”

The magazine provides students with an opportunity to experience the publishing world firsthand.

“You’re actually learning to be published, and there is a difference,” said junior Kathryn Haig, senior editor of HeartLines. “When students write for the magazine, they’re learning to write not only for their professors, but for themselves, and in a way that they can express themselves to a wider audience.”

Working with the Notre Dame Prep writing club by attending meetings and hosting them on campus, editors provide feedback to help shape students’ pieces for publication, while nurturing their creativity.

“I do think that these partnerships are going to be really productive,” said Haig. “Seeing how dedicated these students are already, I do think they’re going to continue to pursue creative writing, especially seeing that they can be published in a college publication, and that they can work with college students who believe in them and can see the potential in their work.”

Last spring, several Notre Dame students had their work featured in HeartLines and took part in a public reading at Sacred Heart with other contributors. This collaboration is one of many ways Notre Dame and Sacred Heart students have connected, spanning academics, extracurriculars, and opportunities like studying abroad in Dingle.

“We’ve seen a wonderful embrace of the high school community since we became part of Sacred Heart,” said Cipriano. “It’s my hope that many students can take advantage of these opportunities because it’s going to make both Sacred Heart and Notre Dame students’ experiences stronger, better, and more fulfilling.”

Built around a unified theme, the sixth edition of HeartLines will highlight the collaboration of students from both communities.

“I hope that readers take away that HeartLines is truly the voice of Sacred Heart students,” said Haig. “Especially this semester, it’s not just our writing, it’s about who we are.”

Too Many Swipes, Not Enough Dollars?

BY ARIANNA GIANNOPOULOS
Staff Writer

fact that we were given over \$500 less dining dollars this semester. I noticed early on that my money was draining quickly and needed to find ways around it,” said sophomore Emily Franzen. “I don’t think we need infinite meal swipes because most of the better items in the dining halls are dining dollars. I think keeping the meal plan the same as it was last year would be a plus. The meal plan I had lasted me through the entire semester with leftover money at the end that I could spend freely.”

SHU dining has released a survey to gather student feedback on the new plans, and has already made several adjustments. One notable change included the return of Tu Taco, which was a popular Mexican food station at Thea’s.

“When Thea’s was converted into an All You Care to Eat dining hall earlier this year, we replaced the Tu Taco station with a rotating menu concept. After receiving significant student feedback expressing that Tu Taco was missed, we brought the popular station back to Thea’s in response to student demand,” said Tammone.

The survey invited students to share their experiences with the dining changes and make suggestions for improvement. Danielle Bahr, director of marketing, said that SHU Dining is continuously gathering student feedback to enhance their experiences.

“We actively review all comments and suggestions to guide meaningful improvements that enhance the overall dining experience. Additionally, we meet with Student Government each semester to discuss student priorities and requests for campus dining,” said Bahr.

While SHU has made attempts to address student concerns, campus dining has become one of the most talked about topics of the semester.

“We’re always looking to enhance the services that we’re providing to our students on a day-to-day basis. We completely understand that this is your home

away from home, and we want to make sure that we’re making you feel comfortable. That’s giving you the food that you want and it’s also providing an opportunity to engage with your fellow classmates,” said Tiberio.



Alexis Barada, Staff Writer and Photographer

JP's Diner is pictured on the Sacred Heart University Park Ave. Campus.

Features

Pioneers. Heroes. Legends.

BY NICHOLAS MAISANO
Staff Writer



Contributed by Jaimie DeSisto, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement and Events

Sacred Heart Alumni gather on the upper quad during homecoming weekend.

“My favorite part of homecoming is being able to see everybody coming back and getting to see the reaction to how everything looked and how Sacred Heart has grown,” said Rob Gilmore, executive director of Alumni Engagement and Events.

Homecoming will take place on Nov. 7 and Nov. 8. Over the course of the weekend, attendees will have the opportunity to attend sporting events, award ceremonies, go on a campus tour, and reconnect with fellow alumni and their families.

