

THE MIRROR

Independent student newspaper

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Photos contributed by the sports information desk and @CTibow Twitter

Pictured above is Carly Thibault-DuDonis, the new coach for the Fairfield University women's basketball team. Thibault-DuDonis previously served as the associate head coach and recruiting director at the University of Minnesota.

Fairfield Women's Basketball Welcomes New Coach

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor

After Fairfield University women's basketball former head coach Joe Frager retired following his 15th and final season with the Stags, the University hired Carly Thibault-DuDonis as their newest head coach of the team.

Thibault-DuDonis, who served as Associate Head Coach and recruiting Director at the University of Minnesota according to the official press release on fairfieldstags.com, has an impressive background in basketball and more specifically finding talented players. Her skillset puts a key emphasis on player development.

Upon her arrival to Fairfield University, Thibault-DuDonis felt the love immediately. "I guess I'll start by saying that this is a little bit of a homecoming for me back to Connecticut," she joked.

Although she was born in the midwest, she grew up in Connecticut, playing for the East Lyme High School women's basketball team. Additionally, she played

AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) basketball in the area.

Her coaching career really began to take shape during her time playing college basketball at Monmouth University. Playing under Stephanie Gaitley, who is now the head coach of Fordham University's women's basketball team, she was able to learn in greater

Tallahassee, I learned so much about the art of recruiting and the nuance in recruiting."

From there, Thibault-DuDonis continued on to partake in coaching roles in Eastern Michigan University and Mississippi State University until Lindsay Whalen ended up securing the head coaching position at the University of Minnesota.

to become the next bench boss for the Fairfield Stags.

Although her proximity to the place she grew up was a factor in her decision to come coach at Fairfield, the main selling point for her was the culture created within Fairfield University athletics. "And so that culture, and that investment in women's basketball means a lot, you know," Thibault-DuDonis commented. "Not everywhere invests in women's basketball, and this is clearly a place for that which is really exciting."

Through her talks with Athletic Director Paul Schlickmann, Deputy Director of Athletics Zach Dayton, and administrators themselves, she realized that she shared in the mission of Fairfield Athletics.

"On my campus interview, I got to meet President Nemec and a lot of the people within the administration again, that are great people first, but really care about doing things the right way here about being successful about trying to continue to put Fairfield on the map," she continued. "Which is really exciting, to be able to continue

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"...That investment in women's basketball means a lot, you know. Not everywhere invests in women's basketball, and this is clearly a place for that which is really exciting."

- Carly Thibault-DuDonis

depth what it meant to play basketball at a high level. After her experiences at Monmouth, it sparked the idea to coach basketball.

"And from there, I knew I wanted to coach, and I got my first start in coaching at Florida State [University] when I was the recruiting director under coach Sue Semrau," she explained. "And I had an amazing experience in

Whalen played for the Connecticut Sun of the Women's National Basketball Association, which, consequently, was coached by none other than Mike Thibault, Carly's father.

With this in mind, Thibault-DuDonis was able to connect with Whalen to take on the role of associate head coach at the University of Minnesota. Evidently, Thibault-DuDonis left Minnesota

Clam Jam is Back After Two Years

By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor

On Saturday, April 30, Fairfield University's Office of Student Engagement is hosting its annual Clam Jam event. From 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Penfield Beach, senior and junior Stags will have the opportunity to attend a day filled with live music, food, and beer/cider (for students that meet the drinking age limit).

Ticket sales went live on April 6 at 8 a.m. for senior students — each ticket priced at \$70. The following day, on April 7 at 8 a.m., juniors were able to purchase their tickets for \$75. While those who were eligible to buy a ticket were only allowed one slip each, April 8 allotted senior Stags the possibility of an additional two tickets for any guests they may want to accompany them for an additional charge of \$90 each.

However, the

hefty price has left some students frustrated.

"I definitely wish the school didn't charge seniors for the events meant for us," John Fee '22 shared. "Especially toward the end of the semester, it seems as though they're trying to squeeze out as much money as they can from us before we're gone."

The University has an initiative through the Division of Student Life called The Student Life Financial Assistance Program that aids students who may not have the financial means to attend or participate in University-sponsored events such as Clam Jam. A confidential process allows students to apply for assistance prior to purchasing a ticket. The program sends a response regarding one's application status in seven days or less.

Nevertheless, after not being able to

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Photo contributed by Fairfield University

Pictured above is the logo for Clam Jam, which is a beach event held each year for juniors and seniors.

COVID-19 Cases Surge in Fairfield County

By Madeline West
Editor-in-Chief

COVID-19 cases are surging throughout the country after a fall from the previous January uptick. Specifically, the East Coast has seen the most increase in the past week, with cases doubling since the start of the month.

Two new sub variants called BA.2.12 and BA.2.12.1 have swept much of the northeastern region of the country and it is spreading to the mid-western part of the country as well. In Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan,

cases are up by more than 40% in the past two weeks.

According to the Department of Public Health, Connecticut recorded 3,939 positive COVID-19 tests in the past week, the most in a seven-day period since early March.

Due to this rise the University of Connecticut reinstated their mask mandate on Monday, April 18 "due to an increase in covid cases across the state." Students and staff members will be required to wear masks in all indoor institutional settings,

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New Women’s Basketball Coach Wants Team To Be “Ingrained in the Community”

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“ Well, I think the exciting thing is that [the current women’s basketball team] all have winners mindsets, you know, they know how to win.”

- Carly Thibault-DuDonis

to kind of break new ground.”

Although the next basketball season will not kick off until the late fall of this year, Thibault-DuDonis already has massive plans to take the program to new heights. Trying to “compete for a MAAC (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) championship and continue to go to the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) tournament” is her main standard that she would like to set.

“That’s a lot easier said than done, and you know, I hope we get a chance to run it back this year,” she stated.

She cited that the stories of “mid-major” schools (athletic conferences outside of the “Power 5” conferences) who win games in the March Madness tournament, such as South Dakota State and Florida Gulf Coast, are inspiring messages that Fairfield University can do the same.

For the new bench boss, this process of making tournament runs is already ingrained in the players who are currently on the team. “Well, I think the exciting thing is that they all have winners mindsets, you know, they know how to win,” Thibault-DuDonis said.

Additionally, she wants to create a more offensive-minded team on the court. She is seeking a team that “pushes the ball with some pace in scoring transition, but then shares the ball really well and make[s] quick decisions with the basketball.”

Shooting three-point shots is another area that she would like to integrate onto the court for her squad. Being disciplined in shooting is a key to success for Thibault-DuDonis.

During the long break before the next season starts, the coaching staff still has work to do in terms of recruiting new players to join the team. With her recruiting background, this would be right in her wheelhouse. “I am definitely hitting the ground running from a recruiting standpoint,” she stated, continuing that good players can come from areas right around Fairfield, or even farther like the midwest U.S. and even abroad.

Off the court, however, Thibault-DuDonis truly wants to be able to develop her players off the court. By getting to know them personally and engaging with the team in workouts and other events over the course of the summer,

she will be able to create a tight-knit team that supports each other.

The only thing that might step in her way over the offseason is “what the roster is going to look like.” As the NCAA changed their rules on no longer needing to redshirt as a transfer, many more players are willing to enter the transfer portal and test their luck with a new school. For Fairfield, this means that constructing a solid roster must be a hasty process as women’s basketball’s best stars will be picked off the portal early.

“We’re here,” Thibault-DuDonis said excitedly. Pointing to the new arena being built, the success of the program over the last year, and the overall culture of improving every single day, the brand new coach is eager to begin.

She mentioned something Schlickmann mentioned to her previously: this season is not



Photo Courtesy of @fairfieldu Instagram

Andrea Hernangomez ‘22, Carly Thibault-DuDonis, Jazmine Carter ‘22 and Anna Eng ‘25 attending Thibault-DuDonis’ Meet and Greet Event.

the pinnacle of the program, but just the springboard to elevate the program to new heights. For the team, that may look like a few

different things. Being role models for the community and being accessible people are just two of the many ways that Thibault-DuDonis looks to improve the team off the court.

“I want little boys and girls to be begging their parents to bring them to the women’s basketball games because they’re so much fun,” she stated. “They want to root for their favorite player because they know that number one has taken pictures with them and has, you know, pushed them in clinics and things like that... and we just want to be really ingrained in the community.”

You can watch Thibault-DuDonis and her team hit the court of the brand new Arena and Convocation Center at the beginning of the season in late fall of 2022.

“ I want little boys and girls to be begging their parents to bring them to the women’s basketball games because they’re so much fun. They want to root for their favorite player because they know that number one has taken pictures with them and has, you know, pushed them in clinics and things like that... and we just want to be really ingrained in the community.”

- Carly Thibault-DuDonis

EXPERIMENT THIS SUMMER

Lighten your course load, catch up on credits, or get ahead of your studies with these summer science courses and labs

BIOLOGY

Human Anatomy & Physiology I

Human Anatomy & Physiology II

General Biology I

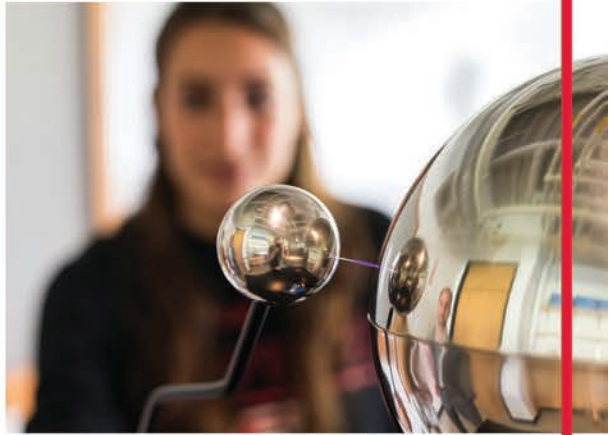
CHEMISTRY

General Chemistry I
General Chemistry II

Organic Chemistry I
Organic Chemistry II

PHYSICS

General Physics I
General Physics II



Fairfield.edu/SummerSciences





Compiled by Max Limric
Information contributed by the
Department of Public Safety.

- 4/7
12:23 a.m.
Three students were documented for disorderly conduct while entering campus.
- 4/8
11:10 a.m.
Three students in Jogues Hall were smoking marijuana and were in possession of drug paraphernalia. They were documented and sent to the Dean of Students.
- 4/10
12:27 a.m.
DPS assisted the Fairfield Police Department in locating a student involved in an incident off campus.
- 4/10
1:25 a.m.
A non-student was issued a criminal trespass warning after being found on campus when previously warned not to return.
- 4/12
8:25 p.m.
Two students were documented in Claver Hall for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- 4/14
11:45 a.m.
A student in Barnyard Manor reported that eggs were thrown at their townhouse. Suspects are unknown.

NOTD to Headline Clam Jam Event

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experience a proper Clam Jam event for two consecutive years due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, students have expressed their excitement with the chance to finally attend their own.

Senior Julia Talamini exclaimed, “Being the last concert I’m going to attend at Fairfield University, it’s already going to be an exciting event and a concert at the beach is something that I will probably never have the opportunity to experience again.”

Scheduled to perform on the sandy clearing is the multi-platinum duo of Tobias Danielsson and Samuel Brandt, also known as NOTD. They are most famously known for their two songs “So Close” and “I Wanna Know,” but were ultimately “selected in consultation with FUSA (Fairfield University Student Association) and BRAG (Beach Residence Advocacy Group),” states Associate Director of Media Relations & Content Marketing Susan Cipollaro.

NOTD will begin their performance at 11:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. The University has provided on-campus check-in and bus transportation for this event. Student check-in begins at 11 a.m. at the Quick Center Parking Lot and the first bus will depart at 11:15 a.m. Buses will run on a continuous loop from then until 1 p.m.

Students may re-board buses and return to campus during this time, however, the last bus from campus to Penfield is at 1 p.m. Students will need their e-ticket and valid identification (Stag Card or state identification if a guest) in order to board the bus. From 2 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., the buses will depart from the Penfield Pavilion parking lot on a continuous loop, returning

students to campus only.

The last bus back to campus after the event is at 4:15 p.m. If students are driving or taking an Uber, the entrance to the event can be found in the Penfield Beach parking lot, as there is no entrance from the beach or waterfront. Furthermore, the doors will open at 11 a.m. and the last entry will be at 1:15 p.m.

Tickets can be accepted in three forms: printed tickets, a PDF from your email, or the e-ticket as a QR Code.

Each unique ticket allows one entry, so the first copy will be the only participant to gain entry after scanning.

You must have a ticket to be allowed entrance and all non-Fairfield guests of Fairfield students must be in line with the Fairfield student for entrance into the event. Further, all guests must again show a valid state identification card and valid Clam Jam e-ticket.

