

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 107, Issue 18 | March 24, 2026 | West Haven, Connecticut



Esport room in Bergami.

Photos courtesy of Charger Bulletin / Natalia Lizak

The rippling effects of budget cuts on the university

BY MAYA PACHECO
Campus News Editor

The ongoing financial struggles within the university caused by the increased number of international students facing visa restrictions have begun to affect faculty and students.

Nancy Ortins Savage, the university's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said in the Hartford Courant, "Several undergraduate and graduate programs across the university will pause enrollment or close over the next academic year."

The university is left with no choice but to start implementing decisions regarding faculty and students in these upcoming paused or closed programs. Savage explained the university's approach to selecting the programs that are being paused or cut. "Innovation in curriculum development remains essential, and it must be coupled

with a willingness to revise or discontinue programs that do not materialize as planned or no longer meet institutional or market-driven needs," said Savage.

The university continued to have these discussions in private with faculty, with confirmation of select majors that are being paused or closed – specifically, the programs of E-sports and digital game management and the public health program.

Derek J. Smith, academic program coordinator for E-sports and digital game management, assistant professor of practice for sport management and a school alumnus, confirmed that these conversations began last semester.

"Because of the deficit, they have tried to cut as much as they could in terms of non-operational expenses, so they didn't want to cut faculty, especially full-time faculty," said Smith.

On Feb. 20, the Pompea College of Business hosted an all-staff meeting, where the dean of the college, Brian T. Kench, announced the cuts that will be made due to budget constraints.

Smith said he realized that the program might be in jeopardy because of the lack of growth and sustainability within it. He said that by transforming the program into something that offers students information and unique courses in regards to the business side of gaming has been amazing.

Smith said he understands that fellow staff members might be hesitant to speak about their termination, but he chose to speak and express his gratitude to the university for giving him an opportunity to showcase his passion for innovation and teaching.

What does this mean for students? Miles Carter, junior esports and gaming student, is one of the last

students from his year who will graduate with the degree. When he heard about the news from Smith, Miles said he spoke with his classmates, and wondered what it meant for them.

"I was sad after hearing that Derek was laid off due to major closure," said Carter. "He is a great teacher and advisor."

Luckily for Carter's cohort and the cohort before, graduation is not an issue, as Smith set up his students so that they only need to complete electives and classes in their respective minors.

These changes have also taken a course in the public health department last semester when students were informed of the discontinuation of their major.

"All that was said was that public health will no longer be considered a major, but it can be considered a concentration or minor," said Foyinsola Esan, junior public health student.

Esan said she recognized a shift once she came back from spring break, when she saw that some professors had been let go.

"The official date of the discontinuation is still pending, but it is definitely soon because I can see the signs of it already," said Esan. "I am currently enrolled in the dual degree program for my MPH, but I am considering doing it somewhere else because it got much more complicated after this news."

As the university deals with the changes, Smith still looks at the bright side with finishing up the semester and launching his esports and digital game management global landscape summer course.

"Sometimes a blank canvas is the best canvas because there's nothing but opportunity there, and I have a blank canvas right now and waiting on that opportunity," he said.

Connecticut pension spending at all-time high for retired government workers

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

In fiscal year 2025, the state of Connecticut reached an all-time high—\$2.75 billion—in spending for retired government workers. The data was found on the Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller website, which tracks where tax dollars go, including operating expenses, open expenditures, state payroll, state pensions and tax credits. For comparison, in 2015, the pension average was \$34,438 per person.

In 2025, the average pension soared to \$44,961 per person. In 2025, 61,179 current and

former Connecticut residents received retirement pensions. The highest was more than \$400,000 a year. Pensions have been established in Connecticut since 1939 under the State Employees Retirement System (SERS). Pensions are intended to be evergreen, meaning permanent for people receiving payments under retirement until their death. The current SERS agreement, established in 2017, will expire on June 30, 2027.

In Connecticut, 45,658 of pension earners still reside in the state, and approximately 75% of them are retirees. The rest live in other states such as Florida, where close to 6,000 people live;

Massachusetts, where more than 2,000 live, and North Carolina and South Carolina. Residents of Connecticut have left the state for retirement seeking states with lower costs of living such as Florida, where the average cost of living is approximately \$60,000 a year compared to Connecticut, which is approximately \$65,000.

In terms of those pensioners, four are listed as “UNDISCLOSED UNDISCLOSED,” who received more than \$200,000 in pensions. The five highest listed are John Veiga, a Board of Trustees member at the University of Connecticut (UConn); Jack Blechner, a former UConn health professor;

Edward Blanchette; the former director of clinical services for Connecticut’s Department of Correction; Jeffrey Fisher who is also a Board of Trustees member at UConn and Harry Hartley who served as the 12th president of UConn from 1990 to 1996.

Some think that spending on pensions in the state has gone too far. Ryan J. Wells, the treasurer for the University’s College Republicans chapter, said, “this is a burgeoning welfare state that’s destroying the budget, destroying the affordability which is already a huge problem, and it is going to continue to be a continuing problem and if we don’t confront it at

some point, it’s going to kill the state as it has.”

Wells also described what he called a bloated budget in the state and how it will continue to impact future generations with the state also being one of the highest for people moving out as he described.

Conn. Gov. Ned Lamont is also looking to increase the amount of funding that goes toward current state employees. His end goal is \$7.3 billion after a gradual 10-year increase. Lamont has also previously proposed buying a stake in the WNBA’s Connecticut Sun team by using pension money to keep the team from moving to Boston.

Gas prices rising across the country amid war in Iran

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

If you remember hearing phrases in commercials during the Biden administration such as “he saved at the pump” or “save 10 cents per gallon at Exxon & Mobil,” you may want to take another look.