“Homecoming is a big reunion—you can’t get that same rush or excitement from an Instagram story or a post,” said Jaimie DeSisto, associate director of Alumni Engagement and Events. “It’s about feeling that shared spirit and being part of something bigger again.”

DeSisto is an alumnus of the class of 2004. She also described homecoming as “bringing the band back together.”

Anthony Smith is an alumnus of the class of 2020. This year, he is attending his third homecoming, having attended twice prior in 2021 and 2022.

“One of my favorite parts about coming back to campus is seeing what has changed since my last visit,” said Smith. “It amazes me when I think back on what campus was like when I was a freshman in 2016 versus what it is like now.”

In the past, homecoming took place in September or October, so November’s date is a

change.

“In previous years, we’ve seen anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 alumni and guests attend, and we’re on track for similar participation this year,” said DeSisto. “It’s exciting to see that level of enthusiasm and engagement from our alumni community, even with the later date.”

Given that homecoming is happening close to Veterans Day, Gilmore and DeSisto worked to tailor some events to honor alumni who served in the military.

“This year’s homecoming theme is ‘Pioneers. Heroes. Legends.’” said DeSisto. “We’re highlighting and honoring our alumni who have served in the military through special programming, including our Heroes with Heart breakfast, where veteran alumni will be recognized and invited to participate.”

DeSisto said that the veteran alumni will also receive a special recognition during the football game to “celebrate their service and their lasting impact on the Pioneer community.”

Prior to the football game against Virginia University of Lynchburg, the “Pioneer Fest,” a pregame tailgate, a staple event of homecoming, will take place on the William Pitt Athletic & Convocation Center Lawn.

“This event is the big way to get all the alumni together for the weekend,” said Gilmore.

Although many of the events throughout the weekend are reserved for alumni, students are still able to go to both the football and hockey games.

“Going to the games are great opportunities for current students to show their Pioneer pride and be part of the Homecoming spirit,” said DeSisto.

Sophomore Alysa Feldman is a member of the marching band and played at the homecoming game last year.

“Playing for the alumni during the game was so much fun. They show so much support and appreciation for the work and effort we put into our show,” said Feldman.

Homecoming is also an opportunity to recognize how far the alumni have gone in their lives since graduating.

“The Young Alumni Awards,” taking place for the first time this year, will “honor many of our alumni from the last 15 years who have made professional and personal achievements,” said Gilmore.

“Back with Heart: Campus Connections” will be held on Nov. 8.

“All our colleges will be represented in Linda’s, so once alumni check in, they can reconnect with their academic homes, whether that’s the Welch College of Business & Technology, the College of Health Professions, or any of SHU’s other schools,” said DeSisto.

“I am a huge advocate for keeping and continuing to develop the relationships and friendships made during undergrad,” said Smith. “Four years is a long time to spend with people, and homecoming gives us the chance to meet back up where it all began.”

“It’s so special to see alumni reconnecting with friends, professors and the place that shaped so many of their memories,” said DeSisto.

Sprinting into Community

BY MACKENZIE FLYNN
Staff Writer

Are you looking for a casual running partner? By joining SHU’s new Run Club, you could gain 21 of them. Starting out as three girls who liked to run together, the Run Club has now expanded to 21 members.

“I’ve always loved running, but never had someone to run with. My friend asked me to join with her, and we ended up loving it,” said junior Brayden Santagata. “I have made so many friends through Run Club, and we all have each other’s backs.”

Practices are held three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. Whether you are a pro or just a beginner, Run Club is open to anyone who attends Sacred Heart.

“We meet outside of the Bobby Valentine Gym, and we run around campus or by Jefferson Street. We do a quick warm-up and then enjoy a low-pressure run, just for fun,” said sophomore captain Bella Paul.

For many students here on campus, running is an outlet for stress and anxiety, as well as a great way to stay active and outdoors. For others, it is a welcoming community where they can meet other students with a shared passion. Whatever the reason, Run Club is an expanding resource open to students of all backgrounds.