Some other essential reminders are that once you leave the event space, you will not be allowed to re-enter and no personal belongings such as backpacks, bags or outside food/drink are allowed into the venue. All other belongings will be thoroughly checked. Portable bathrooms are also located in the Penfield parking lot, as there are no inside restrooms available.

Once students are checked in, attendees that are verified to be 21+ will receive a wristband that is mandatory for the entire event duration. Students over 21 must not remove not remove these bands until the end of the event so that they are properly designated to be of the legal drinking age. As a Clam Jam souvenir, guests that are 21+ will also receive one cup to be used throughout



Daniel Messier/The Mirror
Pictured above is Two Friends, the 2019 Clam Jam headliners. NOTD is set to perform at the 2022 Clam Jam.

the event and able to be taken home.

At the beach, students will be strictly monitored to ensure alcohol is consumed and distributed legally. Attendees engaging in illegal behavior regarding the distribution of alcohol will face punishment; the attendee distributing the alcohol and any underage student consuming the drink will be removed from Clam Jam and prohibited from re-entering.

Anyone in need of medical attention during the event can find help in one of two tents, located to the left of the Penfield Beach entrance lanes or to the side of the Jacky Durrell Pavilion.

In addition to the bar, there will be ample water and food provided throughout the four hours and is highly encouraged for all participants to consume. Meals will also be available at no cost starting at 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

All attendees are asked to clean up after themselves. This may include discarding food wrappers in trash bins or picking up your cups left on the beach.

THE MIRROR

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Juliana Sansonetti/The Mirror
Pictured above is the 2017 Clam Jam Event. After being cancelled due to COVID restrictions in 2020 and 2021, Clam Jam tickets are available for purchase for juniors and seniors.

FUSA Opens Tickets to Guests as Spring Concert Draws Near

By Peyton Perry
Head News Editor

On April 11, an email was sent from the Fairfield University Student Association to students regarding this year’s Spring Concert event featuring performer Flo Rida at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater in Bridgeport, Conn. The email notified students of the new option to purchase up to one guest ticket, priced at \$50.

The email ended with reminding students of the deadline to purchase tickets, which is Wednesday, April 20 at 5 p.m.

FUSA President Tyler Heffern ‘22 alludes to a push from students for the ability to bring guests, stating that FUSA received questions regarding the possibility of purchasing guest tickets prior to the email being sent out. Heffern further states that FUSA wanted to ensure students were able to purchase tickets before the option to bring a guest was taken into consideration. Since not all the tickets have been sold,

however, FUSA is allowing guest tickets.

FUSA purchased 2,250 tickets in total from the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater and “budgeted appropriately” so that not all of the tickets had to be sold, according to Heffern. He states that FUSA’s target for sales ranged between 1,500 and 1,800 tickets sold, which was projected with the pandemic in mind, as well as the location of the event being an off-campus venue.

As reported by The Mirror, the Spring Concert event in past years has been held in Alumni Hall. However, with the new construction of the Convocation Center, this venue was not available this year. Renting out a venue would have been very costly for FUSA, according to the article, so instead the association bought out the whole floor for students at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater. FUSA’s budget for the Spring Concert, according to Director of Treasury Heather Wazaney, was “proposed and approved

by the Senate for \$105,000.” This is a part of FUSA’s \$385,000 original budget for the academic year, states Wazaney.

FUSA was able to subsidize a portion of the ticket cost, states Heffern, which allowed for students to purchase tickets at “a much lower price than their market value.” With over 1,500 tickets already sold for the Spring Concert, Heffern considers this to be a success, having met the target range for sales. He adds that FUSA further expects more tickets to be sold before the approaching deadline.

“FUSA is very excited about the concert this weekend and we are happy to be able to put on an event that resembles a well-loved Fairfield tradition,” says Heffern. “We are really happy with the student body’s reaction to the event as well!” he says.

Students can pick up their printed tickets Wednesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in front of the Daniel and Grace Tully Dining Commons.

Student Frustrations Ensur despite Extension and Supplemental Lottery

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

Fairfield University’s Housing Lottery and Selection for the 2022-2023 academic year recently occurred starting on April 6 and continued over the remainder of that week on April 7 and 8. Groups placed in the Supplemental Housing Selection are designated to pick their housing on April 21 and 22, according to the 2022-2023 Housing Lottery Information Booklet.

Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Office of Residence Life Meredith Smith shared the housing options for the following year.

On-campus juniors and seniors will live in Townhouses or apartment-style living, similar to previous years. Sophomore students will be in “traditional style living,” suite-style and a limited number of apartments. Students living in the apartments will be a part of a Pilot Sophomore Gives Back program. She added that “a third of sophomores will be in the Quad in 42 Langguth (Ignatian Residential College), 70 McCormick and the newly renovated Gonzaga [on the third floor].”

Each year, members in the rising senior class have the opportunity to apply to live off-campus, a popular choice among students.

Many members of the class of 2022 currently living at the beach were initially denied release to the beach, according to an April 2021 Mirror article. All students were eventually released, however, as stated in the same article.

It seems as though there was no strife in this year’s release process, according to Smith. She stated that “we released all interested students who applied to be released from their housing contract to off-campus status.” Smith stated that she couldn’t share the exact number of students living off-campus next year, attributing many students deciding to return to on-campus status as the reason.

In addition to the aforementioned renovations planned for Gonzaga Hall, a traditional-style first-year residence that will now include a Sophomore-designated floor, new townhouses are currently being constructed and the remaining unrenovated townhouses will be updated over the summer.

“The new Townhouse construction is to improve the student experience, by bringing the 5-person houses back to 4-person houses in the other blocks,” Smith said. “It’s a net-increase of 9-beds, but 82 beds overall.”

Here, Smith references the fact that two years ago, the Townhouses, which featured four and six-person housing options, were converted to be five-person and six-person options to accommodate

for the larger class sizes of both the Class of 2022 and the Class of 2023.

The new townhouses are “best described as a hybrid between current Townhouses and Barnyard Manor,” according to Smith. Barnyard Manor is a fairly new addition to the University, added in Fall 2019.

Barnyard Manor is found on the south side of campus and features mainly eight-person units with single rooms, two full bathrooms and in-unit laundry facilities. This differs from the Townhouses, located near the main entrance to campus, consisting of four and six-person units with communal laundry and shared bedrooms.

“ I was kind of shocked. I was unaware of a supplemental lottery, so when we were placed into it, I was kind of at a loss for words.”

- Jason Strelec ‘25

Regarding the new townhouses, Smith noted “there is an increased desire for single rooms in the community” and added that an additional laundry room will be added to “support the current townhouse population.” Construction is “on schedule to open this coming Fall.”

In June 2021, the Mirror reported that 150 students in the then-incoming Class of 2025 would be placed into converted triples to accommodate for the increased size of the first-year class.

Charles Sousa, the senior associate director of housing operations in the Office of Residence Life told the Mirror in November 2021 that determining housing projections is an “inexact science.” He stated that he takes the largest first-year class size and the typical projected percentage of students that live on campus, around 94%, and starts adding those into first-year spaces.

However, at this time, Smith stated that ResLife does “not anticipate the need to convert additional spaces for any of the other classes” and the need for converted triples will be determined once more information about the size of the incoming first-year class is made available to ResLife.

In November 2021, Sousa told the Mirror that sophomore year is typically a year where students “get squeezed a little bit.”

Rising sophomore Jason Strelec was placed into the supplemental housing lottery, meaning he and the

rest of his roommates were unable to pick during the initial selection times.

“I was kind of shocked,” Strelec said. “I was unaware of a supplemental lottery, so when we were placed into it, I was kind of at a loss for words.”

Last year, members of the Class of 2024 raised housing concerns for their sophomore year, as reported by the Mirror in April 2021.

During the Housing Lottery for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, there were 70 rising sophomore groups on the housing waitlist, according to Sousa. He attributed this to the popularity of suite-style living options for the Class of 2025. In addition to the 70 rising sophomore groups, there were also 35 rising junior housing groups placed in their own supplemental lottery.

One of the main areas of concern felt by students on the waitlist last year surrounded communication and clarity from ResLife.

Current sophomore Nicholas Distefano was quoted in the 2021 Mirror article saying he felt disappointed in the lack of communication from ResLife and would have preferred it be communicated that there could be a high possibility that “we will be across campus far away from all the other sophomores in our class.” This concern has not gone away.

Strelec felt that “communication from ResLife was lacking.”

“They sent me only one email notifying me that I was placed in the Supplemental Lottery,” he said. “I had to visit the ResLife office three times to get more clarification on the whole situation.”

Since this rising sophomore class, the Class of 2025, is currently the largest class Fairfield has, some students have raised concerns about the planning that went into the admittance of such a large class.

“I understand that ResLife and Fairfield are working with what they have for housing,” Strelec said. “That being said, it still feels like there was a lack of planning for the influx of freshmen students.”

First-year Colin Lynch was also placed in the Supplemental Housing Lottery, and he echoed Strelec’s sentiments. “I feel that when the school accepts a certain amount of students, they should know and plan for the next four years how many spots they need for housing, so things like this don’t happen because each year there will be more students accepted than the last at Fairfield’s current rate,” Lynch stated.

And though being placed in the Supplemental Housing Lottery was not ideal, Strelec and Lynch noted that the process to enter the supplemental lottery was not challenging.

According to Strelec, all that

“ I understand that ResLife and Fairfield are working with what they have for housing. That being said, it still feels like there was a lack of planning for the influx of freshmen students.”

- Jason Strelec ‘25

had to be done was “reconfigure roommates.” Lynch stated the same thing saying, “the process was very easy to enter the supplemental lottery, all we had to do was remove two of our roommates.”

“Overall, I think the lottery process as a whole could work for the University,” Strelec said. “They just need to work out its kinks if they plan on accepting larger classes each year.”

Smith did not answer the question “How many students are currently in the supplemental housing lottery?” in time for publication.

Smith said that ResLife is “working closely with our partners in Facilities and Student Life to plan for and meet the needs of the students.”

“All rising sophomores currently will be in air-conditioned sophomore-designated spaces, with some in a limited number of apartments participating in the Sophomores Give Back program,” she added.

Smith did not respond with a comment in time for publication to provide more details about the new program for Sophomores.

Another point of contention for students surrounds the transparency about Gender Inclusive Housing options. The Mirror reported on the matter.

Current junior, Giacomo Giardina was quoted in the December 2021 Mirror article saying that the application

process to live in Gender Inclusive Housing “went incredibly smooth.” However, he added “unless you count finding out that it exists as part of the process, in which case there was a problem.”

Students interested in learning more about this kind of housing can reach out to ResLife by calling 203-2554-4215 or emailing residencelife@fairfield.edu.

Smith did not provide a response in time for publishing to a question asking how many students currently live in Gender Inclusive Housing and how many students are enrolled to live in Gender Inclusive Housing next year.

Around campus, there has been a buzz about the possibility of a new dorm in the Quad. However, information is not yet available to share about this potential project, according to Smith.

In a Mirror article published on Feb. 16, 2022, according to Sousa, the construction of a new residence hall in the quad is being discussed by ResLife, though it is still in its planning phase. “The Housing Lottery is a process,” Smith said. “We are here to support students find a home in our Residential Campus communities and will prioritize students ensuring students stay with their chosen direct roommate.”

The Mirror will continue to update on housing and construction as more information becomes available.



Pictured above is the construction of the new townhouse blocks that will be constructed in time for the 2022-2023 school year. Students have voiced frustrations regarding lack of communication from the Office of Residence Life.

UConn Reinstates Mask Mandate, Fairfield Continues to Monitor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

workspaces and indoor events exceeding 100 people, according to UConn officials. Students can expect to wear masks in classrooms, labs, studios, rehearsal rooms and clinics.

According to UConn’s officials, this decision was made because there were “approximately 150 new positive cases on and off campus.”

This mandate will remain in place until the end of the semester and through the duration of final exam testing. Despite the uptick in cases, Fairfield University has not released any mitigation measures to be instituted for the duration of the semester.

According to the Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker, Fairfield and Westport have the highest rates of transmission being 15 or more cases per 100,000 people.

Jennifer Anderson, associate director of media relations and content marketing, stated that “The COVID-19 task force continues to meet on a regular basis.”

Anderson continued, “the University diligently monitors the COVID-19 cases on campus, while reviewing data trends in the Town of Fairfield and state of Connecticut. As in the past and if needed, mitigation strategies would be put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 infection.”

Associate Professor of biology James Biardi, Ph. D.

states, “the most important steps for students to take to protect against infections are to be current on vaccination and booster doses and to wear a mask indoors and in crowded settings.”

Biardi continues this measure is “important not only for individual health, but also to protect those in our Fairfield community that can’t personally be vaccinated, have children younger than five, have immunocompromised family at home, or other situations that place them at high risk.”

“It seems clear to me that the University should reinstate an indoor mask mandate,” Biardi says. He questions, “I am curious about why the senior administration doesn’t direct this simple, effective and low-cost step to protect us?”

