

The Charger Bulletin

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Women's History Month flag hanging above Kathy Zolad Stadium, West Haven, March 23, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

USGA hosts Phenomenal Women's Celebration to end Women's History Month

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Staff Writer

On Friday, the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) held the Phenomenal Women's Celebration, which honored female students, staff and faculty workers. To mark Women's History Month, these women were recognized for their hard work, positive attitudes and success at the university.

Since 1987, March has been designated to celebrate women's history. It is celebrated to emphasize the importance of women in society and the achievements that have been made over many years that have shaped culture, education and society.

While there have been

significant changes in how women have been perceived, there are still inequities that women continue to fight for today. Nominee Betelihem Fre said Women's History Month is about the strength and resilience that women hold in society.

USGA holds the event to give people the opportunity to nominate women across campus who have had a positive impact. The president of USGA, Darby Brown, said having events that celebrate women can help university women succeed.

"We live in a world that I think likes to discredit women and systems that are stacked against women, especially professionally,"

said Brown. "Events like these help women find their place in the world and help women find their strength to persevere through the challenges they may face."

USGA organized the event – where recipients were given a certificate and provided a lunch where they could connect with other "phenomenal women." USGA also created a slideshow that highlighted each nominee.

Brisa Velazquez Perez, USGA's vice president of engagement, said this event shines light not only on students, but on some of the overseen staff and faculty members.

"Most of the events for women's history month are catered to students and this

one highlights faculty and staff more," said Perez. "I feel like it's important to make the faculty and staff feel the appreciation they deserve."

Recipient and USGA Senator for College of Arts and Sciences, Gina Cruz, said it takes a team of "phenomenal women" to create something like this and sometimes that can go unrecognized with everything happening on campus.

"As a freshman I feel as if I haven't made as much of an impact compared to everyone else," said Cruz. "To get nominated for something like this is something that is dear to my heart."

Alongside a student

nominee Cruz, university librarian Lauren Slingluff said she felt honored to be recognized.

"I was truly touched and honored to know that what I do is honored by members of the community is very emotional," said Slingluff. "I think it's great when we get to recognize women who work really hard to support everyone in the community and lift others up."

As Women's History Month comes to an end, the university community has displayed the importance of women's contributions not only to this school, but around the world to acknowledge all they have created and left their mark on.

Biden announces executive order on women's health research

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Fitting, for the end of Women's History Month, Biden signed an executive order last week to advance women's health research and innovation.

In the executive order, available online at [WhiteHouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov), Biden said, "My administration is committed to getting women the answers they need about their health. For far too long, scientific and biomedical research excluded women and undervalued the study of women's health. The resulting research gaps mean that we know far too little about women's health across women's lifespans, and those gaps are even more prominent for women of color, older women, and

women with disabilities."

Biden has called on Congress to make a \$12 billion investment to fund the research. This money would be used to create a fund for women's health research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is meant to help set a national standard for women's health research.

"I will continue to call on the Congress to provide the transformative investments necessary to help our researchers and scientists answer today's most pressing questions related to women's health. Investing in innovation in women's health is an investment in the future of American families and the economy," Biden said in the order.

In November, Biden launched the first-ever

White House initiative for Women's Health Research, which was to be led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council. The initiative set out to deliver recommendations to advance women's health research, engage the scientific, private sector and philanthropic communities and provide research in areas ranging from women's heart health to menopause.

The executive order will require agencies to advance their investments in women's health research, report those findings and help to close research gaps so that the U.S. can "maximize our ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat health conditions in women" the order said.

Agencies included are the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health

(AARP-H), the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

The executive order also encourages advancing women's health research through artificial intelligence. Agencies looking into this will be the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. National Science Foundation.

The HHS will focus mainly on menopause-related research and investments to identify and improve on resources available to women to help better understand menopause. The Department of Defense will also conduct research and investments towards Service women and veterans.

The former first lady of

California, Maria Shriver, said at the announcement of the executive order, "I'll bet today that this is the first time a president of the United States has ever signed an executive order that mentions the words 'menopause' and 'women's midlife health' in it."

As Women's History Month comes to an end, Biden has advocated for women's health research to be a consistent duty for the country to start implementing more focus too.

"There's not a damn thing a man can do a woman can't do," Biden said at the executive order announcement. "To state the obvious, if you want to have the strongest economy in the world, you can't leave half of the country behind."