“We do a lot of getting to know you questions and icebreakers while we run to make it feel like more of a community,” said sophomore captain Sydney Carlson. “It makes running a lot safer because we can go off-campus as a group and feel safe that we are not on our own, so I think that is a big thing for most members.”

On Oct. 25, 12 members of Run Club participated in the Chasing the Legend: Easton’s Lady in White 5k. Freshman Marcus Haynia earned first place.

“My favorite memory has been running the 5k. It was so awesome to be able to run together and push each other to the finish,” said senior Lillian Wiechert.

The 5k was open to kids and families and offered on-site fall activities, as well as an optional costume contest. The race route circled North Park Avenue in Easton, with fall foliage on full display.

“They provided rides for everyone. We all wore Cars-themed t-shirts and ended up winning the costume contest,” said Santagata.

Taking home first place and best costume, Run Club is hoping to catch the attention of more students looking to join their community.

“If you are looking to bond with other non-competitive runners and get a good laugh while staying active, Run Club is definitely for you,” said Paul.

With a larger member count, the events and opportunities available to Run Club also increase. Current members hope to be invited to even more events in the coming years, as student involvement grows.

“People should join Run Club to stay motivated, make new friends, and improve their fitness in

a supportive, fun environment. It’s a great way to set goals, challenge yourself and celebrate progress with great people,” said Wiechert.

To learn more about Run Club or express your interest, you can reach out to either pauli@mail.sacredheart.edu or carlsons3@mail.sacredheart.edu or follow @shu.run.club on Instagram.

“I hope Run Club continues to grow into a welcoming community where runners of all levels feel encouraged and supported. I also hope it inspires more people to discover the joy and confidence that come from running together,” said Wiechert.



Instagram, @shu.run.club

The Sacred Heart Run Club took a selfie after their Halloween 5k on Oct. 25, 2025.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS ON
CAMPUS**

**FRIDAY 11/7:
SCMA ALUMNI AWARDS
1 P.M. MARTIRE CENTER
LORIS FORUM**

**FRIDAY 11/7:
MEN’S ICE HOCKEY
V.S. AIR FORCE
7 P.M. MARTIRE FAMILY
ARENA**

**SATURDAY 11/8:
FOOTBALL
HOMECOMING GAME
12 P.M. CAMPUS
FIELD**

CampusLife

How SHU Students Tune In

BY ALEXIS BARADA

Staff Writer and Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Music is always playing somewhere on campus; through headphones in the library, over speakers in dorm rooms, or spinning on a record player during the late-night hours. But the way students listen is just as personal as the music itself.

“I mostly use Spotify when listening to music,” said senior Aleksandra Kozak. “I can play it right from my phone, so it’s useful for when I’m on the go.”

Spotify offers a student plan starting at \$7 per month, providing a more affordable option for students on a budget.

“I’m only paying \$6 a month for Apple Music,” said senior Lauren Koulouris.

Other music platforms, such as Apple Music, also offer discounted subscriptions.

Over the years, Spotify has added several curation tools that make it increasingly easier to expand your playlist by finding new music. This has been one of the platform’s biggest driving factors.

“I love the way Spotify offers different playlists based on my music taste,” said Kozak.

Spotify also gives users a roundup of their most-streamed music from the past year, which is another aspect many students look forward to.

Others utilize different platforms based on interests. Some students value streaming quality over playlist curation.

“One reason I use Apple Music over Spotify is that the sound quality is higher on Apple Music,” said senior Richard Redler. “Even though the quality isn’t that much of a difference, I also prefer Apple’s navigation more than Spotify’s.”

In early September, Spotify launched its ‘lossless’ audio, allowing users to stream music at higher quality. This has added another layer to the Apple Music vs. Spotify debate.

Music streaming aside, some students also prefer physical CDs or vinyl for a more authentic, traditional musical experience.

