# THE MIRROR

Independent student newspaper

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#### AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LEVEE

#### **Food Truck Village to Offer New Dining Experiences to Students**



The new Food Truck Village located in the Kelley Center Parking Lot boasts three food truck options weekdays. One of the permament food trucks, Zuppardi's, offers students different New-Haven style pizza options Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

BY KATHLEEN MORRIS Assistant News Editor

A recent report from Aramark Collegiate Hospitality announced that Fairfield University has witnessed a "143% explosion in voluntary meal plans" since 2021, a shocking increase that evidences a heightened commitment to innovative dining services.

This fall, Stags Hospitality welcomed a notable addition to its host of culinary options: a Food Truck Village located in the Kelley Center

The existence of metallic mobile eateries is not an unknown sight, as the first food trucks rolled onto campus during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Historically, students could access a singular food truck with vendors that rotated daily.

Today, the number of food trucks has tripled.

The fleet of rotating third-party food trucks will remain. But, students will also be able to enjoy offerings from Zuppardi's Apizza, Jack\*s Burritos and Hot Spot Bowls.

Director of Stags Hospitality, Jay DeGioia '80, underscored the key role that the fleet plays in building partnerships with the local ven-

"Fairfield University has always prided itself on creating relationships with restaurants in and around the region," DeGioia remarked. "Restaurant partners provide expertise in different cuisines that allow students to experience many new cultural dining

As previously mentioned, Zuppardi's Apizza is a new facet of Stags Hospitality. While Jack\*s Burritos and Hot Spot Bowls will each be open for two days a week, Zuppardi's Apizza will be open from Monday through Friday.

Restaurant partners provide expertise in different cuisines that allow students to experience many new cultural dining experiences."

#### -Jay DeGioia '80, **Director of Stags Hospitality**

Nuala Tzovolos, the manager of Zuppardi's, was "part of many discussions early on about partnering with Fairfield University" and is "excited to be here."

According to their website, the legacy of Zuppardi's Apizza originated in New Haven when founder and "master bread-baker" Dominic Zuppardi opened his first brickand-mortar store in 1932.

Today, the business encompasses three restaurants and a truck that specializes in personal pizzas, which Tzovolos believes "is preferred for this type of service."

"With a personal pie, the students are able to use their meal swipes and get their individual choices in pizza to eat with their friends," she explained.

Tzovolos also highlighted the opportunity for students to work in the truck, where "they will gain an understanding of business operations, marketing and sales."

The introduction of Zuppardi's was followed by an announcement pertaining to another beloved on-campus pizzeria.

On Aug. 31, the Stags Hospitality Instagram page, @stagshospitality, revealed that The Levee will be closed on Friday and Saturday.

"When I heard the Levee was going to be closed on Fridays and Saturdays, I didn't believe it at first," Angelo Corsini '25 admitted.

The Levee was established by members of the Fairfield University Student Association (FUSA) who "felt that there was something lacking for a location for students to go on the weekends," according to an article published by Andres Peschiera in 2013.

Nearly 30 years after it first opened, current students continue to corroborate the necessity of a late-night option for the weekends.

Corsini considers a visit to The Levee to be a critical element of his "weekend routine".

The Levee will now be open from Sunday to Thursday from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., a change reflective, according to Stags Hospitality, of the decreased usage of meal swipes during the latter half of the

"Meal swipes on Fridays and Saturdays across campus are much lower than any time during the week," DeGioia shared. "The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

#### **Campus Ministry Unveils Service Map to Amplify Student Engagement**

BY NATHANAEL WILHELM Contributing Writer

Campus Ministry recently announced that they have created a new map with the service opportunities the office offers to students. The intention of the map is to give Fairfield students a better understanding of the service opportunities available to them and how the university and the service office partner with Bridgeport organizations to give back to the community.

The map, which is color-coded, indicates the various types of service opportunities available to Fairfield students. Red identifies opportunities to work with kids, green for animal care, purple for vulnerable communities, like working with children with disabilities or senior citizens, orange is food security and yellow indicates quick one-time service projects like giving blood.

Katie Byrnes, the campus minister for community engagement, played a key role in the creation of this new and interactive service map. As she now moves onto her ninth year working at Fairfield, she expressed enthusiasm for the new feature.

"Our goal is for a year when we can say everyone at graduation has done some kind of service," said Byrnes.

The map is designed so that every student can find what is right for them and connect with a service site. In Bridgeport, service projects depend heavily on the type of neighborhood and what is need-

Byrnes also shared her insight on how service should be viewed in communities in need.

ed at a particular time.

"We never go into a community and pretend we have the answers to all of their problems. We go into a community to learn how we can help and give help where it's needed. My dream would be for every student to help out while they're here," explained Byrnes.

She also expressed how important it is for students to get involved in service while they're at Fairfield. While some students might be hesitant to take time out of their schedules for service, Campus Ministry encourages all students to get involved in community service. The Service Leadership Council, a group started last year, works to communicate service events and engages with student organizations about different ways to involve their clubs in the practice of giving back to the community.

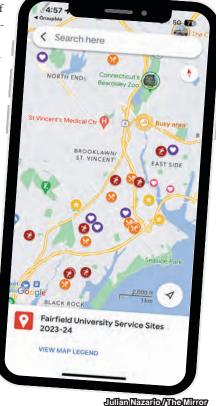
"Service allows students to use their hands and hearts when doing work instead of just their heads," said

Byrnes explained that service can be a release from the average school experience. She went on to state that service projects are great for first-year students trying to get more involved and meet new people. Service, according to her, is a way of being outside and breathing fresh air.

Highlighting the values of the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus, Byrnes explained that it is everyone's responsibility to help disadvantaged communities as Fairfield and Bridgeport have the biggest difference between wealth and poverty in the United States.

"As men and women for and with others, we believe in using the gifts that we have been given in order to bring justice to the world," stated Byrnes.