Former VP Mike Pence refuses to endorse Donald Trump in 2024 election

BY FAITH ARCURI
Associate Editor

Former Vice President Mike Pence on Friday said that he "cannot in good conscience" endorse presidential candidate Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election.

Pence said his decision was based on more than just the Capitol riot that occurred on Jan. 6, 2021, during which Trump supporters called for Pence's hanging.

"I'm incredibly proud of the record of our administration," said Pence. "But that being said, during my presidential campaign, I made it clear there were profound differences between me and President Trump on a range of issues. And not just our differences on our constitutional duties that I exercised on Jan. 6."

Pence cited Trump's building the national debt, unwillingness to take a position on abortion restrictions and his recent reversal on banning Chinese ownership of the social media app TikTok as reasons for his not endorsing him.

"In each of these cases,"

said Pence, "Donald Trump is pursuing and articulating an agenda that is at odds with the conservative agenda that we governed on during our four years."

Trump's term as president showed his lack of attention to certain economical issues.

"As I have watched his candidacy unfold, I've seen him walking away from our commitment to confronting our national debt. I've seen him starting to shy away from a commitment to the sanctity of human life. And this last week, his reversal on getting tough on China and supporting our administration's efforts to force a sale of ByteDance's TikTok."

Pence is not the only former Trump administration official who will not endorse Trump in the race for president. Nikki Haley, who served as Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, has yet to endorse the former president after suspending her own primary campaign earlier this month. She said Trump would have to earn the votes of her supporters, but hasn't made an attempt thus

far.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who worked with Trump in 2020, has also declined to back the former president after ending his own campaign.

After announcing the end of his candidacy for president in October, Christie withheld an endorsement in the 2024 Republican primary but he previously vowed to back the eventual GOP nominee. Trump said after Pence dropped out that

his former vice president should endorse him, saying, "I chose him, made him vice president. But... people in politics can be very disloyal."

"I couldn't care less," Trump said. "We need strong people in this country. We don't need weak people."

Trump has asserted that the party is united behind him and his success in November will bring the GOP together.

"Those who worked with Donald Trump at the most senior level of his administration believe he is too dangerous, too selfish, and too extreme to ever lead our country again - we agree," Biden's campaign spokesperson Ammar Moussa said in a statement.

Pence declined to say how he plans to vote in November.

"I will keep my vote to myself," he said. "I would never vote for Joe Biden."

If you were a UNH student enrolled in any UNH course as of March 24, 2020 (other than a non-matriculated high school student) and you did not opt out of the Settlement of Krystian Wnorowski, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated v. University of New Haven, Case No. 3:20-cv-1589 (D. Conn.), you will receive the one-time \$200 Non-Cash Tuition Credit described in the Settlement if you enroll or have enrolled in a UNH course commencing in September 2023 or later. Go to www.unewhavensettlement.com for more information.

Disparities in dorm conditions at university raise concerns among students

BY ASHLEY CRAIG
Contributing Writer

Westside Hall on the university's campus has a perfectly situated laundry room, a brightly-lit lounge and study areas with central air conditioning. Meanwhile, other dorms such as Bethel Hall lack elevators and other basic dorm amenities.

Welcome to the room lottery, where your dorm appointment could leave you in comfort or in the emergency room. With students' findings of mold in air vents, there is major cause for concern.

This university prides itself on fostering academic excellence and student well-being. But students who live on campus sometimes have a different vision of the school.

The differences between dorms are stark. Some students live in semi-comfort, while others struggle to breathe quality air through vents covered with dust and dirt.

"It's a bit puzzling to me why dorms vary in quality, with some having better amenities like air conditioning while others don't in 2024," said Amir Phelmetto, sophomore biomedical engineering major.

In 2022, students conducted an independent mold test in several dorms and those tests came back positive in Bergami and Dunham Hall. Students also took pictures of the vents, which were covered in soot and dust.

On the school's Facebook page, parents created a discourse about their students' experiences on campus. There have been numerous comments and complaints on the page about their students having a chronic cough and some students ending up in emergency rooms.

This semester, one student from Bergami Hall submitted pictures of their events to the university's campus facilities department, prompting a visit from them.

Alanah Weaver, a freshman, said, "My roommate and I clean the front of the



Westside Hall's main lounge (top) and common lounge overlooking Zolad Stadium (bottom), West Haven, March 24, 2024.
Photos courtesy of University of New Haven.

vent every week. We thought it was normal for college. I have had a lingering cough since October, I can't believe this."

