

Linda McMahon Nominated to Cabinet, Facing Lawsuit

BY MADISON BEEKMAN
Editor-in-Chief

President-Elect Donald Trump nominated Sacred Heart Board of Trustee member Linda McMahon to serve as Secretary of Education.

McMahon previously served as the Administrator of the Small Business Administration in Trump's first term until 2019. She also served just over a year on the Connecticut State Board of Education before resigning in 2010 to run for a Senate seat. For the past four years, she also served as the Chair of the Board at the America First Policy Institute and is currently the Co-Chair of the Trump-Vance Transition Team, according to Trump's Truth Social announcement of the nomination.

"As Secretary of Education, Linda will fight tirelessly to expand 'Choice' to every State in America, and empower parents to make the best Education decisions for their families," Trump's statement said. "Linda will use her decades of Leadership experience, and deep understanding of both Education and Business, to empower the next Generation of American Students and Workers, and make America Number One in Education in the World."

Trump's education plan, which McMahon would be tasked to carry out if approved by the Senate, includes eliminating perceived "wokeness" and "left-wing indoctrination" in schools, according to the Associated Press. This includes classroom lessons on gender identity and structural racism, diversity and inclusion offices, and keeping transgender athletes out of girls' sports, AP reported.

One of Trump's key campaign pledges was that he would reduce or eliminate the federal Department of Education, the New York Times reported, which

Trump mentioned in the nomination announcement, saying education will be sent "back to the states." McMahon cannot carry this promise out on her own, as Congress has to approve this notion.

Congress introduced a bill to abolish the Department of Education on Nov. 21, sponsored by Republican Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota.

Sacred Heart University noted McMahon's continued efforts for the university.

"Linda McMahon has long been a supporter of Sacred Heart University and a member of its Board of Trustees. She most recently served as the board's treasurer," the university said. "Linda has always taken an interest in the students—inviting guest speakers, speaking to them and attending programs. The student commons is named the Linda E. McMahon Commons for her, and the dining hall inside is called Linda's."

President Dr. John J. Petillo also personally commented on McMahon's nomination.

"Linda's generosity to Sacred Heart over the years has been tremendous. She cares deeply about our students and understands our mission. We are grateful for her



Pablo Martinez Monsivais, AP Newsroom

President Donald Trump, left, shakes hands with Linda McMahon, right, head of the Small Business Administration, on stage at the Harris Conference Center in Charlotte, N.C., Friday, Aug. 31, 2018.

friendship," said Petillo. "We are confident that Linda's leadership will bring enormous value to the education system, just as it has to Sacred Heart University."

In the wake of this nomination, there has been criticism, not only for McMahon's "lack of experience" compared to those who previously held the position, according to the New York Times and many left-wing

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New at SHU: AAUP Chapter

BY ALANNA PARRILLO
Staff Writer

In November, faculty members started an Advocacy Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at Sacred Heart University.

"The AAUP is a professional organization that sets standards for and advocates for our profession, much like the American Medical Association does for doctors. Since its founding in 1915, the AAUP works to defend academic freedom and protect the faculty's role in the academic governance of their institutions," said Dr. Brian Stiltner, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at SHU and AAUP Secretary.

"I think this chapter will be important for maintaining SHU's excellence by promoting the faculty's voice and their awareness of themselves as part of a nationwide profession. Virtually all the universities in Connecticut already have AAUP chapters, including Fairfield, Quinnipiac and Yale. Now SHU has one too," said Stiltner.

AAUP was brought to SHU's campus with the hopes of helping professors advocate for issues related to education and the SHU community.

"Education is our primary mission; it is why we chose this profession. So, we feel that faculty should have a stronger voice in shaping university priorities, and we hope our AAUP chapter can help us do that," said Dr. Christel Manning, AAUP President and theology and religious studies professor.

"SHU has experienced tremendous growth in the last two decades which is exciting for everyone. In recent years, however, many faculty have expressed concerns about our future direction. We have lots of beautiful new buildings, but we are almost entirely tuition funded, and the university carries a lot of debt," said Manning.

"If demographics change and enrollment declines, academic programs and research funding may be cut. Too many courses are taught by

See NEW AT SHU: AAUP CHAPTER continued on pg. 2

13th Annual Turkey Drive Raises \$17k

BY HUNTER SANCETTA
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, the Sacred Heart University Student Government hosted its 13th Annual Turkey Drive at St. Charles Church in Bridgeport in slightly rainy conditions.

Once the turkeys were delivered to the church, families drove through to pick them up. They were handed out by students and others volunteers at the event.

