SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 • VOLUME 97 • ISSUE 2

The Quinnipiac Chronicle

The official student newspaper of Quinnipiac University since 1929

# Office of Inclusive Excellence renames for campus clarity




TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

**By BRYCE INFLAD**
Contributing Writer

The Office of Belonging changed its name from the Office of Inclusive Excellence in May to prepare for the 2026-27 academic year, in order to increase student services and strengthen Quinnipiac's community.

The team at the Office of Belonging aimed to reach first-year students before the start of the school year to introduce them to the newly renamed office.

"We changed the name in May just in advance of orientation so that we could be the Office of Belonging as we welcomed the newest cohort, one quarter of our student body," Director of Belonging Claude Mayo said. "I think from that standpoint they all came in and didn't know any different, but we saw a lot of positive things as we were in the orientation resource fair and then as we presented to them, we found a lot of students that really sort of engaged with it."

When the decision was made to rename the office, 'Office of Belonging' was not the only option considered.

"So we did have some discussions about some other potential (names), but belonging kept surfacing to the top as the one that made the most sense, that people could understand," Chief Belonging Officer John Armendariz said.

See **BELONGING** Page 2

# Spotted lantern fly sightings increase across Connecticut: What does it mean?



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

**As lantern fly sightings increase across the state, they have also increased across Quinnipiac University's three campuses causing concern amongst students.**

**By KESLEY SWEET**
Contributing Writer

Spotted lantern flies continue to spread across Connecticut, causing students to raise concerns about the invasive species' potential impact on the states environment. The flies were first detected in Connecticut in 2020, and since then, they have expanded their presence across the state. The insects are not considered a direct threat to people; they feed on a wide range of plants and trees, and some studies show potential damage to vegetation.

At this time, it is no longer necessary to report sightings and take steps to help slow the insects' spread unless they are found in another state. Previously, individuals were encouraged to report these findings to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

Associate Professor of Biological Science and Programming Director of Environmental Studies Sarah Lawson stated that the "major concern" in Connecticut regarding lantern flies is the profound growth of grapevines and apple orchards.

"Spotted lantern flies are an invasive species; they came over from Asia a few years ago and we first saw them in Pennsylvania," Lawson said. "Similar to what we're seeing in Connecticut a few years ago, they saw a huge spike in population."

While the insects can feed on a variety of plants, Lawson found that some species are more vulnerable to their presence than others.

"The major concern is that they are a plant feeding insect, and they are a generalist, so they will feed on literally any plant that has phloem," Lawson said. "They actually prefer trees of honey, which is another invasion species."

Although these flies can affect a variety of plants, Lawson states that their impact does not result in the explicit death of a shrub or tree.

"From the data we're seeing in PA, it's very uncommon for the spotted lantern flies to kill an entire tree, but there have been reports of them eating so much that they can kill a branch," Lawson said. "They also don't spread any disease, so that is a positive right now."

As the state continues to see changes in its environment, climate could also play a role in how far the invasive species can spread.

"Climate change is going to make it so that their habitat range spreads," Lawson said. "So I think we're going to see them climbing further and further north as we see trends of global warming especially with this El Niño winter."

Warmer conditions may affect fly population and their development into next season.

"I think it will be very warm and dry, which will not get the temperature low enough to kill any of the egg cases," Lawson said. "This is gonna be true for a lot of organisms. I think we're going to have a really bad tick season next year as well for the same reason."

Lawson confirmed from previous knowledge and studies that in the upcom-

See **LANTERN FLIES** Page 3

## IN THIS ISSUE




**The hypocricy of Burning Man**




**Fall fashion predictions**




**Celebrating 25 years of women's ice hockey**