Students express concerns and thoughts about the recent surge in cases. Junior Claire Bellucci states she “is not surprised in the recent uptick in cases”

Bellucci continues, “I could imagine an increase in cases could be attributed to the fact that there is no mask mandate in classes, at the gym or anywhere on campus anymore.”

Over Easter Break, Bellucci had COVID, despite being vaccinated and boosted. She believes “the school should contact professors and students if someone in their

class tests positive and give vaccinated students the option to get treated, and require unvaccinated students to be tested.”

Junior Caroline McConville states, “I think the University should watch the uptick closely.” McConville continues, “I do not want the increase in cases to impact the finals week as it did last semester.”

McConville is referencing the COVID spike nearing the end of the Fall 2021 semester which led to the University enforcing mitigation measures. As reported by the Mirror in December 2021, the strategies went in place on Friday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m. These strategies included the cancellation of all non-essential meetings and functions on campus, that all employees able to work remotely should do so and, beginning Saturday Dec. 18, all students who don’t have in-person finals were requested to vacate campus.

Sophomore Connor Padover shared, “there are two weeks left, so I don’t see the point in reinstating a mandate or other precautions although there might be a need for the mandate to be instituted next semester if the numbers continue to rise.”

The Mirror will continue to update on the COVID increase, and the University’s response.

Editor: Madeline Hossler madeline.hossler@student.fairfield.edu

Opinion

Magis Core Signature Elements Aren't Reaching Their Full Potential

By Madeline Hossler
Opinion Editor

In my time at Fairfield University there is almost nothing I have heard students complain about more than the Magis Core Signature Elements, specifically the social justice requirements. I can't claim any kind moral superiority here; I've bashed the elements just as much as the next person. But I think the complaints many of us are making are missing the real point. The problem with the Magis Core signature elements is not simply that they ex-



Photo Contributed by Fairfield University

Fairfield stresses the Jesuit value of reflection through their classes with signature elements.

ist, but rather that they are so inconsistently available to students.

The elements are an asset to students. We should all have a strong understanding of social justice topics at a liberal arts university. We should all be able to foster healthy discussion about issues of race, class, gender, and other metrics of systemic inequality within our society. These are essential skills not just for future employment, but for life in general.

The problem here is the challenge of access. In the Fall 2022 semester, there are exactly 14 courses running that have a Social Justice 2 signature element. Out of these classes two are honors seminars, which exclude the majority of the student body. Two more are restricted only to nursing majors. Four are 3000 level or above. Not to mention the fact that as I am writing this nearly all of them are full. I'm a triple major (two of which have interdisciplinary courses of study) with two minors, and there is not a single course with an SJ2 attribute running in the fall connected to any of them. These signature elements can't benefit students if we can't take them. There need to be more courses available that can satisfy the requirements for them to be meaningful.

Almost everyone I know who has complained about the elements says that in order to fulfill a core requirement they had to take a course

completely unrelated to any aspect of their degree. This should not be the case. Every department should have classes available that satisfy social justice elements, so that students can understand social justice challenges in the context of their field. I'm a politics major, and I need to understand the implications of social justice in political interest groups and public policy. A finance major needs to understand systemic inequalities in Wall Street employment and access to capital, which is not necessarily the primary concern of a history major. Nursing majors need way more knowledge about systemic inequality in the healthcare system than a marketing major. We deserve conversations about social justice that meet us where we are, and support our career goals.

This can mean creating new class classes, but it doesn't have to; there are so many existing courses that deserve attributes but do not have them. If we really want to address the themes these elements are supposed to prompt us to discuss we need to recognize spaces where these conversations are already happening. My Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Capstone course was the first place in my time at Fairfield that has properly discussed issues facing the indigenous community. We say the word "intersectionality" once every ten minutes.

But somehow, this course doesn't satisfy an SJR or SJ2 attribute. A course running in the fall

titled Feminism In The United States has no social justice attributes, despite literally having a social justice movement in the title. Every humanities course I've ever taken at this school required more writing than the economics course I took for an MWAC. Fairfield students are already doing the work to acquire these skills, it's simply not being recognized.

Finally, we need to address the issue of inconsistency. It's wildly ridiculous that when it comes to courses that have multiple sections it's possible for only one of the many sections to have an attribute. The fact that we all have to take an Intro To Philosophy course to graduate, but there's always one random section with an SJ2 element is frankly unfair... especially given that this is the most elusive of all the social justice elements. Every professor is going to bring their own perspectives to the courses they teach, but a course with the same title running at the same time should not be that different. If one section of a course is approved for an element it should automatically be applied to all sections of that course.

We all love to demonize the Magis Core signature elements. But the problem here is not that we have these elements, but that the lack of access and inconsistency have clouded our ability to realize their goals.

The Sweet Possibility Of A Smoothie Bar in the RecPlex

By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor

A lot of things have changed about Fairfield University in recent years, especially when it comes to dining. There was a Starbucks Cafe in the library and an Einstein's Bros. Bagels in the Barone Campus Center that was replaced by two Dunkin Donuts. The Micro Markets were removed from the BCC, the Levee was completely renovated and we have changed food suppliers from Sodexo to Aramark. And while COVID-19 may have been the cause of some of these alterations, I propose we ought to revisit our past Stag favorites now that the pandemic is dying down. More specifically, how we should bring back The Natural Juice Bar to the Leslie C. Quick, Jr. Recreation Complex!

When I toured Fairfield, in both my junior and senior year of high school, I vividly remember passing by a clean, healthy station where students can fuel up after a hefty workout Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. It was placed in such a convenient location, the entrance/exit of the gym – and as an extreme lover of acai bowls and fruity smoothies, I was super excited to take advantage of this mini shop. However, before I even got to attend Fairfield as a first year, the smoothie bar was replaced with the university's electronic gaming set-up. I will always hold deep remorse for missing out on something I never even got to experience!

Not only was this station the perfect option for those searching for a refreshing meal post lift or jog, but it would add another "healthy" choice on campus, or at least one for those who have dietary restrictions. While there is a salad bar inside the Daniel Grace Tully Dining Commons and a new salad robot in The Stag, I'm sure most students can attest that we want other options than just a bowl of vegetables every day – maybe a pitaya bowl with chopped strawberries, perhaps?

Even further, there are plenty of upperclassmen that use the RecPlex but don't have a meal plan, so they are un-

able to dine in at the Tully or Stag after spending an hour or two working out. Having an easy takeout meal with a more nutritious makeup is something that all Stags would undoubtedly advocate for and chuck their wallets at. I know I would! Not to mention, it would add another opportunity for students to choose a work-study for those who are eligible.

As for the e-gamers, I'm not suggesting we get rid of them! I'm sure there's another spot on campus or even in the RecPlex that they can be moved to, rather than having it sprawled across the entrance to the gym where our rightful juice bar should be located instead. Even more so, Sara Caceres '24 is an employee at the RecPlex and shared how empty the gaming area always is. "I think that a majority of the students would benefit much more from a juice bar," she further stated. And I can't agree more! I believe that out of the five days I go to the gym every week, I've only ever seen two people sitting in the e-gaming chairs. Maybe we can find a place for them in the BCC or in one of the academic buildings. As of right now, it just seems like a missed opportunity to me.

I'm not sure which people would be in charge of bringing back this lost cause, but if you're reading this, please consider giving us back this option! Even if it's not in the RecPlex again, I'd be the happiest girl if I can get an acai bowl for lunch whenever I please.



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Stags deserve more healthy dining choices. Smoothies are a great option!



Creative Commons/Fairfield University

The Regina A. Quick Center For The Arts provides amazing programming to the Fairfield community. Students should explore more of the events it has to offer.

Don't Overlook Quick Center Events

By Molly Lamendola
Editor-In-Chief Emeritus

There are a few things I'll miss about Fairfield when I graduate in just a handful of days. I'll miss being within walking distance of my friends, the amazing professors and the wonderful classes. But, possibly surprising to most, there's one thing that I'll miss almost as much: The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts events.

I went to my first Quick Center Open Visions Lecture in October of 2018 to see author Micheal Lewis talk. Yes, that's right, that Micheal Lewis. The Micheal Lewis that wrote "The Big Short", "The Blind Side" and "Pep Boys." He was always a hero of mine. The way he was able to tell a story so you as the reader could just slip right in. You were at the kitchen table with the characters, hearing their stories. I was unbelievably excited to hear him speak. I read his newest book, "The Fifth Risk" in just a few hours so I could ask a smart question and then my hands were shaking as I stood up and asked at the end of the lecture. It was spectacular.

As I was writing mostly reviews for The Mirror at the time, I'd attend many more Quick Center events in the 2018-2019 season. I attended Barry Barnes' lecture on his book "Everything I Know About Business I Learned From the Grateful Dead." I saw Khizr Khan, the father of the fallen soldier who made headlines in 2016 when he waved his pocket Constitution and told then Presidential candidate Donald Trump to read it. I attended one of the most life-changing performances with

just a small group of other guests, "Radicals in Miniature" on how AIDS impacted the lives of those living in NYC in the 1980s. Then I finished the year with the Russian National Ballet's performance of "Swan Lake." All of that just in one school year. Further, all of that for either completely free or just \$5.

There's something special about learning through experience. There are things these great thinkers and artists have said that have stuck with me more than anything I've heard in a classroom setting. Yet, it's an experience that my fellow students just seem uninterested in taking advantage of. There have been many of these events where there are just seas of empty seats all around me. I'll always remember, in that completely life-changing "Radicals in Miniature" performance, that the box office people had to sit in the audience just to look like they were more people than there actually were.

The thing is, I fully understand that we're all busy. Up until this semester I didn't even have time to sleep much less attend an over two hour long event. But... you make time sometimes. If I discovered I had a free Thursday evening one week, I'd look through the schedule and see if there's anything popping out as particularly interesting. I'd drag my friends and roommates with me and though they'd begin the night with a lot of complaints, eventually there'd be more tickets bought and more plans for future events. If our Jesuit education is about the mission to learn in and out of the classroom, I can't urge you enough that the Quick Center events are the best place to do this.

The First Year Ride: "It Goes By Fast"

By Emily Miller
Contributing Writer

“It goes by fast,” they always tell you. I know it’s cliché to say that time has flown at Fairfield, but it really has gone by so fast. As a rising senior, I love reflecting on my time here at Fairfield. I remember being a first-year student like it was yesterday. There are so many parts of that time that transform you for the rest of college. The uncertainty, the fear, the excitement; nothing truly prepares you for a life change like college. Here are a few things that I wish someone told me during my first year at Fairfield.

First, put yourself out there and make meaningful connections! Embrace the new people around you and find activities to do together. Friends are going to be your lifeline in your first year as you’re adjusting to life away from home. The friends you make now could lead you to some of the best friendships and experiences of your life. Don’t let the time go by without fostering at least a few meaningful friendships. It will be so worth it.

Take advantage of every resource that Fairfield provides you. Every department at Fairfield has a different group of advisors that can help you with all of your needs, from choosing a major or applying for an internship. It’s never too early to start making connections with professors and letting them know your interests. Time flies by, so make sure to take the initiative and find the professionals in your field. They are in your corner and want to help!

Make the most of the town of Fairfield! There are so many beautiful beaches, coffee shops and restaurants that make college more



Freshman year can sometimes feel like a rollercoaster. Don't forget to enjoy the ride!

fun. It may seem daunting without a car on campus, but take the Stag Bus and go into town! The fall and spring weather at Fairfield is beautiful to be outside in. One of my favorite spots to go to in nice weather is Sasco Hill Beach. Find a place that feels like home to you, and it’ll make the adjustment to campus life so much easier.

It’s cheesy to say, but try to get involved in a few new activities on campus. Take it from someone who wasn’t as inclined to join my

first year, but is now involved in some great opportunities on campus. Join an intramural sports team or club, take a class at the gym or even find a job on campus! Fairfield has a diverse selection of activities that fit so many different groups of students. The Fairfield Mirror is a great example of a club I joined at the end of sophomore year and now have written a number of articles. I found that I really enjoyed sportswriting and have made it a hobby of mine. Finding your niche on campus is one of the coolest parts of college, and it can help you navigate your real passions for your post-graduate career. As a first-year, your number one priority is trying things and seeing what works! Sign up for a bunch of new clubs and find a few that you feel passionate about and can see yourself growing with.

Plan out your classes a significant amount of time before your registration date. Registration can be stressful and hectic, but if you work with your advisor on a solid plan, it will ease your worries by registration date. Even if you do not get all of the classes you want right away, there will be so much time to catch up. Do not stress if you feel overwhelmed with how many courses you need to complete the core. We all get it done! Take the classes that work best for you and your schedule; everything will work out the way it is supposed to.