Amid strikes on Iran by the U.S. and Israel that began on Feb. 28, Americans have noticed their gas prices rising again. While the U.S. does not generally import oil from Iran and has maintained heavy restrictions since the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Iran is estimated to have approximately 4% of the world’s oil supply.

Whenever a large supply of oil decreases in production or is cut off, the prices can change faster than you realize.

“Oil, no matter where it comes from, is priced largely on global supply and demand,” wrote Emmett Lindner, a business reporter in a recent New York Times article. “Prices can change quickly

when supply is cut off by wars or weather, or if demand rises or falls.” Because of the war, the Strait of Hormuz, located in between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, which carries approximately 20% of the world’s oil supplies on ships, has been largely blocked off to traffic. Since the beginning of March, 100 ships are estimated to have passed through the waterway, significantly lower than the average of 138 daily. If there’s less oil available and there’s high demand, prices can rise.

The U.S. is not excluded from this. According to a poll conducted by Reuters/Ipsos, 55% of Americans believe prices have impacted them and 87% expect prices to continue to rise. In an effort to ease the surge, U.S. Treasury Sec. Scott Bessent announced on Friday that the U.S. will lift sanctions on Iranian oil imports for 30 days.

“At present, sanctioned Iranian oil is being hoarded by China on the cheap,” said Bessent in a

post on X. “By temporarily unlocking this existing supply for the world, the United States will quickly bring approximately 140 million barrels of oil to global markets, expanding the amount of worldwide energy and helping to relieve the temporary pressures on supply caused by Iran.”

Amid price hikes, Conn. Gov. Ned Lamont proposed a temporary suspension of the state’s gas tax to try alleviating drivers. Lamont’s proposal would save drivers 25 cents per gallon, and 49 cents per gallon if the diesel tax was also suspended. Despite this, the proposal has not secured firm support among lawmakers. Some accuse Lamont of not having a solid plan and others want to fold the proposal into other budget bills and proposals. House Speaker Matt Ritter claimed that a vote on such a proposal may not occur until April, but others think it could take until May. Average estimates in the state have shown that prices a month ago were at about \$2.90 a



Gas station in West Haven.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

gallon to now about \$3.76 a gallon.

Commuters and students with cars on campus have also noticed the price increases. Krish Patel, a computer science junior and commuter said, “There were three gas stations that I passed by, one of them is actually my uncle’s and about two weeks ago it was about \$2, \$2.50 which is not bad, but now it’s \$3.60, \$3.70 it’s an expensive hurt especially with the car that I drive, it’s got a big engine so it

drinks a lot of gas.”

Melanie Blood, a forensic science sophomore who has a car on campus said, “Before I left for break there was a gas station around here that was about \$2.80 a gallon and I really like going there, and when I got to Massachusetts the prices were way higher like every single gas station I saw were above \$3. Then when I got back, the gas station that I usually run to was at like \$3 per gallon; it was really bad.”

Add, drop and slay: Your guide for upcoming registration

BY RAYNE DELOS REYES
Contributing Writer

As we endure the spring semester, one thing is already creeping into everyone's mind—registration. While it might not sound exciting, planning your schedule doesn't have to be stressful. With a little preparation, and maybe a snack, you can totally handle this like a pro.

Step 1: Know your time to shine

First things first, check your registration time. This is your official time to log in and select your classes. Registration times are based on graduation year, so seniors go first, followed by juniors, sophomores and then first-years.

You can find your date and time in the Self-Service Banner on MyCharger. Set a reminder, tell your friends, just don't miss it. The earlier you log in, the better chance you have of getting your ideal schedule.

If you have trouble figuring it out, reach out to your academic advisor for help.

Step 2: Talk it out with your advisor

Before you go clicking "register," make sure you meet with your advisor. They are your academic GPS, helping you stay on track for upcoming semesters while also suggesting classes you might not have considered.

Planning ahead can save you some stress. Meeting early gives students more control over their schedule and helps avoid last-minute panic.

Step 3: Build your dream schedule

Now for the fun part! Planning your classes. Think of it like putting together your perfect weekly vibe. Do you want early mornings or later starts? Back-to-back classes or long breaks?

Use tools like the university's course catalog to explore your options. Make sure you're covering your major requirements, but also leave room for something interesting or new.

Pro tip: Always have backup classes ready. Some courses fill up fast, and hav-



One Stop Student Financial and Registrar Services Office.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

ing options keeps you from scrambling.

Step 4: It's go time, register!

When your time slot opens, log into the Self-Service Banner and start adding your classes. This is where preparation really pays off. If you already know what you want, the process will be quick and smooth.

Of course, sometimes things don't go perfectly. A class may be full or a time conflict might appear. Don't panic! Just switch to one of your backup options and

keep going.

Step 5: Double-check everything

Once you're done, take a minute to review your schedule. Check your class times, locations and credits. Make sure everything looks right. If something feels off, don't worry. You can still make changes during the add/drop period at the start of the semester.

You've got this!

Registration might seem overwhelming, but it's really

just about staying organized and thinking ahead. With the right plan, you can build a schedule that works for you, and maybe even enjoy the process.

At the end of the day, registration isn't just about picking classes. It's about creating a semester that fits your goals, your interests and your life.

So grab your laptop, log in and get ready to add, drop and absolutely slay your schedule.

Is it acceptable to use artificial intelligence in college now?

BY MAYA PACHECO
Campus News Editor

Remember the 2004 movie "iRobot," where the world was taken over by, well, robots or the central AI V.I.K.I. (Virtual Interactive Kinetic Intelligence)?

Except, it isn't just a movie anymore, but our reality with multiple forms of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is inching its way into fields like healthcare, finance, business, marketing and more.