Weaver and her roommate said they took their findings to the school, which hit social media.

Charlie the Charger, the school's social media respondent responded, "The University has been made aware that an independent mold test was conducted in a residence hall room in University-sponsored housing. Since learning of this test, University staff have met with the students who conducted the test...out of abundance of caution, we will retest the room using our industrial hygienist to perform the test. If the test results warrant any remediation, this will be conducted immediately."

Because interior living spaces can harbor moisture,

it creates the perfect breeding ground for mold.

In addition to causing allergic reactions, research shows poor housing quality and instability has negative consequences on mental health and psychological well-being. Low-quality housing is associated with depression, anxiety and low levels of motivation, while housing instability is associated with anxiety and depression. Poor health conditions can hurt academic outcomes. According to the National League of Cities, "Poor quality housing is associated with stress, anxiety, depression; emotional and behavioral problems; and worse academic performance in children."

Athletes say they find themselves affected by substandard dormitory conditions.

"Dormitory conditions play a pivotal role in foster-

ing a conducive environment for sports achievement," said Phelmetto, who is a track and field athlete. Phelmetto said adequate rest and privacy and a well-maintained dorm is important for peak athletic performance.

"When it comes to the conditions of dorms on campus," he said, "I believe it plays a crucial role in our overall achievement, whether it's in sports, academics, or social life. Having a comfortable and conducive living space can greatly impact our performance and well-being."

Academic achievement is also at stake because disparities in dorm conditions influence students' ability to concentrate and excel. Mikaela Motz, a freshman communication student, said, "Since tuition and the cost of living on campus are increasing, I think that the other dorms should be

focused on and improved for incoming students. When on a tour at UNH, I had only seen Westside Hall, one of the upgraded dorms, and had not seen any of the 'older' buildings."

Motz said the tour guide mentioned it would be more expensive to live in this hall, yet her tour group wasn't taken to the older dorms, which didn't give incoming students the full picture.

"I think that a main focus of the university should be to focus on these older dorms, so all students have the same amenities and comfortable living space," Motz said.

The university has made it clear they are improving certain aspects of the campus and overall college life, but the status of housing and the quality of certain buildings around campus seem to not have gotten enough attention.

University students discuss the role of Ramadan on campus

BY ALEXIS DAWKINS-
MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

Beginning March 10 and ending Tuesday, Apr. 9, Muslims worldwide celebrate Ramadan. Taking place in the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, beginning and ending with the crescent moon.

For Muslims, the month is meant to be a time of introspection, or observation of one's mental and emotional processes. From sunrise to sundown for the duration of the month, Muslims do not eat or drink, also known as fasting. The practice of fasting serves as a reminder of human frailty and dependence on God for sustenance. It also shows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty to teach compassion and a duty to help people who are in need.

However, it can be difficult for Muslim students to go through daily academics during Ramadan and difficult for fasting people involved in extracurricular activities.

Because of these challenges, the university has taken steps to spread awareness about Ramadan and how it affects students, faculty and staff who are observing, including the Muslim Student Association (MSA). Ophelie Y. Rowe-Allen, university vice president of student affairs and Barbara J. Lawrence, university chief diversity officer, have been circulating flyers and emails that inform the campus community and acknowledge the challenges that students can face while fasting.

The MSA has not allowed the time of fasting to stop them from spreading awareness to the public and supporting their members.

"We host events every week during Ramadan to continue raising awareness, as well as breaking the fast with the community of those practicing," said Youssef Ossama, MSA's president.

Other members of MSA's executive board said there



Attendees of the Ramadan banquet hosted by MSA in the Alumni Lounge, West Haven, March 22, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

have been minor setbacks that could make the support of Muslim students more effective.

"We feel as if supplying dates in Bartels is definitely a step in the right direction," said Jafar Vohra, MSA's treasurer. "However, there is a severe lack of halal food options, and the only thing we can really enjoy is the vegetarian options, so thank goodness for that."

But recognizing the importance of Ramadan is a step in the right direction, according to other members of the MSA's executive board.

They believe that although recognizing Ramadan is a step in the right direction, individual professors should

also work on recognizing the holiday for their students. "Recognizing our religion and the fact that we have to break our fast at a certain time is always nice," said Hiba Jaidi, MSA's secretary. "However, I do feel awkward whenever I have to tell the professor that it is my time to break the fast, so if the professors could set reminders in advance and let the students know when it is time to break their fast, it would be more comforting."

