

## Fairfield Explores New Academic Program In Neighboring City



Photo Courtesy of Diocese Of Bridgeport Facebook

Fairfield University joined forces with the Diocese of Bridgeport to further expand educational access.

By Madison Gallo  
Head News Editor

Fairfield University announced that it's exploring plans for a new academic unit that will offer an associate degree to students from nearby low-income, under-represented communities.

This initiative will happen in partnership with the Diocese of Bridgeport, according to a press release published by the University. The new academic program is part of a larger initiative called the "Pathways to Higher Learning" and is "designed to serve as a platform for access to the University's resources for the people of the Diocese and the greater Bridgeport community."

According to the press release, this launched on the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola on July 31 and encompasses "ongoing projects and joint initiatives to empower students through learning, mentoring and service opportunities."

Vice President of Marketing & Communication Jennifer Anderson gave comments on behalf of the University Administration to the Mirror.

"Fairfield's commitment to the 500-year-old tradition of Jesuit pedagogy — an emphasis on excellence in all things, care for the whole student and a broad-based liberal arts and sciences foundation is expected to be integral to the proposed curriculum and programming for this new [academic] unit," Anderson said.

She continued on to cite that the University's "values-based, student-centric and outcomes-focused approach is dedicated to forming men

and women for and with others" will be the foundation for the unit, "as it provides the foundation for all we do."

University President Mark Nemec, Ph.D sees this new initiative to represent "a major step toward increased educational access at a critical moment in our society."

Nemec also hopes to see this new program be "a pathway to a four-year degree and lifetime learning."

He continued to say, "We believe that Fairfield University can leverage its current position of strength to build on existing efforts and establish the University as a leader in educational access in our own community."

Nemec said that this initiative is designed to improve upward mobility and career trajectory for students who are not currently served by Fairfield University and will expand upon the work headed up last year by the President's Commission on Educational Access which was chaired by the former Dean of the School of Education and Human Development Robert D. Hannafin Ph.D.

The President's Commission on Educational Access last year explored ways to increase educational opportunities for first generation students, Pell-eligible students and students of color.

Anderson stated that Fairfield aims to continue its efforts to serve as a beacon in the Jesuit, Catholic ecosystem.

"The institution has elevated our commitment to access and affordability through the exploration of a new academic unit that could offer an associate degree to students from



Creative Commons/Fairfield University Flickr

Fairfield University is exploring a new academic unit designed to improve upward mobility.

low-income families and under-represented communities as a significant example of this commitment," she said.

Aside from the new academic program, the University has ongoing programs within sixth through eighth grade nativity programs at St. Martin de Porres in New Haven, Conn., Brooklyn Jesuit Prep in Flatbush, N.Y. and St. Ignatius Preparatory in the Bronx, N.Y. The recent partnership with the Diocese of Bridgeport helps the University to "further provide pathways and bridges to postsecondary education for all."

Anderson explained that, "...in addition to the consideration of a new academic unit, President Nemec also commissioned the Presidential Working Group on Diversity and Inclusive Excellence."

This group was composed of leaders across the institution "to lead the efforts in developing partnerships and recruitment initiatives from Nativity and Cristo Rey high schools, expanding our financial aid programs and enhancing our academic immersion programs."

In Nemec's first Fairfield Friday address this academic year, he announced that the University offered over \$100 million in aid, according to Anderson.

"As the work on a potential new academic unit is just now moving from exploration to proposal development, further details of the unit's operational structure are still to be determined," Anderson said.

The Mirror will continue to update as the story develops.

## FUSA Court Expanded and Searching for New Justices

By Molly Lamendola  
Editor-in-Chief

In the spring of 2021, the Fairfield University Student Association ratified a new constitution. Part of the new additions to the constitution includes the expansion of the FUSA court, from five justices to seven, and a change in the tenure of the justices, as they can now serve in office until they graduate without the need to be re-elected.

Yet, though the court has been expanded, only three students currently sit on the court, namely Chief Justice Matthew Little '22 and Associate Justices Noah DeFeo '22 and Kasey Santos '23, leaving four seats open for FUSA to fill.

According to the new constitution, the FUSA Court, "determines the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions."

Further, they hear all "cases regarding disputed disciplinary actions, probations and terminations, and have the authority to review cases regarding impeachment" according to the newly ratified constitution.

Most typically, they administer all FUSA elections and enforce the election code,

as seen recently for the Class of 2025 Senatorial Elections that took place on Sept. 28, 2021. Chief Justice Little stated that though the court is not yet complete, they were still able to adequately hold the senatorial elections and recruited ten first-year candidates, "the greatest number in recent history" according to Little.

Little said that he believes the number of associate justice applications will increase, "as student engagement increases nationally with the pandemic's recovery."

Former Associate Justice Dominique Trucchio '21 stated in a response to The Mirror that "...the expansion of the FUSA Court will greatly benefit the student body."

She continues, "With more individuals on the court, there is an opportunity for a greater diversity of opinions, which allows for better representation."

Former FUSA President Vincent Gadioma '22, who chaired the Constitutional Convention for the 2020-2021 academic

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## Alumni and Family Weekend Returned To Campus

By Max Berryman  
Contributing Writer

By Brooke Lathe  
Vine Editor

Alumni and Family Weekend returned to campus this past weekend.

Past and present students and their families visited the University after a year-long hiatus due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On Friday night, Oct. 15, families were given the opportunity to participate in numerous activities including DIY crafts, comedy shows and a movie showing of "Mamma Mia!" in the Gonzaga Auditorium.

While a good number of visitors enjoyed and participated in Friday's events, even more showed up to campus on Saturday, Oct. 16 for a full day of campus events.

A long line of cars pouring through the main entrance gate could be seen from any spot on campus.

Additionally, on Saturday sophomore nursing students had their White Coat Ceremony.

This event marks and brings attention to the fact that this class of nursing students will begin their clinical training in the spring.

Family members of these students were invited to celebrate all their hard work as the class wore their scrubs and put on their

nursing coats together at once.

"The ceremony was beautiful, moving and simple," Lucy Renck '24, a nursing major shares. "Everyone was excited to continue their journey to become nurses!"

Crowds of people then made their way up to Bel-larmine Hall to take part in the University's "Stag Fest."

This event took place underneath the tent still up from the University's Presidential Ball that took place on Sept. 24.

Multiple local food vendors were spread throughout the area, which included "restaurants-on-wheels" such as Alene's Ice Cream, Old Post Tavern, Wing It on!, Cinnabomb Mini-Donut Factory, Fairfield's own Stags Hospitality and more.

There was also a beer garden that was set up on top of the hill for attendees of age.

Even further, live entertainment was also performed by the band "The Adults."

Their alternative sound set the backdrop of people eating, dancing and drinking throughout the duration

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# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21:

**Stags Wear Purple Day**  
and commit to ending Intimate Partner Violence  
with HealthyU@Fairfield

**Everyone** deserves a healthy relationship.



If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy relationship or needs help with Sexual Assault, Dating/Domestic Violence & Stalking call (203) 256-7272

## STAGSHospitality

Meet Your  
Campus Dietitian  
Joanna Schipke



Joanna Schipke is a Registered Dietitian who received her Bachelor’s Degree in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics from the University of Connecticut. She went on to complete her 1200-hour dietetic internship from Keene State College. Joanna started her nutrition career in K-12 working for several different school districts across the state and most recently was employed as the Food Service Director for Watertown Public Schools.

Joanna is available as a resource to students to provide one on one nutrition counseling, assistance with food allergies and other dietary needs, and help students find healthy options on campus. She looks forward to helping students form a positive relationship with food and teach them healthy habits they can take with them the rest of their lives.

To schedule a consultation with Joanna, email [Schipke-Joanna@aramark.com](mailto:Schipke-Joanna@aramark.com).

FAIRFIELD  
ARTS  
FEST

LIVE AT THE QUAD  
FOR STAGS, BY STAGS

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 21

Thursdays • 4:00PM – 6:00PM • Outdoor Stage at The Quad

DANCE	09/30	10/14
MUSIC	GUEST ARTIST PILOBOLUS	THEATRE FAIRFIELD MUSIC MINISTRY
THEATRE	MIKE CASEY TRIO	DREAMVOID
FILM	10/07	10/21
ART	DANCE FUSION REMIXX	GUEST ARTIST THE FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
CULTURE	BIG LOVE FEATURING MICHELA MARINO	BENSONIANS
FOOD	LERMAN	SHANELL ALYSSA

ENTER TO WIN PRIZES



Compiled by Madeline West  
Information contributed by the  
Department of Public Safety.

- 10/10  
12:44 a.m.  
Three non-students were caught trying to sneak on campus after being told not to. They were referred to DPS.
- 10/10  
2:05 a.m.  
Four individuals were found on the tree line near Faber Hall. They were referred to student conduct for marijuana possession.
- 10/12  
11:57 a.m.  
An individual reported his parking permit stolen.
- 10/13  
1:44 a.m.  
A non-student was found sneaking in through the Prep gate. They were referred to DPS.
- 10/15  
12:56 a.m.  
There was an excessive noise complaint which resulted in the issuing of an alcohol violation at Regis Hall. The students were referred to student conduct.
- 10/15  
9:59 a.m.  
A Fairfield Prep faculty member reported receiving a harassing email from an unknown individual. There is an investigation in place.
- 10/15  
12:00 p.m.  
A vehicle rolled out of its spot in the parking garage next to the Kelley Center striking a parked vehicle.
- 10/17  
12:54 a.m.  
A vehicle drove through the front gate without stopping. There were six individuals in the car, one of whom was a non-student and received a criminal trespassing warning.

# THE MIRROR

Incorporated 1977

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# FUSA Received “Numerous” Applications to Court

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year that led to the expanded court, voted in favor of the expansion. “This expansion is something I saw as necessary to coincide with the additional constitutional amendment to increase Justices’ appointed tenure.”

Gadioma adds that he continues to support that spring decision, “I still believe the convention made the right decision as it is an institutionalized way for the court to maintain continuity and obtain a diversity of opinions.”

The Fairfield University Student Association stated that the expansion of the court and the new

“We would like to fill the remaining seats nonetheless.”  
- The Fairfield University Student Association

tenure is partially the reason for the current lack of a full-court, “We must appoint an entire-seven-person Court from scratch which is more than our usual yearly requirement.”

They also stated that it’s part of tradition, “...to leave some seats open for the Fall semester so as to allow First-year students an opportunity to apply.”

When former President Gadioma was asked to elaborate on the ‘tradition’ that FUSA was referring to, he stated, “The comment made by the current administration must inform their intention on how they will engage with first-years.”

He continued that his administration was able to appoint and fill every seat on the FUSA Court, with no intention to leave seats open in the fall. But continued that the ‘tradition’, “...speaks to how each administration seeks to engage with first-years differently than their predecessors.”

FUSA did not respond to the question, “How do you hope to attract students to apply to the Associate Justice position?”

Instead, FUSA stated that applications for associate justice positions opened recently and they received “... numerous underclassmen applications” and are in the process of interviewing them for nominations to the Senate.

When The Mirror reached out for clarification on the exact amount of applications FUSA has received, current FUSA President Tyler Heffern ‘22 stated, “As the appointment process is still underway we cannot disclose the number of applications submitted.”

He continues, “Although numerous applications were received from underclassmen students, which was the basis of the initial question, we do not intend to appoint every single applicant.”

Former President Gadioma stated he didn’t think there were any major changes in interest in being part of the court, that during the pandemic, former Chief Justice Daniel Messier ‘21 “did his best to maintain the integrity of the court’s responsibilities across an online format.”

Gadioma continues to state that, “The inevitable consequence of operating online is that you lose visibility, therefore I think as the court’s operations begin to operate back in-person we will observe a gradual return to the same, if not greater, level of interest than in previous years.”

FUSA did not comment on the question, “What happens if FUSA cannot fill the seats?” and instead stated that the court is “... able to function without all members appointed, as it did for this most recent Senatorial election, which was run very smoothly.”