For students interested in using the new service map, Byrnes directs students to browse the Life@Fairfield website and register directly to do their preferred service activity or contact her directly by email @kbyrnes@fairfield. edu or in person at the Campus Ministry offices.



Campus Ministry's service map is a new way to encourage student outreach and engagement.

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Members of the Health and Wellness Committee, Anthony Vayda '24, Cara Curtin '26, Molly Cotjanle '24, Julia Kormylo '24 and Kevin Kamy '26 showcase their interactive bulletin board in the lower-level BCC. The Health and Wellness Committee is a new addition to FUSA and works to promote the well-being of students.

# **FUSA's New Committee to Advocate** for Well-Being of Fairfield Students

BY JULIAN NAZARIO Copy, News Editor

Fairfield University Student Association announced at the start of the semester that they were looking for students to join the first-ever Health and Wellness Committee (H&W). Weeks later, the committee's seven members are working at full speed to deliver on FUSA President Aliyah Seenauth's '24 campaign promises and establish their presence within the campus community.

H&W Committee Co-Chair Julia Kormylo '24 explained that the group's focus includes a comprehensive approach grounded on multiple aspects of mental and physical health.

"It's a new committee on FUSA made of two co-chairs and seven representatives. The seven representatives represent seven different areas of health and wellness that we want to focus on." She then describes the different areas that H&W focus on.

"For instance, mental health, spirituality and holistic well-being, fitness and nutrition, sexual assault awareness and prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, health and safety and overall student wellness," Kormylo explains.

"We are here to advocate for the student body's well-being and just being a link between the student body and administration, as well as the faculty's Health and Wellness Committee," said Kormylo. "We have a goal of starting initiatives and running events to better the well-being of the student body."

This past Monday, Sept. 25, some of the committee members prepared their first visible project: the FUSA Wellness Wall. Located next to the Stag Card office, the wall promotes positive messages and is a way of keeping the community engaged.

The junior student continued to explain that the committee wanted to use the wall as an introduction to the Health and Wellness Committee "so the student body could be aware of our presence."

Besides that, and with the fourth week of classes almost over, the messages on the Wellness Wall also serve as a "friendly encouragement" to students who are passing by the lower level of the Barone Campus Center.

Some of the messages that were installed read "let your smile change the world," "always look at what you have, not what you lost," "shine your light for the world to see it" and "never be afraid to be YOU."

The wall also has materials students, faculty and visitors can use to add their contributions to the wall.

Additional opportunities for students to be part of the Health and Wellness Committee include general student meetings that are expected to occur twice a semester in the LLBCC for students to participate in. The next meeting is expected to occur sometime in October.



BY **TOMMY COPPOLA**Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, Fairfield University's Office of Media Relations shared a news release entitled "Partnership between Fairfield University and Albertus Magnus College Extends Educational Access in Connecticut". The release outlines the two institutions' shared plan to create new and valuable educational opportunities for students enrolled in the Fairfield Bellarmine program.

With this new venture, Bellarmine students pursuing a two-year associate's degree will be able to secure scholarships at Albertus Magnus College, a Catholic university in New Haven, Conn. founded in Dominican tradition

Bellarmine's Executive Director, Rev. Kevin O'Brien, S.J., acknowledged the value of their newfound partnership.

"While we look forward to students enrolling in Fairfield's four-year degree programs, it is important to develop partnerships with other schools like Albertus Magnus whose mission and values align with Fairfield's," O'Brien stated in the press release.

Additionally, Albertus Magnus College's Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Rosa E. Rivera-Hainaj, Ph.D. reiterated the importance of their collective mission, which is to provide access to higher education to underrepresented students. As she shared in the press release, this "contribute[s] to the betterment of their families and their communities"

Andrea Kovacs, Albertus Magnus College's Vice President for Marketing and Community Relations, promoted her support for the new collaboration and shared a powerful message in a LinkedIn post: "If you want to change the world, you have to do things differently."



Bellarmine Campus, located in Bridgeport, Conn. enjoys its inagural year. Fairfield University recently parterned with Albertus Magnus College to provide scholarships to students attending the two-year instutition.

#### Bellarmine Officially Opens For New Cohort

On Sept. 19, 2023, the Fairfield Bellarmine program ushered in a new era for their campus community with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting event. This event featured the likes of Fairfield University President Mark R. Nemec, Ph.D., as well as other community leaders like the Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The press release features a video of the official ribbon cutting, in which students and leaders at Bellarmine spoke about the excitement they feel around the new opportunity.

Freshman Jaheim Mckie, a member of Bellarmine's inaugural student class,

mentioned in the video that comes from Kingston, Jamaica, "Education is the only thing to break down barriers". By enrolling in the Bellarmine program in its very first year, he considered it a "breaking-barriers moment".

"We've been able to cultivate a space where students really can learn and feel as if they belong," Bellarmine's Assistant Dean for Student Success Pejay Lucky stated in the vid-

Ana Aguirre, another student in Bellarmine's class of 2025, spoke at the ribbon-cutting event, stating that "this campus is dear to me because it represents progress, education and opportunity." The aim of the Bellarmine program is just that: "[...] opening access to education for all," according to the homepage of

their official website.

Additionally, in the video, leaders of the Bellarmine program spoke to the audience about the meaning and importance of this new initiative.

O'Brien alluded to the fact that the Jesuits sought to create a higher education institution right on the land of the new Bellarmine Campus back in the 1940s; he noted that Fairfield University is going back to its original roots with the location of the campus, which occupies the former St. Ambrose Parish.

Fairfield Bellarmine's campus finds its home at 460 Mill Hill Ave in Bridgeport, Conn. For more information on the academic programs offered through Bellarmine, visit their official website.



Compiled by Kathleen Morris Information contributed by the Department of Public Safety

6 a.m.

There was a power failure in the Leo D. Mahoney Arena. The outage, caused by an electrical short circuit, was repaired in a timely manner.

9/22/23

8:15 p.m

A fire alarm was set off in the basement of the Barone House.