The students say the lack of food and water can get to their heads and affect their mood.

"I feel like in the late afternoons I am much more irritable," said Secora Chambers, MSA's director

of public relations. "You can't talk to me in the afternoon, because I'm usually hangry."

However, despite being unable to eat or drink for 12 hours a day, the students on the executive board say they have discovered a benefit to fasting.

"I have actually found myself planning every minute of my day," said Ossama. "Without the distraction of having to stop and eat during the day, it allows me to get a lot more work done."

Campus RSOs such as USGA have also shown support to Muslim students by sharing presentations during their general meetings, reviewing the email sent out

"We host events every week during Ramadan to continue raising awareness."

to students and reminding them that this month can be a rocky time for people who are fasting.

You can find out more about Ramadan and the Muslim Student Association on Charger Connection or on Instagram; @unh_msa.

Honoring women on campus: Martine Bernadel

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Resident advisors (RAs) help maintain peace and order in different dorm buildings across campus. They are who resident students go to when they need to complain, ask a question or just have a conversation about something.

But who can RAs go to if they ever need to complain, ask a question or talk to someone?

They can go to their area coordinator (AC). There are seven ACs across campus and most of them cover more than one building.

Martine Bernadel started the position as AC in Aug. 2021, a time when COVID impacted schooling and everyday communication. She covers Bethel Hall and University Commons which includes Park View and The Atwood.

“As an area coordinator, we – myself and my colleagues -- as ACs, cover an area of halls, which is why it’s area coordinators,” Bernadel said. “We are full time university employees, 35 plus hours and heavy on the plus.”

Her coverage in the three residence buildings spans around 400 students. During her undergraduate time at Central Connecticut State

University (CCSU), Bernadel served as an RA and went up the ranks to become a senior RA. She said being an RA was her “best life experience.”

Bernadel also worked as a technician at Apple for four and half years where she learned about the technology they sold.

Bernadel said, “Man, Apple, what a company. Not just like the technology piece, but the way that they treat people. They got that down and that’s the only reason why I feel like as a company they thrive.”

At the job, Bernadel combined her love for science and technology and also interacted with people.

“I love this company so much that I can vouch for this as much as possible...it was great that you had a company that loved you so much or cared enough that they wanted you to develop,” she said.

After graduating from CCSU in 2012 with a degree in sociology and a minor in health care studies, Bernadel decided to take her education to the next level. She enrolled in University of Bridgeport’s MBA program and worked as a nursing admissions counselor.

Soon after, Bernadel’s father became sick and she left

Bridgeport to take care of her father.

“It was a lot, so I’m glad I did it,” said Bernadel. “I would never change that decision, ever, ever in my life. I’ll do it again. But family was important to me.”

Bernadel knew she wanted to get back to school and get her master’s degree; not only for her father but for herself. She soon accepted the position as area coordinator at the university and will receive a master’s degree in biomedical engineering when she graduates at the end of this semester.

She said, “This job is not for the weak, but it also gave me the opportunity to go back into school. This time I had the choice to make whether or not I wanted to continue business administration. Although it was really fun, it was great. I found it interesting. Science was my calling.”

Bridgeport had a similar biomedical engineering program, but imposter syndrome held Bernadel back from exploring that at the time.

“Back burner imposter syndrome had me feeling like I didn’t have enough to put into an engineering degree like math...I love science, but I didn’t know if I was brainy enough to support that,” she

said.

At New Haven, Bernadel can learn about “biomedical engineering from sensors to materials biomaterials to regenerating tissue. Regenerating an organ like mind-blowing,” she said.

Since Bernadel works a full-time job while being a part-time student, she says she is unsure of what she plans to do after she graduates.

“We as women, play a huge role in being able to bring things together...having Human Services, having technology background and all of that I think helps me

get to this point in my career where I’m like I think I know where I’m supposed to be, which is I’m supposed to be some sort of translator in in this field that can help connect the dots,” she said.

Women’s History Month is something Bernadel believes should be celebrated every day and said the month “reminds me of who I am, what we accomplish as a group and it reminds me that I have a place. I have a place here in society, not just as Martine, but with other women who are fighting the same adversities.”