In addition to the turkeys, the Office of



Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

Members of the SHU Men's Lacrosse team volunteer at the 13th Annual Turkey Drive.

Community Engagement, in collaboration with SHU Athletics, held its annual food drive to gather nonperishable goods.

With the support of Arlete Perez Paez, SHU's Assistant Director of Community Engagement, the initiative collected thousands of items. These donations were blessed during a university interfaith service.

The drive has been a staple event within the SHU community for over a decade.

"The special thing about this event is we are working directly with the individuals and families who surround our school, and that is exactly why our SHU community should care," said Gracie Patriarco, VP of Community and Inclusion Organizer.

"Oftentimes we can get stuck in our small bubble on campus, and this event allows us to reconnect with our community, providing support from one neighbor to another during a time that is not easy for everyone"

This event brought many people together, including past contributors, such as members of the SHU men's lacrosse team.

"I cannot wait to participate in the drive

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BY HUNTER SANCETTA
Staff Writer

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again. It really does help people and it feels like being able to make a difference in such a big way," said sophomore James Maron, a member of the team.

Others shared similar sentiments.

"I am super excited to interact and connect with the families. Being able to see the direct impact you are having on someone's holiday is amazing, and I think Student Government as a whole really appreciates this aspect of the event," said Patriarco.

According to the drive donation page found through the SHU Student Government Instagram, the event raised a total of \$17,478 by Nov. 26, the final day of fundraising, among 370 donors.

"Donations have matched up great this year. We are extremely happy with the generosity shown by the SHU community," Patriarco said.

Donations came through the canned food drives, a senior pub night, the crowd change link and canning, where SGA went around campus collecting any donations ranging from spare change to bills.

This year's turkey drive showcased the SHU community's commitment to helping its neighbors.

"I think the event is incredibly rewarding and important for all of those participating whether giving or receiving. Seeing the immense amount of positivity and even just the smiles on the recipient's faces is something that is unmatched," said Bente Bogues, Class of 2025 President.

"It's important because the Turkey Drive helps out everyone in the surrounding communities. It is a great cause that helps a lot of families be provided for and make sure that they have food on the table for Thanksgiving," Bogues said.



Daniel Passapera, Sacred Heart University

Members of the SHU Community volunteer at the 13th Annual Turkey Drive.

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BY MADISON BEEKMAN
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critics, but also for a lawsuit that McMahon is currently facing.

Filed on Oct. 23, 2024, five "John Does" who were former "ring boys" for World Wrestling Entertainment (W.W.E.), charged the W.W.E., Vince McMahon, Linda McMahon, and TKO Group Holdings, Inc. for their grooming and sexual abuse on the company's watch.

The Spectrum Newspaper reviewed the 82-page filing. It cites inappropriate, and sometimes graphic, interactions between Melvin Phillips, Jr., a prominent ringside announcer and ring crew chief from the 1970s to the early 1990s, and underage "ring boys."

Linda and her husband, Vince, from whom she is now separated, the W.W.E. and TKO Group Holdings, Inc. are being accused of two causes of action: negligence against all defendants and negligent hiring, training and retention against all defendants.

The Plaintiffs are demanding judgment in their favor and an amount of \$30,000 in excess for the damages that resulted from their sexual harassment and abuse, a trial by jury, an award of their attorneys' fees and costs in the prosecution, and any and all other relief that the court

deems just and equitable.

These allegations, specifically regarding the mistreatment of underage workers, and the history of the mistreatment of W.W.E. employees have raised concerns for McMahon's nomination. According to the New York Times, in her potential role, "she would oversee the department's Office of Civil Rights, which enforces laws such as Title IX that protect students from sex discrimination and sexual harassment."

Linda's attorney, Laura Brevetti, denied the allegations in a statement to CNN.

"This civil lawsuit based upon thirty-plus year-old allegations is filled with scurrilous lies, exaggerations and misrepresentations regarding Linda McMahon," Brevetti said to CNN. "Ms. McMahon will vigorously defend against this baseless lawsuit and without doubt ultimately succeed."

In a request for comment, Sacred Heart University expressed that it does not comment on ongoing allegations.

The Senate has yet to approve Linda McMahon's nomination, though CNN reported that defeat by vote is very rare, especially with a Republican-dominated Congress. Most nominees are generally not confirmed until the president-elect takes office on Inauguration Day, which is Jan. 20, 2025.

New at SHU: AAUP Chapter

BY ALANNA PARRILLO
Staff Writer

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part-time adjunct professors who receive low pay and cannot afford to have much of a presence on campus. All of this impacts the quality of a SHU education," said Manning.