They further stated, “...we would like to fill the remaining seats nonetheless.” Trucchio stated that “We have an active student body, so I am sure that there will be students who are interested in joining the court!”

FUSA didn’t answer The Mirror’s question stating, “Are you going to reach a point where the Constitution will have to be amended to adequately conform to student interest?”

They instead ended their state-

“The inevitable consequence of operating online is that you lose visibility, therefore I think as the court’s operations begin to operate back in-person we will observe a gradual return to the same, if not greater, level of interest than in previous years.”  
- Former FUSA President, Vincent Gadioma ‘22

ment with, “We look forward to the FUSA Court expanding its efforts in campaign finance reform and improving turnout in elections all of which are priorities of the justices that have been appointed thus far.”

FUSA did not elaborate on what campaign finance reform or improving election turnout work the court was implementing.

Gadioma stated that he had “...full confidence the court will be able to execute their duties to the best of their ability and be able to fill their remaining seats” under Chief Justice Little, “From what I’ve seen from the first-year Senatorial and Class Presidential elections so far, this year is shaping up to be fun for their entire court!”

Assistant News Editor Madeline West is a 2023 Class Senator and thus did not read, edit or have any part of this article before publication.

Managing Editor Tobenna Ugwu was previously FUSA Vice President under President Gadioma, but he is no longer a member of FUSA and did not read, edit, or have any part of this article before publication.

ON AIR

THE MIRROR IS  
LIVE ON  
THE RADIO!

WED. 7-8 PM  
88.5 FM OR  
ON WVOF.ORG



# Fairfield Reinstates Club Sailing

By Ryan Murphy  
Contributing Writer



The Fairfield University Club Sailing Team practices. They were recently paused by the administration, but have since been reinstated.

Fairfield University’s club sailing team was temporarily paused from Sept. 16 to Sept. 24, leaving team members frustrated and confused. According to the team’s co-captain, Lauren Gasek ‘22, leadership from Sail Black Rock, the Bridgeport-based sailing center from which the team sails, informed her that the University had suspended the team’s operations. Gasek said that she was told that a decision was made in consultation with the University’s attorney that the club sailing team’s operations could be considered “high risk.” The University attorney is currently on maternity leave and could not be contacted by The Mirror for comment. The pause of the sailing team left members confused, as they

were uncertain whether they would be able to sail at all during the semester. According to Gasek, “We were informed on Sept. 16 during our meeting with [Chelsea Wright, assistant director of competitive sports] and [Eli Olken-Dann, director of recreation], that we could be suspended anywhere between one and three months.” Inspired by her roommate, who serves as a senator on the Fairfield University Student Association senate, Gasek decided to take action and voice her concerns at FUSA’s first General Senate Meeting. There, she received a seemingly sympathetic audience, and the FUSA senate agreed to look into the matter on the team’s behalf. FUSA Senate Speaker of the House Jack Stalzer ‘22 said “...

Students sail during a practice. Sailing practice occurs weekly at Captain’s Cove in Bridgeport. it seems ridiculous that they have been singled out,” while Senator Vincent Rotondo ‘23 suggested they create a petition on change.org. The suspension of operations, while brief, had a significant impact on the team’s plans for the semester. While the sailing team is considered a club sport, they compete in regattas against Division I teams. According to Gasek, amid the uncertainty over the team’s plans for the semester, Wright cancelled all of the teams regattas for the semester, potentially harming the team’s relations with other sailing programs who were planning to compete against Fairfield University. Gasek stated that the cancellation of regattas was done without consulting her or her

contact at Sail Black Rock, Dave White. Vice President for Student Life Karen Donoghue stated, “I think it’s important to highlight the facts if you are covering this story.” She continued to say that the team was “not put on suspension. The team was placed on pause for seven days. During this pause, university administrators met with appropriate parties to discuss and verify safety perimeters. As with all of our club sports programs, the University updates necessary documents regularly.” In response, Gasek said “I would say that although the team may have only been shut down for eight days (Sept. 16 to Sept. 24), it [our return] was a result of the efforts of Sail Black Rock and our team.” She went on to say, “It was

“It was a bit tough to get things up and running. We are still working to re-sign ourselves up for regattas this semester.” - Sailing Team Co-Captain, Lauren Gasek ‘22

a bit tough to get things up and running. We are still working to re-sign ourselves up for regattas this semester.” Stay up-to-date with the Sailing Team by following their Instagram @fairfieldusailing.



The Club Sailing Team competes against DI programs from other universities in regattas throughout their competition season.

# StagFest Brings Students, Family and Alumni Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the event that lasted from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Event-goers were given the choice to buy a single food voucher for \$6, a single drink voucher for \$5, and a drink package that included “unlimited beer, cider and wine, and a Fairfield University mug” for \$25.



Fairfield Men’s Rugby defeated the University of Rhode Island rugby team.

Another addition at StagFest was the inclusion of a petting zoo. A large fenced-in pen displayed

a vast array of pigs, ducks, goats and sheep. Younger siblings could be found watching and petting the animals. Saturday also saw a win for the men’s rugby team against the University of Rhode Island, with a score of 53-17. The alumni game saw many in the crowd who have been in a long line of players for Fairfield’s team. Many fans brought personal tents and all kinds of food to tailgate as a group and enjoy this special game even more. As the night continued, it seemed that the Stag energy was still at a high, as the nightlife had a little bit of something for everyone. Some students were able to go into town and have nice dinners with their families, while many others flocked to the beach at sundown. There were also a good handful of parents that headed for the townhouses, ready to relive their college weekends with a red solo cup in one hand and their child’s hand in the other! It was clear that these stag parents were having a blast as they took a few steps back in time. As for Sunday, Oct. 17, the women’s rugby, volleyball, women’s club soccer, field hockey and men’s ice hockey all played for the remaining fans’ enjoyment, which invoked school spirit. This year’s Alumni & Family Weekend was a hit for many people, as event goers returned home with full stomachs and a smile on their faces. It’s safe to say that students and parents alike should already start marking their calendars for next year!



Before this year, the last Alumni Family Weekend was in 2019.



Alumni and Family Weekend happened at the tent on Bellarmine Lawn this year.

# Opinion

Editor Peyton Perry » [peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu](mailto:peyton.perry@student.fairfield.edu)

## Spin Instructor Peter G Inspires and Motivates Students

By Peyton Perry  
Opinion Editor

Every Monday, I set an alarm for 11:58 a.m. in high anticipation for the online registration of the Thursday night spin class instructed by Peter Gonzalez, who is most commonly known by his DJ name “Peter G.”

I log onto IMLeagues, hurrying to click on the “fitness” icon so I can enroll for his class, as if my life depends on it.

Unlike any of the other ones, Peter G’s spin classes fill up four minutes after registration opens at noon; Thursdays happen to be the only day I can go due to scheduling conflicts, but he instructs multiple days a week and it’s the same occurrence every time.

This highly competitive enrollment process only supports my high opinion of him and his classes, suggesting others feel the same as I do. He is an amazing spin instructor and an inspiring

“Peter G’s classes are always so energetic and serve as such a safe space. It is my favorite way to relieve stress and clear my mind, hands down!”

- Erica Adams '25

individual, loved by Fairfield students.

As a spin instructor, it is important to bring energy and enthusiasm, encouraging those who attend your class to push themselves and have a great time while doing so. This can be challenging as an instructor is also riding a bike and getting a hefty workout. Peter G never fails, however.

“Peter G’s spin classes are the highlight of my day. He brings amazing energy, a hard workout, and the best music.”

- Lily Carnicelli '23

From the minute we walk in, to the second we leave there is a huge and exuberant smile on his face. Each attendee is greeted with warmth and comfort, as he approaches us all separately to welcome us.

This makes me feel happy to be there and creates a positive environment for all of us spinners.

Throughout the class, he continues to motivate us; he tells us encouraging words and advice, pushes us to challenge ourselves and apply it to our everyday lives. He also frequently checks in on how we are each doing.



Photo Contributed by Peter Gonzalez

He never appears tired, even if it is his fourth class of the day, and he never complains. Not only does he work extremely hard, but he loves what he does and it shows.

Sophomore Carina Kortick, a frequent attendee of his spin classes, says “He pushes everyone to reach their full potential. You can really tell that he loves what he does.”

When talking to Peter G myself, he expressed that the best part of his career is knowing he has “a positive impact on making people smile, happy, sing, dance and come together.”

He continues, “I love giving, I love making an impact in someone’s life that’s going to change for the better.”

The love us students have of him and his spin classes does not solely come from his great athletic talent and instruction, but also from the mental gain we get from taking his classes.

He tells us about his own journey and explains we still have time to figure out and pursue what we love in life; He shares that it took him thirty years to discover his passion for spin instruction and DJing, so for us all to have patience and let nobody bring us down.

Peter G says, “I want people to understand that it was a rough life that I grew up in but I somehow persevered through adversity.”

He continues, “I want to teach people that you’re going to deal with adversity, but you should thrive on it, embrace it and tap into the better version of you, each and every day.”

He often tells us he’s proud of us for showing up and caring for ourselves by participating in a healthy manner of stress relief or just to stay fit.

He wants to help us learn “not to let the little stresses in life get the best of” us, but for us “to get the best of it.”

He strives in each class to not only build our physical strength, but to build our “mental fortitude and resilience.”

This is unique to him as an instructor, as he goes beyond his role of a fitness instructor and transcends into the realm of inspiration and self-motivation.

It is not only about physical strength, but preparing us for life beyond college and pushing us to challenge ourselves daily, whether it be academically, physically, or socially.

“We’re all going to make mistakes, we’re all going to fail, and we’re all going through the same things,” says Peter G. “We’re not alone.”

This has a strong positive impact on me, as well as other attendees, as a safe space is created. College is a lot of fun but it also withdraws a lot of pressure on students and can make us feel isolated in comparison to others.

Hearing reminders like these throughout class is sometimes just the thing we need to take a deep breath and keep going, finding comfort amidst struggle.

“I think his classes are uplifting, motivating, and fun! I love to go to them after a long week!”

- Elizabeth Decrisanti '24

Peter G hopes to help us attendees by connecting with us on a more personal level, something again unique to him. As mentioned before, he does so by sharing tid bits of his own life story and challenges, but he also does so in other ways.

For instance, via his instagram account or in-person after classes, he takes suggestions from us students on songs or themes to do in future classes.

Each Thursday, there is a theme whether it be Taylor Swift, Dua Lipa versus Nicki Minaj, One Direction or so on, that one of us attendees most likely contributed to in some way.

This creates excitement in looking forward to a class where an attendee possibly chose the theme or specific songs to incorporate, while also making each of us feel heard. In a way, we get to impact the class and have our voices heard, which is always important.

There is no doubt that Peter G is an inspiring person, with his positive outlook on life and acceptance of challenges.

He pushes himself each day and others to be the best they can be. His hard work ethic and strength can be seen by all who encounter him and I for one can say I am thankful to have met him through Fairfield University!

## Texas Heartbeat Act Should Not Have Been Passed

By Brooke Lathe  
Vine Editor

In 1879, the Supreme Court implemented the phrase “separation of church and state” for the first time. This clause was abundantly clear, stating a direct message that we must keep government and religion apart as neither topic relates to the other. So why is it that 142 years later, we still have to fight to represent this American ideal?

On Sept. 1, 2021, the state of Texas passed the Texas Heartbeat Act. This law bans abortions, a medical procedure that terminates pregnancies, as soon as the fetal heartbeat is heard. This is usually around the six-week mark of gestation, an extremely small window of time in which most women do not even know they are pregnant yet. Furthermore, if a woman does miraculously find out that she is pregnant before that date, there is very little time for her to make a choice and schedule an appointment.