“It’s a great way to listen to music and stay off my phone when doing homework,” said junior Sylwia Tobiasz.

Over the past couple of years, vinyls, especially, have been growing in popularity among younger music listeners.

“The process of pulling out a record, placing the needle, and hear-

ing the music through decent speakers allows for a much more focused and ritualistic listen than streaming can offer,” said senior Corey Smith.

“Seeing the artwork and inserts helps to capture the vibe artists were conveying in their music, as opposed to merely an album cover seen on Apple Music or Spotify.”

With a classic turntable setup, users tend to get a better listening experience than with streaming services.

“Depending on the system and vinyl pressing, a record can offer a sound with much more depth and smoothness than a compressed file,” said Smith.

Overall, 66.7% of Sacred Heart students prefer Spotify over Apple Music. 88% of students say they use their streaming service of choice multiple times a day. But whether it’s curated playlists, cleaner audio quality, or the ritual of setting a needle on vinyl, the way students choose to listen is uniquely their own.

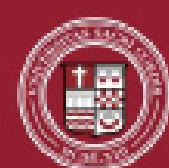
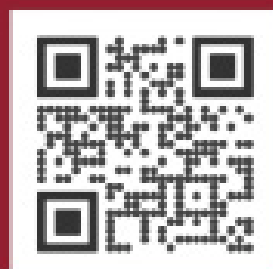


Sacred Heart student pictured listening to Taylor Swift.

Alexis Barada, Staff Writer and Photographer

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CampusLife

Finding Food Balance on a Budget

BY MIA COPPOLA

Staff Writer and Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Between climbing grocery prices and dining hall fatigue, students are getting creative with how they eat. From meal prepping to finding affordable grab-and-go options, students are discovering new ways to stay fueled and balanced without breaking the bank.

Hailey Perry, a senior and secretary of the Nutrition and Dietetics Club, said finding balance between enjoying the foods she likes, while also fueling her body for her workouts, classes, and social life, allows her to maintain her physical and mental well-being.

“A typical week of meals for me includes balanced meals that fit around my class schedule, work, and activities, whether that is for practice or going to the gym. For me, balance means not restricting myself, but also not being careless with what I eat,” said Perry.

With rising grocery costs, students begin to take note of how this impacts their choices.

“The price of food can really add up, especially as I started grocery shopping for myself at school. But I remind myself that I am investing in myself,” said Perry.

Students find that planning and prepping meals in advance aids in both their budgets and time management.

“I usually like to meal prep for the week or even just plan my meals for the day ahead of time rather than rushing when the time comes,” said senior Angelo Solatto. “Sometimes I will try different things in order to change things up or to find something new that I like.”

Junior Katie Duenges agrees that being consistent about what she eats helps her stay consistent without restriction.

“To me, balance means making healthy choices a majority of the time,” said Duenges. “It is not about restriction, but more so about mindfulness, so that I can stay confident in being able to have whatever I want while still being nourished and properly fueled.”

Despite the challenges of eating on a budget, students say that Sacred Heart University’s dining services support those trying to make healthy choices.

“Sacred Heart definitely has a good variety of options. There are always fruit and salad options, and also protein choices, where a well-balanced meal can definitely be made,” said Duenges. “It is also easy to find grab-and-go options like fruit or yogurt. It is nice that there are multiple dining locations, which makes it easier to find something that fits into your schedule and also preferences.”

Perry added that Sacred Heart University continues to provide a variety of healthy options.

“SHU’s dining has a variety of options like the salad bar at Linda’s, or their smoothies or acai bowls, along with meal options that change every day at different dining halls,” said Perry. “SHU’s dining services has healthier options available for students to eat, if they choose to do so.”

For students trying to build healthy habits, Duenges said the key is being consistent.

“For a student struggling to eat healthy during college, I would suggest starting small and staying consistent. To begin, this can mean making small changes such as increasing water intake, not skipping breakfast, or even just adding a fruit or vegetable to meals,” said Duenges. “Healthy eating does not have to be perfect, it is instead about finding a balance that hits all the points: budget, schedule, personal needs and desires.”