The first meeting of the AAUP chapter at SHU will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. and is open to all faculty members interested in the chapter and obtaining an AAUP membership.

To join AAUP at SHU, potential members must enroll through the national AAUP organization first. Once enrolled, members will have to pay a fee based on their specific salary and will have access to webinars, policy documents and a national network of faculty.

From there, members can forward their confirmation email to the AAUP executive committee at SHU to secure their membership in the chapter.

"As the SHU Campus continues to grow, more faculty are working on different campuses or even

remotely. Consequently, faculty become much less connected to each other as working colleagues. Successful universities thrive on collegiate friendships nurtured across all disciplines. AAUP membership offers us this opportunity for greater solidarity among faculty by creating a space where we can debate and articulate our own voice," said Dr. Enda McGovern, AAUP Vice President and marketing professor.

AAUP has a specific mission and variety of goals for its new chapter.

"We aim to promote a strong, meaningful role for SHU faculty in shared governance by... contributing to efforts to reform and improve shared governance, participating as faculty members in shared governance and in the whole range of committees at the university, serving as a strong, independent voice advocating for faculty," states the SHU AAUP chapter website.

"We advocate for the health, safety, and well-being of the SHU community, we support a fair and manageable workload, we affirm the faculty's decision-making role in matters that directly impact the education of our students," it reads.

A Dialogue on Compassion

BY SAMANTHA MADIGAN
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Sacred Heart University's Dr. Susan L. Davis and Richard J. Henley College of Nursing hosted an event titled "A Dialogue on Compassion: Living Our SHU Mission in Action." This event, moderated by Dr. Charles Gillespie, took place in the University Commons at West Campus and featured a panel of professors.

Gillespie, an Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Pioneer Journey, explored the essence of compassion and its role in shaping the SHU community.

"I believe the Center for Compassion here at Sacred Heart University exemplifies the impact of allowing our mission to inform everything we do. Not only did we engage in a robust discussion for two hours, but we also embraced the interdisciplinary nature of our dialogue," said Gillespie.

He said, "Together, we can discover ways to connect as humans that enliven our spirits, give us hope, and remind us that compassion is a promise. Though we may suffer as humans, we need not do so alone."

The panel included insights from student nurses and faculty members from various departments, including the Isabelle Farrington College of Education & Human Development, the College of Health Professions and the Davis & Henley College of Nursing.

Among the faculty contributors, Associate Professor Katie Cunningham highlighted the role of compassion within the education field.

"Etymologically, compassion means 'to suffer with' and I think a lot about the compassion educators need in order to understand the struggles that students experience whether those are struggles in learning, struggles with friendship, struggles at home, struggles to be kind to themselves, and countless others. Connection is central to teaching," said Cunningham.

"In our teacher education program at SHU, we remind ourselves that no one cares what you know until they know you care," said Cunningham. "Developing skills in connection and compassion will make my students better teachers because compassion often distinguishes great teachers from good ones. Ultimately, the connection is why we are all together here."

Each faculty member emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of compassion, illustrating how

it intersects with teaching, nursing and all professional careers.

This talk encouraged students to lead by example and inspire their peers by being their most authentic selves. The dialogue challenged participants to apply the principles of compassion in all aspects of their lives.

"Sometimes, we learn the most from our students. One thing I always think about with compassion is that it's about making compassionate choices. There are always two solutions to every problem: what you want and should do. Ask yourself what a compassionate choice would be. Just pause, and your heart will guide you. That is how you live a life full of compassion; you infuse it into every decision you make," said Karen Daley, Dean of the Davis & Henley College of Nursing.

Gillespie said that discussions like these are crucial for shaping the next generation of leaders. Having events like this at SHU underscores the importance of living the Pioneer Journey daily.

"My final thoughts are to say yes to taking risks, especially while you're in the safety of this learning community. Seek out interdisciplinary opportunities that may not exist in the same way at other universities," said Gillespie.

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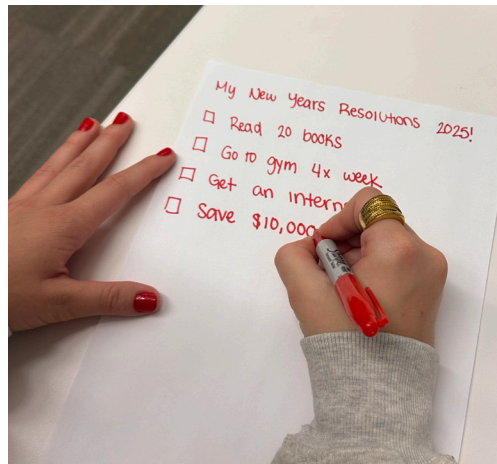
New Year, New You: Resolutions for 2025

BY KAYLA FALLARINO-FORTE
Staff Writer

With a new year approaching, many people aim to set goals and resolutions for the 365 days that lie ahead. From exercising more to prioritizing mental health, new year's resolutions are a way to establish new practices and routines.