The Texas Heartbeat Act also implements that abortion is prohibited even in cases where conception is a result of rape, sexual assault or incest. How does this align with any sort of right someone has to their body? If someone is sexually assaulted, why is it that they should be forced to go through a pregnancy for nine months and drastically change their body as a result of one of the worst days of their life? These painful and most times irreversible damages include stretch marks on the thighs, stomach, breasts and backside, expanding joints and ligaments, increased body temperature, and swollen feet, which all can occur during pregnancy. Following the birthing process, women experience stretched skin, mood swings, anxiety, postpartum depression, low iron levels, bloody discharge, menstrual pain and so much more.

I also think that it is interesting that a man does not have to face any consequences even though they share half of the responsibility for a

pregnancy. Within this new law, there are punishments for women and even doctors, yet there is nothing for the impregnators, who could potentially abandon the fetus and refuse any social or financial responsibility in many cases of pregnancy.

Since a large majority of Americans identify as Christian (70 percent), this law does not seem ridiculous to force upon others because they believe the Bible forbids abortions as it is equivalent to murder under the common notion that “life starts at conception.” I find this interesting because, throughout the entire Bible, the word “abortion” is not mentioned a single time. But something that is written verbatim is that life begins at a baby’s first breath, Genesis 2:7.

Additionally, in a study of how people feel surrounding the topic of abortion, the Pew Research Center found that 79 percent of people who believe in God also believe that abortion should be “illegal in all or most cases.” Yet, a Christian pastor who preaches in a church with 72 percent followers who are also pro-choice, shares that, “when that bodily autonomy is taken away, to me, that is against Christian scripture, and is against the Gospel I believe in.”

I ask you that if you are someone who identifies as pro-life due to your religion, that you please put yourself in another person’s shoes who does not follow the same faith as you. I am agnostic, meaning that I neither believe nor disbelieve in an existence like God. Due to this, I find it incredibly frustrating that my choices are limited because of what someone in a different religion believes.

If you were to imagine that our country’s leaders represented a different religion than the majority of Americans and forced their beliefs on oth-

ers, I can guarantee there would be an uproar and countless revolts. The simplest example I can think of is if a majority of our lawmakers were Mulism and implemented a law that consuming pork is illegal; it would not make sense for Catholics, Buddhists or any other followers of a different faith to be forced to align with this rule since they do not view this action as a sin.

Once I was old enough to understand this ongoing argument, I quickly realized that most “pro-life” standpoints are really only “pro-birth.” Given the following statistics, it seems as though very few followers actively donate to the foster care system, advocate, volunteer, become foster parents or adopt the children that are forced into a life where they can not be properly cared for.

In 2019, over 672,000 children spent time in United States foster care, and there are currently over 400,000 children in foster care facilities today. With this new law and constant pushback for a necessary medical procedure, this system will continue to overflow and expand exponentially. For example, In 2018, 619,591 abortions were legally reported in the United States of America. If abortion was outlawed and all of these fetuses were put into the foster care system, there would be over one million children in the foster care system.

If this continues every year, there is no way of knowing the horrifying amount of children that will inevitably be abused, neglected and homeless. Current foster care children are known to be seven times as likely to experience depression, six times as likely to exhibit behavioral problems, five times as likely to feel anxiety, three times as likely to have attention deficit disorder, hearing, impairments and

vision issues and twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities, developmental, delays, asthma, obesity and speech problems.

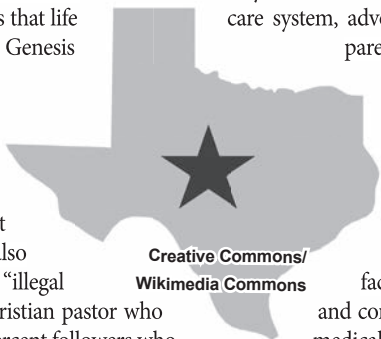
Even if you were to force a woman to go through with a pregnancy and have her put the fetus up for adoption, the quality of its life could potentially be incredibly poor, contradicting the title of “pro-life”. This also insinuates an insane potential overpopulation crisis, which our society is not equipped to support.

I am also aware enough to know that outlawing abortion will not stop it from happening, because if a woman is determined about terminating her pregnancy, she will. Performing this medical procedure in an unsafe environment will only increase complications for the fetus and woman, as it is actually one of the five leading causes of maternal mortality.

A common phrase that many pro-choice activists state is that a man should not have a say over a woman’s body, due to the fact that most politicians that create these harmful laws are men. However, it should be common sense that no one has the right to control anyone’s body when the main and most prominent effect is on oneself, period. This is regardless of gender, age or power.

If you are against having an abortion for yourself in the past, present or future due to religious or moral beliefs, that is wholly your right to believe as such; it is not your right, however, to impose that belief on another woman’s body against her will. My choice is my choice, and your choice is yours.

The Texas Heartbeat Act should not have ever been passed to the Senate, as it distinctly obstructs the United States of America’s first amendment and secular constitution. It is clear that this law is only based on the premise of religious belief that in return only reveals endless contradiction and consistent harm to women.



# Popularity Does Not Exist at Fairfield

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

Popularity is a universal topic across many high schools; everyone knows what it is. High schoolers change the way they dress, how they act and who they socialize with in order to increase their social standing, which is the sad truth.

Merriam-Webster defines “popular” as being “frequently encountered or widely accepted,” and “commonly liked or approved.” This seems like the way that high school students operate, with the goal of being the most well known among their classmates or the most widely accepted by their peers.

In college, however, the dynamic is reversed. People act the way they want to act, unapologetically, as college is a time where people begin to find their true identity.

At most large schools, popularity may exist to a certain extent; with fraternities and sororities, there may be more of a social hierarchy where people feel pressured to act a certain way in or-

der to appeal to higher-ups.

Fairfield University doesn’t have any Greek life, which, in my opinion, is a good thing. But I digress; popularity does not exist inside the gates of Fairfield University.

Each and everyone here has their own “thing”; by this, I mean everyone is involved in some way.

Each group or club has a diverse group of people in it that is not preoccupied about where each person ranks in that club or group.

Especially in college, with a much larger group of people than a high school class, everyone brings something unique to the table. And in the first few weeks of college when everyone is meeting new people, students embrace the uniqueness of others, and use this to build relationships and friendships.

With a school the size of Fairfield that has 1,000 students per class give or take, individuals will find their group of friends based on the unique interests they have.

Even if you are interested in something that you think is “weird”, there is a high chance that a group of people will share the same, “weird” things you like.

Throughout my time at Fairfield, I have found that no one really cares about those weird quirks. Everyone has a few guilty pleasures or things they do that may be different from everyone else, but college is a time to celebrate these differences and learn about different backgrounds of fellow students rather than putting others down.

Of course, some could argue that popularity does exist at Fairfield to an extent. Some people worry that if they don’t post the picture they got from the party at the Townhouses last Saturday, their fellow peers will see them as uncool.

In reality, it just does not matter, as long as you are being yourself and staying true to yourself.

This dynamic we have at Fairfield, though, is a good thing for our

school’s students.

With a system of popularity being in place, students would feel as though they have to do things in order to keep their social standing afloat; in my personal experiences, I have never felt like I was forced to do things to keep a certain level of popularity.

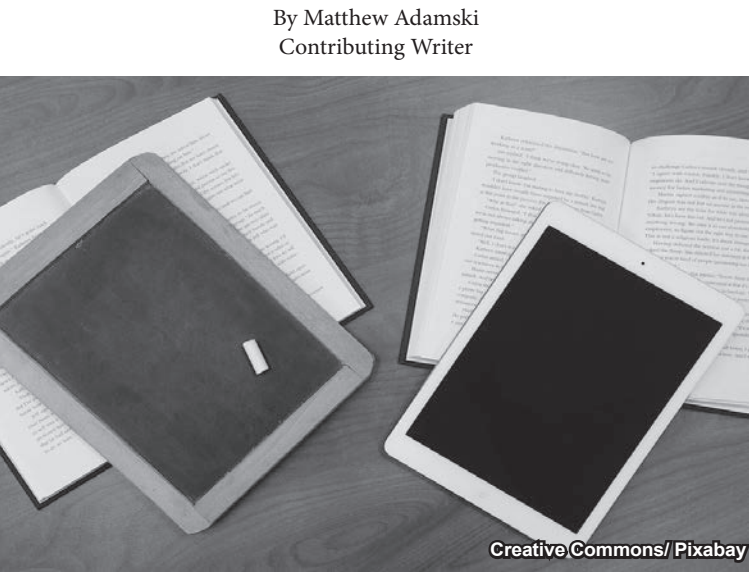
Popularity is a really interest-

ing concept that I have always worried about throughout my time in high school, but it is something that has never really crossed my mind through out my time at Fairfield University.

I do not think popularity exists at Fairfield, and I think that it becomes a generally irrelevant concept once a student matriculates into college.



# Traditional Paper Trumps Digital Alternatives



By Matthew Adamski  
Contributing Writer

The shift from paper to paperless has been prevalent in the past few years. Increased environmental awareness has made online work the go-to for many teachers. Increasingly, as I’m sure everyone reading this has noticed, professors are assigning assignments and homework online. Almost everything is done through a screen.

I’m not saying that’s a bad thing, but there is still the scholastic appeal of paper that should not be forgotten and completely replaced.

Just look at yourself, yes you, the reader. It is much more likely that you are reading this article in the physical newspaper, than online. The physical paper attracts your attention as it lies waiting to be picked up and read.

Of course there are clear perks to having the newspaper available online, as well. People off campus are able to share and enjoy the stellar writing found in The Mirror this way. But it’s just not the same feeling.

Personally, I don’t think I’d ever read The Mirror if it were published online only. Paper is intimate. It allows the reader to interact with the words in a way that an iPad or computer screen never could.

I could not see myself in philosophy class without the printed out readings where I can highlight, underline and annotate freely. How else would I be able to understand Plato without?

One of my largest grievances remains that teachers think we have unlimited printing money. They casually tell us to print assignments to hand in when they do not print out their own assignments.

Of course the COVID era and the dark days of Zoom learning played a large factor in this. Teachers could not print out their own assignments and had to send

everything out through links online.

But with in-person learning back in session, it is high time to bring back printed worksheets and assignments into the classroom.

“Paper works best because I can write in the margins, and I find it easier to do my work that way,” sophomore student Elizabeth Viggiano says, and I agree.

But don’t just take the word of two sophomores on this topic, scientific findings showed that recording thoughts on paper improves mental retention and academic performance more so than typing out those thoughts does.

The other appeal of printed paper is that you are able to reference them instead of having to flip through tabs. Which is a hassle, I have found.

There are always two sides to every medal, however and some students feel differently. For instance, sophomore student Annie Tomosovitch pointed out “keeping track of papers and worksheets is a pain,” which is a valid point.

I remember in high school, when my teachers printed every-

thing out left and right; my binder was inundated with worksheets of all sorts.

There was a regular house-keeping schedule I needed to keep to assure the important documents stay and all the busy work gets trashed.

Paper is timeless. It has the potential to stir revolutions, as was the case with the “Declaration of Independence” by Thomas Jefferson; or create religious upheaval, like the 95 Theses of Martin Luther.