Instagram, @shu_dining

Sacred Heart students pose for a photo outside of Thea's Abbey.

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Arts & Entertainment

Billie Eilish to billionaires: ‘No hate, but give your money

BY THALIA BEATY
AP Newsroom

Billie Eilish wants billionaires to donate more.

As the Grammy and Oscar winner accepted the music award at this year’s WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards on Wednesday night, she urged the ultra-wealthy to address more of the world’s issues.

“We’re in a time right now where the world is really, really bad and really dark and people need empathy and help more than, kind of, ever, especially in our country,” Eilish said to an audience that included Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan, as well as “Star Wars” creator George Lucas. “I’d say if you have money, it would be great to use it for good things, maybe give it to some people that need it.”

Late night host Stephen Colbert introduced Eilish on stage at New York’s Museum of Modern Art by announcing that she would donate \$11.5 million of the proceeds from her Hit Me Hard and Soft tour to causes dedicated to food equity, climate justice and reducing carbon pollution.

In accepting the award, the “Bad Guy” singer added a polite but direct call to others in the room, saying a lot of people, especially in the U.S., could use some help right now.

“Love you all, but there’s a few people in here who have a lot more money than me,” she said, to a smattering of applause. “And if you’re a billionaire, why are you a billionaire? And no hate, but give your money away, shorties.”

Through her Changemaker Program, Eilish has worked with the nonprofit Reverb for years on its Music Decarbonization Project and its Music Climate Revolution initiative, alongside artists ranging from Dead & Company to Harry Styles.

Chan was also honored at the event, receiving the “Philanthropy of Science Innovator of the Year” award. A spokesperson for the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Brandi Hoffine Barr, said Zuckerberg and Chan have committed to giving away 99% of their Meta shares to philanthropy over the course of their lifetimes and have already granted out \$7 billion. According to Forbes, Zuckerberg’s current net worth is around \$224 billion.

Eilish’s comments come as the number of billionaires worldwide continues to grow, with 204 new billionaires added in 2024, according to a January report from Oxfam International titled “Takers Not Makers.”

The report found that the billionaires grew wealthier three times faster in 2024 than in 2023, pointing to an increased concentration of resources globally.

Oxfam predicted at least five people will become trillionaires in the next decade, up from one person the year before. The group called for higher taxes on the rich and other measures to break up monopolies, cap CEO pay and require companies to pay living wages.

The wealthiest Americans have a long history of calling on each other to give away more of their money. In 1889, the steel magnate and industrialist Andrew Carnegie argued in the essay, “The Gospel of Wealth,” that the richest should give away their fortunes within their lifetimes, in part to lessen the sting of growing inequality.

In 2010, Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates and Warren Buffett took up that call by creating the Giving Pledge, a commitment for billionaires to give away more than half their wealth in their lifetimes or when they die.

Fifteen years on, some 256 billionaires have taken the pledge with 110 of them coming from the U.S., according to a recent report by the Charity Reform Initiative of the Institute for Policy Studies. Those U.S. billionaires represent 13% of the total 876 billionaires in the U.S., according to the report, revealing the small portion of the wealthiest people who have publicly committed to giving away their fortunes.

The report found that of the 22 billionaires who have died since taking the pledge, only one gave away his fortune before he died. Meanwhile, only eight of the 22 deceased pledgers



Evan Agostini, AP Photo

Billie Eilish attends the WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards at The Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, in New York.

fulfilled the commitment by giving away half of their wealth or more at their death, though some of their estates are still being resolved.

Chuck Collins, one of the authors of the report and an expert at the Institute for Policy Studies, said Eilish’s comments are part of a growing realization that the rules of the economy favor those with assets over those who earn wages.

He thinks the Giving Pledge has created an expectation and competition for the wealthiest to give away their money, but the fortunes of many of the pledgers have increased over time, meaning they will need to move even more aggressively if they are to fulfill the commitment.