The most important piece of advice that I have is to have fun. Cherish every moment you have in college. You only go through college once, and your undergraduate years are transformative. Work hard, but enjoy the next four years. Whatever it is that makes you happy, do it. One day you’ll be in my position, wishing you could hit pause. Don’t rush it and enjoy each stage of the journey as it comes.

Why Students Should Take "Digital Publishing In The Humanities"

By Abigail White
Assistant Vine Editor

Did you know that Fairfield University offers a course in which student editors can work together with a faculty advisor to produce a digital journal that lives at Fairfield U? That, as editors, you can interact with and shape the manuscripts of student authors from Ivy League schools?

Digital Publishing in the Humanities is this course. It is an opportunity that I presume not many students have heard of. Students work toward publishing Apollon, a digital journal for undergraduate research. It is a little known fact that Fairfield University has been host to the Apollon for ten years now.

So why don’t more students know about this course? It is a course like no other at Fairfield and one that I have enjoyed tremendously, having taken it this semester.

For background, Apollon is a digital journal for undergraduate humanities research. It receives submissions from international students and publishes articles focused on a variety of disciplines in the humanities: literature, history, philosophy, social justice issues, art, and politics. Students enrolled in the HUMN 3210, have the unique opportunity to work as editors for Apollon and obtain hands-on learning experience in the field of publishing. There is a rotating faculty advisor who oversees the project every semester. This semester, we have been lucky enough to work with the wonderful Dr. Sakly, who has helped take all four of us enrolled in the course through the publishing process.

What truly sets Digital Publishing in the Humanities apart from other classes is its deviation from the typical classroom environment. This course is not taught in lecture style, but rather is a collaborative effort between students and faculty to publish the Apollon journal. It is this classroom

dynamic that allows students to take on leadership positions and take full ownership of the journal’s final product. Our voices are truly heard as students as we get to argue and make our points in the deliberation process.

Each of us in the class takes on a specific role in the publication of the journal: Managing Editor, Copy Chief, Tech Editor, or Social Media Editor. As social media editor, I have been responsible for creating and designing advertisements to be printed out as flyers or posted on social media that promote the journal.

On top of these individual roles, each of us serves as a copy editor: reading manuscripts and selecting finalists for publication and corresponding with authors. In the beginning of the semester, we did a lot of heavy-lifting, reading over 30 manuscript submissions and selecting criteria for acceptance. An added bonus is that each class we get to deliberate over pastries and croissants. Once we have selected nine manuscripts for publication, we began the close-reading process, editing for style,

grammar and meaning. With each of us overseeing the production of at least two articles, we have composed reader reports and track changes to be sent to authors. Once we receive final edits, we will move forward with collaboratively designing the final publication, Apollon XIV, on our website.

Issue XIV is an issue that the entire Apollon team is proud of and excited for. We have selected some incredible manuscripts for publication, all of which connect through an underlying theme of flipping power binaries. Articles themes include how 17th century painters imagine animals putting humans on trail, how Black creoles used language to turn the tables and express power and agency over colonizers, and how Western liberatory feminism posed a universal discourse that excluded all non-white women. These are only a few of the thought-provoking themes that will be included in our upcoming issue. Be on the lookout for Issue XIV of Apollon in early May of 2022.

In working for Apollon, there are times



Digital Publishing In The Humanitites is able to offer important skills for future careers.

when we may get a wild request from an unexpected place. Just recently, we were asked for permission to cite our journal from an inmate working on his undergraduate degree. This request has assured us of the impact of our journal and been a reminder of the redemptive power of education.

One extremely valuable skill that I have learned through this publication process is professional correspondence. Throughout the entire process, we have been responsible for corresponding with the authors whose work is to be published this semester. We have drafted and sent receipts of manuscripts, letters of acceptance and rejection, track changes and suggested revisions, as well as updates as to revision deadlines. Being able to effectively communicate these aspects to our authors has been extremely important, and I can now say that I know how to draft and send a professional email. This is a skill that will be needed in any field of work.

In addition to all of the tasks and responsibilities in editing and publishing these manuscripts, we have been trained in Squarespace and Google Analytics, discussed copyright law and policy, and participated in a resume workshop. We are even to participate in Fairfield University’s Innovative Research Symposium, this coming Thursday April 21, to present our journal. Again, all of this training, workshops, and presentations have taught me many valuable skills that will translate not only into the world of publishing, but into any career field.

If the course I have described sounds remotely interesting to you, or if you wish to gain real-life experience in the publishing field and learn quality, career-building skills, then I urge you to sign up for this class. It can count as course or even internship credit.

Make sure you keep Digital Publishing in the Humanities in mind for class registration.

EDITORIAL
BOARD

JUNIORITIS-
IT’S A REAL THING

MADDY WEST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I am sure we have all heard of senioritis- defined as a supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance. Honestly though, senioritis is a pretty valid concern. They have worked so hard to get where they are, and deserve to have some fun. However, I am here to talk about another ‘itis’: junioritis. Many of my friends are also suffering from this and honestly third year students need more recognition for the collective burn out a lot of us are feeling. The only difference is that we have a whole other year to complete, which makes it a more serious condition than senioritis to treat. One of the main causes of junioritis is procrastination and burnout stemming from the idea of the daunting future. As juniors we have had a year of being the upperclassmen along with the seniors. We are finally taking the classes that sounded really cool as first years (while simultaneously trying to complete the never ending core curriculum). We know the way around campus like the back of our hand. However, the burnout is real. Procrastination is in full swing. Second thoughts about post graduation decisions are being made. Perhaps even thoughts about undergraduate decisions are being made. And avoiding talking about the future

while also facing the reality of being a senior in a few short months is sinking in. It’s all confusing and scary and your freshman year self probably thought you have it all figured out by now. The reality of it all is that- feeling lost and burnt out is normal. To any junior reading this- any burnout or fear of the future nearing you are feeling- you are not alone. Change is good, sad, and scary and there is no cure to the feelings that coincide with it. My mom always says “the only way to it is through it” and I believe that is how we have to get through the times of burnout or fear and keep pushing forward, as we are all just trying to navigate and figure our lives out.

THE VINE

ACKNOWLEDGES EARTH DAY



EDITOR: BROOKE LATHE
ARTS, FEATURES, ENTERTAINMENT

A PICTURE PERFECT PICNIC

By Sophia Spinelli
Contributing Writer

Warmer days are descending upon us, which means everyone's itching with excitement (or allergies) to get outside and savor the sun.

This winter was exceptionally frigid, so in thinking of ways to finally enjoy some well-deserved fresh air, my favorite option of all is a beach picnic.

"Picnic" is a rather broad term, as this type of event can happen in a million different ways.

It's a great activity to throw together accompanied by sweats, friends and a box of pizza.

However, I believe that there are a few salient elements to transform any regular gathering at the Sasco or Penfield Beach into a sophisticated picnic soirée.

The process of planning a picnic is arguably the most exciting part.

Once I'm in the mood for one, I usually start by sending a mass text to my friends and more importantly, creating a playlist.

Spotify has pre-made picnic playlists for your convenience, but I recommend creating one that all of your friends can add to.

Start with one song and ask

your friends to remain in the genre, but add songs of their choosing.

This system creates a cohesive mix of music while you're enjoying your time outside, while also adding a fun challenge.

Since music is a necessity, it's implied that a speaker should be on the list of the accessories you bring with you.

Additionally, in this list should be a camera of any sort. An exciting way to document the event is with a disposable camera from CVS, and since the film takes about a week to develop, you can relive the picnic even after it's over.

Next, should be a cute basket or bag to transport all of your picnic items to and fro.

Etsy has great straw baskets and beach bags made from small businesses.

The last three accessories should be a pair of sunglasses, fun glasses/straws for your drinks and some sort of craft if you're in need of an activity.

Small canvases and cheap paint from Michael's are sometimes all you need to stay occupied for hours while painting the picnic scene you so gracefully put together.

Moving on to what is, in my opinion, the most crucial element

for a perfect picnic, let's talk about food.

Fortunately, Fairfield is home to a few quick and easy take-out restaurants.

Even so, if the desire to bring your own food is exceptionally overwhelming that day, I recommend going to Balducci's in Westport to grab Italian pastries, and all the fixings to make the most impressive charcuterie board your friends have ever seen.

Lastly, beverages.

While it is sometimes forgotten after the food is chosen, it must be well thought out. Assuming it's a warmer day, it is crucial to bring something light and refreshing.

Since a picnic is a refreshment of the soul, the drink of choice should embody that.

Let's also remember that this event meets all the qualifications of a "special occasion," so you deserve to treat yourself to a beverage you adore.

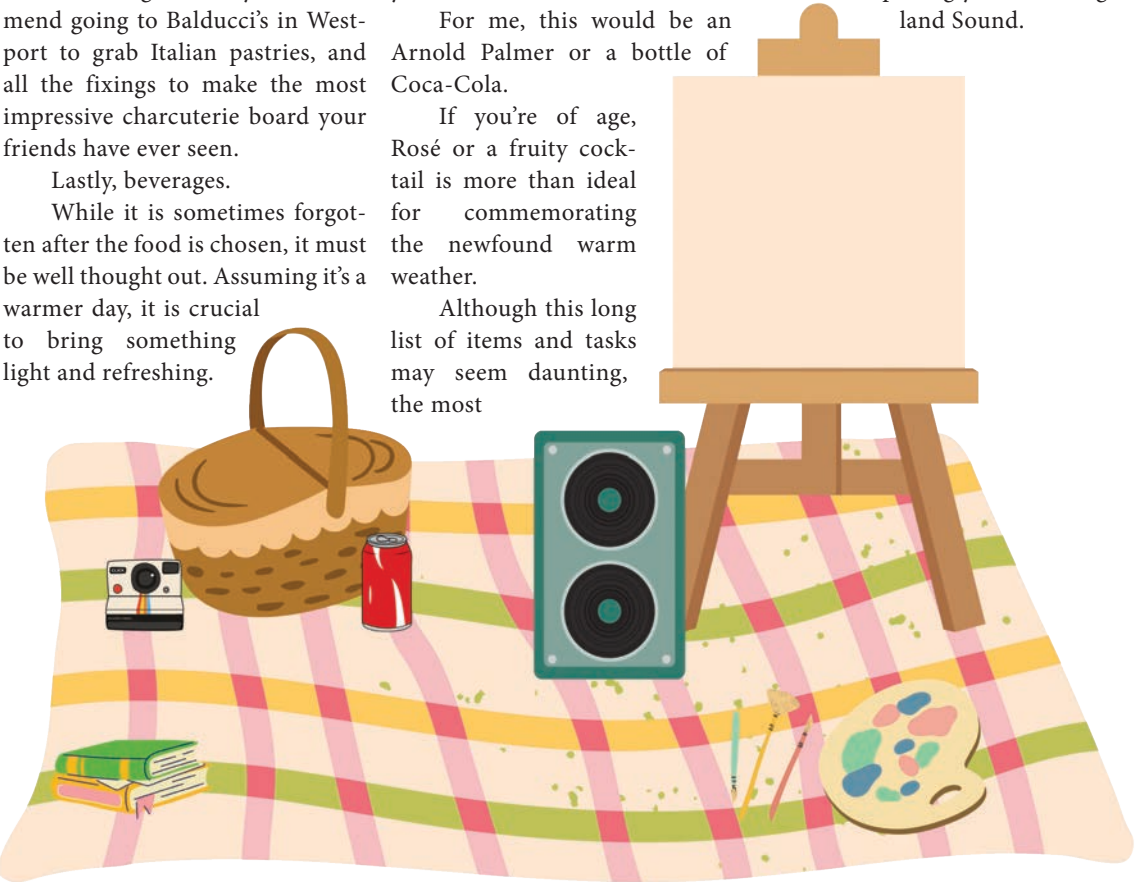
For me, this would be an Arnold Palmer or a bottle of Coca-Cola.

If you're of age, Rosé or a fruity cocktail is more than ideal for commemorating the newfound warm weather.

Although this long list of items and tasks may seem daunting, the most

critical part of a picnic is savoring the moment.

Use these tips to revamp your prior conception of a picnic, and take advantage of the last few weeks at school surrounded by friends, good food, drinks and the surprisingly serene Long Island Sound.



A Must See: "Sense and Sensibility"

By Thomas Senesac
Contributing Writer

When Adger Cowans received his first camera as a child, he always first kept it by his bedside. But one night, he had a different and even more unique idea. In an effort to capture the unreal, he placed his camera beneath his pillow in hopes that he would be fast enough to photograph his dreams.

Adger Cowans' photography exhibition "Sense and Sensibility" is currently on display in Bellarmine Hall Galleries, which showcases his work over a large period of time. Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1936, Adger Cowans became a pioneering photographer, not only in terms of his distinct capture of soul and daily life but also in terms of boundaries regarding race. He became one of the first widely renowned African-American photographers with Gordon Parks as his mentor, and consequently became a founding member of the "Kamoinge Workshop." This organization cultivated, as Cowans calls it, the "Black Aesthetic," as it was meant to change the depiction of African-Americans from a negative light to a more positive one. In the coming years, Cowans was the first African-American still photographer in Hollywood.