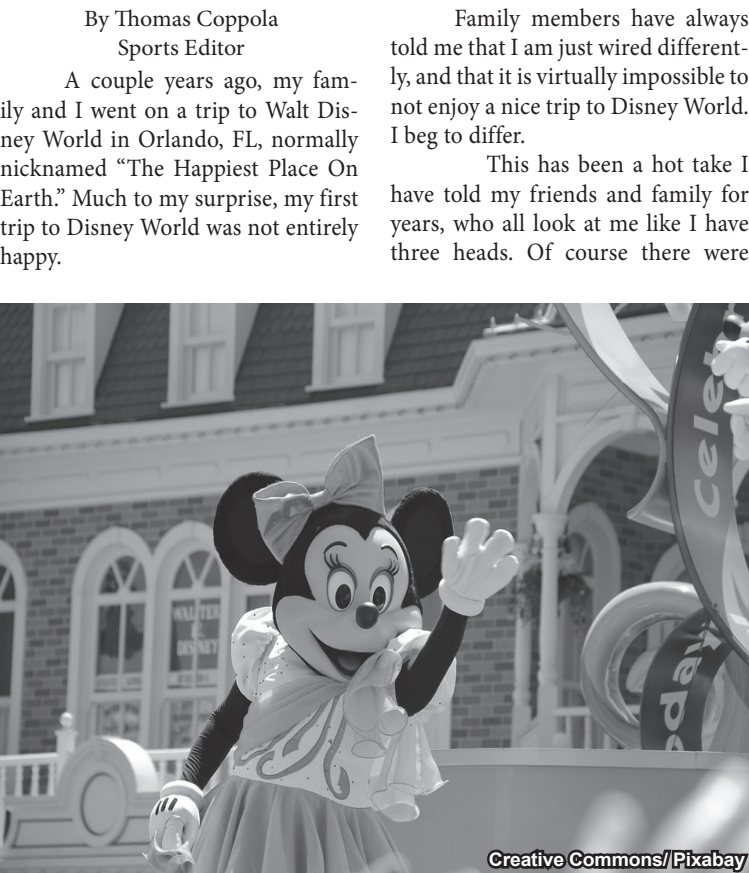
The written and printed word is as powerful as David’s stone against Goliath.

The publishing industry consistently shows that print outsells ebooks.

Clearly the smell of a newly cracked open book has the same appeal now as it did 300 years ago. Therefore we should not phase paper out of our lives and in fact encourage its use in school and work.

Of course, one should be conscious of the environmental impact, and should always be conscientious of waste, but when it comes to choosing between online and paper, I go with paper every time.

# Hot Take: Disney World is Overrated



By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

A couple years ago, my family and I went on a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, normally nicknamed “The Happiest Place On Earth.” Much to my surprise, my first trip to Disney World was not entirely happy.

Family members have always told me that I am just wired differently, and that it is virtually impossible to not enjoy a nice trip to Disney World. I beg to differ.

This has been a hot take I have told my friends and family for years, who all look at me like I have three heads. Of course there were bright spots in my trip to Disney, but overall, I didn’t entirely enjoy myself.

As grateful as I am for my family taking me on the trip, I found the entire experience of going to all the parks pretty stressful.

The internet is littered with “must-see” parts of each park, and running from one park to another on a crowded bus was the exact opposite of what I would’ve wanted.

Granted, there were a lot of highlights to my trip; I enjoyed a few of the sights I got to see, and had fun on a few of the easier rides.

In my adult life, I love to ride rollercoasters and seek thrills, but the two hour wait times are brutal for the average kid who just wants to check the boxes on each ride.

The crazy part is that I grew up watching Disney movies and consuming all the content in that realm; Cars is one of my favorite movies of all time.

The tough part is, however, when you grow up a bit more and then go to Disney World, you get a brief boost of serotonin from the

nostalgia that each area brings, until you realize you might’ve already grown out of that phase.

When I went to the Toy Story area, it was cool to be immersed in the world for a little while, but the amazingness of it quickly wore off; you can only pretend to be a kid for so long, as sad as that might sound.

Another part that subtracted from my experience was trying different rides that are just plain uncomfortable.

Space Mountain in Magic Kingdom comes to mind, where you’re basically tossed into a dark room with flashing light bulbs and expected to keep a smile on your face for the camera at the end of the roller coaster track.

Another one that I did not enjoy was Test Track in Epcot. I remember it like it was yesterday; the cart that you are in makes a bunch of anxiety-inducing last second turns that steer you away from simulated danger.

The final turn picks up the speed unbelievably quickly, which

left me feeling super queasy after this one.

Additionally, the resorts in Disney are average at best. I’ve stayed at nicer hotels in my life, and found that they were all very busy and crowded in the summertime. As a person who only wants to relax on vacation, there didn’t seem to be any moments where I could actually relax.

I think if I went back as the college-educated adult I am now, I would get a kick out of the cultural area of Epcot, now that I have a greater appreciation for different customs.

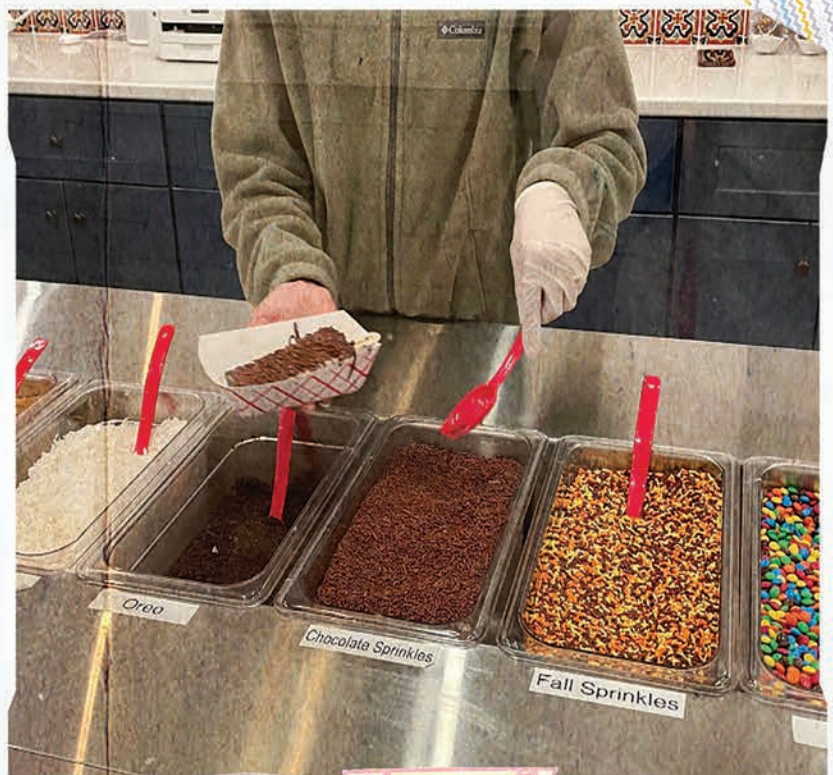
This article may seem like I’m begging for you to feel bad for me, but it’s water under the bridge; of course, I’m sure I will develop a greater appreciation for it with time, and I hope that I can someday return so I can reassess my opinions.

The reasons why I think Disney World is overrated are just from my personal experience, but I am sure that it is truly the “happiest place in the world” for a vast amount of people out there.

# The Vine



So Good!



CANVA STORIES



Friends <3



Arts, Features,  
Entertainment,  
Editor: Brooke Lathe



By Peyton Perry  
Opinion Editor

Nearly everyone at Fairfield has tasted the pure sweetness of the many well known treats served by Milkcraft, 16 Handles and Sunny Daes, but not many people know that there is a new hidden gem in town: Dave's Gourmet Paletas! This relatively new dessert shop is located right in the heart of Fairfield and I'm here to tell you that it's definitely worth a trip!

First of all, you can't miss it! This past weekend, I was able to visit Dave's Gourmet Paletas for the first time and was immediately impressed by the colorful and unique sign displayed on top. I was also taken aback by the cute, little bench that was outside of the door and appeared to have a scene from a town painted on it.

Walking through the doors, the same fun and bright atmosphere is carried out. The tile floors look like white and grey flowers and the back wall is a bright red!

Aside from the aesthetic appeal from such a warm and fun atmosphere, located just six doors down from the famed Colony Grill, its destination is perfect for Fairfield University students who utilize the Stag Bus as transportation. The bus stop is merely a two minute walk away, if even that!

Now, you may be wondering to yourself, "well, what even is a paleta?" I had this same thought when I was first approached by an employee in town who handed my friend and I a business card, which was fortunately redeemable for a free paleta there. I had absolutely no idea what the

dessert was. Now, I could not be more excited to share what I've learned!

A paleta is a Mexican frozen treat that resembles the frozen ice cream pops popular amongst kids. The best part is that paletas can be eaten guilt-free; they are made from fresh, natural ingredients and with zero preservatives or chemicals. If you're

buy; the toppings were fresh, one look at them and your mouth would start to water."

Sperling continued, saying "In comparison to the pre-made sweets I'm used to eating, Dave's Paletas had real and delicious flavors."

Dave's Gourmet Paleta's currently offers about twenty flavors of these delicious pop treats,



Pictured above is Dave's Gourmet Paleta's delicious flavors.

like me and have quite the sweet tooth, Dave's Gourmet Paletas is the perfect place to have your sugar craving quenched in a more healthy but still delicious way!

Sophomore student Luiza Sperling says, "What I liked most about the paleta was that it was different from the ice cream that I would usually

including gluten free, dairy free and vegan options. I was completely amazed by the flavors offered; the ones that stood out to me the most are "Lavender Honey," "Strawberries n Cream," "Apple Cider" and "Pumpkin Spice!" Of course they also had the classic flavors of "Chocolate," "Cookies n Cream" and "Coffee."

Once you choose your flavor, you are offered different flavors of coating that you can either dip or drizzle. Chocolate, chocolate hazelnut, fluff, butterscotch and caramel are the provided choices. Then, after your paleta has been successfully dipped or drizzled, you can choose from a variety of toppings! Oreo pieces, chocolate chips, pretzel pieces, sprinkles and fresh coconut shavings are only a few of the toppings you can pick to complement your chosen paleta favor.

The paleta itself is \$5.50, with an additional \$0.50 extra for each dip and topping chosen. For a college student trying to handle their money wisely, this is a pretty good price for the amount and high quality you get in addition to a healthier dessert alternative.

Stopping in for a quick treat this past weekend with a couple of my friends, I decided to try the "Cookies and Cream" paleta, drizzled with the chocolate hazelnut dip and topped with both oreo pieces and chocolate jimmies. It was absolutely delicious! The dip was my favorite part but the creaminess of the paleta itself was just as wonderful.

Sophomore student Joseph Westhoff, who came with me this past weekend, tried the "Strawberry Filled" flavor. He shares that it "was really good and they had a really nice variety of flavors and toppings. The 'Strawberry Filled' was great with the chocolate hazelnut dip!"

I highly recommend this new and lovely dessert place for anyone in the mood for a treat! You will definitely not be disappointed and there's something for everyone.



IT'S ALL A BUNCH OF HOCUS POCUS



By Molly Lamendola  
Editor-In-Chief

I've seen "Hocus Pocus" maybe a hundred times. There's something deeply magical and soothingly nostalgic about an early 90s flick.

Especially when you add all of the spooky elements,



Photo Contributed by Molly Lamendola  
Molly Lamendola throws up two peace signs in front of the Sacred Heart University theatre.

it makes you miss that era of classroom Halloween parties and tripping over your too-big costume while running to the house that gives out full-size candy bars.

So, when I stumbled upon the opportunity to see "Hocus Pocus" in theaters... I grabbed my roommates, threw some spooky earrings in and drove over to the new Sacred Heart University Community Theatre in downtown Fairfield.

You couldn't miss the Sacred Heart theater. Driving down Post Road toward the Fairfield University bookstore, it's the giant lit marquee right next to Las Vetas Lounge.

We parked just down the street, walked over and stood for many pictures in front of the sign.

By the time we had our fill for possible Instagramable shots, we entered, had our tickets scanned by a sweet lady who told us the Fairfield University students were really showing out tonight and entered a small entrance hall. The floors and part of the walls are all covered in an art-deco style print. That, with the smell of fresh popcorn, flowing fountain soda and glasses of red wine for sale (yes, they do serve alcohol) made this all seem like a classy establishment.

I have a theatre like this near my house. They play those artsy, low-budget French films and I'm usually the youngest one there by several decades.

The Sacred Heart theater doesn't draw the same crowd in the slightest. It's like a middle school dance with running, fighting over boys and girls sitting next to each other and meetings in the bathroom... like, a lot of meetings in the bathroom.