Martine Bernadel poses for her headshot, West Haven, March 24, 2024.
Photo courtesy of University of New Haven.

Honoring women on campus: Ananya Surapaneni

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Women’s History Month has been celebrated in the United States since March 1987 as a time when women across the country are recognized for their contributions to the country.

According to U.S. News, 56% of University of New Haven students are women. This March, the university is honoring women on campus and their achievements.

Ananya Surapaneni is a graduate student from Ballari, Karnataka, India and she is pursuing a master’s degree in healthcare administration. Surapaneni previously completed her bachelor’s degree in dentistry in India.

Surapaneni said she chose New Haven for its exceptional master of healthcare administration (MHA) program

and “it was the curriculum and the positive experiences I heard that truly convinced me.”

As an international student, Surapaneni was anxious when she arrived on campus but she said she has since come to consider the university her “home away from home.” Her relationships with professors, classmates and friends have continued to provide her with “constant sources of learning and self-discovery,” she said.

On campus, Surapaneni is the event manager for the Indian Student Council, which was established in 2011 and represents the Indian student community at the university. The organization celebrates Indian festivals, helps new Indian students acclimate to campus and works with the administration by hosting a Buddy program for incoming

Indian students.

Surapaneni is also involved in the Women in Business club. The registered student organization aims to enhance student professional development and share experiences as students get ready for their careers after college. Surapaneni is also on the event planning committee for the Graduate Student Council.

Living in both West Haven and Ballari, Surapaneni said “everything from the climate and food to the people, roads, classrooms, teaching styles and organizational structures is different.”

Surapaneni said the differences she has encountered have led her to appreciate a new culture.

After earning her master’s degree, Surapaneni plans to enter the health administration field and combine that with her passion for dentistry.

ry.

“My long-term goal is to establish a multi-specialty hospital back in my hometown, where I can leverage my skills as both a dentist and an administrator,” Surapaneni said.

Surapaneni wore her grandmother’s saree at her undergraduate graduation in India. She said her greatest inspiration is her grandmother who is “a single mother in a small Indian town” who overcame “societal negativity and hardship” as she raised two sons with “unwavering strength and instilled in them the importance of education and family.”

Surapaneni’s Naanamma – “grandmother” in Surapaneni’s native language Telugu – has shown her from a young age “the power of resilience and the ability of women to achieve greatness, regardless

of circumstance,” Surapaneni said.

Combining health administration and dentistry will allow Surapaneni to provide dental care to underprivileged communities in her hometown, which has become more attainable because of the university’s resources, she said.

Women’s History Month, to Surapaneni, “is a celebration of all women – from Olympic champions and Nobel laureates to influential politicians and everyday heroes like my grandmother who fight for themselves and their families.”

As Surapaneni finishes her master’s degree in health administration, she said she reminds herself “to honor every woman who defies limitations and makes a difference in the world,” just like her grandmother.

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You are not alone: A fear of clowns

BY ZARIA

DICKERSON-PARKER

Contributing Writer

As we head into the sugary-sweet carnival season, we know that carnivals can be one of the best places on earth. There are scary rides, delicious and fried food and fun games.

But for some of us, carnivals are also a breeding ground for terror. This terror comes because of one of those carnivals' most famous features: clowns. While others delight in the greasepaint and baggy pants, some of us quake. We don't want to hug clowns. We want to run from them.

The fear of clowns, also known as coulrophobia, is more common than you may think. The appearance of a clown alone is enough to make my skin crawl.

How can something that seems so innocent be so

scary?

The American Psychiatric Association recognizes three types of phobia: specific phobia, social phobia and agoraphobia. Coulrophobia would be considered a complex phobia. The National Library of Medicine researched the phobia and said, "Our findings suggest that uncertainty of harmful intent, media influences and unpredictability of behaviour play an important role in the origins of coulrophobia."

For their study, the library surveyed 528 people. Their findings reflect the impact of the fear of the unknown. People like to have a sense of those around them and a sense of their intentions. The uncertainty that surrounds the emotions and intention of clowns, for them, can be anxiety-inducing. For me, clowns leave too much to the imagination. Their

expressions are usually extremely happy or extremely sad. While happiness is a pleasant emotion, there can't possibly be any reason to be that happy.