“In the end, philanthropy is not a substitute for a fair and effective tax system,” Collins said. “The level of extreme inequality will require some form of restoring progressivity to the tax system, a wealth tax as well as progressive income tax.”

Poetry, Music and the Great Hunger

BY KATELYN TOTH
Staff Writer

Abby Bender, Director of Center for Irish Studies

A promotional poster for Paul Muldoon and John Doyle’s performance on Friday, Nov. 7th at the SHU Community Theatre.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon is coming to the SHU Community Theatre on Friday, Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. The evening will feature Irish poetry, history, and live music, with featured guest performers. This event is presented in partnership with the SHU Center for Irish Studies.

“Paul Muldoon is widely considered Ireland’s greatest living poet,” said Dr. Abby Bender, associate professor in the Department of English and director of the Center for Irish Studies. “Students shouldn’t miss this opportunity to hear him talk about how poetry can help us understand Ireland’s complex and fascinating history.”

Muldoon is an Irish Poet, born and raised in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, in 1951. He has penned 15 full-length collections of poetry, as well as countless other smaller works, literary criticisms, children’s books and more. His poetry has been translated into 20 languages. He is also the recipient of honorary doctorates from ten universities.

The event will also include a special performance by Grammy-nominated musician John Doyle, known for his folk and traditional Irish music. Doyle has performed with the popular Irish group, Solás, and in recent years, he has gone out on his own and recorded two solo albums.

“John Doyle is one of the most influential accompanists currently in Irish music,” said Prof. Chelsey Zimmerman, adjunct music professor. “He’s played with well-known groups like Solas and contributed to the specifically Irish style of backing music on the guitar.”

This performance aims to help support the reopening of Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum in Fairfield. The museum was originally founded at Quinnipiac University in 2012 and is now reopening in downtown Fairfield.

“As an English major, I have found myself drawn to Irish literature for its unique storytelling tradition,” said senior Emma D’Entremont. “After studying abroad in Dingle, learning about their history, between the conflict and the Hunger, it is amazing to see how the Irish have been able to create such beautiful art out of their suffering.”

Thanks to a generous donation, SHU students will be able to attend this event free of charge.

“It will be a lively event, showcasing both music and poetry as a way of understanding Ireland, and it would also be a wonderful introduction for students who plan on studying at our campus in Dingle,” said Bender.

Sports

Women's Rugby Landslide Season Finisher

BY NICHOLAS DILAPI
Staff Writer

The women's rugby team wrapped up their season in a 121-14 victory against the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks, on Saturday, Oct. 25, at Park Ave Field. This was the team's first time crossing the century mark since 2019 in a 122-0 shutout over Molloy University. The women's 121 score was one point away from tying their all-time scoring mark.

The team's goal and mindset going into this game was to execute all the small details they've been working on.

"We work on bits and pieces throughout the entire season to form a structure of play, and our goal was to execute this structure in its entirety," said graduate student Tara McWilliams, who is in her first year with the team.



Contributed by Graduate Student Andy Trevino

The women's rugby team pictured in their game against West Point on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025.

The offense was clicking in every possible way against LIU.

"We were communicating effectively and listening to each other. We were dominant in the contact area which helped us create scoring opportunities. We moved the ball to space and executed our shape well," said junior Marly Gurmendi.

The landslide win concluded their fall season with a 4-3-1 record in the National Intercollegiate Rugby Association (NIRA).

Although the Pioneers missed the playoffs, head coach Michelle Reed, a strong advocate of team comradery and strong chemistry, could not be prouder of her team this season.

"You have to learn how to play better, but for that to happen you have to have a good team environment," said Reed. "Our coaching staff, along with captains and leadership board, work hard to build an environment where you could be successful. That's what I'm most proud of, that you can see that environment."

The players also feel the team culture and bond promoted success and made new players feel accepted.