1:45 a.m.

When asked to leave a common area in Campion Hall, a disruptive individual made obscene hand gestures, stuck their tongue out and spit at a Resident Assistant. It was determined that the assailant was an unregistered guest. The incident is being addressed by the Dean of Students.

9/26/23

12 a.m.

It was reported that a heat detector was set off in the kitchen of an off-campus residence on Jennings Road. It was determined that a resident had attempted to remove the cover of a smoke detector to replace its batteries, which was problematic as it was not a battery-operated detector.

#### Levee Renovations 'Still Being Considered'



The Levee, an on-campus restaurant known for its late-night dining options, is now closed on Fridays and Saturdays. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

schedules are based on traffic patterns and data we compile and check constantly."

Jennifer Anderson '97 MBA '02, the vice president of marketing and communications, reiterated that "it is common practice when evaluating, executing and planning to use data and data insights to ensure good customer experience and ef-

"These types of insights are important across all operational disciplines in business, including the fluctuation of food consumption patterns here at the University," Anderson emphasized.

fective decision making."

Gianna Greco '26 expressed concerns about the scheduling adjustments, as she feels that the change will create "a ghost town of food options."

DeGioia ensures that the Food Truck Village will fill gaps left by the Levee's closures and "provide flexibility for special events, off-campus events and [serve as] a viable back-up option for emergency

situations like power outages and beach

Moreover, he discussed the plans to utilize The Levee "as a location available for student programming on Fridays and

"We look forward to welcoming student groups to partner with our dining team for special events in the future," De-

On Nov. 30, 2022, The Mirror published an article outlining the intention to rebuild The Levee to be "five or six times the size it is now."

The article noted that construction would be "starting in summer of 2023," but the building remains untouched. An exact timeline has yet to be publicized, but DeGioia has assured that renovation has not been paused indefinitely.

"As the campus grows, the University is always looking to improve the student experience and evaluating locations and their use is a part of that," DeGioia observed. "The Levee expansion is still being

Despite fluctuations in scheduling, the numerical data provided by Aramark's 2023 report demonstrates overall satisfaction within the student body.

In addition to the drastic increase in voluntary meal plans, Aramark documented that "81% of students feel it's easy to order and pick up food on campus."

As Stags Hospitality seeks further improvement, DeGioia prompts students "to provide feedback, suggestions and continue to let us know how we are doing."

"In partnership with the University, we are always looking for ways to improve and enhance the student experience," De-

"We are proud of the Stag Hospitality team and strive to be the best in the in-

#### THE MIRROR

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#### **Highly Attended Flu Vaccine Clinic Causes Long Lines**

BY BROOKE LATHE **Executive Editor** 

KATHLEEN MORRIS Assistant News Editor

This past Tuesday, Sept. 26, the Fairfield University Student Health Center sponsored the first of their three annual flu vaccine clinics in the lower-level Barone Campus Center-and the attendance was overwhelming.

Throughout the fivehour window that the tables were open, a single line which wrapped around the ground floor persisted. The high attendance led to an increased wait time, with some students standing for close to an hour.

Junior Nohea Breeden was one of many students to be proactive and register for the first round but found the delayed process to be shocking. "It's so awesome that so many people want to get their flu shots, but a 45-minute wait is crazy!"

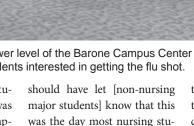
"It was a much longer line than I anticipated," shared Cole Filson '24. "I was surprised to see that, although I made an appointment, I had to wait around 50 minutes for my shot. For a Hartford Healthcare event, I was surprised that they did not set a finite amount of people per appointment time which resulted in the long wait."

All nursing students were required to receive a vaccination on the first day as part of their clinical courses. Some students believe this was the main reason contributing to the hefty registration list and long waits.

Sophomore nursing student Mia Gorczynski was scheduled for an 11:15 a.m. appointment Tuesday morning, but instead received her shot well passed the predetermined time at 12:45 p.m. "They only had three people giving shots for like 100 students which made it take so much longer," she described.

"Personally, I think all [nursing students] should have been put to the front of the line," she continued.

Nursing student Sophia DiStefano '26 reiterated Gorczynski's sentiments by adding, "It was annoying that even with an appointment we had to wait 50 minutes in line. I just think that the school



In terms of future appointments, some students expressed an absence of worry and even expect a swift experience when it's time for their

dents were coming so they were

prepared."

Junior Angelo Corsini shares that his appointments in years past have never been a problem. "I'm not concerned about the wait times. I've gotten my flu shots at school for the past two years and I was in and out in a matter of five minutes,"

Senior Chloe Falls who is signed up for the final clinic of the season shares, "If the wait time is that high then it loses its convenience factor, but hopefully, there will be fewer people in my session since it's the last

She continues by proposing that if the wait time is still an issue, then "they should set up more dates so students could squeeze in a flu shot between their busy schedules."

The second and third vaccine clinics will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12 and Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the LLBCC.

Students can sign up for their yearly shot by registering online through My Chart Plus or through the email sent from the Student Health Center.



The lower level of the Barone Campus Center hosted a vaccination clinic for students interested in getting the flu shot.

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# Opinion

Editor: Liz Morin Email: elizabeth.morin1@student.fairfield.edu

# Our Congress Should Not Be A Glorified Nursing Home

BY COOPER AITKEN

Contributing Writer

You know it's bad when Mitt Romney is the voice of reason in American politics.

At the age of 76, the longtime U.S. Senator has decided not to run for reelection in 2024 due to his age, putting him in sharp contrast with his peers from both sides of the aisle.

Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has decided she will run for reelection in 2024, despite the fact that she will be 86 at the end of that term.

However, she is not the most concerning representative in Congress. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), the Republican Minority Leader, has now suffered from two instances where he froze up and did not speak during interviews.