What does that look like in education?

According to the Campbell Academic Technology Services, a global survey conducted by the Digital Education Council found 86% of students were using AI in their studies, and 54% used it weekly, while one in four used it daily.

Talon Wilterdink, a senior esports and gaming student, is on the hopeful side of AI. Wilterdink has a plus subscription for ChatGPT, which allows him unlimited use of the

most up-to-date available AI models.

"I have a positive opinion of AI that mainly stems from its ability to enhance what humans are already capable of doing and push our abilities to heights never seen before," said Wilterdink.

Similar to Wilterdink, other students say they use AI models like ChatGPT to help them study, find sources and organize thoughts and actions.

"I use ChatGPT often just to talk about things I'm thinking about or any ideas that I get and am curious to learn more about," said Wilterdink. "My thoughts are often very scattered, so the AI helps me figure out my train of thought and organize my thoughts."

A survey conducted by BestColleges among 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students, shows that 56% of college students have used AI on assignments or exams. Even with his positive outlook on AI,

Wilterdink still expresses concerns about it in educational settings.

"AI in education is a tricky subject, since I feel it is mostly used incorrectly in the space despite having the clear potential to make a positive impact," he said.

Since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, Emmanuel College conducted a survey indicating that 50% to 70% of college students and 70% to 80% of high school students have cheated on assignments. Around half of college students use AI, and more than half use it to cheat.

Not only does AI make it easier to cheat, but it has arguably helped with lifestyle and increased the reliability of technology, something with which Jennifer Arena, a senior environmental science major, does not agree.

"I do not like the thought of machines doing things for me because there is no independence and original-

ity to thoughts, ideas and lifestyles," said Arena.

Arena said she tries to minimize her use of AI because of environmental and moral reasons, and that she only uses it to "help give me ideas, strategies and to generate flashcards to study for exams that I either did not have the time to create or know how to go about starting."

Arena agrees with Wilterdink that AI can be beneficial if it's used in the right way, not to cheat, plagiarize or think for us, but to assist us, suggest ideas and help with time-consuming tasks.

"This should be the primary focus because we should not use AI to do mundane tasks or use it to think for us," said Arena. "There are times when we struggle with thinking about ideas or thoughts to contribute to a conversation, so it is fine to use it to assist us, but not for us to steal or plagiarize by using it."

Unlike Will Smith in

the movie, we cannot just make AI disappear, but we can try to adapt to the new world of technology. Though college faculty are hesitant about AI, an increasing number of professors have implemented AI in their courses, while universities have even made individualized courses on how to use AI. Specifically, the university offers a master's degree and has recently added a bachelor's degree in AI. The course is made to prepare students with technical and ethical skills for careers in AI.

"In the future, I think massive benefits will come to the education space once AI literacy becomes normalized in society," said Wilterdink. "Think about how powerful it would be to have individualized teaching for every student that moves along at the pace they need--this is what I believe AI is capable of helping us with in the education space, and hopefully that will arrive sooner than later."

Local artist explores intricate relationships in latest collection

BY NEVAEH LUGO
Arts & Life Editor

Practitioner in residence and multidisciplinary artist Katharen Wiese held an artist talk in Bucknall Theater on Thursday about her current exhibition on display on campus.

“Hard Leisure,” an exhibition at Seton Gallery open from March 16, explores relationships between individuals and their environments, race, self, movement and consumerism.

The piece in the gallery by the same name—which is also part of the project, “i made the cornrows: Portraits of Black Nebraskans”—is a relief print portrait of nail technician Imagine Uhlenbrock, a friend of Wiese’s, overlaying a collage of pages from the “Negro Travelers’ Greenbook,” a collection of black-owned businesses across the United States published in 1956.

“The dissemination of the print becomes a kind of postcard confronting the difficulties faced by African Americans as they tried to vacation in the United States in the 20th century,” Wiese said in a statement in the exhibition

catalogue.

In creating portraits like those of Imagine, Wiese took the time to sit down and interview her subjects to gain a deeper insight into who they were for inspiration on how to portray them.

“I would ask people ‘What are five ideas you think of as central to your understanding of yourself?’” Wiese said.

Wiese said these conversations were time consuming, and sometimes she interviews the same person multiple times to figure out what they considered part of their core identity.

While “Both Eyes Open” isn’t a part of the “Hard Leisure” exhibition, it is another part of her “i made the cornrows project,” and Wiese used her interviewing strategy with another artist friend of hers, Joelle Wellansa Sandfort, before creating the final marbled paper and oil painting.

Wiese said she was pleasantly surprised at the fact that Sandfort’s racial identity wasn’t part of this core interpretation of herself, but rather she viewed herself with an emphasis on her relationship with the world around her, drawing her strength to con-

nect with others from the time she spends with nature.

“I think one really exciting thing about interviewing people is this tension between what you expect them to say or think about themselves, and then what you learn about them,” Wiese said.

The largest piece in the exhibition, “How to smile at the end of our world (a portrait of Uhlenbrock),” is a 104 inch by 106 inch combination relief print and acrylic painting on a layer of recycled materials including kraft paper bags and delaminated cardboard.

The large piece also serves as a commentary on the role of individuals in environmental crises, as the piece depicts Imagine surrounded by living things, while the work itself consists of items of consumerism.

The idea began to form for Wiese during the photoshoot stage, in which she noticed that a plastic water bottle Uhlenbrock held was in frame for a lot of the shots she took.

“It made me think about this sort of tension of the experience between at once being people who are growing things and protecting life and creating life, and at the same time,



Hard Leisure by Katharen Wiese.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Ashton Gleed

this inescapability of being wrapped up in these systems of environmental harm, which are often times sort of barely in our control, right?” Wiese said.