"This is my first year on the team as a graduate student, and I have been welcomed with open arms; we are a family, and I am honored I could be a part of the SHU rugby magic," said McWilliams.

"We are a very tight knit team, teammates on the field and friends off," said Gurmendi.

Reed has her team participate in "team connection preservation." This encourages players to interact and connect with each other, especially if they previously haven't connected as much.

"Those positive touches and interactions lead to the bigger goal and mission down the road," said Reed. "It's like putting deposits in the bank, at some point you or a teammate will have to make a withdrawal."

The team is looking forward to the spring season after placing third overall in the College Rugby Association of America (CRAA) Championship Tournament last spring.

Reed has high expectations for the team entering spring play. "Specifically, I'd like to be in that championship game," said Reed.

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.

Women's Volleyball Builds Hope in Closing Stretch

BY ANDREW RABER
Staff Writer

"The culture they have in there is as good as any team I've had. They're working really hard. You just have to gain experience, and that is the toughest thing to teach," said head coach Rob Machan. "The opponents are brand new, the situations are brand new, so we're just getting comfortable. But you can see when we put it together, we're pretty good."

The women's volleyball team recently came off of a four game winning streak, spanning from Oct. 11 to Oct. 24. Starting with a 3-1 win in four sets at home against Marist on Oct. 11, they defeated Manhattan University in three sets at home on Oct. 17, Iona University in four sets at home on Oct. 18, and took down Merrimack College on the road on Oct. 24.

Even with a four game win streak, an important aspect of volleyball, as with all sports, is to not let it get to your head and to respect every opponent that you play.

"One of the things we work on really hard is we never, never look at the opponent as who we're trying to train against. It's always our own performance. It shouldn't make a difference who we play, it's your game that matters," said Machan.

Directly after the four game success streak, the women lost to two of the top teams in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC): Quinnipiac University and Fairfield University. During both games, most sets came down to close finishes. The execution of finishing teams off is what has been a struggle for the Pioneers.

"The messaging and gameplan is consistent, the hard part is implementing it consistently," said Machan. "We don't want to change what we're doing at the end of games,"

One of the team's young players, freshman Ryleigh Short, who leads the team in nearly every offensive statistic except for assists and serves, has cemented herself as a budding star for the team.

"She is just one of those multiskilled players. There's nothing she can't do on the floor. She's just getting better and better. She asks great questions, she's super smart, and she wants to be great," said Machan.

With a young lineup, and only three seniors that will be graduating, they will have the entirety of the offseason to continue to mesh together as a team,



Contributed by Emma Pinault '28

Sophomore Brielle Laferriere ready to serve in the match against Fairfield University on Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025.

increasing their levels of camaraderie and chemistry.

With four games remaining on their schedule and a standing record of 8-18 overall and 5-9 in conference, these next matches to end the season could affect how the next season starts.

"If we win the next four games, it will probably help us in how we feel about ourselves and our confidence, and probably higher expectations. But if we were to lose, I think we would just use that as fuel into next season," said Short.

"I think it's always important to end the season well, and build the momentum going to the next season, but I think it is also really important in the spring to work hard, and that's what really matters," said junior Lauren Hubert.

The team hosts Canisius on Nov. 7 and Niagara on Nov. 8 in their final home stand of the season.

Athletic Communications contributed to this article.

Editorial

2025 NYC Marathon: Will Morgan's Journey Following His Mom

BY WILL MORGAN
Audrey's Corner Editor

On Sunday, Nov. 2, my mother, Maryann Morgan, ran in the New York City Marathon. I come from a family of runners, my grandfather was a college athlete running track, and my brother and I raced all 4 years of high school. My mother is no different, an avid runner who supported and encouraged us as we got older and faster. The marathon has been a long-term goal for her for years, running for practice when she didn't have a class to teach. After her 52nd birthday, she decided she was finally going to do it.