Who knows how many he has had in private, yet he is somehow still deemed healthy and competent enough to run this nation. This issue is prevalent in both parties, as Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) was seen being instructed on how to vote by one of her assistants. That's right, someone had to tell a senator how to vote because she is too senile to vote for herself. That is not what a democracy should look like.

I don't mean to discredit the work these politicians have done over their careers. Pelosi, McConnell and Feinstein have shown incredible devotion to public service and representing their constituents.

However, the average time spent in the House is 8.9 years or 4.5 House terms, and the average term in the Senate is 11 years or 1.8 terms, and many politicians have vastly outserved these averages. It's clear that it's time for them, and those in similar positions, to allow new politicians to serve their country in an effective manner.

In the continuing divisiveness of American politics, the only thing that most Americans can seem to agree on is that we need term limits for our congressmen. In fact, a study found that five out of six Americans agree that there should be a constitutional



Senator Mitch McConnell has frozen up twice in interviews, causing people to question his ability to perform his duties. amendment dictating term limits for congressional representatives. This issue isn't divided on party lines either, the same study showed that 86% of Republicans, 80% of Democrats and 84% of independents supported the hypothetical amendment.

The average age of Americans is 38.9 years old, and yet the average age of those representing us in the House is 57.9, while in the Senate, it's 63.6. Usually, people advocate for older politicians because they have more experience and wisdom, but this is an outdated idea in a continuously evolving world.

In the 1976-1977 school year, ten years after McConnell went to college and 20 years after Pelosi, the average cost of tuition was \$2,607, adjusted for inflation.

In the 2020-2021 school year, it was \$10,560—almost a 500% increase. When you put this into the context that 17.4% of Americans hold student loan debt, in part due to the exorbitant price raise in tuition, you can see a clear disconnect between their generation and ours

These older politicians have no idea how expensive college tuition is and how difficult it is for many to pay these often

predatory loans off

Additionally, college degrees were far more valuable in the job market during the 20th century, when most of these older politicians were actively searching for jobs.

Without the ability to relate to the difficulties surrounding the acquisition of a college degree, there will never be substantial efforts to tangibly help Americans who are struggling to pay off their debts

A younger generation of politicians would be far more likely to understand and sympathize with the issues we college students will face in the near future.

It's also clear that these politicians don't have the experience or knowledge to properly handle situations and regulations regarding our nation's technology sector.

One of the most glaring examples of this was during the congressional hearing on TikTok, where 51-year-old U.S Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) asked if TikTok had access to the home's Wi-Fi network

If these politicians don't even understand how the devices and applications we Americans use daily work, how can we expect them to protect us from more complex issues like data mining and privacy concerns, which are important to us as technology consumers? Since we can't expect the older generations to protect us, it's time for a new generation of politicians who understand the technology we use and have new ideas on how to protect us.

Every American politician should use Romney as an example and reexamine whether or not their continued political leadership is helping their country or hurting it.

He is one of the few in Congress who understands that he has had his time serving his country and that he is no longer equipped to adequately support his constituents as is needed currently.

It's time for us as a new politically active generation to demand not just better from our politicians but new ones who understand what struggles we Americans face every day and can actually help us.

# Politicians Are Choosing Money Over Our Livelihood

BY LIZ MORIN

Opinion Editor

I am so tired. Students are tired. Faculty are tired. Parents are tired.

On August 28, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill went into lockdown because of an active shooter on campus. Tailei Qi, who was a graduate student at the University, shot and killed Professor Zijie Yan of the Applied Physical Sciences department.

On Sept. 13, less than a month later, UNC was back in lockdown after an armed individual flashed a weapon at a local Bagel Shop—two lockdowns in less than a month.

We have come so full circle in the firearms crisis that professors on the UNC campus were students at the school in 1995 when a gunman killed two students and wounded two others on campus.

Ryan Thornburg was a writer for the school newspaper in 1995, covering the shooting, and 28 years later, he was experiencing the same horror, this time having to hide his students in his classroom as a journalism professor at the school.

The United States has been in a gun violence crisis for long enough that there are people who have experienced multiple mass shootings in their lives. But yet, Congress still remains silent about gun laws because it's in the Constitution.

We have politicians like Marjorie Taylor Green who believe that "the only way to protect children from guns is to protect them "with guns," and take no issue with tweeting after a shooting that "We don't need more gun control, we need to return to God."

We have politicians like Ted Cruz who sent their thoughts and prayers after a shooting but rushed to attend National Rifle

Conventions to praise weapons only three days after the Uvalde shooting that killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers in his own state.

It truly baffles me to try and understand the thought process of politicians. They're trying to ban drag shows and classic literature for being "unsafe" for kids, but meanwhile, the thing that kills around 20,000 people yearly (excluding suicides) is a constitutional right to keep.

School deserves to be the place where students, from elementary schoolers to college students, feel safe and supported. I don't care that on my tour of colleges three summers ago, the tour guides briefly mentioned that they never personally felt unsafe on campus and that they have a blue light system or campus police.

Deep down, there is always a part of me that will never feel completely safe at school, or any public place for that matter, because you never know when a shooting can occur and, in the moment, how to react. It's one of the situations where your body goes into fight or flight mode and you think you know what to do when adults teach you the procedure, but when it happens, what do you do? Where do you go? Who do you call?

Mara McJilton published an article for Wect in response to the UNC shooting titled, "I've always felt safe, but am I safe?" This emphasizes my point that we never know when the worst can happen. That's why we can't just send our thoughts and prayers and say, "Next time, we'll be more careful."

The issue lies with our government and the disregard for the well-being of people. In 2022, People published a list of all of the Republican senators who receive mass amounts of funding from the National Rifle Association.

To name just a few, Mitt Romney of Utah receives over

\$13,000,000, Richard Burr of North Carolina receives almost \$7,000,000 and Thom Tillis of North Carolina receives around \$5,000,000. This list proves that the reason, or part of the reason, that gun control laws are not being pushed forward is because these Republicans are too afraid to lose their funding. And unfortunately, our House of Representatives has a Republican majority.