Director of Counseling at Sacred Heart University, Daniel Fontana, said new year's resolutions offer a feeling of starting over and developing new habits.

"I feel the reason behind new year's resolutions is because it offers a kind of clean slate and fresh start. A form of re-inventing yourself you could say," said Fontana. "The idea of starting something new or changing something in your life in the middle of the year can be perceived as an even greater challenge due to the fact you are already in the midst of your routine actions or behaviors."



Daniella Baldino, Photo Editor

A student making a list of resolutions for the upcoming new year.

Fontana said because of this "clean slate" phenomenon, people do not often create these resolutions mid-year.

"With a new year, I feel this almost makes the change more palatable or perceived as easier to do simply because it's a brand-new year. We all hear that term 'new year, new me.' I have never heard someone say, 'same year, new me,' which leads me to believe that the clean slate perspective is the driving force behind a resolution," said Fontana.

Fontana said that people can be just as successful at establishing

and accomplishing goals if they were to create them at any point during the year.

"I think it's important to note that people aren't always ready to make changes simply because it's a new year. Change

is complicated. Just because it's a new year doesn't mean you're exactly ready to take action, sometimes it takes more time," Fontana said.

"At the end of the day new year's resolutions are fun because it's almost more tradition at this point, but people can have much more success and also apply less pressure on themselves if they approached change in a more structured realistic fashion," he said.

Sophomore Maria Esposito said that developing new year's resolutions help her reflect on the previous year and figure out ways she can improve in the upcoming year.

"New year's resolutions help me focus on achieving goals that I want to set for myself and have a positive outlook going forward into the new year. This is the time to reflect on the past year and come up with new accomplishments for myself," said Esposito. "My new year's resolutions last year were to fix my sleep schedule, be more consistent at the gym, and to stress less and live more in the moment."

Sophomore Averi Wurst said establishing these goals helps her stay motivated and help her look back on personal growth.

"New year's resolutions are what keep me motivated throughout the year. I look back and reminisce on the past year and come up with ideas to benefit my well-being as a whole," said Wurst. "Some resolutions I have made over the years include spending more time studying, keeping myself more organized overall, and staying on top of my schoolwork."

Although people can choose to develop new habits at any time, many like Esposito and Wurst choose Jan. 1 because it gives them a feeling of a fresh start.



A Celtic Christmas with Cherish the Ladies

BY OLIVIA TEDESCO
Staff Writer

On Thursday Nov. 6, the Sacred Heart University Community Theater will host the Irish group, Cherish the Ladies, as they perform their production of "A Celtic Christmas."

Under the direction of musician Joanie Madden, the Irish-American group blends traditional Irish music with holiday favorites, along with some Irish dancing, to put on a unique performance for audiences worldwide.

According to their website, Cherish the Ladies was formed in 1985 and has since produced 18 critically acclaimed albums and performed to thousands of audiences around the world, including shows at the Olympics and the White House.

The group is composed of the six artists Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan, Mirella Murray, Kathleen Boyle, Nollaig Casey, and Kate Purcell. They play a variety of instruments from the fiddle and tin whistle to the mandolin and bouzouki.

"They've pulled together some of the best female musicians from across the Irish music scene. Joanie Madden is incredibly talented and equally entertaining. You will be singing, laughing, and amazed by the talent on stage," said SHU Community Theatre Executive Director of Financial Analysis and Planning, Sheila Sullivan.

Senior nursing student and member of SHU's Claddagh Dancers, Michaela Farley, had the opportunity to perform with Cherish the Ladies last year.

"Collaborating with such talented musicians and dancers was an incredible experience. It brought a new dynamic to my understanding of Irish dance and culture. It is more than dancing; it is about celebrating tradition and sharing stories of Irish history," said Farley.

Cherish the Ladies brings a mix of traditional Irish music and



Instagram, @cherish_the_ladies

Cherish The Ladies, a traditional Irish music group, are set to perform at the SHU Community Theatre on Dec. 5.

modern influences on their performances, offering audiences a chance to experience Ireland's musical heritage.

"Irish or not, I would highly recommend spending an evening with Cherish the Ladies. It is great and bound to put you in the Christmas spirit," said Sullivan.