The media has not helped. At last count, there have been some 69 horror movies that included clowns as an evil protagonist. Take, for example, the IT movie series. IT follows a group of five children who are tormented by a clown named Pennywise. Pennywise uses the fears the children already have, along with their innate curiosity to lure them to him so he can eat them. I avoid those movies like the plague, but according to Variety, IT earned \$123 million in its opening weekend in 2017. (What is wrong with people? That's probably another article.)

With the media portraying clowns as devious child-munchers, shouldn't

all of us be afraid of clowns? Maybe not. The common argument against acknowledging the fear of clowns is that a clown is actually a person in costume.

But that fact does nothing but amplify the ambiguity. If a person is covered in makeup and a costume, how can you gauge anything about them?

In the end, everyone is afraid of something and many people find solace in finding people who share phobias. Whether it be a fear of clowns, birds, spiders or snakes, those fears are valid. So unite, my fellow coulrophobiacs (which is probably not a word but should be). Clowns are definitely creepy and fortunately, they are avoidable. Join me and steer clear of children's parties or carnivals where lurk those jovial faces that give you the shivers.

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A list of the best ways to relieve stress

BY ERICK CUATZO

Contributing Writer

As we head into the last part of the semester, students may be looking for ways to de-stress from classes, friends, family and work.

Here are some suggestions: If you're a kid at heart, playing video games is a great way to escape. You can go from being a soldier on the front lines in "Call of Duty," to web-swinging in New York in Marvel's "Spider-Man 2." The video game industry is worth nearly \$214 billion and there are plenty of destinations into which a busy student can escape. (My favorite is Gotham City in the "Batman: Arkham" series. "Arkham Origins" is based on Batman's early years, when our cape crusader finds there's a bounty on his head. Other Arkham games pit Batman against Poison Ivy, Deathstroke and The Joker, who takes over an asylum.)

If you find yourself looking to expand your gaming, think about collecting action figures. Before you roll your eyes, please understand we

are not talking about dolls or kids' toys. One of these figures – the original G.I. Joe prototype – went for \$200,000 and that was in 2003. Figure collection can seem confusing, but consider just starting with figures from your favorite video game or movie.

If you've never walked into a comics store, I highly recommend it. I have probably visited every town in Connecticut with such a comics store. I began by collecting the "Batman: Knightfall" storyline, but those were hard to find. I ended up driving nearly to New York for one. Yes, I spent money on gas, but believe me, finding that book you've been looking for feels like you have won the lottery. Will I ever sell these comics? Maybe. For now, I'm just happy to own them. Here, too, collecting can be overwhelming, so stick with what you like.

When I'm not patrolling the streets of Gotham in my Batmobile, I read graphic novels. I think we see a pattern here.

To break out of that pattern, occasionally, the stressed

student needs to go outside. Something as simple as a walk can help, or going to a gym. No less an authority than the National Library of Medicine is a great stress-reliever, even if it's a short walk.

It's not too late to find a like-minded group on campus. The university also has a ton of clubs and sports. Join one of the school's 150 clubs, which include everything from Greek life to an

accounting club to a club for students who are interested in anime. As the website says, if you don't see a club or group you want to join, start your own. I played football for years and now I'm in the school rugby club. Come join us!

Pick up one of those personal projects you've put aside for a while. Write that novel. Create that cake. And remind yourself that stress is temporary, as is this semester.



Collection of Batman memorabilia, West Haven, March 24, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

Softball drops non-conference doubleheader vs Caldwell

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Managing Editor

The New Haven softball team fought hard in their Wednesday double header at the team's home opener against Caldwell University, but took two losses, 14-9 and 10-1.

Over spring break, the team played 10 games in five days in Winter Haven, Fla. and finished the trip winning just two of those games to begin the season with a record of 2-8.

In game one of the Caldwell doubleheader, New Haven sent right-handed pitcher Breanna Kinney to the mound. Kinney finished the game with a whopping 151 pitches as she pitched 7.1 innings and allowed 15 hits on nine earned runs with three walks and six strikeouts.

Caldwell struck first in the top of the first inning after Grace Vondracek singled and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt. Vondracek then stole third and came around to score on a single into right-center field by shortstop Ashleigh Tavaska.

New Haven came to bat in the bottom of the first and responded with five runs to put themselves ahead. Center fielder Bella Chenet was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and she reached third base after an error by Amanda

Batista, which gave the Chargers two runners on base with no outs. Chenet then scored on another error that tied the game at one before shortstop Lauren Haversat lined a two-run single into right field to give the Chargers their first lead of the game.