In an interview with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, when describing his process when taking a photograph, Cowans shared, "I think all the photographs that I take have to have, for me, this sense of ... the feeling."

This sense of "the feeling" becomes tactile, like your hand lying flat against a silver pond, in the exhibited photographs, such as "Icarus," taken

by Cowans in 1970. "Icarus" is a black-and-white photograph depicting a darkened figure falling through an empty sky. Directly above the figure is the sun. As it shines through space, it resembles the fall of Icarus (from the Hellenic myth, after he flew too close to the sun and the wax had melted off his wings). With the photograph fading from darkness to light, from top to bottom, the black falling figure (given its low position in the frame), creates a striking contrast with its lighter background. It ultimately becomes the focus of the photograph. However, with the title in mind, and the frozen movement of the figure, the falling figure seems to no longer capture your attention as it once did after a while. Instead, the empty space

around the figure seems to create a rising peripheral movement and makes it seem as though you are falling alongside the dark central figure.

"Mississippi," a photograph taken by Cowans in 1963, is on display as well. This picture elicits the senses of the viewer. However, this time, it is no sense of falling or dread, but now conflict. Within the photograph, there is a portrait of a child looking into the camera wearing an N.A.A.C.P (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) t-shirt which, in its center, has a scale of justice depicted. The frame is then mostly covered by a semi-transparent United States flag. There is a conflict of history that exists between the child wearing the shirt and the flag, as the in-

stitution depicted was created in order to protect and advance the child. However, these portrayed organizations have an added, bitter element in that the two institutions have similar principles. They both, for instance, take the famous introductory line from The Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." and the statement made on the N.A.A.C.P's website, under the heading "Our Vision," "Our vision is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination." With these elements illustrating the background of the picture, it gives the photograph a societal relevance by providing a commentary on the issue of racism itself, without even having to be direct; it is simply seen.

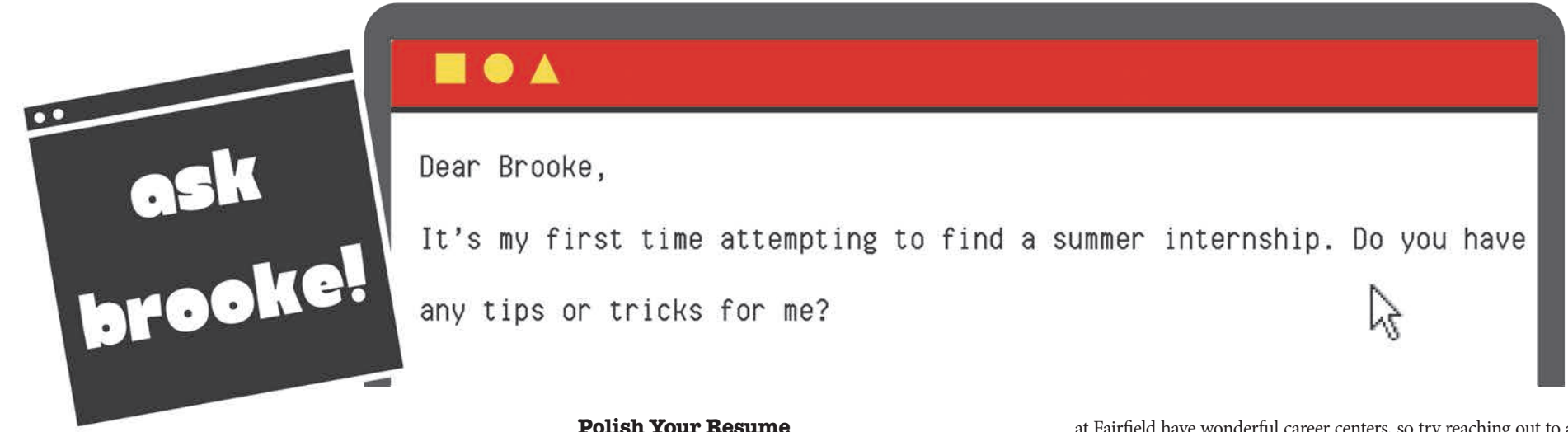
The most heartfelt photograph on display that most people would agree on is "Mamma's Ohio Piano," taken by Cowans in 1965.

With framed portraits arranged from above a high piano mantle with pressed linen beneath, the photograph captures the feeling of domestic unity within a home. Underneath the mantle, upon the music stand, is a sleeping copy of "Ebony Magazine" with a chewed-up, crumpled sheet of music entitled "Bless This House" beside it. Cowans, in an interview, spoke of how his mother played "Bless This House" on the piano when he was a child. Overall, the photograph reveals an abundance of a certain stillness, which seems to highlight the eternity of family in its perennially dynamic dichotomy.

Adger Cowans' "Sense and Sensibility" exhibition is located in the Bellarmine Hall Galleries and will be on display until June 18.



Photo Courtesy of Adger Cowans/Fairfield University Museum website



By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor

While I haven't had a summer internship myself, I feel as though I am qualified to give solid advice when talking about a topic as such. I am "sophomore success" certified, after all!

This past fall semester, I was fortunate enough to take a two-month-long session (with none other than the amazing Stephanie Gallo, a College of Arts and Sciences Career Counselor) and learned all about career readiness! Even though I suggest that you get the full experience like me and sign up for the same course next semester, here is a shortened version of what I learned before all of the summer internships get filled.



Polish Your Resume

The key to curating the perfect resume is more simple than most people think. My personal resume is split into three sections: education, relevant experience and relevant projects. In the education section, I can bluntly state where I go to school, my GPA, my major, course highlights, honors and skills. In the relevant experience, I can show off where I've worked or I am currently working by using bullet points. A past Mirror article, "How To Create A Professional Resume," does a wonderful job going into more details on how to correctly format it. Lastly, I can reveal the types of projects I've done in my class that are similar to what I would be doing in my preferred career path. Once your resume is down, most applications will ask for a cover letter as well! By analyzing what the job description is looking for, you should pick out certain aspects you feel you have and share some examples that prove how you match these qualities.

Scour The Internet

Handshake is an amazing resource to have, as it is specifically created for students who are currently in college. You can quickly sign in through Fairfield University's portal and choose full-time, part-time or internship categories that are related to your majors and minors. You can narrow down the location and it even shows you all of the job descriptions. On the bottom, it will always give you a direct button to apply. LinkedIn is another great source to scroll through, especially the "jobs" tab. It will create a long list of occupations that are mostly geared towards your interests and even show if any Fairfield alumni work there. A smart, proactive step to take would be to send a message to a Fairfield alum and ask them if they would give you any advice or have any internships available. You never know what can come of one simple message! However, before you start typing, make sure that your account is updated and organized. Having a good profile will undoubtedly separate you from the other students that attempt at finding an internship as well.

Schedule A Meeting

By scheduling a meeting with your school's career counselor, you can benefit more than you'd ever think. All academic buildings

at Fairfield have wonderful career centers, so try reaching out to an advisor in your specific school. In the meetings that I have had, I always start by showing my resume to make sure that it is correctly formatted and that it looks like I am putting my best foot forward. Following that, you can do something called a "mock interview" where you could ask your counselor to pretend to be an employer and answer their questions. In that setting, it will prepare you for what type of responses you want to say, lower your anxiety and allow your counselor to give you feedback on how you did. Maybe you aren't making good eye contact or you fidget when you speak – these are things you need to know ahead of time! Another good resource to check in with is any professor that you think is a good connection or that could potentially have other strong associates who could help you. If I wanted an internship at a local magazine or newspaper, I would ask to meet with the digital journalism professors and inquire if they know anyone hiring or what they think would be the best step for me to do.

The Two "P's"

Persistence and patience! Even when you do what seems to be all the right steps, getting an internship is incredibly tough. Don't let an abundance of "no's" get in the way of you hearing your first "yes." At the end of the day, continue checking websites such as Handshake and LinkedIn and apply to any company that has uploaded a new "help wanted" ad. Don't be afraid to politely email an employer that hasn't gotten back to you or schedule another mock interview with your career counselor.

If this summer you don't end up securing an internship, you have to remind yourself that it's totally okay too! You now know the steps to getting started for next year's internship mania and you can start your lookout even earlier than everyone else. Take these warmer months to work a regular job where you can earn some income and enjoy the rest of your break before heading back to school.

Are you seeking any advice? Email Brooke at brooke.lathe@student.fairfield.edu or direct message our Instagram [@fairfieldmirror](https://www.instagram.com/fairfieldmirror) to be featured!

IRHA Swings Stags Into Spring

By Thomas Senesac
Contributing Writer

In the course of a year, we tend to lose ourselves in the low months of January, February, and March; the sun loses its luster, the streets are barren and harsh and a universal sorrow introduces itself to all of us.

We often are also tempted to believe that it has all passed on when a warm morning greets us, when we were expecting to awake in darkness, only to realize we've been tricked, in the afternoon and we return again.

Recent times seemed to have been unfavorable to those of us who cannot escape from it.

However, presently, the sun is rising again, and spring is growing around us.

Fairfield's Inter-Residential Housing Association and each Residential Housing Association at the University will celebrate spring's bloom with their Spring Fest event set to take place on Saturday, April 23 and will last from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Quad.

Annually, Spring Fest is one of the few wide-scale IRHA events. It is held on Fairfield's campus which is organized and overseen by fellow students, consisting of every RHA, hosting their own section.

Following the IRHA mission to create and foster a vibrant and understanding community on campus, SpringFest's purpose accomplishes just that.

When I asked IRHA Vice President, Anne Mackey '24, how the event corresponded with IRHA's values, she wrote, "The mission of IRHA is to build and facilitate community within the university."

She added, "Through this event we hope to get everyone involved and outside."

Spring Fest will consist of not only free food and entertainment, but also events that were created by every different residence hall's RHA.

At Spring Fest, in terms of

dining options for the students, there will be a Super Duper Weenie food truck that will serve hotdogs.

Additionally, other IRHA workers will be serving treats such as popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones.

In terms of the events, all nine RHAs, which stem from the nine residence halls in each part of campus, will have set up a uniquely planned and selected event.

Yet, there will be additional booths created by IRHA.

You can expect the 42 Langguth RHA to have set up a photo booth, Jogues Hall will have a 'Duck Pool,' Gonzaga will have a 'Tie-Dye Station,' Regis will have a 'Basketball Arcade,' Southside will have an 'Inflatable Obstacle Course' and a chocolate fountain and McCormick will lay out spring coloring tasks.

What might be the biggest attraction, however, is Champion and Loyola Hall and joining together in providing the eventful day with

a Dunk Tank.

In addition to all of these events, IRHA will have a large 'Bucket Pong' and a mechanical bull set up for anyone to participate.

Be sure to mark this fun fest on your calendar!



QUICK TIPS TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

By Julie White
Contributing Writer

Friday, April 22 is Earth Day! On this day, my Instagram feed is usually filled with pretty pictures of the Earth posted by people who love admiring its beauty. As nice as it is to use Earth Day as a chance to celebrate all of the world's little wonders, it is important to remember that the original intention of the holiday was to raise awareness about environmental issues and further efforts of environmental protection.

Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin is regarded as the founder of Earth Day, though until its first celebration in 1970, he referred to his idea as the “national environmental teach-in.” Nelson’s concept of Earth Day drew inspiration from the anti-Vietnam war teach-ins happening on college campuses across the country; he envisioned a large, unison grassroots demonstration to “shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.” Nelson presented his idea in the fall of 1969 at a conference in Seattle and received overwhelming support.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million demonstrators gathered in thousands of American cities and schools to display their support for increased environ-

mental protection. Congress even went into recess so its members could speak to their constituents at Earth Day events!

Earth Day has been celebrated every April 22 since 1970, with this year being the fifty-second Earth Day celebration! On Earth Day, I like to do my part in saving the environment by producing no unnecessary waste. This means that I won’t order coffee from Dunkin because that would be wasting a plastic cup and straw. I will also be conscious to not use any paper plates, plastic utensils, disposable water bottles, etc.

I try to be conscious of my waste production and overall consumption habits that negatively impact the environment on a daily basis, but I’m not perfect; sometimes I will want a bottle of soda or use a plastic straw in lieu of a reusable one. On Earth Day, I like to challenge myself to do whatever I can to help the environment, but there are so many things I do—and you can do—here at Fairfield every day that are environmentally friendly! Here are two things I recommend doing—if you don’t already—to help reduce your waste and help the environment.