In a collaboration between the Yale School of Art and UNH, professor of practice and art coordinator Joseph Smolinski developed a community engaged teaching fellowship position currently held by Wiese and assisted in transporting her art to the gallery.

“Kat is a remarkable artist who works with a variety of materials and techniques,” Smolinski said. “Her work bal-

ances an intense investigation of materials and meaning that I find inspiring.”

“While I took on the role of being an academic mentor to Kat, the fact is, I really learned a lot from her!” Smolinski said. “The experience of having Kat be such an integral part of our department has been a highlight of my career here at UNH.”

“Hard Leisure” will remain on display in Seton Gallery until April 10 and Wiese’s other works are available to view at katwiese.com.

And the Oscar goes to... Inside the 2026 Academy Awards

BY JACKSON CHAMBERS
Contributing Writer

Perspective

Hollywood’s biggest night took place in Los Angeles at the Dolby Theatre on March 15. Hosted by comedian Conan O’Brien, this year’s Oscars had plenty of action, one award after another. “Sinners” was nominated for a record 16 Academy Awards, and big names like Leonardo DiCaprio and Emma Stone also received nominations for their work.

Many watched the Oscars for the top categories: Best Picture, Best Actor and Actress and each of the supporting categories. “One Battle After Another,” starring DiCaprio, won Best Picture. The movie centers around an off-the-grid father (DiCaprio) protecting his daughter from the crazed Colonel Lockjaw (Sean Penn) after a controversial past. In addition to the high stakes and emotions, the movie also has quite a bit of humor and focuses on real-world topics.

Michael B. Jordan took home his first Academy Award for Best Actor for his role, or rather

dual role, in “Sinners,” where he plays twins “Smoke” and “Stack.” Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for her performance in “Hamnet.” Penn won Best Supporting Actor for his role in “One Battle After Another,” though he was not there to accept it, and Amy Madigan won Best Supporting Actress for her role in “Weapons.”

Any Academy Awards show is not complete without its surprises, and this year’s came from the snubs and even some history. “Marty Supreme,” starring Timothée Chalamet, was nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Actor and Best Picture, but received zero wins, even with its 93% freshness rating on Rotten Tomatoes. “Bugonia,” “The Secret Agent” and “Train Dreams,” were also nominated for multiple awards, but received none.

On a positive note, “Singers” and “Two People Exchanging Saliva,” tied for Best Live Action Short Film, something that has happened only seven times in the 98 years of Oscars.

A list of all the nominees and winners can be found at Oscars.org.

One could say the most

popular part of the award show is the infamous red carpet. The Oscars red carpet is perhaps the fanciest formal event in the nation, second to almost none, perhaps only a Gatsby party. An hour before the show, celebrities got dressed in elegant dresses, polished tuxedos and dashing designer outfits. Some celebrities even brought more than one outfit for the cameras.

Best Actress winner Buckley wore a long pink and red dress, while Best Actor winner Jordan had a sharp all black tuxedo with a gold chain. Kate Hudson appeared with her mother, Goldie Hawn, both in dashing black and turquoise dresses. Past Oscar winners Stone and DiCaprio kept it simple in a white dress and black tuxedo.

All eyes were on Anne Hathaway, who wore a sophisticated yet jaw-dropping black floral gown with a dress train. She made an appearance to give out the award for Best Costume Design alongside Vogue editor Anna Wintour, who is the inspiration behind Miranda Priestly in “The Devil Wears Prada,” which Hathaway stars in.

Criminal Justice major Tate McCullough gave his opinion



Oscars 2026 poster.
Photo courtesy of IMDb

on the Oscars, actors and Hollywood. McCollough really enjoyed the movies and actors that were nominated, and said his favorite movie was “Sinners.”

“It was such a fun movie. The musical scenes were great and the story it told was incredible,” said McCollough. McCollough also said he appreciated Jordan and Chalamet, praising them both for having such range at a young age.

Of all the Academy Awards shows, the Oscars are by far the most popular, and they did not

disappoint this year. We saw stunning outfits straight from the runway on the red carpet, big names getting nominated for doing their best work, as well as new faces appearing on the stage and some of their first awards. Some history was also being made, movies breaking records for nominations and even tying for awards. 2025 was another great year for the film industry and we have more than enough to look forward to in 2026 and next year’s Oscars.

How the art department fosters student creativity

BY NEVEAH LUGO
Arts & Life Editor

Artist Victor Quiñonez made plans with the University of North Texas (UNT) in January to bring his exhibition “Ni de Aquí, Ni de Allá” (“Not from Here, Not from There”) from Boston University (BU) College of Fine Arts to display for three months.

But UNT canceled the exhibit and sent Quiñonez’s art back to Boston the day before the opening, and speculation began that the cancellation was in response to the exhibition’s anti-ICE themes.

LegalClarity says art censorship is “the suppression, alteration, or prohibition of artistic works and forms of expression by an authority, typically when deemed objectionable, harmful, or inconvenient.” The Nation-

al Art Education Association argues that stifling an artist’s freedom of expression can lead to a culture of conformity to what authority deems “acceptable.”

Joseph Smolinski, a professor of practice, art and creative technology and program coordinator at the University of New Haven, raised another concern about how an artist’s work might be impacted in the face of such interference.

“I think it elicits fear, and I think when creatives are afraid, they’re not comfortable to make the work to their full capacity,” Smolinski said.

Smolinski said he disagreed with UNT’s decision because censoring an entire art exhibit is not only problematic but also deprives students of a safe space to discuss and explore new and different ideas, even if

some of these ideas may be considered controversial.

“I think our work is meant to challenge society and challenge culture and bring to light ideas that can sometimes be difficult to talk about,” Smolinski said.