Kylie Thorpe kept the line moving with a single and a stolen base to put two runners in scoring position. Meg Anderson made it a three-run game with a single through the right side before Ashley Veisz ripped a double to left field that brought Anderson around to make it a 5-1 game.

Caldwell answered back with five runs of their own in the top of the second to turn it into a 6-5 Cougars lead. They added another run in the third on a triple by Vondracek to take a two-run lead.

Right fielder Olivia Roberto brought New Haven back within one with an RBI triple in the bottom of the fourth to score Veisz. In the fifth, Anderson tied the game at seven with a double into left-center field that brought Thorpe around to score and tie the game at seven going into the late innings.

Caldwell answered with another run in the top of the sixth with an RBI single from catcher Taylor Quinn that allowed Batista to score and give them a 8-7 lead.

Down to their last at-bat,

the Chargers tied the game at eight and forced extra innings after Batista allowed Veisz to reach base with a throwing error that allowed catcher Halle Frederick to score, who reached on an error to lead off the inning. Caldwell's defense kept New Haven in the game as they committed five errors and allowed five unearned runs to score.

The Cougars scored six in the top of the eighth, which proved to be the difference as they closed out the game with a 14-9 win.

Right-handed pitcher Viana McKinley got the ball for the Chargers in game two. She pitched three innings and al-

lowed six hits on three earned runs and struck out one on her way to receiving the loss. The defense struggled for New Haven as they committed three errors that brought five runs around to score.

Caldwell struck first again as Tavaska opened the scoring with a double down the right field line. Right fielder Brooke Freschi made it a two-run game in the top of the first with an infield single.

The Chargers only run of the game came in the bottom of the first on a single from Haversat that scored Chenet.

Caldwell broke the game open in the second with a three-run home run from

Tavaska before adding three more runs in the third and two more in the fifth on a home run from Alex Colon, which gave the Cougars a 10-1 lead. The game was called after five innings.

New Haven will go on the road to Rockville Centre, N.Y. for a Tuesday matchup with Molloy University. First pitch is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. as the Chargers look to get back in the win column before they open Northeast-10 conference play on Friday against American International College.

For more information about the upcoming schedule, please visit NewHavenChargers.com.



#7 Bella Chenet running to first base, West Haven, March 20, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

Zaria Dickerson-Parker is working on two articles for "The Charger Bulletin," asking graduating seniors the following questions:

What is the best memory you have from your time here on campus?

What is one piece of advice you'd give incoming first-year students in the fall?

Your answers can be as short or long as you want. Please send your answers to Zaria at zdick1@unh.newhaven.edu. And thank you.

Baseball splits with Saint Anselm amidst program history

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

The Chargers hosted the Saint Anselm Hawks on Friday, March 22 for a double header at Frank Vieira Field. New Haven split the series with a 5-4 loss in game one and 6-2 win in game two. Right-handed pitcher Michael Gatti was the star of the show for the Chargers with 16 of 21 outs recorded via strikeouts as he pitched a complete game and gave up just a single hit and one earned run. He now holds the school record for most strikeouts in a game since at least the 2007 season when statistics were first officially kept for the team.

New Haven took the early lead in game one with a run in the bottom of the first inning. The run was scored by designated hitter Tyler Wells, who scored on a single to left field by right fielder Shaun Callahan. The game quickly became a battle between starting pitchers Liam Carroll and Saint Anselm's Dallas Vaughan as neither team scored again until the top of the sixth inning. The Hawks took their first lead of the day with two runs in the sixth inning with RBI singles from the Hawks' designated hitter Ryan Declan and third

baseman Daniel Scolaro.

New Haven answered back in the bottom of the sixth, but only made up for one of the runs as third baseman Joseph Frazzetta singled down the right field line to score Callahan. The Chargers then loaded the bases with just one out but were unable to score after two consecutive strikeouts to strand the runners.

The Hawks took back the lead in the eighth inning after right-handed pitcher Jafar Vohra took over for Carroll. Vohra gave up three hits and a walk that resulted in a 5-2 lead for Saint Anselm.

It was the bottom of the ninth when the Chargers started a last-chance comeback. With a two-out walk from Wells and a wild pitch that advanced him to second, left fielder Owen Pincince brought in Wells with a single to left center. Callahan then brought Pincince in with a triple down the right field line. With the tying run on third base, Callahan attempted to steal home but was tagged out by the catcher and ended the game with a 5-4 Saint Anselm win.