For more information, check out the following websites:

<https://cherishtheladies.com>

<https://www.sacredheart.edu/offices--departments-directory/alumni-engagement/events/home-for-the-holidays/cherish-the-ladies-a-celtic-christmas-and-pre-show-reception/index.php>

CHRISTMAS SERIES AT THE COMMUNITY THEATRE

FRIDAY 12/6:
DARLENE LOVE
LOVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
AT 8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY 12/12:
ELF
VIEWINGS AT
4 P.M.
7 P.M.

SATURDAY 12/14:
THE NUTCRACKER
BY NEW YORK
THEATRE BALLET
AT 3:00 P.M.

THURSDAY 12/19:
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
VIEWINGS AT
4 P.M.
7 P.M.

The Perfect Christmas Playlist

- All I Want For Christmas Is You - Mariah Carey
- Santa Tell Me - Ariana Grande
- Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) - Darlene Love
- Last Christmas - Wham!
- Christmas Tree Farm - Taylor Swift
- Christmas In Hollis - Run DMC
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas - Michael Bublé
- Santa Baby - Eartha Kitt
- The Christmas Song - Nat King Cole
- Underneath The Tree - Kelly Clarkson
- Mistletoe - Justin Bieber
- Holly Jolly Christmas - Michael Bublé
- Carol of the Bells - John Williams
- It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas - Michael Bublé
- Santa Drives An Astrovan - The Philly Specials, Mt. Joy
- Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town - Bruce Springsteen
- Wonderful Christmastime - Paul McCartney
- Do They Know It's Christmas? - Band Aid
- Winter Wonderland - Bing Crosby



Turkey Drive Photo Collage



Sacred Heart University photos by Daniel Passapera



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

CampusLife

Brad Dancer: The Mind Behind WSHU

BY COLLIN MOURA
Campus Life Editor

National Geographic. Disney. WWE. Now, Brad Dancer is bringing over 20 years of experience in programming and corporate brand strategy to WSHU.

Dancer was named general manager of WSHU in July, joining the region's NPR-affiliated radio station.

"The general manager of WSHU oversees all radio station functions, including programming, production, membership marketing, news, journalism, and all of our NPR and community relationships," said Dancer.

Licensed to Fairfield, WSHU-FM (91.1 FM) serves the Connecticut and Long Island areas with award-winning reporting, a variety of podcasts and a fresh take on classical music.

"My mission here is to get people to use what they know and think about how we can change for the future," said Dancer. "We're in good shape. Public radio is in a difficult position across the United States. WSHU, because it's part of Sacred Heart and because of its really strong listener base, we're actually in pretty good shape." Owned and operated by Sacred Heart University, the station is funded by listener support and individual donations.

"I've always believed in public radio. There are very few places for pure, free press," said Dancer. "It's to be a voice and a reflection of the community we serve."

Dancer got his start at Purdue University, where he studied film and biology. He later received his Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

He said, "I'm sort of a math/science nerd as well as a storytelling/content nerd. I did a little bit of both, was able to sort of mix those together and start doing more strategic things, more content programming, more content and marketing strategy."

Over the course of his career, Dancer has contributed to some of the industry's largest players. At National Geographic, he served as the Executive Vice President of Content Strategy and Data Insights, helping transform an aging brand in a new pathway, with a bold, premium content focused vision.

"We cut the hours in half and started spending. Instead of \$800,000 an hour, we were spending four, five, six million dollars an hour in programming," said Dancer.

During his years at Nat Geo, the company picked up its first ever Oscar win for Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi's award-winning documentary *Free Solo*.

The documentary chronicled one of the world's greatest athletic achievements, profiling climber Alex Honnold in his death-defying first ever free solo ascent of Yosemite National Park's El Capitan.

Instagram's launch in 2010 sparked another major change for the brand, as the company ceded control of social media to the photographers themselves. With 280 million followers on Instagram, the company is now the third most followed brand account in the world.

"Try and experiment, have fun and go along for the ride," said Dancer. "One thing I learned at National Geographic is the people who want you to experiment and innovate are the people closest to you. All the fans and the members of National Geographic wanted us to keep trying new things."

After nineteen years at National Geographic, Dancer moved to World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) during the heat of their merger with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

He spearheaded the promotion's global strategy and data analytics for three years, playing a major role in the company's transition.

"I moved up to Connecticut with the WWE job, I lived in the DC area for National Geographic. I really fell in love with Connecticut, I lived in Norwalk, loved the whole area," he said.