Sophomore civil engineering major Elise Rehn agreed and said, “I feel like it’s someone’s freedom to be able to express what they want and that shouldn’t be controlled by anyone, really.”

Christopher Ritchie, an assistant professor in practice and graphic and digital design program coordinator, assigns a project in one of his classes that encourages students to create material that raises awareness to a social issue of their choice.

“In some of those types of projects, part of the goals of the work is to make someone a little uncomfortable,”

Ritchie said.

Ritchie said that last year, a student turned in a project made to draw attention to harassment in the service industry. The student designed a series of three posters that depicted close-up images of a woman’s apron scrawled with derogatory remarks that these employees sometimes hear on the job. Some of the language used in the project was profane.

“The idea is, when you’re raising an issue that maybe is happening under the noses of everyone, sometimes you have to turn up the volume a little bit to make people notice, and I’m all for that,” Ritchie said.

Both professors said art is a process and that ongoing dialogue and feedback are important. Smolinski referred to this as the “critique process.”

“That could be really formal things like color, shape, form, line quality, things like that,” Smolinski said. “It could be construction methods, like how it’s held together or how the artwork is placed or situated or hung.”

Through this process, the professors can also ensure students aren’t unintentionally creating material that could be viewed as hate speech.

“It should be a place that is able to be open to discussing that, but also aware of the ramifications of how people could construe it,” Ritchie said.

“We try our best to not censor, but we try to encourage people to really think about how image can affect people in different audiences,” Smolinski said.

How transfer students adjust to life at the university

BY MARIANNE PENA
Contributing Writer

Ashanty Ramos, a junior biology student, arrived on campus this spring overwhelmed. It wasn’t an overload of schoolwork that was stressful, but everything that came with being a transfer student.

“I applied very late to this school, as in a month or less than when school started, and I was still in my other school,” said Ramos. “So frankly, I did not give myself time to have any emotions, expectations or such about transferring.”

Ramos’ experience is a familiar one for other transfer students in her position. They often arrive academically prepared but socially and emotionally, they’re trying to catch up. According to university data, approximately 300 students transfer to UNH every year. Hundreds of students arrive on campus already familiar with expectations, but unfamiliar with the campus culture, resources and social networks. For many, navigating campus life feels like starting from scratch—even after years of experience in higher education.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, transfer students account for a growing share of undergraduate enrollment nationwide, with transfer enrollment increasing in recent years as more students are moving between institutions or returning to college after a break. As transfers become more

common, students such as Ramos are no longer outliers, but part of a growing demographic.

For Ramos, the transition happened quickly. She applied later in the enrollment process and was left with little time to process moving to a different school. Still, she said her early interactions with faculty and staff gave her confidence.

“I felt generally supported,” said Ramos. “I learned from many resources and any events I was able to attend.”

Her experience at Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) was mostly positive. She said the event helped her meet new people and learn about campus opportunities. Still, she described feeling behind in areas that seemed to come naturally to others.

“I just felt very behind, but not how you would think,” said Ramos. “It felt like everybody knew what was going on, and I was still learning,” said Ramos. “I still am [learning], and it gets very overwhelming trying to catch up and ‘do everything right.’”

Ramos is not the only student who has had feelings of indifference when it comes to a new transition. Zara Sierra, a forensic psychology major, said her transition has been quieter and somewhat more isolated.

“I don’t really like talking to people; I have only made two friends on campus,” said Sierra. Making friends as a new face on campus seems to be a challenge

that transfer students face with little support. However, Sierra said that her advisors were helpful and helped her adjust her class schedule to make it more manageable for her.

Though everyone’s experience is different, some students face similar situations to those of Nubia Gonzalez, a senior majoring in art and creative technology. She transferred to UNH last spring from California College of the Arts and Sciences and now serves as one of the university’s first transfer student academic peer mentors.

She said her experience with being a spring transfer was not optimal.

“It’s not the best time to transfer is my personal opinion,” said Gonzalez. With the school year in full swing, there are fewer introductory events for new students to participate in. “With the spring semester, there is not much going on, so it is a lot harder to get involved or meet people,” she said. Gonzalez also said that meeting people was the most difficult part. She met people from her major in breakout groups at the SOAR event but only made one friend who was a commuter.

“That whole semester I really did nothing, I just went to my dorm and to class. It kind of sucked because there was nothing going on,” said Gonzalez.

What SOAR did successfully for Gonzalez was set her up with the knowledge and resources she needed to succeed.



Bixler-Gerber quad.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin / Evan Pecorale

“It basically gave us all the necessities, which is good, not much else,” she said. “But I guess that’s really what I needed.”

For the most part, transitioning to UNH for Gonzalez was a learning process she had to figure out on her own.

Today, SOAR looks a little different, as Gonzalez serves as a mentor for transfer students. Through her time at UNH, she has expressed concerns with the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) through a volunteer position she participated in. Eventually, she was offered the paid position as a mentor.

“I get a list of all the transfers from fall and spring, and then I just do outreach every week,” said Gonzalez.

She sends out a weekly email

for transfer students, and students can reach out and ask questions or schedule appointments to have any issues resolved.

“I’ve been able to talk to my supervisors and make suggestions on the transfer process for students, and they took those suggestions,” Gonzalez said. “There’s a lot more ways for students to get help now that there is more of us.” More support is inevitable as the number of transfer students continues to rise.

“I don’t like a ‘stereotypical’ transfer student would feel,” said Ramos. “I honestly don’t even know what the stereotypes are, but once people know I’m a transfer student, it doesn’t become a sticker on my back or anything. It’s just another fun fact.”