We need to open our eyes to current politicians who choose money over our livelihood—the people we elected into office to protect us. This is just further proof that voting is necessary today. Political parties are too far broken to say that your vote doesn't matter next to the millions of others. Our political system is lying on the majority right now, so every vote of the millions counts.



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill experienced two shootings within weeks of each other, and there still has yet to be any change in gun control laws.

# Virtual Summer Courses Provide a **Number of Benefits For Students**

By Fiona Killeen Contributing Writer

Before last year's winter break, I remember seeing an abundance of signage imprinted with the slogan "sled ahead" posted around

Almost every table in The Tully had the slogan written on a napkin box. This tagline incorporated information about the number of online courses offered over the winter break and a link to learn more about the school's of-

The catchy slogan encapsulates an important feature of taking classes during the intercession; you can graduate early or move ahead faster with your major.

Although, the benefits of taking summer or winter courses extend far beyond just graduating early.

Since Fairfield University has a core curriculum, taking a summer or winter course allows students to complete their Magis Core requirements faster to delve into their majorrelated classes sooner.

During the summer, I took a science class to free up my schedule to take more of the classes required for my major during the

This was a productive decision because it gave me more freedom when creating my course schedule for this semester.

On the flip side of graduating early, for students who may be taking very intense or demanding courses, taking a class during the intercession could allow them to lighten their load during the academic year while still staying on track with their degree.

This could be especially helpful for people involved in majors requiring a lot of labs or

From my experience, one of the potential initial obstacles to adjusting to college is learning the best time management methods.

Some students may struggle to balance clubs and sports with a full course load.

Taking a course during one of the breaks can help ease this adjustment by taking some of the burden off of the student while they figure out how to navigate their schedule.

Summer and winter courses also allow students to raise their Grade Point Average.

When you only have one or two classes to focus on, it is easier to dedicate more time and energy to the work and achieve a higher grade.

If your grades slip during the school year, intersession courses might present a convenient opportunity to balance out your GPA.

With fewer classes competing for your attention, you also may be more motivated to complete extra credit assignments.

Since the core requires students to take classes that may be outside of their comfort zone, online classes are beneficial since there are usually fewer students in the class and assignments are usually more self-paced.

The online courses I have participated in still follow mandatory deadlines, but I could choose the times I was completing coursework rather than having a predetermined meeting

It can also be very helpful to only focus on one course at a time when dealing with unfamiliar areas of study.

You may also be more apt to regularly attend office hours when you only have one class.

Additionally, when you take an online course during the intercession, you aren't confined to the limits of a classroom.

Instead, you can study in the comfort of your own home while still enjoying the restful nature of a college break.

During the winter break, I took Psychopathology and Clinical Science (PSYC 2310).

One of the online components of this course that made it memorable was that we utilized an interactive textbook.

Instead of only completing written assignments, we supplemented this learning with simulations mimicking case studies and therapy sessions.

That was a very engaging form of learning since we applied the methods and information

One drawback of online learning is the inability to exercise the material in real-world scenarios, but this course proved it is possible.

I think that perhaps the COVID-19 pandemic may have scared some students away from opting to take online courses.

Once the pandemic started to subside when I was in high school, I remember my friends and I were very eager to return to inperson school.

After learning virtually for so long, everyone enthusiastically awaited benefiting from the collaborative environment that inperson learning brings.

After taking two of Fairfield's online intersession courses, I can confidently say that I still experienced valuable and engaging teaching while studying remotely.

I also still participated in collaborative learning through virtual discussion posts and group projects.

Taking classes during the winter or summer session means having to be academically minded during a time that is usually characterized by relaxation or reprieve from the usual stressors of school. However, the next time you are met with the opportunity to consider an intersession course, consider the long-term advantages of putting in a little extra work during the summer or winter break.



schooling. However, Fairfield's online summer and winter courses provide numerous benefits

#### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

#### The Importance of **Literary Citizenship**

By BROOKE LATHE **Executive Editor** 

I've known from a very young age that I loved to

This isn't to say that I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in the field just yet, but I was aware of how much I enjoyed creating my own stories outside of the classroom on a daily basis.

I would like to think my passion for storytelling came from my early affection for reading.

As a child, I would go through a book series in a week as I became fully immersed in the world built by

Over time, this infatuation gave me the knowledge I needed to create my own written work

to the point where I was continuing to dive into my novel collection—until one year ago.

The course entitled "World of Publishing" (ENGL 3140) taught by Professor Sonya Huber changed my life as a writer.

I registered for the class fall semester of my junior year as my interest in the publishing industry is very apparent.

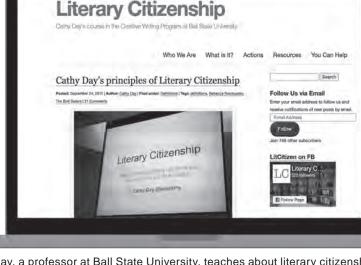
However, I never expected to learn about the term "literary citizenship" during that time.

In the middle of the semester, we were assigned a reading by Professor Cathy Day who teaches Creative Writing at Ball State Uni-

In a nutshell, the piece just focused on the content "Cathy Day's Principles of I was producing instead of Literary Citizenship" explains that as an aspiring writer, it is important to submerge yourself in the literary community as a whole since there are other jobs than just writing like editing, publishing, teach-

> Day provides six examples that turn into principles: write notes to writers, interview writers, talk (informally) or review (formally) books you like, if you want to be published in journals then read and support them, if you want to publish books then buy books and be passionate about the community because it is infectious.

Participating in the literary community



Cathy Day, a professor at Ball State University, teaches about literary citizenship. Literary citizenship believes that aspiring writers should fully immerse themselves in the literary

different for me now. I no longer read books only because I want a good story.

I read because as a writer I want to actively support another creative.