My roommates and I found our seats, and the movie began without one commercial. Which was fabulous, but I guess the kids needed the commercials to get their energy down, because it was

painfully loud. The so-called "bathroom meetings" seemed to occur often and involved a different group of pre-teens each time.

About 15 of them were all sitting in the front row, and about every ten minutes, three or four would leave in a full-speed run down the side aisle to the back exit.

This caused a good amount of chaos before some parents got involved and started shushing some of the kids and the activity, but still, we're miles away from pin-drop silence.

To compensate, the movie seemed to get louder as time went on and my ears felt as if they were bleeding by the end of the evening.

I can't say that the experience was all bad, the kids did add something to it.

There's a moment in the movie where the main character Max Dennison (Omri Katz) is trying to talk with the girl he has a crush on, Allison (Vinessa Shaw) and his little sister Dani (Thora Birch) says "What do you call them, Max? Yab-bos? Max likes your yabbos. In fact, he loves 'em!"

The kids' laughter at that scene ricocheted across the room at that one. Plus, their chorus collection of "Awes!" when Thackery Binx (Sean Murry) reunited with his dead sister was incredibly cute as well.

All in all, I probably wouldn't recommend going over to the theater if that's your first time seeing "Hocus Pocus."

But, it was great to see it once more in a theater with my roommates and some popcorn in hand.

And maybe, I even got to be present for one of those kids' fondest Halloween memories; in addition to the trick-or-treating and Halloween parties galore, they got to watch one of the greatest movies of all time in their pajamas with all of their friends.

Wouldn't that be magical?



# A Fun Day At The Harvest Market

By Brooke Lathe  
Vine Editor

Autumn is easily my favorite season for so many reasons: the beautiful foliage, the festive decorations, the perfect weather that always seems to have crisp air, the pumpkin-flavored variations of everything, Halloween and the never-ending fall-themed events!

So, when I saw on Fairfield’s town calendar that there was a Harvest Market Festival only a few minutes off of campus, I immediately marked it down on my cellphone’s calendar. This annual event took place on 611 Old Post road on Oct. 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The market was home to over 60 local vendors, many of whom participated in Fairfield’s weekly farmers market during the summer months. Tents were filled with handmade jewelry, clothing, fresh oil, spice packets, soaps and more.

The one vendor that drew me in the second I saw it was a small business called 2 Latitudes, which is based in Weston, Conn. and owned by Jason and Natalie Hall. The couple set up rows on rows of beautiful candles in an organized and clean manner. My friend and I couldn’t help but open each one and take a whiff of the comforting aroma.

But what makes the candles even better is that they are 100 percent soy-based, a distinct and important difference from petroleum-based candles that emit black soot and toxic fumes that are similar to diesel exhaust such as benzene, toluene, naphthalene, tri-decane, tetra-decane, penta-decane, and hexa-decane. This was one of the main factors

the couple decided to expand their Adirondack furniture business to include candles. 2 Latitudes’ wicks are also lead and zinc-free, making it much safer to light the candle inside a house.

After testing each candle, I narrowed down my purchase to two scents: lavender and sea salt orchid. They both invoke the feeling of peace and clarity, making me super excited to light them up!

While the harvest market included a multitude of exciting bullet points, the obvious selling point of the event for me was the dog Halloween costume parade! I was in full amazement and overwhelming joy each time I spotted a pet in full costume trotting through the fairgrounds.

Some of my favorites included a wiener dog brother and sister dressed

as a turkey!

Due to the parade, a lot of tents were specialized towards pets. Some of these stations included Earth Animal which sells “easily-digestible” pet snacks, as well as Choice Pet and Pet Pantry Warehouse. Additionally, the first tent that most attendees see as they enter the event, was an Adopt a Dog table that advertised dogs looking for homes.

As a newly nineteen-year-old college student with no salary, I knew there was no point in visiting the table. However, the large poster board with pictures of smiling dogs told me I had no choice. I sulked at the puppies for a few minutes before forcing myself to move on to the next vendor.

On the other side of the clearing, was a designated spot for food trucks. These restaurants included Lobster

Even though every menu item made me drool, I felt it was only right to indulge in some fall-inspired treats from Dude’s Donuts.

When I first hopped into the insanely long line, I was only set on purchasing a cup of apple cider, but I quickly became fixated on their specialty donut of the day: an apple pie donut. I blame their hard-to-miss advertised picture and the all-too-good smell that escaped their truck.

Luckily, the wait didn’t last very long, and I was able to snag my own drink and made-to-order dessert for only eight dollars!

Since there weren’t any open tables or chairs nearby, my friends and I sat down on the lawn of the Old Fairfield Academy, as it would’ve been a bit of a challenge trying to eat this monster of a donut while also holding my purse, bag of candles and cup of cider.

Once I took my first bite, my eyes were wide with amazement. I couldn’t believe how fresh and delicious it was, especially since I’m not even a huge fan of donuts. The dough was still warm and the thickness complimented the apple pie filling perfectly.

After a few minutes of constant chewing, I knew I was going to be filled for the rest of the day, as I was already



Brooke Lathe/The Mirror

Dude's Donut's Apple Pie special flavor.

starting to bloat. Nevertheless, I have no regrets.

To the right of where I sat, the Fairfield Rotary Club hosted their annual beer garden which was fenced in for any event-goers who were of legal drinking age as well. In addition to the tasty craft beers, there was live music performed by the Sabbs Brothers that made a wonderful addition to the day, as it felt like I was in a scene of “Gilmore Girls.”

The Harvest Market Festival proved to be a memorable and special experience for me, making it one of my top favorite Fairfield events. I will be sure to be on the lookout for next year’s date, awaiting more well-dressed dogs and yummy donuts!



Molly Lamendola/The Mirror

Black lab turned spider poses for the camera!

as a taco and hotdog, a black labrador as a spider (which reminded me of my dog back home) and a golden retriever

Craft, Bodega Taco, Bella Sera, Dude’s Donuts, Little Kernel’s Kettle Corn and SWAT Southern Wings and Things.

# A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

By Renée Levesque  
Contributing Writer



The Pedro Arrupe Campus Ministry can be found connected to the Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola

If you like the sound of free coffee and snacks, Campus Ministry may be your new favorite study spot.

Located beneath Fairfield’s Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola, Campus

Ministry is a welcoming space for students that’s meant to feel somewhat like a living room.

With its comfortable couches and relaxing atmosphere, it’s the perfect

place to unplug, decompress and make Fairfield feel like home.

I sat down with Katie Byrnes, campus minister for social justice and community engagement, to discuss the

services sponsored by Campus Ministry.

Her primary role is to coordinate community service.

“I have a lot of really cool opportunities for students to go off campus and get engaged in the wider community,” she said. “Between Bridgeport and Fairfield is the sharpest poverty line between wealth and poverty in the United States.

We’re on the wealthy side of it, so my work is important to push students across the line and think about how we can share the gifts that have been given to us.”

Both on and off campus, Campus Ministry offers several ways to actively work toward justice.

Byrnes emphasized the idea that you can serve in a multitude of ways.

The Pencil Pals program, for example, is one of her favorite service projects to be involved in.

“We have a group here that writes letters back and forth with local fifth graders,” she said.

“They write to each other all year, and at the end of the year they get to meet.”

Relatedly, Read-Aloud Day is an opportunity for students to read at Bridgeport schools.

Fairfield University mascot Lucas

the Stag will be attending the Read-Aloud Day on Oct. 20, and if that’s not a compelling incentive to get involved, I’m not sure what is.

Among the service opportunities mentioned, there is an Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice program.

Each year in Washington, D.C., members of the Ignatian family come together to advocate for various social issues.

Byrnes describes this event “like a huge pep rally for justice.” How cool is that?

This year’s Teach-In will be held Nov. 5-7 and focus on climate change. Students can register for the event on Life@Fairfield.

Campus Ministry works hard to help students acclimate to Fairfield. Their doors are open from 7:00 a.m. until midnight, and they encourage students to take advantage of their space and resources.

“It’s an extraordinary privilege for us to walk alongside you guys,” said Byrnes.

Whether you’re looking to meet new people, mingle with friends or focus on homework, Campus Ministry can be whatever you make of it.



# Seven Unique Halloween Costumes

By Peyton Perry  
Opinion Editor

Halloween is just around the corner, which means the ongoing question that has been rattling just about everyone’s brain is “what am I going to wear?”

While Pinterest and Google Images become the two main hubs for inspiration, as we all try to figure out individual, group and couple costumes, I’m sure we’ve all seen the recurring popular costumes of “space cowboy,” “holy cow,” angel and devil, aliens and “frat boys.”

Even though these ideas are all great, it seems that they have already been used by almost everyone within the last two or three years.

If you want to stand out from the crowd like me and have your own unique costume that is sure to gain you compliments, then here are some of my favorite new costumes that you and your friends could dress up as and be sure to stand out!

**WANDA AND COSMO** - This costume combo is great for any two friends or significant others.

All you need to do is wear a white top for Cosmo and a yellow top if you’re Wanda, matched with black bottoms and two mini shimmery crown’s on top of your head.

For the hair, you can use a temporary hair dye to make the end of your tips either pink or green, kind of like an om-bre, and you’re all set!

**POPCORN** - That’s right, you can dress as popcorn! All you need is a red and white striped skirt or shorts and a white top.

From there, you can either glue popcorn onto the top or leave it white and buy a headpiece with the signature popcorn logo!

It’s easy to put together and is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

**SUN AND MOON DUO** - Grab your friend or signifi-

cant other and dress up this Halloween as the sun and moon combo!

This costume choice leaves room for individual creativity.

My suggestion however is for each person to wear bronze (for the sun) or silver (for the moon) platinum pants, with matching tops and a headband with either sun rays or a crescent moon on top.

You are sure to stand out with this one!

**MERMAID** - Not many people have dressed up as a mermaid in recent years, which is absolutely crazy considering how cute the costume can be!

Buy yourself a shiny blue or green skirt, a shiny top to match, some starfish pins for your hair and body glitter to mimic scales!

You can also add accessories like a fishing net skirt, sea-shell necklace or starfish headband.

**POSEIDON** - What better way to match a mermaid than to dress as Poseidon?

Grab yourself a tunic (which can easily be created using your bed sheet), a crown and a trident and you are good to go.

**POPEYE AND OLIVE OYL** - This is my favorite Halloween couple costume by far!

I may be a little bit biased since I dressed as this last Halloween, but it is easy to put together and absolutely adorable.

For Olive Oyl, just wear a red shirt, black skirt, white socks and some yellow earrings.

For Popeye, wear a black button down, red neck scarf and a sailor hat. Then grab yourself a can of spinach and you’re set to impress!

**RACE CAR DRIVER** - This costume can be great for anybody. Throw on some black bottoms and a top, add white and black checkerboard accessories and grab a red flag to hold and you are ready to stun the crowds!

There’s plenty of more unique costumes out there besides these, but hopefully this helps you to get the wheels turning as Halloween draws nearer!



Photo Contributed by Peyton Perry

Peyton Perry, and her boyfriend pose as Popeye and Olive Oyl.



# Glee Shines On The Quick Center Stage

By Tristan Cruz  
Coffee Break Editor

The Fairfield University Glee Club is one of the oldest clubs here on campus, and fortunately, they held their annual Alumni & Fairfield Weekend Concert this past Sunday, Oct. 17.

Conductor Dr. Carole Ann Maxwell DSM along with Accompanist Beth Palmer led the 75 undergraduate singers in a wonderful performance, along with segments from Fairfield Acapella groups; Sweet Harmony and The Bensonians.

The entire ensemble started with The University’s Alma Mater, followed by Iván Erőd’s arrangement of “Viva La Musica!”.

The Glee Club continued the concert with “A New Song” by Marvin Curtis, and ended the first act with an honor to the Ignatian Year.

The ensemble sang “Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola” in honor of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius.

Two soloists were featured during this piece: Elena Galligan ‘22 and Sebastian Fox ‘23.

Senior Reyes Huerta followed with a wonderful solo performance of “El Triste,” by Roberto Cantoral.