Our Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Mikaela Motz

Managing Editor
Natalia Lizak

Multimedia Editor
William Whalen

Horseshoe Magazine

Executive Editor
Gabriella Pinto

Associate Editor
Alex Soto

Politics Editor
Adam Relkin

Sports Editors
Donovan Rodriguez

Adam Sigal

Campus News Editor
Maya Pacheco

Arts & Life Editor
Nevaeh Lugo

Photography Editor
Evan Pecorale

Advisor
Susan L. Campbell

300 Boston Post Road | West Haven, CT 06516
 chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu | www.chargerbulletin.com
 Office: 203.932.7182
 Printed by Valley Publishing Co. Derby, CT.
 Archives can be found at ourschoolnewspaper.com/Charger

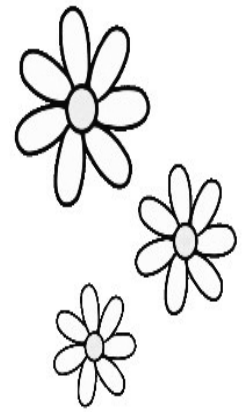
Since 1928, The Charger Bulletin has been the official student news source of the University of New Haven.

Recipient of 1st Place - ASPA Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers, 2020, 2021, 2022.

The Charger Bulletin staff strives for excellence and accuracy in writing and reporting. We remain committed to providing the University of New Haven community with up-to-date and accurate news. We recognize that mistakes may occur and encourage readers to notify the Bulletin if they feel a correction is necessary. Please email the Editor-in-Chief at chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu.

The Charger Bulletin ad rate sheets are available upon request or by emailing chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu. The Charger Bulletin reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Advertisements within The Charger Bulletin are inserted by outside sources identified in the advertisements themselves and not by the University of New Haven. Advertising material printed herein is solely for informational purposes.

Spring Word Search



P Z C M F Z U S Y C L B I U Z L Q H J M
 I P Q B G R A S S H A U S E A S O N G P
 M D P V R N B H P Z W T P H U B O Z T J
 K N M S I E U O S R N T H T H X Z K H T
 P O L L E N E Z S N X E B W G A N F N G
 J L D A T B M Z J Y P R S O S O T W I N
 O W M O H P K J E Y V F G R Q A Q C A I
 X Y O N A Y Z J R P K L A G F L G O H M
 N P S X L W E Q L H P Y R E E L D O S O
 A G I Y L R F J O G D Q D R G E N X T S
 T R B T E L F O W W F Y E X F R G M C S
 U I L P R D H L M R Q R N L O B N V E O
 R Y O M G D T O O F N V I O F M I G S L
 E L O U I H P A O W Q S N Y C U A C N B
 X E M D E M W L X P E B G V H S R G I E
 R V S K S B A I X S J R K C I E P C U U
 E I Z H Z L L R N O M J S M R A D A Q R
 L L S X H O S M C D A B H R P P X O F H
 L V V P N G D B G H Y W K I M E D E C L
 S J E W S R J Z U L L G Z F R I T K T U

1. Allergies
2. Bloom
3. Blossoming
4. Breeze
5. Butterfly
6. Chirp
7. Flowers
8. Gardening
9. Grass
10. Hatch
11. Insects
12. Lawn
13. Lively
14. March
15. Mud
16. Nature
17. Pollen
18. Rain
19. Regrowth
20. Season
21. Umbrella
22. Windy



Through the eyes of the players: Chargers look ahead to a new gym

BY ANIYA MCDONALD-PERRY
Contributing Writer

The familiar squeak of sneakers, the echo of bouncing basketballs and the chatter of athletes warming up fill the gym every day. Construction crews move in and out, carrying equipment, painting walls and measuring floors. The gym is in transition, and no one knows exactly when it will be finished. But for the athletes who use it most, the changes are already inspiring a mix of reflection and anticipation.

When junior center Merit Innocent steps onto the court for the women's basketball team, she doesn't just see the hardwood; she sees a glimpse of the program's future. Innocent has played countless hours in the current gym, a space she describes as "functional but dated." Soon, she and her teammates will get to compete and train in a facility that matches the school's rising ambitions.

"This new gym is more than just bigger seats or newer floors," Innocent said. "It's a statement that we're stepping into Division I. It feels like the school finally believes in us, and that motivates everyone to elevate our game."

The university has announced plans for a major upgrade to its athletic facility, transforming it from a Division II gym into a modern space suitable for Division I competition. Coaches and athletes alike say the changes will be felt across all sports, not just basketball.

Assistant Coach Ari Kovosto echoed her sentiments.

"Moving to a DI-caliber facility isn't just about appearances. It's about recruiting, retaining talent and giving our athletes every possible advantage," Kovosto said. "Right now, we make do, but the upgrade will allow us to fully compete at the next level."

Players from other sports are also looking ahead. Though, some like senior volleyball player Evie Kaygirad are reflecting on their time in the old gym.

"We've had to share space and work around other schedules for years," Kaygirad said. "I won't get to play in the new gym, but I can't wait to come back and visit. Knowing that future athletes will have dedicated courts and equipment makes me proud to leave the program in their hands."

The men's basketball team is eagerly anticipating the change as well. Sophomore Andre Pa-



sha sees the upgraded facility as a boost to the team's morale.

"It's crazy to think about going from where we are now to what's coming," Pasha said. "It makes you want to work harder because the school is putting in the effort for us. It's a signal that they believe in our potential."

Even freshmen like Owen Hotaling are excited to be part of a program on the rise.

"I've only experienced the old gym, but hearing about the new one makes me even more motivated to be part of this team's journey," Hotaling said.

As construction continues

The women's basketball team competing in the Charger Gymnasium.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Satra Lafleur

and the timeline for completion remains uncertain, players walk the gym's worn floors while imagining what's to come, sharing the space with crews installing state-of-the-art equipment. For seniors like Kaygirad, it's a bittersweet moment—leaving behind memories while looking forward to the future. For underclassmen like Innocent, Pasha and Hotaling, it's a glimpse of the opportunities ahead.