Dancer has since brought an innovative mindset to WSHU, emphasizing the importance of public radio and community engagement in our current media environment.

"It's a matter of trying to figure out what our fans and listeners want to hear," said Dancer. "We're constantly looking for how to reflect the community. If you can mix longevity with a mindset of change, you can keep adapting to the new environment."



Sacred Heart University photo by Daniel Passapera

Brad Dancer, the general manager of WSHU pictured in the station's Park Avenue headquarters.

Arts & Entertainment

Broadway to Blockbuster: “Wicked” Movie Hits Theaters

BY JENNA REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

“As a longtime fan of the Broadway musical ‘Wicked,’ I was hesitant about whether the movie adaptation would do the musical justice. However, the film completely exceeded my expectations. It was everything I imagined and more,” said junior Nora Davis.

“Wicked,” the original Broadway production, opened in 2003 and was developed from Gregory Maguire’s book “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West.” The film “Wicked,” inspired by the Broadway prequel to the novel “The Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum, premiered in theatres on Nov. 22.

According to USA Today, the film grossed \$114 million in the U.S. and Canada and another \$50.2 million internationally, bringing the global total to \$164.2 million as of Nov. 22.

The film achieved another milestone with a record-breaking \$46 million in box office earnings on its opening day.

Deseret News spoke with the film’s director, Jon M. Chu, about what the film adaptation of “Wicked” offers audiences that the Broadway production does not. Chu described how audiences are the closest they have ever been, allowing for the stories’ nuances on relationships and good versus evil to be on full display.

Pop star Ariana Grande and British actress-singer Cynthia Erivo star in the lead roles. Erivo as Elphaba, the misunderstood, green-skinned student of magic who later becomes the Wicked Witch of the West, and Grande as Galinda, the Good Witch of the South.

The film depicts the relationship between Elphaba and Galinda before they gained their reputations as “Wicked” and “Good.” They are roommates at Shiz University in the land of Oz.

“I must admit I was hesitant when I heard Ariana Grande was cast as Galinda. My initial thought was that she landed the role because of her fame. I could not be more wrong. Her live vocals were truly incredible. She was quite literally the perfect fit,” said junior Lily Carlino.

Chu, in an interview with Vanity Fair back in March, shared that during the shooting of the film, Grande and Erivo decided to ditch the pre-recorded sing-along tracks and sing live.

“We chose to sing live because it meant that we would be further connected to the words we were saying, and to each other,” said Erivo, in a behind-the-scenes video posted on the film’s official YouTube page. “There’s something special about what happens when music is live in a room. It feels really powerful.”

Idina Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth, the original Elphaba and Galinda in



AP News, Giles Keyte

Ariana Grande as Galinda, and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba pictured in a scene from *Wicked*.

the Broadway production, made a cameo appearance toward the film’s end. They joined Grande and Erivo to sing “One Short Day,” an upbeat song about all that can be explored in Emerald City in one short day.

“I had no idea two of my favorite Broadway stars were going to make an appearance in the film. The way all four of their voices melted into one literally gave me the chills. It was such a fun surprise,” said junior Maggie Powers.

The film concludes with “Defying Gravity,” one of the musical’s most iconic ballads, marking the conclusion of Act 1.

In April 2022, Chu announced in a social media statement that the story of “Wicked” would be told by not one, but two films split at the point of the intermission of the musical. The second part of “Wicked” is scheduled for release in November 2025 and will cover the second act of the musical.

“The one downside to how much I enjoyed the film is the fact that I now have to wait another year for the rest of it,” said Carlino. “But I am certain it is going to be well worth the wait!”

Holiday Dad Jokes:

What do snowmen wear to work?

Snowsuits

What do you call a snowman who works out?

An ab-dominal snowman

What do they call snowmen in Hawaii?

Water

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite

Why did Rudolph get braces?

Because he had buck teeth

How does Santa avoid getting sick before Christmas?

He uses hand Santa-tizer

Why did the pony miss singing at the Christmas concert?

It was a little horse

What does Santa use to settle his stomach?

Orna-mints

What do you call a snowman on the move?

A snowmobile

Why did the snowman get a saxophone?

He wanted to play cool jazz

Why did Santa go to the podiatrist?

He had mistletoes

Jokes from today.com







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Sports

Men's Soccer Makes Their Mark on the MAAC

BY SEBASTIAN DEGOLIER
Staff Writer

In the 101st minute of a double overtime game, Rider University put a shot in the back of the net, defeating the Sacred Heart Pioneers men's soccer team 1-0 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) quarterfinal.