Following the thrilling mexican-arranged performance, Katherine Junkins performed Benj Pasek and Justin Paul’s “Never Enough” and did just as amazing a job as

Huerta did.

The ladies of Glee Club then came together to perform “Arise My Love,” which included warming messages from The Songs Of Solomon, Dr. Maxwell informed the audience.



Photo Contributed by Laura Melin

Sweet Harmony performs their Harry Styles Medley in true Harry fashion.

Sophomore Ralph Ignacio performed a wonderful rendition of Billy Joel’s “Just the Way You Are” next.

Sweet Harmony then took the stage, led by Emma Lussier ‘22, Madelyn Dutilly ‘22 and Katherine Junkins.

They performed a crowd favorite mash-up of Harry Styles’s “Lights Up” (solo by Madelyn Dutilly), “Adore You” (solo by Bella LaGrego) and “Watermelon Sugar” (solo by Karen Coughlan).

Senior Jessica Cuntrera strutted her beat-

boxing skills as the ladies paid tribute to the famous acapella group, “Pentatonix” with a delightful performance of “On My Way Home”.

One of Sweet Harmony’s Directors Madelyn Dutilly took the stage right after with a

warming performance of Chris Stapleton’s “Tennessee Whiskey”.

As she concluded the superb solo feature, alumni of Sweet Harmony could be heard in the audience cheering on their successors.

The Bensonians, led by Directors Timothy Amarante ‘22 and Noah DeFeo ‘22, kept the excitement going with a soulful performance of “Hey There Delilah” which featured a lead by Kyle Fishbaugh ‘23.

The gentlemen rounded out a great act with a classic acapella rendition of “Good Old Acapella” by The Nylons.

Juniors Jack Legere and Sebastian Fox led the group on this fun barbershop quartet-like number.

The Glee Club then concluded the concert with the late Aretha Franklin’s “Think”.

I reckon that the late Queen of Soul would be pleased with the performance, as the group wrapped up overall a wonderful performance and display of soloists for the afternoon.

Dr. Maxwell and the Group included a senior pinning ceremony, thanking the seniors for their dedication and hardwork. In addition to the seniors, Reverend Michael J. Doody, S.J. was honored as the Chaplain for the Glee Club.

If you are interested in seeing the Glee Club, be sure to catch their Christmas concerts at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts on Dec. 3 and 4.

# MET GALA EXHIBIT MEETS EXPECTATIONS

By Madison Gallo  
Head News Editor

The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s exhibit, “In America: A Lexicon of Fashion,” had a lot to live up to, as the first exhibit back following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Prior to seeing the exhibit, my friends and I waited to get into the museum outside in the rain for about an hour. We really only went to the Met to see this specific exhibit, so there was a lot of pressure for it to not only to exceed our expectations, but also make up for the fact that we were cold and wet from the storm we endured.

Before walking down the stairs that lead into the Anna Wintour Costume Center to see the full exhibit, we were greeted by several different mannequins adorned in quilted and denim patchwork. This matched the organizational piece of the exhibit, a patchwork quilt made by Adeline Harris from the Met’s American Wing collection. The exhibit’s description quotes Jesse Jackson’s 1984 Democratic National Convention speech: “America is not like a blanket — one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size. America is more like a quilt — many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes all woven and held together by a common thread.”

According to its description, “In

America: A Lexicon of Fashion” takes inspiration from Jackson’s comparison of patchwork to America “and its unique cultural identities.”

Throughout the exhibit, this overarching theme could be seen by not

— sportswear, principles of simplicity, practicality, functionality and egalitarianism.

American fashion has traditionally lacked the type of emotional connection that European fashion invokes. As

ment in a uniquely American way.

The garments are divided into different sections: “Nostalgia, Belonging, Delight, Joy, Wonder, Affinity, Confidence, Strength, Desire, Assurance, Comfort and Consciousness.” Several

ous ideas of being American can.

The maze of garments range from subtle to garish as you embark on an emotional rollercoaster that utilizes American historical context to match each clothing article and feeling.

When I first heard that the theme for the exhibit this year centered around American fashion, I expected Ralph Lauren, white shirts and blue jeans but was happily surprised that the exhibit broadened the idea of what American fashion really is.

The emotions each garment evoked throughout the exhibit gives attendees the opportunity to experience American fashion from a different perspective that is not often explored. I never realized how emotionally detached many people feel from what is considered to be American fashion, but this exhibit proves to be a chance to have a different outlook on fashion.

Though not every piece represents nostalgia, each piece elicited that feeling from me. I felt as though I could identify a time or a place where each look could fit with its corresponding feeling and made me feel a connection to the piece because it truly altered my mood.

Part One of the exhibit opened on Sept. 18 and will close on Sept. 5, 2022. Part Two: “In America: An Anthology of Fashion” will open May 5, 2022 and close on Sept. 5, 2022.



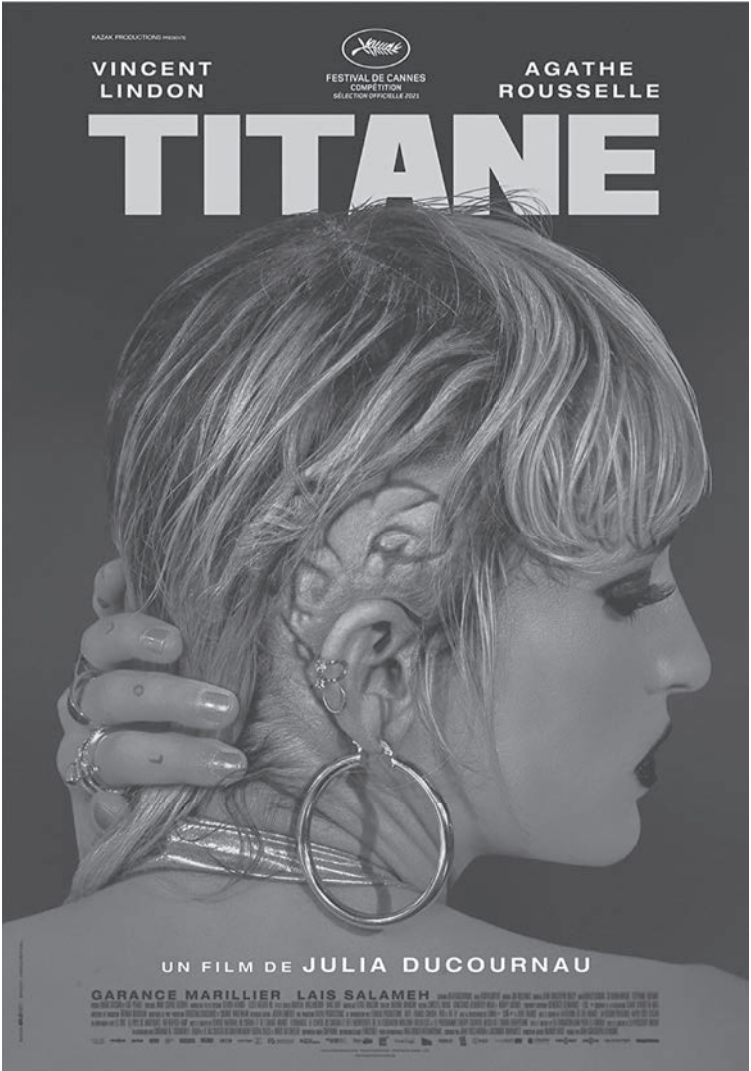
Six mannequins wear outfits from the Metropolitan Museum's theme "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion."

only the garments displayed but also by who designed each one. The exhibit aimed to achieve defining American fashion by challenging what is most often thought of as American fashion

the title of the exhibit does include the word lexicon, this exhibit confronts the traditionally European emotional connection to fashion by matching every featured garment to an emotional senti-

decades are represented in the exhibit, each individual ensemble representing sentiments within each of the aforementioned sections and the different ensembles exploring the vari-

# 2021's Best Unknown Film



Agathe Rousselle, who plays Adrien, poses for Titane movie poster.

By John Bizub  
Contributing Writer

While many movie enthusiasts, including myself, anxiously wait for Denis Villeneuve’s adaptation of “Dune” and Lana Wachowski’s fourth installment in “The Matrix” franchise, film buffs are wildly excited for French filmmaker, Julie Ducournau’s Palme D’or sophomore debut titled “Titane.”

I went into the theatre with no knowledge and little information about the plot, which only enriched my experience, so I feel that it would only be right to withhold a summary to give potential viewers the same experience.

Ducournau had already impressed me with her vampire debut “Raw,” a film about finding your purpose and what it means to become human, as well as displaying groundedness.

There was a lot of violent imagery that only a few can pull off in the current state of horror media.

In return, my love of her debut only grew my anticipation once hearing it won the top prize from the Cannes Film Festival. It is unheard of for a horror film to win this prestigious award.

Sure, many film festival fans will exaggerate the brutal violence and shocking story in “Titane”, but Ducournau finds beauty in the nightmare.

While many will pass on comparison to films by David Cronenberg, and though I do agree, there is definitely a difference between the two filmmakers.

Yes, the visuals feel very grandiose and nasty, but Julie finds something vulnerable here.

As the film progresses, it slowly dissolves from a body-horror film to an existential drama about identity, gender and how people perceive you.

It’s Ducournau’s direction tied with incredible performances by Vincent Lindon and Agathe Rousselle that make this film, unlike anything I have seen throughout 2021.

“Titane” on its surface is a film festival horror movie that critics will hyperbolize to death but it is about subverting expectations.

From the film’s promotional trailers, it looks like a sadistic and nihilistic nightmare and actually morphs into that.

The hyperbolized festival reactions overshadowed what the movie

actually is.

It is a film using the art of the theatrical experience to its fullest, the way distributor “NEON” did with their 2019 film “Parasite.”

It is about capturing the audience’s reactions and seeing others’ response to storytelling shifts.

Like I have stated before, the violence is brutal and at times hard to stomach. Many scenes had me cringing in my seat due to its heavy sound design and the gritty shots.

Nevertheless, if there are few films you must see by the end of 2021 it is “Titane.”

All the praise from critics and film festival junkies is worth it but also diminishes the movie’s overall beauty.

It is a disturbing, haunting yet beautiful film that has scenes I cannot wait to revisit time and time again.

Actors Agathe Rousselle and Vincent Lindon bring phenomenal performances here, allowing Rousselle to reach heights I have not seen many actors go for in 2021.

If you can see “Titane” in theaters please do, but if not, check it out when it hits VOD on Oct. 19.

**Rating: A+**



# Coffee Break

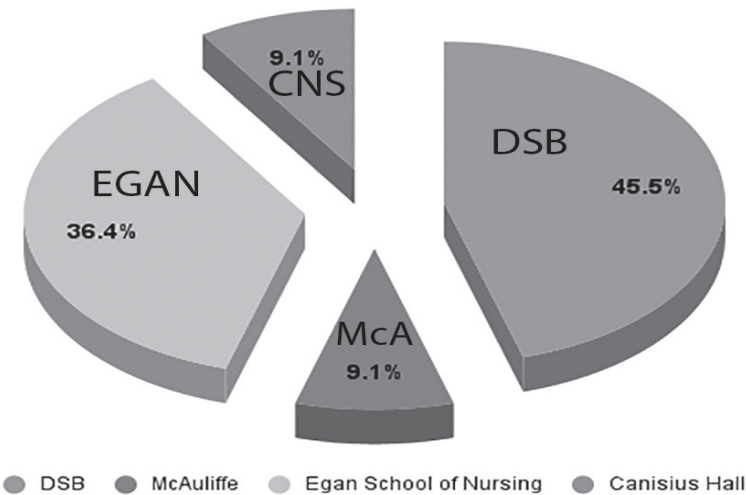
Editor: Tristan Cruz  
tristan.cruz@student.fairfield.edu



## The Mirror's Takes

Coffee Break is proud to introduce a new segment this semester called The Mirror's Takes! Every so often, we will put out The Mirror team's opinion on a new topic each week, and we encourage you to carry these debates and conversations on with your friends, roommates, and classmates!