RECYCLE

I like to think that this one should go unsaid, as I have been taught to recycle paper and plastic from a young

age, but I am always shocked to see so many people throw plastic bottles into the garbage when there is a recycling bin nearby. Recycling is so important because it reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. It’s something that is so easy to do and can have a large impact when widely practiced!

STOP BUYING PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

Not once in my four semesters here at Fairfield have I brought a pack of plastic bottles here with me; I solely rely on my reusable water bottle! There are many places around campus where I fill up my water bottle throughout the day, such as the library, academic buildings and my residence hall.

Not only does my reusable water bottle keep my water cold and hold more water than a plastic bottle, but it also saves me money, time and gas that I would waste going to the store every few weeks for a new case of plastic water bottles. And I guess I should also mention that it’s a more sustainable option than plastic

bottles! I am partial to the YETI thermos, which I have in the color harvest red. Furthermore, I ordered a cap with a straw because that’s my preferred way of drinking. It’s definitely worth the price, but there are less ex-

pensive options that I’m sure will work just as well. You can even show off your Fairfield pride by repping a water bottle from the bookstore! They have so many options, you’re sure to find one perfect for you.

If you love the Earth, remember to treat it well every day, not just on Earth Day!



You'll Go "Banana's" For These Four Recipes

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

Bananas are often overlooked when it comes to baking fruity desserts.

While I am aware that they are not everyone’s person’s favorite fruit, it’s important we give them attention on April 20, as it is National Banana Day!

Here are a few recipes and fun facts about these underrated treats in honor to properly celebrate this silly holiday.

One of my favorite ways to eat bananas is paired with some sweet treats.

What better than to try out Giada De Laurentis’ frozen banana ice cream sandwiches?

As summer approaches, this dessert will be a great way to help beat the heat. To make this recipe, you will need cookie dough, chocolate chips, vegetable or peanut oil, chocolate-toffee candy bars, bananas and 1 pint of vanilla or banana ice cream.

The first step is to make the cookies that will be used to hold the ice cream sandwiches together.

The bananas get thinly sliced and placed on one cookie, and then one scoop of your desired ice cream goes on top. Place that second cookie and smush the

sandwich down.

After all is said and done, you freeze the batch until the cookies are all firm. One of the best parts about the ice cream sandwiches is that the cookies are covered with a coating of melted chocolate and toffee chunks!

Another tried and true way to use bananas is banana bread! The Mirror’s very own Toby Ugwu ‘22, our former co-managing editor, shared his famous chocolate chip banana nut bread recipe.

For this recipe you are going to need some very ripe bananas, unsalted butter, white sugar, brown sugar, vanilla extract, almond extract, cinnamon, all-purpose flour, eggs, baking soda and salt.

You can add chocolate

chips and almonds (or another kind of nut — whatever you prefer!) if you so choose.

Toby prefers chocolate chips and whole almonds.

Banana bread is a classic, family favorite bread that can be enjoyed at any point during the day.

I love a slice of banana bread for a small breakfast or morning snack!

Another classic way to enjoy bananas is with none other than a banana split!

There is much debate about who is the originator of this all-American dessert, but after much research, it looks like David Strickler, a pharmacy clerk in Latrobe, Penn. invented this iconic sundae in 1904.

Strickler’s ba-

nana split consisted of a banana sliced in two, scoops of strawberry, vanilla and chocolate ice cream, three flavored toppings: strawberry, chocolate and pineapple, whipped cream, maraschino cherries and peanuts or walnuts sprinkled on top.

However, one of my favorite ways to eat bananas is in pancakes!

Make your favorite pancake batter and then slice up some bananas.

Sometimes, I even mash the bananas and mix it into the batter itself, but you can also slice the bananas thinly and then put a few slices of banana directly onto the pancakes cooking on the griddle.

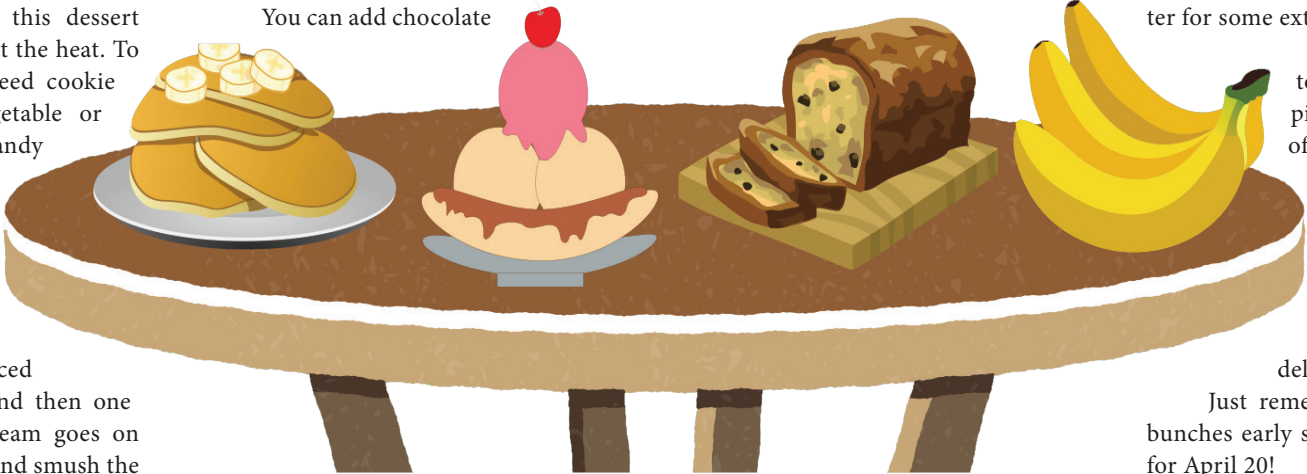
You can really spice this up by adding cinnamon or nutmeg into the pancake batter for some extra flavor.

Another great addition to this breakfast recipe is topping the pancakes with some of the leftover freshly sliced bananas and whipped cream or maple syrup.

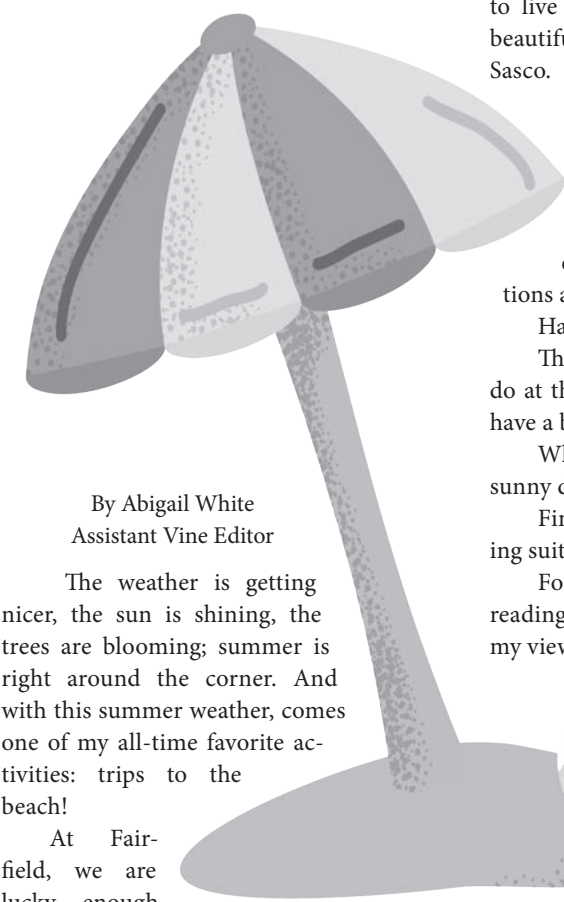
It’s so good!

Don’t miss out on celebrating National Banana Day with any of these delicious recipes!

Just remember to stock up on your bunches early so that they are ripe in time for April 20!



HOW TO HAVE A BLAST AT THE BEACH



By Abigail White
Assistant Vine Editor

The weather is getting nicer, the sun is shining, the trees are blooming; summer is right around the corner. And with this summer weather, comes one of my all-time favorite activities: trips to the beach!

At Fairfield, we are lucky enough

to live just a short drive away from some beautiful beaches: Penfield, Jennings and Sasco.

You may be asking yourself what there is to do at the beach, especially if the weather is not quite nice enough to take a dip in the ocean?

Luckily, the beach is my area of expertise and I have plenty of suggestions as to how to have a blast at the beach!

Have a Beach Day:

The most obvious answer as to what to do at the beach is to grab some friends and have a beach day.

What better way is there to spend a hot, sunny day than at the beach?

Find a group of people, throw on a bathing suit and pull out a good book.

For me, there is nothing better than reading a compelling story with the ocean as my view. If reading is not your thing, go for a swim in the ocean, hang out with your peers or toss around a frisbee.

There is an endless possibility of activities to ensure that you have a fun-filled day at

the beach!

Help Out the Community:

If you want to spend time at the beach while also lending a hand to the Fairfield community, mark your calendars for Sunday, April 24.

To help celebrate earth week, Leaders for Environmental Action at Fairfield (LEAF) is putting on a beach clean-up at Penfield Beach.

This event is the perfect opportunity to get out in the sun, spend some time at the beach and do your part to keep the planet and the community clean.

Go for a Walk:

This may seem simple, but believe me, a walk on the beach can be extremely therapeutic. With finals coming up, it is important to take a break from all the stress that school can induce.

The beach is the perfect place to take this break. Again, convince some friends, or even go by yourself.

I can assure you that as soon as you set foot on the soft sand, all of your problems will melt away.

The smell of the salty air, the calm crashing of the blue waves, the sounds of seagulls and laughter of families and friends enjoying

their day at the beach.

Taking a walk on the beach is truly the best way to clear your mind.

Watch the Sunset:

While many people may think the middle of the day is the best time to visit the beach, I would argue that sunset is better. At sunset, the beach becomes a magical place. The pinks, purples, yellows and oranges that light up the sky are reflected upon the ocean as the sun slowly sinks below the horizon.

The atmosphere of the beach changes with the setting of the sun. What was once a loud and energetic scene during the day is now calm and quiet as the day comes to a peaceful end. One of my favorite ways to watch the sunset on the beach is with some pizza!

You can make sunset on the beach a whole event. Grab some friends and some food and experience this truly breathtaking view for yourself.

There are so many ways to enjoy the beach, whether you feel like taking a dip in the ocean, helping to keep the beaches clean or watching the sunset.

The semester is almost up so make sure to hit the Fairfield beaches while you can!

FILM MINOR REVIEWS

NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN CLASSICS

By Brooke Lathe
Head Vine Editor

As a film minor and aspiring screenwriter, I am aware that I need to get on top of my “must watch” movie list ASAP!

I’ve been told numerous times in my classes that in order to be an extraordinary screenwriter, you have to not only write as much as you can but watch as much as you can – which I’m kind of slacking on if I’m being honest.

To try and start crossing bullet points off of my list, I made sure to sit down and watch four iconic movies that I haven’t seen yet!

“The Notebook”

I know! How have I never watched “The Notebook” before? Trust me, I always asked myself that question too. However, I am kind of grateful that I waited until I was 19 to finally make time for it.

It doesn’t take viewers long to understand, or at least assume, that the elderly couple placed in the retirement home is the aged version of Noah and Allie. And while I shed a few tears when it was confirmed for certain by the older, ill version of Allie, it wasn’t until the very end that I fully sobbed.

Thinking back, I’m sure that if I watched this movie when I was younger that I would’ve cried, but definitely not for the same reason I did now.

Because, yes, while it’s sad, the story holds such a different mean-

ing as an adult. I’ve had my own first love and heartbreak that I can place myself into when watching young Noah and Allie, and I’ve also had a grandparent that has passed away who is brought to the forefront of my mind during the ending scene.

“The Notebook” is definitely one that I would recommend for the times when you feel that you need a reminder to cherish your loved ones or fight for what you love despite what the consequences might be.

“Goodfellas”

I had heard about the “Goodfellas” before, but nothing past the fact that it regarded the mafia, an Italian-American organized crime group. It wasn’t until my film class when I watched a scene from the movie (Henry and Karen’s first date) that I quickly raised it to the top of my list.

Henry Hill starts his life of crime young, moving up the ranks with ease as he ages. Yet, his time of luxury is something he foolishly takes advantage of, and gets caught red-handed for theft and dealing drugs.

Nearing the end, those that worked alongside him or held the intent to help were consequently betrayed in exchange for Hill to be enrolled in the Witness Protection Program, an anonymous hidden location where he remains today.

I guess I should have gone into the film expecting that it would be

incredibly violent considering it’s about a group of mobsters, but I would have never guessed the amount of backstabbing or other terrible actions that occurred (such as domestic abuse).

Even so, I thought it was incredibly eye-opening to witness such a different way of living that people actually endured, which made me absolutely love it.

Not to mention, it was cast flawlessly, as every actor portrayed their roles with perfection. I will undoubtedly watch this film again when I find myself longing for an action-packed story.