(Note: this does not help my book-buying addiction, but it does help the economy and I stand by

Since the new year, I have read 61 books and have left them all a review on GoodReads, rejoined a book club, written fan letters to authors, attended panels and discussions on the industry and constantly shared my love for the industry aloud.

Because Day is right! How can I claim to be a writer when I'm not supporting my peers, publishing companies and fellow readers?

I almost feel ashamed that I didn't realize my participation as a literary citizen was lacking before I was assigned Day's reading

However, I couldn't be happier knowing that I'm aware and active now as I feel like I truly belong in the community.

If you are a writer or aspiring writer, I would take Day's argument into serious consideration.

Go beyond just putting pen to paper and dive headfirst into the literary scene! We're all waiting for you to take the plunge.



# Roommates By Chance. Friends By Choice

By **CAITLIN SHEA**Contributing Writer

Starting college can be a daunting task. With many of us being pushed out of our comfort zones, we find ourselves not only balancing academics but also the unique experience of living away from home. For many, this adjustment also comes along with one looming factor, living with a total stranger. The idea of being crammed into a small dorm room, and forced to live in a shared space with someone you've never met, can easily be a factor of anxiety. Yet, Fairfield takes pride in its ability to find each and every student a strong match with years of success stories to back their claims.

For seniors Emma Falkowski and Grace McGrath, a more perfect match could not have been made. Starting off their first year during the height of COVID-19, the two roommates found themselves in an unusual situation. Having to move in on separate days, to get to know each other better, the girls decided a "roomie date" was in store. Hopping on the Stag Bus, the two endured, "the most awkward thing of either of our lives," sitting through a dinner full of uncomfortable small talk. Looking back, this moment has become one of their favorite memories as "now people can not shut us up when we are in a room together."

Over their years at Fairfield, Emma the dorm until they went

and Grace have seen each other through "the thick and thin;" break ups, sad times, promotions, job interviews and even soon-to-be graduation. Having blossomed their friendship into something unbreakable, the two even joke how they know that "both will be at each other's weddings in the future," as they can't wait to start the next chapters of their lives!

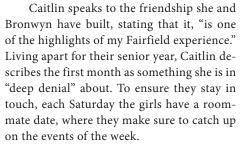
Senior roommates Audrey Didier and Eliza Hogan found themselves randomly paired in their first year. With COVID restrictions, the two spent a lot of their time together after meeting for the first time on move-in day. Now as seniors, the two still consider themselves each other's "best friends," and struggle to pick one of their many cherished memo-

ries together. Though, one of the best times they spent together, was their trip to Ireland during spring break of last year!

Similarly, seniors Caitlin Murphy and Bronwyn Kelly moved to Fairfield during the height of CO-VID, meeting for the first time on move-in day. The two started off by living separate lives, waking up in the morning, leaving for class and not returning to the dorm until they went to sleep. Quickly though, Caitlin and Bronwyn found themselves in the same group of friends. With that, they say "the rest was history."

The two began to spend more and more time together, growing closer and closer. One of their favorite memories was on a night when they decided to stay in. Exhausted from schoolwork, the roommates found themselves setting up their dorm with Christmas lights and throwing blankets and pillows on the floor for extra coziness. Ice cream in hand, the two watched "Thelma and

Louise," a moment they wished they could go back to.



Seniors Theresa Kelly and Carolyn Mc-Dermott technically met over FaceTime a few weeks before the start of their first year. For them, this was a great way to ward off some of the awkwardness that comes with moving in with a total stranger. Even though they both have very different personalities, the two were able to "become great friends very quickly." Living together both their first and second year, the two find it difficult to find just one memory to share as their favorite, but what stands out the most to them is the late nights spent talking and joking around in their dorm while procrastinating homework. Those moments are what they credit their long-lasting friendship to!

While moving to college can be a stressful, isolating task, Fairfield works to find each and every student their "perfect match" for a roommate.

For these seniors, it is clear that they were provided with built-in best friends to share their ups and downs of college with!



By **ABIGAIL WHITE** Head Vine Editor

On Thursday, Sep. 21, the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts welcomed acclaimed essayist, Emily Bernard. Entitled "The Art of the Personal Essay," this lecture, in conversation with the MFA Program's Phil Klay, walked audience members through some of Bernard's works and experiences as an essayist.

Winner of the 2020 "Los Angeles Times" Christopher Isherwood Prize of autobiographical prose, Bernard has written countless works that explore complex topics such as the repercussions of a stabbing she experienced as a young woman, America's Racial injustices and how they have affected her life, marriage, teachings, etc. and the complex nature of being an adoptive parent. She is the author of "Black is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine" and her work has been reprinted in "Best American Essays," "Best African American Essays" and "Best of Creative Nonfiction."

The event began with Bernard reading an excerpt from her new essay, "What is Touching," which will be published in "Image" next month. When asked how she gains inspiration and ideas for stories such as "What is Touching," she replies, "certain stories just pursue you. If you are asking yourself what you should write about, just listen to the voices in the room."

In just this short passage, it is clear that

Bernard's writing is something special. Rather than stick to a chronological form of narrative, her work feels more like a series of images that associate with one another, demonstrating that all her thoughts, all her images, and all her experiences are bound to each other.

"As humans, we can't help but try to control and create meaning in nature," Bernard says. But we do not always understand the world around us or what is happening to us. According to Bernard, where there is uncertainty in nature there is also trust. She claims that a lot of the time, in her writing, she pursues ideas deeply that she does not necessarily understand herself. But she recognizes that this is okay, and demonstrates trust in the writing process as well as the reader to help her through these complicated thoughts. "We

As such an accomplished essayist, it is natural to wonder what exactly drew Bernard to the essay as opposed to other forms of writing. When Klay asks her what attracts her to the essay and how she is able to be so deeply personal in each piece she writes, she replies, "I love the sentence."