In game two, the Chargers once again took an early lead with two runs in the bottom of the first. Callahan came through for New Haven with a



Cam McGugan throwing the ball to second base, West Haven, March 22, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Evan Pecorale.

single up the middle on bases loaded that drove in Ungania and first baseman Matt McIntire. After Gatti held the Saint Anselm offense to three scoreless innings, the Chargers added to their lead again in the bottom of the third after a bases loaded walk from Frazzetta brought home McIntire.

The Hawks scored their only two runs of the game in the top of the fourth as Saint Anselm's catcher Nolan Elmore doubled to left center and drove in shortstop Maverick Bourdeau and first baseman Aidan Dow.

New Haven answered in the bottom of the inning with a double down the right field

line from Wells that scored McIntire to take a two-run lead. They added to their lead in the sixth with two more runs on a single up the middle from McIntire that scored catcher Casey Cerruto followed by a wild pitch on bases loaded that brought Ungania around to score. After Gatti retired the next three batters in the top of the seventh, striking out two, the second game of the series ended with a 6-2 victory for the Chargers.

Callahan led the Chargers' offense for the day with four hits in seven at-bats, four RBIs and one run scored. Wells followed close behind going

3-for-6 with one RBI, three walks and two runs scored. McIntire went 3-for-3 at the plate in the second game with one RBI and three runs scored.

The starting pitchers for New Haven held Saint Anselm's lineup quiet, with Carroll striking out 10 in game one before Gatti's 16 in game two. Carroll gave up two runs on five hits while relief pitcher Vohra suffered the loss for New Haven.

With the split, New Haven stands at a 10-10 overall record on the season and 2-1 in Northeast-10 conference play. More information about the upcoming schedule can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.

Women's tennis sweeps D1 Holy Cross in spring home opener

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Staff Writer

The women's tennis team dominated the Division 1 Holy Cross Crusaders, 6-0, in their spring opening match last week.

With a strong performance from the start and a total of nine matches, there were three doubles and six singles, in which the Chargers were able to shut-out the Crusaders.

Freshman Agustina Ravera made an impressive start to the season.

"We spent a lot of time on the court to prepare for the season," said Ravera. "This win brings confidence to the team and will fuel us to do amazing this season."

The first pair of doubles included sophomore Valentina Ferrarini and junior Karim Carreras, who won their match 6-2. Then came graduate student Lucia Placidi and junior Risako Umekuni. The pair also won their match 6-2 and secured the win for New Haven. In the third doubles

match, the Chargers fell 6-0 to the Crusaders.

In the singles matches, New Haven had an all-around victory. The first match of Ferrarini against Holy Cross' Ahana Nagarkatti was ruled unfinished due to weather conditions. During the first set, Ferrarini lost 6-1 but was able to come back and win the second set with a score of 6-2. The third set had a tiebreaker of 6-6, though Ferrarini led the fourth set with a score of 6-5 before weather conditions worsened.

Competing in the second singles match, Carreras won the first set 6-3 and the second 6-1, which secured another win for the Chargers. In the third singles, Umekuni lost the first set, 7-5, won the second set, 6-1 and was able to win after going into a tiebreaker in the third set. Umekuni was able to secure the point with a final score of 10-5.

In the fourth singles, sophomore Alyssa Rodriguez won both sets against opponent Caroline Fredey with scores of 6-2 and 6-4. Placidi secured

another point for New Haven in the fifth singles as she won the first set 6-2 and finished the match with a 10-2 tiebreaker.

Agustina Ravera dominated the sixth singles with a complete sweep. Against Holy Cross' Katie Nossa, Ravera won both sets 6-0.

"For myself, I would like

to hopefully get higher in the lineup, but I am happy where I am," said Ravera. "As for the team, I can tell this season is going to be victorious, hopefully we can go all the way in the fall and make some more history."

The Chargers win over the Crusaders leaves them at 9-3

overall and 7-1 in conference play for the 2023-24 season.

New Haven will take the court again on Thursday as they host Chestnut Hill. The first serve is scheduled for noon as the Chargers look to continue this strong start. For information, go to NewHavenChargers.com.



Karim Carreras and Valentina Ferrarini in doubles play versus Holy Cross, West Haven, March 20, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.