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”

Going into “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” a film that secured five Academy Awards (most notably for “Best Screenplay”), I had high expectations. But unfortunately, it was a little slow for my taste!

Some of the scenes just seemed to last forever and could have been easily shortened while keeping the context.

However, I did appreciate the fact that the film calls attention to how poorly mental patients are treated in hospital settings. When the main character, Randle McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) is able to get himself transferred out of prison to a mental institution, in hopes of a less limiting environment, he finds that his decision may have been the poorer choice.

The patients are given little to no free will, as they are forced medication and punished with electro-shock therapy. In the end, one of the patients escapes, proving that he has the strength to rebel against conformity.

While I usually enjoy older movies, I think it would be interesting to watch a modernized version of this plot with updated technology!

As for the version it remains in at the moment, I don’t think I would watch it for a second time.

“Star Wars: A New Hope”

I’ve never been interested in the plotline that surrounds Star Wars; the whole space-themed galaxy battles just wasn’t something that intrigued me. However, I knew that at some point I had to take the time to sit down and watch it, considering George Lucas changed the film industry ever since. Even more so, one of my close friends berated me every day for two weeks to watch it until I finally pressed “start”.

As I predicted, it just wasn’t a narrative that I absolutely loved. I think that it was

a lot more compelling than I primarily had predicted (since I was left wondering who Leia would end up with and when Darth Vader would say his famous line “No, I am your father”).

And because of it, I consequently watched “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back,” which I actually rated a nine out of 10.

While the aliens honestly still kind of freak me out and the story at times can be hard to track, I hold a strong appreciation for what the movie accomplished during its production time period. I might not actively turn the series on, but if someone were watching it near me, I would most likely tune in.

Love, like or dislike, I’m so happy that I finally crossed these four well-known films off of my “never-seen-before” list.

Now I can finally move on to the next handful!





COFFEE BREAK

SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editor: Tristan Cruz
tristan.cruz@student.fairfield.edu



BRIDGERTON WORD SEARCH

Anthony

Colin

Featherington

Lady Danbury

Benedict

Daphne

Francesca

Lady Whistledown

Bridgerton

Eloise

Gregory

Darina Thompson

Queen Charlotte

Nigel Berbrooke

Simon Basset

Portia

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

The Mirror's Takes

This week's topic was:

What is your favorite thing to do during the Spring?

The top answers were...

GO TO THE PARK!
picnics!
Hang Outside!
GO TO THE BEACH!
Play some Tennis!
SPEND SOME TIME WITH FAMILY!

If you would like to suggest certain topics for Coffee Break, reach out to us on Twitter!

SPORTS



Sports Editors: Tommy Coppola >>thomas.coppola@student.fairfield.edu Billy McGuire >>william.mcguire@student.fairfield.edu Ryan Marquardt >>ryan.marquardt@student.fairfield.edu

April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26
Women's Lacrosse vs. Manhattan College Fairfield, Conn. 3:00 p.m. Baseball at Fordham University New York, N.Y. 4:00 p.m. Softball vs. Columbia Fairfield, Conn. 4:00 p.m.	Softball vs. Hartford Fairfield, Conn. 3:00 p.m.	Baseball vs. Saint Peter's University Fairfield, Conn. 3:00 p.m. Men's Golf 2022 MAAC Championship Round 1 Lake Buena Vista, Fla. All Day Women's Golf 2022 MAAC Championship Round 1 Lake Buena Vista, Fla. All Day	Men's Rowing vs. La Salle University and Lehigh University Philadelphia, PA All Day Women's Rowing vs. La Salle University and Lehigh University Philadelphia, PA All Day Women's Tennis vs. Siena College 2022 MAAC Championship West Windsor, N.J. 10:00 a.m. Men's Lacrosse vs. Towson University Fairfield, Conn. 3:30 p.m.	Softball vs. Niagara University Fairfield, Conn. 11:00 am. Baseball vs. Saint Peter's University Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m. Men's Golf 2022 MAAC Championship Round 3 Lake Buena Vista, Fla. All Day Women's Golf 2022 MAAC Championship Round 3 Lake Buena Vista, Fla. All Day	FAIRFIELD	Softball vs. Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. (Home) 3:30 p.m. Baseball at Sacred Heart University Fairfield, Conn. (Away) 3:30 p.m.

Fairfield SAAC, Athletics Hosts LGBTQ+ Inclusion Game

By Tommy Coppola
Managing Editor,
Head Sports Editor

Fairfield's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and the Fairfield University Athletic Department hosted the "LGBTQ+ Inclusion Baseball Game" while the baseball team challenged their inter-town rival Sacred Heart University at the Alumni Baseball Diamond on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

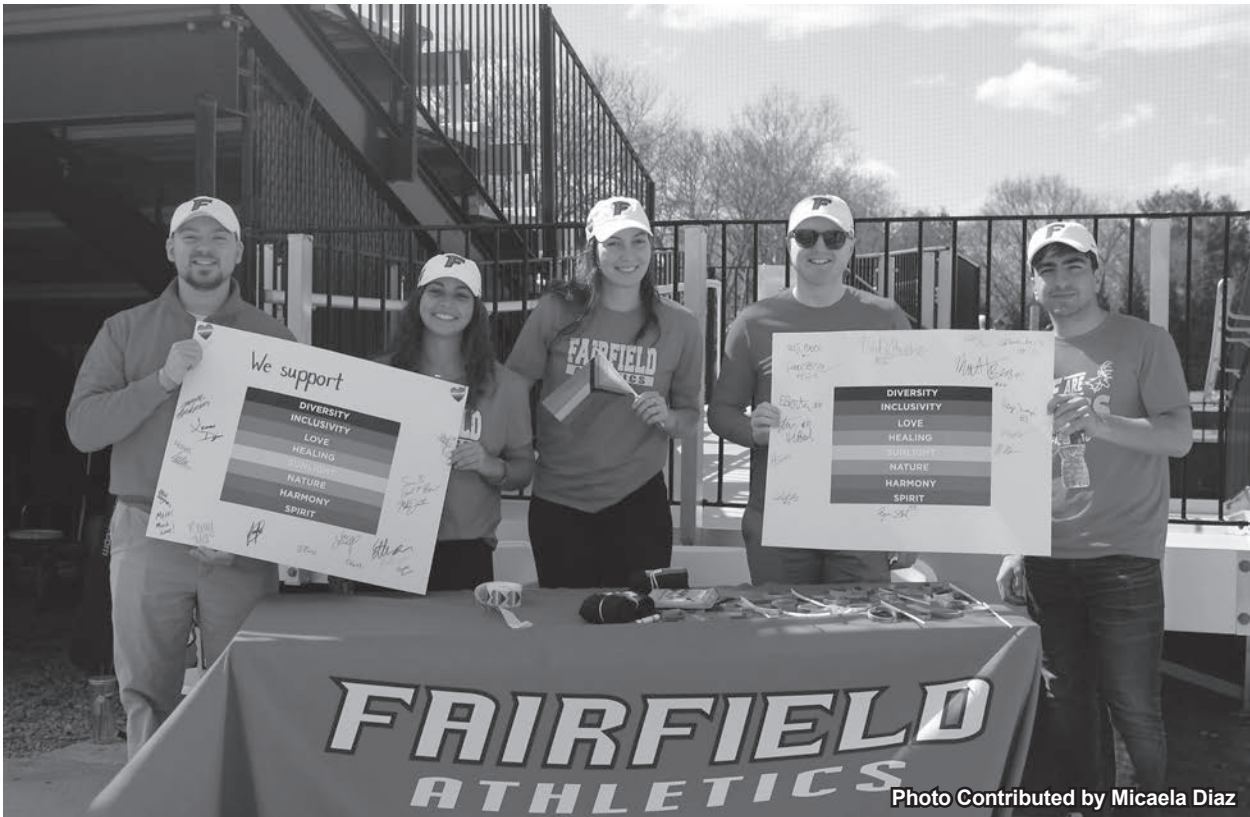
According to a recent Life@Fairfield post, this event was hosted "as part of the MAAC's [Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference] Athlete Equality Index put out by Athlete Ally MAAC Institutions."

The same post indicates that each university's SAAC will host an inclusion game, and for the Stags, this took place against Sacred Heart University. At the event by the entrance to the field, giveaways were held.

On the field, players, coaches and other faculty wore rainbow-colored bracelets as can be seen above.

The Stags were able to break away from the Pioneers to secure a 5-4 come-from-behind win to seal the game, according to the recap on Fairfieldstags.com.

The team traveled to Pomona, N.Y. to take on Manhattan College in a three-game series that spanned from April 14-16. The Stags were able to sweep the series with scores of 12-4, 12-3 and 5-2, respectively.



In this week's issue...

- Women's Golf team Earns Accolades at Sacred Heart, Hartford (Page 14)
- Stags Drop Back-to-Back Before MAAC Tournament (Page 15)
- Men's Tennis Shows Out in Season Finale (Page 15)
- Cheerleading Takes To Florida For NCA National Competition (Page 16)

Women's Golf Team Earns Accolades at Sacred Heart, Hartford

By Billy McGuire
Assistant Sports Editor

On Tuesday, April 12, the Fairfield University women's golf team participated in the Sacred Heart Spring Invitational at the Great River Golf Club in Milford, Conn.

Out of the four schools competing, the Stags finished third. Despite this, the Stags had a pair of golfers who finished in the top ten.

In the forty-player field, Sydney Nethercott '24 finished fifth. She finished with a score of 77. The second-year golfer has been one of the most promising players on the Stags, finishing in

the top 15 in her previous three tournaments.

Also finishing in the top ten was Addy Douglas '23, coming in 10th. Douglas has also played at a high level as of late, finishing in the top 15 in her previous three tournaments alongside her sophomore colleague.

Other contributors included Riley Sullivan '22, who just missed the top fifteen by finishing in 16th place. Not too far behind Sullivan was graduate student Alexa Brown, finishing 19th.

Sophomore Grace Kryscio and Lucy Fowler '25 finished 24th and 30th, respectively. Annika Johnson '23, competing as an individual, finishing in 11th

place.

The other schools who were competing at this year's Sacred Heart Spring Invitational were host Sacred Heart, Hartford, and Holy Cross.

In addition, the golf team competed at the Hartford Gillette Ridge Invitational in Bloomfield, Conn. on April 15 through 16. They proceeded to finish second out of seven schools competing in the tournament.

Douglas finished in third place, moving up seven spots from the previous tournament. Also joining Douglas in the top ten was Nethercott, who took the seventh spot.

Other contributors to the

tournament included Kryscio who finished twenty-sixth, Sullivan who finished twenty-ninth, and Brown who finished thirty-first.

The Stags, who are in the midst of a busy stretch in their season, head down south this weekend to Lake Buena Vista, Fla. for the 2022 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament. The tournament will be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort.

For more information about the team and to preview the rest of their schedule for the season, you can visit Fairfieldstags.com.



Graduate student Alexa Brown placed 31st in the Hartford Gillette Ridge Invitational.







Photo Courtesy of @greatriversgolfclub Instagram

The Sacred Heart Spring Invitational was hosted by Sacred Heart University at the Great River Golf Club in Milford, Conn. Fairfield, Hartford, and Holy Cross were among the competitors.

Weekly 4x5

Your 2022-23 4x5 Columnists: Tommy Coppola, Maddy West, Madison Gallo, and Tristan Cruz

Because we have witty things to say ...	What recipe would you eat from Madison's Banana Recipes article in the Vine?	How are you preparing for finals this year?	If you could travel to any point in time, when would it be?	What is going to change about your lifestyle, now that the weather is warmer?	What are your thoughts about our new women's basketball head coach?
 <div>Tommy Coppola Managing Editor, Head Sports Editor</div>	Although a banana split would be amazing, my heart is telling me to go with banana bread.	I'm gonna take a day to just lock in and make a bunch of study guides or something.	The 80s sound really fun if we're being honest with ourselves.	I'm going to have to eventually shed the 3 blankets I use to sleep.	I'm thrilled. She is unbelievably qualified and I can't wait to see her team in action.
 <div>Maddy West Editor-In-Chief</div>	Banana split easily.	Trying my absolute best not to wait until the last minute.	I have to go with Tommy- late 80s and 90s to see how my parents lived their teenage- twenty years.	Be outside as much as possible- work, dinner, walks etc. etc.	So amazing to have a brand new head coach and I cannot wait to see them play on campus next season!!
 <div>Madison Gallo Executive Editor</div>	Banana pancakes while listening to "Banana Pancakes" by Jack Johnson.	You can find me typing many papers at Las Vegas downtown.	Take me to whenever Bridgerton is set.	I am going to go to the beach all the time.	It's awesome they hired a new head coach.
 <div>Madeline Hossler Opinion Editor</div>	Banana split! A throw-back to my old job at an ice cream place.	I'm going to consume an alarming amount of caffeine and give my essays silly little titles for the sake of my mental health.	I'd love to have seen the American revolution in person.	Catch me constantly sitting outside pretending I'm capable of photosynthesis.	I'm excited to see what's to come for the team.