"This gym has always been more than just a building,"

Innocent said. "It's where we've worked, struggled, and grown together. The new facility will carry that same spirit forward, but at a whole new level."

With every hammer, every coat of paint and every floor measurement, the Chargers are witnessing the transformation firsthand. For those who call this gym home, the message is clear: the program is moving forward, the next generation will have the tools to succeed and the future of Charger athletics is bright.

Seleny scores seven, New Haven falls at Wagner

BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ
Sports Editor

The Wagner University Seahawks used a fast start and consistent offensive execution to defeat the women's lacrosse team, 14-9.

The Seahawks established control early, winning draw controls and pushing the tempo in transition to build an early lead. Wagner's ability to create quick scoring chances forced New Haven into a defensive posture in the opening quarter, as the Chargers worked to slow the pace and settle into the game.

In the second quarter, New Haven showed improved ball movement and offensive spacing. The Chargers generated more sustained possessions and created higher-quality looks, allowing them to cut into the deficit. Senior attack Caitlin Seleny led the charge, finishing with seven points on a combination

of goals and assists. Her ability to initiate offense and create opportunities for teammates helped New Haven stay within reach heading into halftime.

Despite that push, Wagner maintained a multi-goal advantage at the break, supported by efficient shooting and consistent possession control. The Seahawks capitalized on their opportunities, converting at a higher rate while limiting New Haven's ability to string together extended scoring runs.

In the third quarter, Wagner extended its lead by capitalizing on turnovers and continuing to control draw situations, which translated into additional possessions. Those extra opportunities allowed the Seahawks to build separation, as New Haven struggled to regain defensive organization and limit second-chance scoring. While the Chargers showed

resilience, they were unable to slow Wagner's momentum during that period. Defensive lapses and difficulty clearing the ball cleanly contributed to the growing deficit, putting New Haven in a deeper hole entering the final quarter.

New Haven continued to compete in the fourth, tightening its defensive pressure and creating late offensive chances. Seleny remained the focal point of the attack, while additional contributors found the net as the Chargers attempted to close the gap. The team showed improved urgency and execution, but each run was met with a response from Wagner. The Seahawks maintained composure down the stretch, executing in key moments to preserve the lead and close out the win.

Statistically, Wagner held advantages in draw controls and turnover margin, two areas that played a signif-



Final score graphic against Wagner.

Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics / @unewhavenolax

icant role in the outcome. Those edges translated directly into more scoring opportunities and limited New Haven's ability to control the flow of the game. For New Haven, Seleny's seven-point performance highlighted a strong individual effort and provided a consistent offensive presence throughout the game. However, the Chargers were

unable to match Wagner's efficiency and consistency across four quarters.

After the loss, the lacrosse team has an overall record of 2-5 and 1-1 in conference play. The Chargers will face the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Knights on Wednesday in Teaneck, N.J. First draw is at 2 p.m. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Baseball goes 0-4 on the week and drops weekend series to FDU

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

It was a busy week for the New Haven baseball team, with a midweek matchup against the Hofstra University Pride and a weekend conference series against the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Knights. The Chargers were unable to break the losing streak and lost all four games this week.

On Wednesday, New Haven hit the road to take on Hofstra University. The Chargers were able to score first, putting up two runs to start the game off an RBI single from first baseman Cam McGugan and a walk from third baseman EJ Ettinger with bases loaded. The Pride was quick to answer back, adding a run of their own in the bottom of the first, but the Chargers still held the lead. The second inning went scoreless, and then Hofstra tied the game after an RBI from Pride right fielder Nick Gallelo.

New Haven took the lead back in the fifth after right

fielder Shaun Callahan scored on a wild pitch, advancing the score to 3-2 just over halfway through the game. The sixth inning was big for Hofstra as they put up three runs to take the lead for the first time in the matchup, 5-3. The Chargers were unable to answer back before the Pride added two more runs to the deficit. Despite a last-ditch attempt in the eighth after New Haven pinch hitter Chase McNally brought in two runs off a single to center field, the Chargers fell hard in the bottom of the inning. A hitting party from the Pride resulted in eight runs being let in, which caused the game to end an inning early because Hofstra was up by 10. The game ended with a score of 15-5. McNally was the biggest help for the Chargers, with two RBIs off one hit.

New Haven hit the road again on Friday for a three-game conference series against FDU. Once again, the Chargers were able to score first after an RBI single from designated hitter, Jake Russo, brought in Callahan. The

Knights were quick to answer and put up two runs in the bottom of the first off a two RBI double from their left fielder. The Chargers struggled to put another run across for the next four innings, but FDU did not step off the gas. The score was 10-1 going into the sixth inning. The Chargers were able to lessen the deficit by one after a sacrifice fly from substitute third baseman Clark Beattie brought home Callahan. The bottom of the sixth was the final blow as FDU put up seven more runs in the bottom of the sixth, ending game one at 17-2.