Contrary to a novel, an essay gives one the opportunity to focus on the sentence; to dissect each sentence carefully and fully, extracting meaning from each word, each sentence structure, each punctuation mark, etc. While a novelist can write long, flowery sentences, an essayist is forced to "practice modesty" as Bernard puts it. The essayist needs to work within a certain word count and must cut out

any excess words that do not contribute to the meaning. Bernard further explains that there is a responsibility to teach in an essay and that to write an essay, one must have something to say.

The attention to detail in each sentence is especially present in Bernard's essay, "Scar Tissue," a recount of a stabbing she survived when she was a graduate student. She recounts, in great detail, the quiet and the stillness of the

cafe she was in right before it happened. Then there is a shift in syntax as the stabbing commences—her sentences turn short and impactful.

When Klay asks Bernard toward the end of the conversation whether or not there are limits to memory in writing a personal essay, Bernard replies that she only really remembers the details before the stabbing. It was almost as if her story was not her story anymore, her memory challenged by police reports and media coverage of the event. With this idea of distorted memory in mind, Klay asks Bernard if there can ever be such a thing as a personal story.

To this Bernard replies,

"Good stories are meaningful only insofar as people can understand them." She explains that she loves it when people tell her a story that intersects with their own lives and experiences.

Writing is meant to be shared. It is meant to evoke emotions and create meaningful connections between authors and readers. And this is exactly what Bernard's work in the genre of personal essay does so beautifully.



Emily Bernard joins Phil Klay to talk about her work as an essayist.

# The Ultimate Guide To All Things Yall

By Fiona Wagner Contributing Writer

While we all love our summers of freedom and relaxation, there is something so special about autumn in New England.

The air gets crisp, the leaves begin to change and the pumpkin spice lattes reappear.

The fall season comes and goes before we know it, so here's a list of things to enjoy and partake in, both on and off campus.

#### On Campus:

#### DIY Pumpkin Painting with RA Nicole

Do you want to paint some pumpkins and spend time with friends? Join RA Nicole on Wednesday, Oct. 11 in the first-floor lounge of Campion from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.! This is a great activity to get you through that mid-week slump.

#### Movie and Caramel Apple Night

Another Campion fall activity! On Sunday, Oct. 15, RA Haya will be hosting a movie and caramel apple night in Campion's first-floor lounge at 7 p.m.

"Haunted Mansion" will be playing and there will be apple cider, caramel apples and other fun Halloween treats! This is a great way to get into the spooky spirit just in time for Oct. 31!

Trick or Treat Candy Jars with RA Ni-

Yet another Campion activity-they

are killing it this Halloween season! On goes up to \$40 for VIP. Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. RA Nicole is hosting a Trick or Treat Candy Jar night.

Join her in Campion's first-floor lounge to make your own candy jars and spend time with friends!

#### Off Campus:

If you're not feeling those on-campus activities, or just want more options, there are plenty of things to do around town! Here are just a few ideas for you to enjoy.

#### Fairfield Farmers Market

The Fairfield Farmers Market has been open every Sunday since July and it closes on Oct. 8. Go check it out this Sunday (or next) before it closes until next year!

There are over 20 vendors every Sunday, so there are plenty of things for everyone.

It's right in the center of town, so you can easily take the campus shuttle bus and make your way over!

#### Trail of Terror

If you are willing to travel a little farther for some fun, I highly recommend checking out Trail of Terror in Wallingford, Conn.

This is a full 50-to-60-minute walking experience full of fright, scares and fun. It's a terrifying walkthrough filled with actors scaring you with props and incredible de-

Ticketing starts at \$25 and

Harvest Fair at Hope River Farm

If scares and frights are not your thing but you still want to experience the fall season, the Harvest Fair at Hope River Farm is perfect for you. It's held Oct. 14, 15, 21 and 22 right here in Fairfield!

There are hayrides, pony rides, a beer garden, a corn maze, games, vendors, etc. It's \$15 to get in and perfect for a nice, crisp

out with

autumn day. Also, the Harvest Fair is going on

during Alumni and Family Weekend,

so you can check it

your family if you

have time!

You can get tickets online and head over to New Haven through Fairfield's train station (our campus shuttle takes you directly to the station!)

have a football team here at Fairfield, but

Yale sure does!

Yale Football Game

without football? Sadly, we don't

What is the fall season

Everyone wants to go to the famous Havard vs. Yale game, and you can, but there are plenty more to choose from.

> I hope this list gives you a couple of ideas on how to time this autumn season. There are so many awesome things to do in Fairfield and surrounding areas, so hopefully you have the chance explore some of them!



By Christina Silvestri Contributing Writer

In September of my first year of college, I was excited about many aspects of my new life in Connecticut.

I was looking forward to experiencing the New England fall foliage, living the dark academia aesthetic and meeting my forever people.

Yes, I know this sounds delusional.

However, this is not where these highly unrealistic expectations of college life end.

The thing I was most excited about was the activities fair.

Anyone who has seen the 2012 cultclassic film "Pitch Perfect" will know, this was my deciding moment.

This fair was where I would find my place, my group and would set the tone for my next four years at Fairfield.

Of course, this was all extremely fanciful thinking; choosing which clubs to join is not what makes or breaks your college experience.

It is, however, a great place to

As someone who has joined their fair share of clubs, I will recommend my favorites.

A club that I am new to this semester is the Stags Sports Writ-

Here, student writers are invited to write articles about the happenings in profesSSWC has a female president, Olivia Scott '25. She says, "My goal for the club this year is to create a space where people can talk about their favorite sports while exercising their writing skills."

The club does not have weekhost fun sports-related events like Sunday Night Football watch parties and jersey designing.

You can stay up to date with the SSWC on Instagram at @stagsportswritersclub and stay tuned for the new website, SSWCFair-

Another great club to get involved with is Relay For Life, a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

I have been a part of Relay since my freshman year, and at my high school before that.

Students spend the year (pri-

marily the second semester) planning the event where the entire Fairfield community is invited to walk in remembrance of those who have battled cancer.

Last year, the club raised \$26,000 which were donated dimeetings but they do plan to rectly to the American Cancer Society to fund cancer research.