Her training began in March 2025, on top of the typical 5ks she began going on longer runs more regularly, stretching into 5-, 7-, and 10-mile runs. Over the summer, she raced in every race she could find on Long Island, not for time, but running each of them at a marathon pace. Leaves turned brown and training amp up, 12-mile runs were a regular, and she began doing occasional 18-mile jogs to get closer to the endurance needed.

My siblings and I all came back home on November 1st in order to see her before the race. My twin sister came back by greyhound bus from Bethlehem PA, my older sister rode Amtrak from Narragansett RI, and I took the Metro North and transferred to LIRR at Grand Central Terminal. We all got back around 4pm, and at 6pm she left to spend the night in a hotel downtown for some peace and quiet, and an early rise to catch the Staten Island Ferry.

The NYC Marathon begins in Staten Island, where you immediately leave across the Verrazzano Bridge, then north through Brooklyn and Queens, across the 59th street bridge into Manhattan, north along first avenue, a small portion through the Bronx, and south along fifth avenue, finishing in Central Park.

Our family devised a plan to catch her 3 times along the route. First, I would take LIRR into Atlantic Terminal, catching her along the 8-mile mark. My father and sisters would be at Pulaski Bridge as she entered Queens, and we'd reunite a mile from the finish at Columbus Circle.

My mother's scheduled start time was at 11:35, but with the large swaths of people walking to the starting line, she didn't actually leave till a bit later. I arrived at Atlantic Terminal around 12, and found a set of stands to wait in. I hadn't realized the actual 8 mile mark was further down the road. After appearing in the background of an ABC news broadcast and assisting a couple from Boston find their daughter on the official marathon app, I missed my mom as she zoomed past. Then it hit me. There's no mark! I had to sprint 3 blocks, reaching the orange arrow right as she was looking for me. We took pictures, I gave her a charger, and she went back on track with 18 miles remaining.

I looked at some timetables, and my mom was ahead of schedule! I realized, I could take the G-train up to Long Island City where my dad and sisters were waiting and make it up in time to see her again on the route. I hustled past fellow spectators and canvassers for the mayor's election to the Fulton street subway. Evidently, I wasn't the only one catching a runner at Long Island City. There was a line just to get into the station! Filing behind a Yankees fan and a Police officer, the single turnstile at Fulton Street delayed everybody, I missed a train just from waiting. A packed platform awaited me past the metal bars, a bad omen for things to come.

After a 10-minute headway, the G train arrived. There was no room on this train. None. Packed like Sardines. It was practically a human crush. Nonetheless, I had to get on. Car 1 was impenetrable, I feared I might not even make it on, till I saw a gap in between a man in a Dodgers jersey and the door. I shoved my way in, while he tried to shove me out. I made it on. In a French accent I heard him mumble "Bro. Is not game." But I did not care at all, I thought about a song I'd been loving by New York band Geese, "Long Island City, Here I Come".

10 more stops of nothing but compression, as few left and more entered, I finally got off at 21st street, and walked down Jackson Avenue where thankfully, my family was on the same side of the street. Just in time, our mom came around a few minutes later, 1 more train, and I'd have missed her entirely. Spectating phase 2 was complete.

After a bumper-to-bumper ride into midtown, we rested at a cafe aroma on 7th Avenue. My sister had another bus to catch and left before phase 3 at Columbus Circle. Hours had passed, but my mom had stood strong, keeping pace as she passed us on 59th street. She finished with a final time of 6 hours, 5 minutes and 53 seconds.

It was chaos to find her after she finished; every runner was given an orange coat upon completion and were let out at various points along Columbus Avenue. After half an hour of searching, we finally met her at 72nd Street. After another sardine like subway to 50th street, we ate dinner in Rockefeller center.

After running 26.2 miles, my mom was still able to get up and go to work today. While I never gave it much thought before, I've been inspired by my mom, and now will make the marathon a long-term goal for myself.



Photo contributed by Will Morgan

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 700 words and should be emailed to spectrum@sacredheart.edu. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material. We are not responsible for the opinions of the writers voiced in this forum.

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