Following the end of the game, emotions were up and down for the Pioneers. "We were all pretty disappointed. We got a bunch of guys who played their last season and to all of us those are legends of the program," said junior Matthias Dick. "I do believe there was also a little bit of pride afterwards for the performance we put on the pitch against Rider, a team who was tied for first in the conference."

The loss would mark the end of the Pioneers' inaugural season in the MAAC. The team finished with an overall record of 8-6-2, their best since 2012.

"We have changed our style of play. We have been working with our style right now since spring of last year and the new players have adapted very well," said junior and captain David Garcia Gallego. "We have control in every single game. That is the most important change this year."

With the change of conference, also comes change in competition compared to the Northeastern Conference (NEC).

"It feels like in the MAAC, everyone can beat everyone. One week you beat a team that is higher in standings, then the next week you have a very tough game against a team that doesn't have a good record," said Dick. "The MAAC is very even, I feel like the NEC is more dominated by a bunch of teams."



Contributed by David Garcia Gallego '26

Junior David Garcia Gallego winding up for a shot against Lehigh University's defense.

Despite the change in competition, three players received all conference honors. Gallego was named first team All-MAAC. Dick, and junior Sam McCann were both named third team All-MAAC.

"Matthias is a great player, I know he cares about the game at a higher level than most people do at the division one level. David busts his butt in practice, he's one of those guys who is a hard worker, he's our captain and he leads by example," said McCann. "The three of us all have the same mentality that we want to go pro after we finish school and in order to do that we have to separate ourselves from the rest of the pack in our conference."

Even though next season is still far away for the Pioneers, pieces are already being put together to see what needs to be improved and how they can return to the playoffs next season.

"I think it's about putting together more complete games. If you go back and watch our games we had really good first halves and the second half we dropped off," said McCann. "If we can put together a full 90 minutes of everyone doing their job, we don't have to change a whole lot. It's just about the little details going forward."

Although there is no more Sacred Heart men's soccer this season, be on the lookout for the Pioneers next year as they look to pick up where they left off.

"I advise everyone next year to be ready and come to men's soccer games," said Dick. "I think it's going to be an exciting season and I think no one's going to make a mistake by coming to our home games."



Contributed by Sam McCann '26

Junior Sam McCann in the air for a bicycle kick in a game against Fordham University.

Cross Country Finishes Fall Season

BY ANDREW DAYTON
Staff Writer

On Friday, Nov. 15, the Sacred Heart University men's cross country team finished up their fall season at the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I Northeast Regional Championship. The race took place at Hopkinton Fairgrounds in Hopkinton, N.H.

The Pioneers finished with a total of 1,076 points and came in 37th place out of 38. Sophomore Michael Mason earned the top team finish for the fourth time of the season and finished in 190th place out of 256 with an overall time of 33:16.28.

"It was a solid race overall," said junior Matthew Vene. "It was a nice way to conclude the season."

Along with Mason, Sacred Heart's other top finishers were Vene who came in 209th place with a time of 33:36.97 and junior Owen Delisle who scored 225th place with a time of 34:25.30.

First-year students Anthony Esposito and Demetri Franzese rounded out Sacred Heart's top five with times of 34:31.51 and 34:43.37. Esposito got 229th place while Franzese finished in 236th place.

"I think this is the most complete team we have had since I have been at Sacred Heart," said junior Ryan Jaipaul. "I have extremely high hopes."

Mason's first top team finish came on Saturday, Aug. 31 when Sacred Heart had their first meet of the season in Stony Brook, N.Y. Mason earned 17th place and posted a time of 20:15.5 in the 6K race which was his personal best.

Mason's second top team finish occurred on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Manhattan University Jasper Fall Invitational in Montgomery, N.Y. His third was on Sunday, Oct. 20 at the University of Vermont Fall Foliage Invitational which took place in St.

Albans, Vt.

Mason got 29th place in the Jasper Fall Invitational with a time of 26:02.6, and he got 11th place at the Fall Foliage Invitational with a time of 26:05.3.

"Michael having four first place finishes on the season are really no surprise to me," said Jaipaul. "He is an incredibly dedicated runner that trains hard, smart, and with purpose."

Each school consisted of seven runners at most. The scoring was determined by the top five finishers from each school, and the school with the lowest combined score would win.

According to the American Statistical Association, a team's sixth and seventh runners do not score points, but they still have a big role as their places can change the scores of the other teams.

The Pioneers also competed in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship on Saturday, Nov. 2. The race was held at Twin Ponds on the Farm in Montgomery, N.Y.