The Chargers went into game two of the series looking for a comeback, but fell short to the FDU Knights, 7-3. FDU scored first in the bottom of the second, with a quick answer back from New Haven center fielder Nick Ungania, who brought in third baseman Joe Frazzetta. Frazzetta also singled to center field in the bottom of the fourth, which brought home two runs and lessened the deficit to one. UNH was unable to score



Final score graphic against FDU.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics / @unewhavenbase

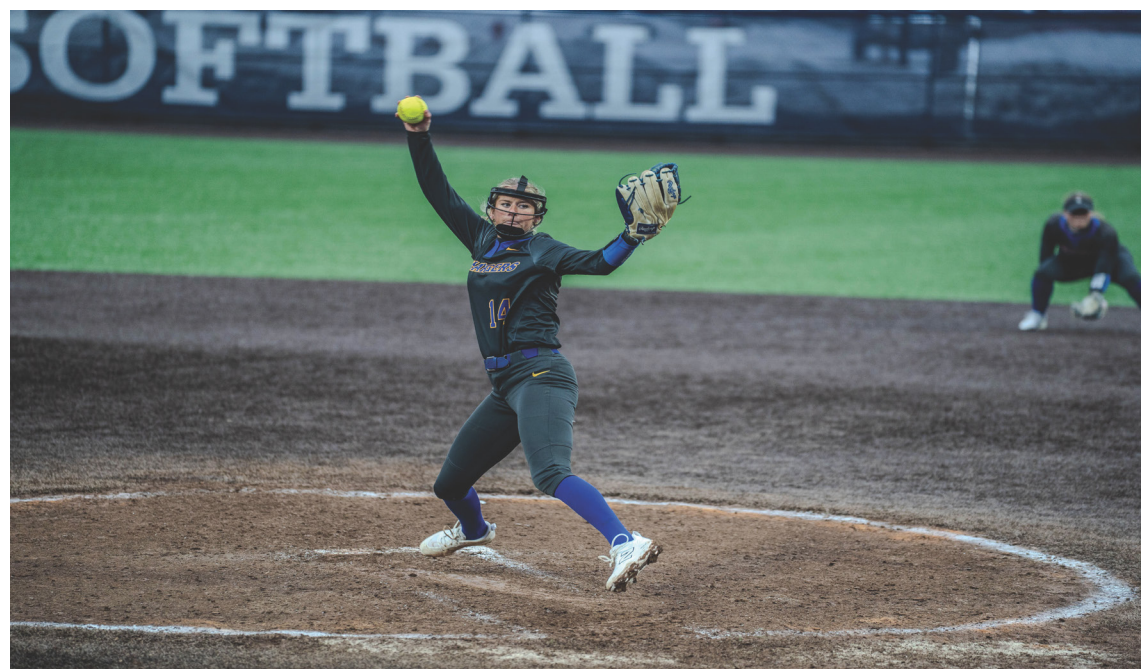
again, while the Knights brought in three more runs in the bottom of the sixth, which finalized the score of game two at 7-3.

New Haven continued to struggle in game three, with their only run coming off a solo home run from Callahan. FDU scored their only six runs in the second and third innings, and the last six innings of the game went

scoreless on both sides. The game ended with a final score of 6-1, securing the sweep for the Knights.

With the losses, the Chargers are 1-14 on the season and 1-5 in conference play. The next game will take place on Tuesday at Sacred Heart University. First pitch is slated for 3:00 p.m. For more information, please visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Chargers fall short 2-1 in series against the Le Moyne Dolphins



Katie Rhodes pitching for the Chargers.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

BY ADAM SIGAL
Sports Editor

The Chargers' softball team hosted their first Division I series against the Le Moyne College Dolphins and fell short, 2-1.

For their first game of the series, the Chargers were overpowered by Le Moyne in a 9-0 loss over five innings. Le Moyne set the tone with a five-run first inning, highlighted by Dolphins' first baseman Audrey Benderski's three-run double,

before adding two runs in both the second and third innings to extend the lead to nine. The Dolphins finished with 12 hits, with Benderski going 2-for-3 with four RBIs, while third baseman Cianna Benamati added two hits and two RBIs. Right fielder Sydney Nesci scored three runs. New Haven struggled offensively, managing just three hits, including a 2-for-2 performance from right fielder Alivia Imbimbo. The

Chargers left seven runners on base. In the circle, Cecelia Imbimbo took the loss after allowing seven runs, five earned, in 1.2 innings, while Isabella Kwashek earned the win for Le Moyne, throwing a complete-game shutout with just three hits allowed and two strikeouts.

For the second game of the series, the Chargers bounced back with a hard-fought 2-1 extra-inning win over the Dolphins. Catcher

Brianna Trueman provided a spark with a solo home run in the fourth inning, but Le Moyne responded in the fifth to tie the game. After several scoreless innings, New Haven broke through in the 10th when first baseman Lucia Ceccarelli doubled to start the inning and eventually scored on third baseman Allison Murai's sacrifice fly for the walk-off win. The Chargers totaled nine hits, with Ceccarelli and shortstop Bri Pellicone each recording two. Starting pitcher Peyton Sullivan had a stand out performance and earned the win with a complete-game effort, allowing just one run on eight hits over 10 innings.

For the final game of the series, the Chargers came up short in a 4-3 loss in extra innings. Le Moyne built an early 3-0 lead with one run in each of the first three innings, but New Haven responded in the fifth when Trueman delivered a clutch three-run double to tie the game. The momentum carried into the late innings as both teams were held scoreless until the eighth, until

Nesci hit a go-ahead solo home run to put Le Moyne back in front. The Chargers came close to a comeback in the bottom of the eighth with a walk and a reach on error by Trueman and Ceccarelli. They were unable to execute, with both runners left on base after three consecutive ground outs. New Haven finished with four hits and drew five walks but left eight runners on base, while Le Moyne totaled 10 hits. In the circle, Katie Rhodes took the loss after allowing one run over five innings of relief, while Isabella Kwashek earned the win, tossing 3.1 scoreless innings.

Following their series against Le Moyne, the Chargers now have an overall record of 4-13. The Chargers will face the University of Connecticut (UConn) Huskies for a doubleheader on Tuesday followed by a matchup against the Fairfield University Stags on Wednesday. First pitch is at 3:30 on Tuesday in Storrs, Conn. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.