Stags Drop Back-to-Back Before MAAC Tournament

By Zachary Stevens
Contributing Writer

The Fairfield University Women's lacrosse team hosted Monmouth University on April 13 at Rafferty Stadium, where the Stags faced a strong Hawks squad that currently sits second in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

The game did not start in favor of the Stags though, as the Hawks

opened the scoring with a rapid pair of goals in the early part of the first quarter. Fairfield was unphased, as they would go on a 6-2 run to end the quarter, taking control of the game and feeling confident with a 6-4 lead.

Even with an advantage, the Stags did not feel comfortable, as the Hawks are a team that can score in bunches; that is exactly what they did. Monmouth started the quarter with

four goals with no answer from the Stags, giving the Hawks a two-point lead and the Stags a little rattled at home.

Maggie Fort '23 and graduate student Kelly Horning each found the back of the net to tie the game at eight a piece, but the Hawks would simply not stop putting points on the board. Monmouth ended up finishing the quarter with another 3-0 scoring run, which resulted in the Stags trailing 11-8 heading into the break.

Monmouth started the third quarter just like they had ended the second, netting the first five goals of the period, taking a 16-8 lead, which put the Stags in a tough place for a comeback. The Stags would trail throughout the rest of the game around an average of five goals, never truly close enough to spark a real comeback.

The Stags did indeed bring the game within three goals in the fourth quarter, but that was the closest the Stags would get to Monmouth, as the Hawks added two goals for safety in the dying embers to keep the game out of reach from a Stag late-game run.

The final score concluded in favor of Monmouth, 21-16, in a very high-scoring affair. Horning led the Stags in both points and goals, netting five and assisting on two. Rylee Harrell '24 finished just behind Horning in goals, scoring four of her own.

After a tough loss to the Hawks, the Stags were given the opportunity

to bounce back with an away win against the Niagara Purple Eagles on April 16, but ultimately failed in an over-time loss.

The contest was neck and neck throughout, yet Fairfield would never take a hold of the lead. constantly trailing during the game. A late Horning goal in the dying embers of the fourth quarter sent the game to overtime at 10-10, where the Stags were desperately looking for a victory.

Unfortunately, a Purple Eagle's goal in the extra period sent the Stags back to Fairfield with their third consecutive loss in a row. With the MAAC tournament quickly approaching at the end of this month, it is definitely not an ideal time for any team to go cold, but Coach Fields and her team will have two more chances to get back into their groove.

Fields has led the Stags to a MAAC Championship title the last four seasons and is revved up to get her fifth in a row. For Fields though,

it is not about the hardware; it is about building solid relationships with her players and a winning program with a winning mentality. Women's lacrosse will be back in the mix on April 20, where they will host the Manhattan Jaspers at 3 p.m. Make sure to check the game out on ESPN+ or ESPN3 and show your support.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Sophomore Julia Rigolizzo looks to pass the ball to her teammate.



Photo Courtesy of @stags-womenslacrosse Instagram

Graduate student Kelley Horning eyes down a potential pass.

Men's Tennis Shows Out In Season Finale

By Ryan Marquardt
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield tennis team started off their three straight Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference matches with their final road performance of the season against Marist. The 9-9 Fairfield team bested the 2-11 Marist Red Foxes with a score of 5-2.

Fairfield won the number one, three, five and six singles matches along with the number one and three doubles matches. The match started out with a dominant performance from Fairfield's number three doubles team Andrew Immink '25 and graduate student Charlie Morkel winning their match 6-0.

In a singles comeback win Sam Hodges '25 came back after dropping the first set 6-3 to win the next two 7-5 and 6-2 to close out the come from behind victory. Will O'Brien '25 ended the day with a nailbiter as he won the third set 12-10 after splitting the first two. Head coach Jeff Bricker said that it was a "Great job by the guys today to step and play with a couple guys out," according to the match's official recap.

Fairfield then went onto their senior day at home vs Quinnipiac. The Stags fell 4-3 against the Bobcats. Immink and Morkel won their doubles match continuing their undefeated record of 7-0 as a duo this season.

In the singles matches of the day, Hodges won his 15th of the year with a dominant 6-0, 6-2 win. Along with that, Morkel got his 16th win of the year with a 6-2, 7-6 win and a more exciting ending.

Bricker commented after the match in it's official recap that it was a "tough loss today," he continued with, "We just didn't close them out, and in the end, they played better than us on the big points," The Stags did win the doubles point of the match however they dropped too many singles games necessary to beat the Bobcats.

The Fairfield men's tennis team concluded its regular season against Rider University on Saturday, April 16 with a win and ended with a season record of 9-9 and an in conference record of 3-3. They did end their season on a high however as they swept

Rider (2-12) 7-0.

Morkel and Immink finished off their perfect record as a doubles team for the season with a close 6-4 win giving the duo eight wins and zero losses. Morkel led the team overall with 17 doubles wins of the season.

Kaya Gore '22 also had an impressive day winning his 18th singles match of the season putting him at 18-4 overall with 11 of those wins coming in the number one spot.

In the mathes official recap coach Bricker stated that, "The season came to a close a bit earlier than expected but it was nice to finish on a

high note with a win." He continued with, "We've got a lot of work to do but we will be back and ready next year."

Morkel commented on the end of the season saying that it was, "anticlimactic. It is difficult to have put in all the hard work during the year to have it end so unexpectedly," He followed up by saying that he thought, "we have a great young and talented team. I think we had a good chance of winning the conference and find this ending disappointing. However we have to be proud about all the work we put in and keep our heads up high."

He then shouted out the women's team, saying that he is "very excited to see how the women's team do this upcoming weekend. They had great potential going into the season and it has recently all come together." Continuing with the advice he said, "keep a close eye on their results because if anyone can do it, it is them."

The Stags finished their season with a nice 2-1 stretch against MAAC competition putting them at .500 overall. They will look to build on their young players and improve going into next season.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

The Fairfield University men's tennis team ended off the season with a final record of 9-9, with a 7-0 win in their final game against the Rider Broncos.

Cheerleading Takes to Florida for NCA National Competition

By Madison Gallo
Executive Editor

Fairfield University's Cheer team competed for the first time at the National Cheer Association National Competition that was held on April 6 through 10 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

To qualify for nationals, all attending teams must receive a bid that permits them to compete. Fairfield Cheer received its bid at an NCA camp the team attended over the summer. Then, throughout the year, they worked on a routine to perform on the national stage.

The road to nationals was not the easiest for the team, according to captains Carly Manzi '23 and Emily Testa '23.

"The process [of] getting to nationals was definitely challenging throughout the year," Testa said. "It felt like the most important year we ever had and we all knew we needed to work hard so we could perform well once we got there."

Manzi noted that over the course of the year, the team needed "to work up to [performing the routine] physically and mentally."

Every practice they had "ultimately affected" their performance in Daytona, Testa added. She stated, "there were some bad practices and then there were some really good practices which helped us to see at times what did work versus what didn't work in our routine."

Coach Taylor Wilkes, who graduated from Fairfield in 2013 and then again in 2019 when she received her MBA, discussed how big of a deal it was for the team to compete at nationals.

"NCA College Nationals is considered the pinnacle of college cheerleading competitions," Wilkes said. "So, while we have competed locally, the stakes were higher and the talent around us was incred-

ible."

She added that the Stags competed in a "difficult division and got to watch some amazing teams."

"It was such a great experience to be in the realm of 350 schools surrounded by a bunch of athletes that all share the love of cheerleading...we hit our stunts perfectly both days, which was our biggest goal."

- Carly Manzi '23

For any "Cheer" fans out there, the Stags had the opportunity to watch Navarro College while at the competition.

Coming off of nationals, both captains feel confident.

"It was such a great experience to be in the realm of 350 schools surrounded by a bunch of athletes that all share the love of cheerleading," Manzi said. "We hit our stunts perfectly both days, which was our biggest goal."

Testa echoed this sentiment.

"It was such a major accomplishment having all of our stunts hit on the first day at prelims and

also on the second day at finals," Testa said. "Stunts are always a major part of the routine and we definitely struggled throughout the year with some of them, so we were proud of ourselves to have that go well."

Outside of the competition though, Testa said of the trip overall: "We also just had so much fun while we were there all together, and the team is closer than ever now."

While this was the first time any of these cheerleaders competed on the national stage repping Fairfield, this is not the team's first time competing.

"Nationals in Daytona was so much different than any competition we have done in the past for so many reasons," Testa said. "Daytona is every cheerleader's dream; it is probably the most famous cheer competition in the world."

Manzi explained that the other competitions the Stags have competed in were regional only, with just a few teams.

"It was incredible to be performing in front of so many people against teams [from] all over the country," Manzi said.

Wilkes added that, "the focus this season was amplified since this was a much bigger competition and since we had never been there before" and the team "needed to be as prepared as possible."

The preparation for nationals was more intense than their usual competition prep with the addition of a Showcase right before the team departed.

"An instrumental part of our process and preparation this year was undoubtedly our showcase," Wilkes said. "We have never had so much support from friends, fellow athletes and various staff members."

Wilkes continued, "Everyone showed up big, and the confidence that the girls got after hitting a great performance in front of fans was a huge reason why we felt ready for Daytona."

Testa also noted the difference in performing for such a large and different audience than they are used to saying, "there is a lot more pressure when you are there because you know there will be more people watching you as well."

On top of the change in the size of the audience, performing outdoors in Florida compared to inside gyms, how the team usually performs, was also a big point of difference for the team.

"We also had to perform outside in the wind and the heat of Florida, which we obviously have never done before, so we had to prepare for that," Testa said. "Nationals is just a much bigger deal and it's even a bigger accomplishment to say you performed there."

Wilkes seconded this.

"Competing outdoors was also different than anything the team had ever done, and something we couldn't prep for too much living in a cold weather climate," Wilkes said. "However, the team handled



Photo Contributed by Carly Manzi

Captains Carly Manzi '23 (left) and Emily Testa '23 (right) embrace each other. it flawlessly and watching the team take the bandshell for the first time, right on the beach, was truly something special."

Both captains are currently juniors, but have been on the team since their first year at Fairfield. After this season, they reflected on how far the program has come since they first joined.

"Watching the program grow from the start of my freshman year to now was so amazing," Manzi said. "Whenever we had cheer at Fairfield for games, it was very obviously about other sports teams and we were their biggest supporters, but being able to attend nationals was so awesome because we finally felt like we were doing something for ourselves."

"Daytona is every cheerleader's dream; it is probably the most famous cheer competition in the world."

- Emily Testa '23

Testa referenced the fact that this was their first time attending nationals saying, "it meant the world."

Wilkes also saw nationals as a pivotal moment for the squad.

"We made history by going to this competition for the first time ever," Wilkes said. "We put ourselves on the map and became even closer as a team — I know there were even a few of us crying with joy after we competed."

She added that she is "so proud of everyone [...] nationals was great" and that she "can't wait to get back there next year."

Overall, all members of

the Fairfield Cheer team have seen immense growth in the program since they joined.

"This program has been growing so much since the time I started, and for us to have the opportunity to showcase our talent was the highlight of my entire cheerleading career so far," Testa said. "It also meant so much knowing we had so many people supporting us in going."

"We are on the right track to continue growing our program, so continued dedication to the team, hard work and a positive attitude is what I will always look for in my athletes," Wilkes added on. "With those pieces in place, we can only succeed."

She continued to say, "Watching this team evolve and become increasingly competitive year over year has truly been amazing, and it's only up from here."

Something greatly appreciated by the squad was how much support they have had from the University community.

According to Testa, those supporters included other athletic teams, athletic directors, professors and "everyone around us that cared about us" since "they were so happy for us, which made all the difference."

Manzi added, "The support from Fairfield Athletics, specifically Fairfield [Women's Basketball], family and friends was so overwhelming and I could not be more proud of who we are and what this team has accomplished."

Nationals closed off a great season had by the women on the Cheer team who Wilkes described as "incredible athletes and even better people."

"This squad was probably the best team I've ever coached — not just talent but attitude and togetherness," Wilkes said. "They truly became a family both on and off the mat, and as a coach who strives to create a positive and hardworking environment for my team, I couldn't ask for anything more."



Photo Contributed by Carly Manzi

From left to right (Back row): Haley Liddy '22, Morgan Gayton '24, Taylor Lewis '22, Megan Bacher '25, Alexa Pope '24, Maddie Allegretta '25, Bryana Cuevas '24
Front Row: Lilly Tharrington '25, Sofia Mango '25, Carly Manzi '23, Becca Kowal '24, Emily Testa '23, Vanessa Quinn '22