Sacred Heart got 12th place out of 13 and ended with a total of 312 points. Franzese obtained the top team finish for the first time in his career and came in 80th place overall with a time of 26:21.4.

"Demetri had really nice performances," said Mason. "He is probably one of the best freshman

performers over the last few years."

Other top finishers for Sacred Heart were Vene who finished in 86th place with a time of 26:29.6 and Mason who got 101st place with a time of 26:48.9.

Delisle finished right behind Mason in 102nd place and got a time of 26:49.4. The final top finish came from Esposito who got a time of 27:05 and finished in 113rd place.

"I think the winter season is going to be one for the history books," said Vene. "We can definitely shoot for top three in the conference."



Instagram, @shu_tfxc

SHU's men and women cross country teams prepared to race in the NCAA Regionals in New Hampshire.

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Who Does Coffee Right?

BY ISABELLA GENERAZO

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

As I sat here staring at this blank document, the lack of debate and true passion about a very serious topic crossed my mind. As we enter this holiday season, there are two specific drink menus of importance, and you are faced with the choice of picking the correct one. When it comes to Dunkin' vs. Starbucks, there should be no question where you should be spending your time and money.

Back in Middleboro, Mass., my hometown, I have not one, not two, not three, but four Dunkin' establishments within a five-mile radius of my house. Starbucks on the other hand? There is not a single one in my town. What is the point of frequenting a coffee shop that takes you 20 minutes to get to? Now, you may be thinking, towns that have Starbucks may prefer it because of its close proximity. Despite this I can almost guarantee you that in all of New England, Massachusetts specifically, there will be at least two Dunkin's in the same vicinity as one singular Starbucks per town.

Now when given the option of these two places, there are some important statistics to consider. As a college student and an excessive fun drink/sweet treat buyer, we must first look at the levels of cost efficiency. For myself, along with many of my friends attending this university, "ballin' on a budget" is a frequently relevant phrase. Although prices change town to town, Dunkin' has a reputation for being cheaper.

A medium iced coffee at Dunkin' costs approximately \$3.74. A grande (medium) iced coffee at Starbucks costs between \$4.25 and \$4.65. Along with this, the actual medium cup at Dunkin' is typically 24 oz while the grande cup at Starbucks is only 16 oz. Therefore, not only is Dunkin' cheaper, but you are getting more for your money as well.

In the realm of coffee shops in general, there is the unfortunate upcharge for us lactose intolerant people. Personally I stick with almond milk, or oat milk if I want a hint of expired cheese in my coffee (it's a personal thing). However, you may notice that every time you want a fun drink with non dairy milk, you're paying extra. At Dunkin', it is about \$0.50 to \$2.15 to add a non-dairy milk depending on size. At Starbucks, they recently made non-dairy milk free of charge. Although Starbucks wins this category, are you really spending any less money when the drink itself is more expensive than double a non-dairy charge at Dunkin'? No, so the right answer is still Dunkin' in a financial sense.

Now let's move onto the food. For starters, Dunkin's food menu is much more expansive and has more variety than Starbucks. Also, you can only get specific things at Starbucks, and cannot change, add or subtract elements from a sandwich. Dunkin' is flexible and gives you the opportunity to create your breakfast how you want it. Along with this, Starbucks simply has no donuts. I don't even like donuts, but what is a coffee shop without an assortment of donuts?

Some may say the customer service at Dunkin' is generally more aggressive and less friendly. But hear me out, I think it is a blessing and a curse. Although it can be scary to enter a Dunkin' during rush hour, those stressed workers will wake you up more than coffee does. Therefore, you are not only getting energy from your beverage, but from your experience.

Along with this, Dunkin' is generally more speedy and consistent. I have endured many waits at Dunkin', but Starbucks always takes longer. I also find Dunkin' to be more consistent. They certainly have times where their coffee tastes like sewage and times their coffee is top notch, but at least they stay consistent with both fronts nonetheless.

Another thing I prefer about Dunkin' is that their drinks are plentiful and to the point. They keep it simple, and I admire that. If you want a caramel iced coffee, you ask for just that. Starbucks has all these fancy names for everything and half the time, you can't predict what could possibly be in the drink you're struggling to pronounce.

Starbucks on the other hand, reminds me of a little sister who has no license but wants a ride to get food then convinces you to pay for her food. They're always pushing you to do things you don't want to do, and buy drinks that are more expensive and more aesthetic than they are enjoyable.

Speaking of aesthetics, orange and pink are simply a beautiful combination, and truly outshine the plain, sad green that radiates off of a Starbucks logo.



Instagram, @starbucks



Instagram, @dunkin

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