What is the best academic building on campus?



Do you agree? Disagree? Let us know what you think, because this infamous topic can be debated on for hours!

If you have any interesting things you would like to hear The Mirror's take on, DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to let us know, and look for your poll in the Coffee Break section!

## Famous Quotes Challenge

Who said these famous quotes? See if you can guess correctly who said these famous quotes? DM us on Twitter @FairfieldMirror to see if you got all 5 correct!

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take".

\_\_\_\_\_

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value".

\_\_\_\_\_

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game".

\_\_\_\_\_

"He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals".

\_\_\_\_\_

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be".

\_\_\_\_\_

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SPORTS

Sports Editor: Tommy Coppola  
>>thomas.coppola@student.fairfield.edu



Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26
Men's soccer at Rider University Lawrenceville, N.J. 7:00 p.m.  Women's soccer vs. Saint Peter's University Fairfield, Conn. 7:00 p.m.	Volleyball at Marist College Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 7:00 p.m.	Men's golf Lehigh University Invitational Bethlehem, P.A. All Day  Men's cross country Mini-Meet New Britain, Conn. 3:30 p.m.  Women's cross country Mini-Meet New Britain, Conn. 4:00 p.m.  Field hockey vs. Saint Francis University Fairfield, Conn. 4:00 p.m.	Men's golf Lehigh University Invitational Bethlehem, P.A. All Day  Men's rowing Head of the Charles Boston, M.A. All Day  Women's rowing Head of the Charles Boston, M.A. All Day  Volleyball vs. Niagara University Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.	Volleyball vs. Canisius College Fairfield, Conn. 1:00 p.m.  Field hockey at Merrimack College North Andover, M.A. 2:00 p.m.	Women's golf Lehigh University Invitational Bethlehem, P.A. All Day	FAIRFIELD

Volleyball Shines Atop MAAC Leaderboards

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

This past week, Mikayla Haut '25 was given the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference title of Rookie of the Week, which came after her success against the Rider Broncs last Sunday. Haut posted an impressive 10 kills against Rider, which helped the Stags push past their competitor in a 3-0 sweep.

This honor comes a little over a month after her fellow teammates KJ Johnson '23 and Kyla Berg '24 took home their own awards, which were MAAC Player of the Week and MAAC Libero of the Week, respectively. The Stags remain unbeaten in their conference and will look to continue this success against teams like Marist College, Niagara University, Canisius College, and Quinnipiac University in the upcoming days and weeks.



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

First-year Mikayla Haut recently pocketed the MAAC Rookie of the Week award, joining her teammates KJ Johnson '23 and Kyla Berg '24 as MAAC award winners during the Fall 2021 season.

In this week's issue...

- What Are The Best Sports Documentaries? (Page 14)
- A Breakdown of Club Sports' Budgets (Page 15)
- Grasso Ties School Save Record In First Career Start (Page 15)
- Here To Stay: Fairfield Head Coaches Extend Contracts (Page 16)

# What Are The Best Sports Documentaries?

By Sheila McCombs  
Managing Editor

My love for the niche genre that is sports documentaries holds no bounds. There is something so different about combining the cinematic element of filmmaking with the real-life excitement of sports that make for the best viewing experience. It has always been my favorite thing to watch, so as you can imagine, I have seen a lot of different movies and shows alike that fall within this category. Now, in the confusing age of a million streaming services, it can be so hard to find something good with all of the options out there. But don't you worry, I've been out in the field. I've put the time in and now I am ready to present my list of the unequivocal sports documentaries and docuseries.

**“Last Chance U” (Netflix)**

This is one of the first sports shows that I got really invested in and started binge watching when it first premiered in 2016. This show follows the world of junior college football, which is something that I didn't know even existed before watching.

The show follows one team for two seasons and focuses on their players and their successes and failures throughout their season. High performance junior college football faces amazingly high stakes because for many of the players it is their ticket into a Division I program, whether due to academic or financial circumstances.

This leads to a great feeling of anticipation and energy throughout the series. The show focuses on the person-to-person aspect of storytelling in a way that makes you feel incredibly connected to the players and coaches featured by the end of the show. This show got super popular on Netflix. In fact it became so popular that they created

a spin-off show called “Last Chance U: Basketball” that premiered in early 2021.

**“Athlete A” (Netflix)**

Some of the best sports documentaries focus not just on winning championships or the actual playing of a sport, but instead bring attention to major issues in the sports world. This film centers around the USA Gymnastics scandal involving Larry Nasser and his sexual abuse of athletes for over 20 years. This abuse went on despite there being multitudes of complaints filed by the athletes and their families, which is one of the major themes of the film.

The documentary uses interviews with athletes and reporters at the Indianapolis Star newspaper who originally broke the story. This film stresses the need for institutional change. Even though this is a non-traditional documentary, it shows sports in a different light and allows the viewer a deeper view into a story that dominated headlines.

**“Free Solo” (Disney+)**

This is not a documentary for the faint of heart. The film follows Alex Honnold, a “free solo” rock climber, which means he literally climbs mountains with no ropes. It is exactly as crazy as it sounds, and this film had me gripping the edge of my seat. It follows Alex's journey to become the first person to free solo El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

The filmmakers are honest throughout the documentary about having mixed feelings for filming his attempt because of their genuine worries about Honnold's safety, making it all even more trepidation-filled to watch. I love this film because it gives a great deal of perspective to a sport that is not as well-known by the average sporting fan. I couldn't recommend it enough.

**“100 Foot Wave” (HBO Max)**

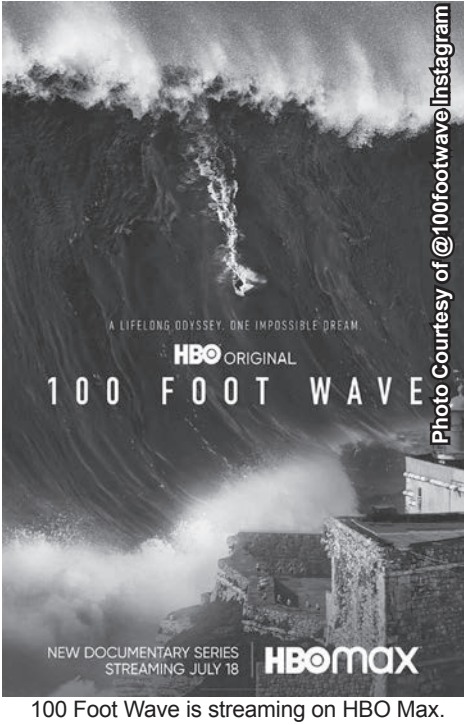
Speaking of sports that don't get enough recognition, the HBO documentary series “100 Foot Wave” focuses on the journey of surfer Garrett McNamara, along with his manager and wife Nicole, and their conquest to surf a 100 foot wave. The duo's search led them to Nazare, Portugal in search of big wave surfing, and in turn they made it into one of the premiere surfing destinations in the world. It focuses on several years and builds a rich and amazing story that you can't look away from. This show gives amazing insight into the world of surfing and what it looks like to be the best. And if you watch it now, you are in luck because HBO just renewed it for a new season!

**“F1: Drive to Survive” (Netflix)**

If you have spoken to me in the last six months, you have heard me talk about my newfound obsession with Formula 1 racing, and it is all because of how much I love this show!

This show follows a more typical character-led reality format than some of the other documentaries on this list, but to me it brings together everything I love about sports. The show follows an entire season of Formula 1 driving (each season of the show is one year of the racing season), and focuses on a different driver each episode.

There are only 20 drivers in the entirety of the sport, so they have to be the best of the best, and unlike other sports, there is no “contract season”. Drivers can get dropped from their teams and replaced at any moment throughout the season. If this doesn't spell amazing drama to you, I don't know what will. This show also has three whole seasons with 10 episodes each out right now,



100 Foot Wave is streaming on HBO Max.

so it is incredibly easy to binge watch and then feel as though you could 100 percent win the world championship for Mercedes this year yourself.






**“The Last Dance” (ESPN and Netflix)**

This documentary, following the career of Michael Jordan, needs no more press from me but I have to include it on the list. Go watch it, it is amazing!

This list is in no way extensive and there are definitely so many that I missed, but these are just my favorites. Whether you are an avid sports fan or someone who has never watched a game in your life, sports documentaries offer the ability to see deeper into a player, a game or an industry. Give one of these and try, and you just might find something new and amazing!

Weekly 5x4

Your 2021-2022 5x4 Columnists:  
Tommy Coppola, Molly Lamendola, Julia Lanzillotta, Tobenna Ugwu and Sheila McCombs

Because we have witty things to say ...	 <div>Tommy Coppola Sports Editor</div>	 <div>Molly Lamendola Editor-in-Chief</div>	 <div>Julia Lanzillotta Executive Editor</div>	 <div>Tobenna Ugwu Managing Editor</div>	 <div>Sheila McCombs Managing Editor</div>
What is your personal favorite place that you've lived on campus?	I'm only a sophomore with limited experience, but 47 Mahan Road definitely has a leg up on Regis Hall.	There's something special about tapping your roommate with your foot in her bed, from your bed, in a Jogues Hall dorm bed.	I loved the townhouses. I finally felt like I had my own space!	Honestly, I've loved everywhere I've lived so far but 42 Langguth has my heart.	There is something completely unmatched about being the first class to live in the renovated Champion Hall. I would move back in there tomorrow if they let me.
If you could bring three items with you to a deserted island, what would they be?	One of those cool water filter straws, some food and then the latest issue of the Fairfield Mirror so I don't get bored (only the essentials).	Color coded glitter, The Fantastic Mr. Fox on VHS, Gin.	A firestarter, a hammock and a survival book of some sort.	The complete Harry Potter book collection, a machete, and a satellite phone.	Would have to be Taylor Swift's complete collection, one of the buffs you get on Survivor and a Brita.
If you could play on one game show, what would it be?	Someone tell Steve Harvey to give me a call, because I'm playing Family Feud.	CNBC	Squid Games. Can't you tell how my week is going?	I am going to agree with Lanz and say Squid Game, not for the same reasons though.	I literally took the college Jeopardy test in The Mirror office!
If I told you that one Mirror staff member would be president of the United States one day, who would you guess it would be?	I think Molly would bring a fresh perspective to the Oval Office.	Absolutely, not Toby.	It'd be easier to list who it wouldn't be, but I vote Maddy West. That'd be fun to see.	If the laws were changed I think I'd make a great POTUS.	I have to disagree with Molly here and say Toby has my vote.

# A Breakdown of Club Sports' Budgets

By Cameron Strojny  
Contributing Writer

Club sports are back and are fully running this academic year as COVID-19 has become easier to navigate on campus. Like all other areas of campus, club sports have been significantly impacted with balancing state, university and league guidelines regarding COVID-19. Indoor sports are still facing some challenges due to the mask mandate still being in effect. Despite the health and pandemic side of things, funding surrounding club sports is yet another stressor for club sports post-pandemic.

Every year, each team completes a budget projection form with Assistant Director of Competitive Sports, Chelsey Wright. Once these forms are reviewed, the club team receives a grant necessary for them to play their season. Membership dues are required per athlete to make up for the remainder of their budget, fundraising and soliciting donations are highly encouraged. Wright spoke on



Photo Contributed by Lauren Gasek

The Club Sailing team is returning to the waters.

the matter, stating “the majority of the funding is granted as an allocation from our Club Sports Operating Budget that is provided from the university to help fund our club sports.”

Senior Caroline Lanzillotta, the president of the club volleyball team, stated that “We were notified that we would no longer have the ‘roll over’ option, which would allow the dues we collected in past years to be used whenever.” When the athletic department made the decision to switch over to the “use it or lose it” system, each club team was incentivized to fundraise more to cover for the leftover expenses that the team may need.

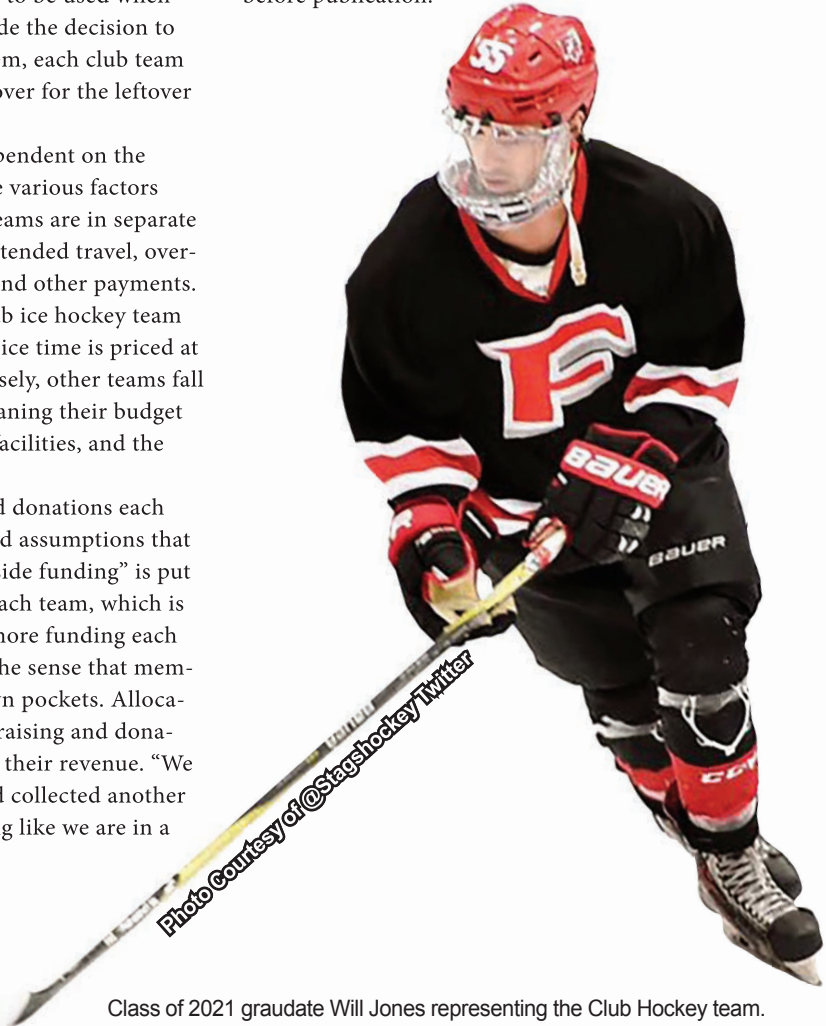
Club sports funding is entirely dependent on the amount of athletes on each team and the various factors that are necessary to each sport. Some teams are in separate leagues and tournaments that require extended travel, overnight stays, referees, external facilities, and other payments. For example, the Fairfield University club ice hockey team has to use an ice rink off-campus where ice time is priced at \$400 for a singular practice slot. Conversely, other teams fall under the category of “recreational,” meaning their budget mainly goes to equipment and internal facilities, and the other factors do not apply to them.

The amount of fundraising and donations each team secures may allure to the divide and assumptions that each team is not funded fairly. The “outside funding” is put into a separate account specifically for each team, which is accessible for the team until used. The more funding each team solicits themselves will benefit in the sense that members on the team pay less out of their own pockets. Allocations are provided annually, so the fundraising and donations per team are considered a boost to their revenue. “We have opted for a Chipotle fundraiser and collected another round of dues this year, so we are looking like we are in a good place,” Lanzillotta said.

Fairfield University strives to support the club sports program to the best of its ability. They work diligently to advocate for the teams and

each of their individual successes across the board. In order to do that, they constantly evaluate and adjust their policies, procedures, and processes to meet every team’s individual needs.

Executive Editor of the Mirror Julia Lanzillotta is the sister of Caroline Lanzillotta, the president of the club volleyball team, and thus did not read or edit this article before publication.



Class of 2021 graudate Will Jones representing the Club Hockey team.

# Grasso Ties School Save Record In First Career Start

By Zachary Stevens  
Contributing Writer

Although it had been two full years since goalkeeper Juliette Grasso ‘24 had played in a competitive soccer match due to injuries, head coach of the Fairfield University women’s soccer David Barrett gave her the start against Monmouth University on Oct. 6, 2021.

Just two weeks after being cleared officially, Grasso was ready to be back on the field to prove why she is a Division I athlete. Although the adrenaline and confidence were flowing, there also was a moment of doubt that came with it.

“I felt a little bit nervous [before the match] and just wanted to make sure I would be able to go out onto the field and prove that I deserved to play,” said Grasso. “Right before stepping onto the field all of my nerves faded and I just kept reminding myself that I’ve been a soccer player my whole life and

this game is no different from any other.” While it is true that she has been a soccer player her whole life, the match against Monmouth for Juliette Grasso was far from any ordinary game.

In her first collegiate start, Grasso tied a record of saves for Fairfield University at 14 saves in a single game.

Her most impressive sequence of the match was by far her double save in the seventy-seventh minute of play, where she used her hands and then her feet to save two quick shots in a row to keep the Stags level through the regular period.

In overtime, that is where Juliette tied the record for saves, but was unluckily scored on by an opponent deflection in the dying embers of the match, which was ultimately the game winner. Even though she did everything in her power to keep the Stags in the game, the Stag’s offense was simply not enough.

Grasso learned of the record she just tied after the game, however she was more concerned with the result of the match rather than the individual achievement.

“Honestly, I had no clue what the record was prior to the game,” explained Grasso. “I wasn’t even sure how many saves I had made during the game. When playing, the only thing I was focused on was the game.”

The record hasn’t been challenged since 2010, and Grasso had no clue that she was one save from beating. Clearly, she is a player who means business on the pitch and is looking to solidify herself in the starting lineup for many years to come.

With the Stags rolling, everything is looking up for Fairfield and the sophomore goalie. Grasso is definitely not satisfied with her tying the record, she wants more.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to work hard in practice and hopefully in games,” said the New York native. “It’s really exciting being a part of a team who’s able to work so hard and chase after the

MAAC championship. I’m looking forward to seeing how the rest of our season plays out and hopefully winning the MAAC.”



Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

A MAAC Championship is something in the eyes of the women’s team, currently third in the conference with an overall record of 8-4-3. Their next match will be versus Saint Peter’s University, where they face the Peacocks on Oct. 20, 2021.

The match will be played at Lessing field and be streamed on ESPN. Make sure to show your support for your fellow Fairfield athletes. Go Stags!

Photo Contributed by the Sports Information Desk

Sophomore Juliette Grasso is a goalkeeper on the Fairfield University women’s soccer team, who, in her first career start for the team, tied the school save record with 14 saves in one game.

# Here To Stay: Fairfield Head Coaches Extend Contracts

By Thomas Coppola  
Sports Editor

In the past week, three of Fairfield University's Division I athletics coaches re-signed contracts that would extend their time as Stags. Men's basketball head coach Jay Young, baseball head coach Bill Currier and women's lacrosse head coach Laura Field, all signed new deals with the University.

Young, the leader of the men's basketball team for only two years, has major plans to keep last year's momentum rolling while transitioning into his third year. With previous experience in coaching at Rutgers University, Stony Brook University and the University of New Haven, Young is a seasoned veteran in his work and was able to lead the Stags to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship last year, where the squad ultimately fell to Iona College.



Pictured Above is Men's Basketball Coach Jay Young. Young extended his contract until 2025.

Young's original deal with Fairfield was for a five-year contract, which, as of last week, was extended through the 2025-2026 season. Director of athletics Paul Schlickmann reached out to Young

for an extension, which Young planned on doing anyways. "They [The athletic department] offered, and I was going to extend it before they changed it," Young confirmed, referencing his contract.

Young has enjoyed his two years at Fairfield so far, and has already created fond memories with his student-athletes. "The best moments are really every day in practice when I get to work and coach and be around these guys," Young said.

As Young and company are working together to make the final preparations before their season begins in November, the Fairfield University baseball team has been working hard to prepare for their spring with leadership from head coach Bill Currier.

Coach Currier, who will enter his 11th season as head coach of the Stags, cannot wait to continue to turn heads in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. As the first MAAC baseball team to ever secure an at-large bid to the NCAA regional tournament while also boasting an impressive 33-1 record in conference play last season, the Stags cemented themselves as one of the most powerful college baseball programs in the nation.

Currier is proud to have supported the Stags for the last ten seasons and is thankful to Fairfield University for allowing him another opportunity to continue to improve the organization.

"Basically, they're believing in what I've been doing for the past ten years, and I think I've earned that. And I think they see that, which is appreciated," Currier stated.

His signing situation, however, was a bit different compared to Young's. As his former contract was coming to a close, he felt that it would be important to

approach Mr. Schlickmann and deputy director of athletics Zachary Dayton about extending his contract by five years as opposed to the three-year deal he signed previously.



Pictured Above is Men's Baseball Coach Bill Currier. Currier extended his contract until 2025.

Another important aspect of this five-year contract extension is the fact that it facilitates the recruiting process, not only for Currier but for the recruits themselves that are coming in. "It's good for recruits to know that you're locked in for five years," Currier mentioned. "It's important for both parties to realize, 'hey, I know the coach I'm going to be playing for.'"

As the recruitment process has gone relatively quiet as of this week, it allows for both the baseball's coaching staff and players to mentally prepare themselves for the road ahead. This consists not only of practicing and training, but also goal setting. Currier explained that the team keeps their goals very concise, and only looks as far as the season ahead. For his next five years as a Stag, the only general goal is consistent improvement, whereas the more specific details will be

ironed out at a later date.

Sharing the spotlight in the spring with coach Currier will be head coach of women's lacrosse Laura Field, who also signed a contract extension of her own this past week. This renewal will extend her tenure as the women's lacrosse head coach through the 2024 season.

With her seventh season looming over the horizon, she took the chance to renew her old contract with Schlickmann, where both parties had a discussion about what was next for the Stags. This discussion led to the mutual agreement of Field returning for three more years. "I think I am fortunate to have a great relationship with Paul and with the university at large," Field mentioned.

As a next step for the extremely successful women's lacrosse team, Field wants to continue to build and improve upon where they finished last year, which saw the Stags in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.

"We have a lot left on the table in terms of winning that NCAA game, and putting ourselves in a better position to win that NCAA game," Field said.

Sharing a similar mentality to both Young and Currier, Field believes that the most memorable moments are created off the field, citing "the smaller human moments" as some of her favorite times with her student-athletes. "We went out and played in Denver and we had a little bit of team time after that, right before we shut down," Field said.

The stop-and-go environment of last year in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic was frustrating, but to Field, that only made the return to Conway Field at Rafferty Stadium that much better, especially as it allowed her athletes the

opportunity to play again.

"You'll have a lot of wins and losses in your career, but you'll really remember the people that populated your world for your coaching career and your playing career," Field stated.

In the Fairfield community, the athletic program is only as strong as the fans they cheer the teams on. Young, Currier, and Field all urged fans to come and cheer on their respective teams in their respective seasons.

"The Stags are here to compete and the Stags are going to put on a good show mostly every day, and I think they'd be excited to watch that," Currier mentioned in regards to the fans of Fairfield's athletics.



Pictured Above is Women's Lacrosse Coach Laura Field. Field extended her contract until 2024.

With the contract extensions of these three head coaches, Fairfield University is able to rally around these high-caliber leaders who have all proved their talents in some of the highest stages of competitive play last season.

In the meantime, however, they will continue to coach their athletes until their seasons begin again shortly.



Women's lacrosse head coach Laura Field looks to repeat the success her team has shown in recent years, which has seen three MAAC championship wins in the 2018, 2019, and 2021 seasons.