> The club is split into committees dedicated to carrying out tasks like marketing, finance, entertainment and outreach.

> This year I am very excited to be a part of the Executive Board with fellow juniors Kyle Gallagher, Emilie Drolet, Allie Defrancisco and Kelly Mcrae.

> > You can follow our journey all the way through to our

event in the spring by following the Fairfield University chapter of Relay for Life on Instagram @rflfairfieldu.

As a junior, I am still looking for new clubs to join because I not only love meeting new people, but also love procrastinating doing my

Even if you are not sure if a certain club is right for you. I always recommend going to one meeting just to feel it out.

The best part of being in clubs in college is that they are super low stress and usually low commitment.

The students in charge are literally in your shoes!

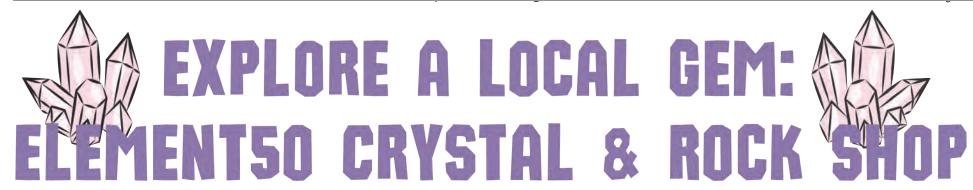
They definitely understand the crazy schedules that come with college and will not fault you

if you miss a meeting or

I hope you find your perfect club, or see you at one of







BY **ABBY GRENIER**Contributing Writer

In June 2020, Sue Longo opened the doors of Element50 Crystal & Rock Shop, a captivating haven nestled next to Archie Moore's on Sanford Street in Downtown Fairfield, Conn. Since then, this hidden gem has been enchanting visitors and igniting curiosity among crystal enthusiasts and spiritual seekers alike.

Step into the world of Element50, and you'll find yourself surrounded by a mesmerizing array of crystals, rocks and scents, each holding the promise of unlocking ancient wisdom and healing energies.

Longo's passion for crystals is palpable in the carefully curated selection that awaits you. The owner of the rock shop has always had a natural affinity for spiritual healing and crystals. However, it was during the COVID-19 pandemic that she discovered her true calling to research, design and open her own business dedicated to spiritual healing and crystals.

Longo said, "My daughter was in second grade at the time and got into a rock collection she received for Christmas. She talked to me about the different stones in her kit. One day she asked me if I knew that Green Aventurine can help with headaches."

"I was intrigued and she handed me the book with properties, both metaphysical and physical," she continued. "My daughter and I started exploring together and I found the stones' metaphysical properties fascinating. With the lockdown limiting activities, I delved into reading more about crystals online and buying them from websites due to store closures. Once the stores reopened, I visited a local crystal shop."

Longo went on to explain how the abundance of crystals and lack of organization or information on the stones overwhelmed her, but she did not find it to be as calming of a shopping experience as she would want it to be and thought "I could do this too, but better."

"Originally I wanted to just do an online store but something was telling me to open up a physical store and by divine intervention, I was driving down Sanford Street one day, and I saw our location was for rent, and I toured the space and loved it. That's how Element50 was born!

Beyond its fascinating inventory, Element50 goes the extra mile to enrich your journey of exploration. Offering a diverse range of classes, workshops and enlightening info sessions, this specialty store is a hub of knowledge and community. Whether you're a seasoned crystal aficionado or a novice eager to learn, the store's knowledgeable staff will warmly guide you on your path of discovery.

"When I opened the store, I didn't anticipate the strong sense of community within what I call the 'energy business.' There's a world of practitioners working with energy that I wasn't aware of. Meeting

them revealed a genuine sense of community." She continues, "I aimed to provide a space for like-minded people to connect and experience 'elevating their frequency.' Hosting events not only attracted shoppers but also generated energy that lingered in the store in the following days."

In essence, Element50 not only has a plethora of inventory but also curates a sort of educational and communal haven for healers and crystal enthusiasts alike.

As you wander through the shop, you'll be captivated by the beautiful displays that seem to tell a story of their own. Each crystal and rock exudes a unique aura, drawing you into a realm of spiritual wonder and rejuvenation.

You'll be delighted to know that Element50's magic extends beyond its physical store, providing a vibrant online presence that allows you to explore and purchase a wide selection of spiritual treasures from the comfort of your home. Explore and purchase a wide selection of crystals, rocks, gemstones, incense, candles and jewelry from the comfort of your home. For those far away, Element50 offers virtual shopping sessions, ensuring everyone can experience the magic of the shop no matter where they are. Let their knowledgeable crew guide you on your spiritual exploration and healing journey, one crystal at a time.

What are some suitable stones for novice crystal collectors, you might ask. Longo mentioned that her personal favorite is lab-

radorite, "Labradorite is my number one favorite crystal. I love all of them, truly, but I do officially have a favorite amongst my crystal friends. As someone who's come to embrace her intuitive nature, I am drawn to third eye chakra stones and none are as magical as a lab (my little nickname for it). It is the synchronicity stone, in my opinion, and synchronicities are sort of my superpower. So bring on the lab, all day every day!" The store owner also took the time to humor me and recommend some crystals for beginners, which include Amethyst, Rose Quartz, Black Tourmaline, Clear Quartz, Citrine and Selenite, all available in Element50's "Crystals for the Home" sets. Each of these crystals possesses distinct metaphysical attributes designed to assist with stress, manifestation, protection, love and purification.

If you're on a quest for self-discovery, healing or a deeper understanding of the metaphysical realm, a visit to Element50 is an absolute must. Embrace the opportunity to embark on a soul-nourishing experience and unlock the wonders that lie within these walls.

For a delightful dose of information or simply to embark on an enchanting journey, venture to 14 Sandford Street in Fairfield, Conn., and seek out the whimsical aqua awning adorned with a peachy-hued door or check them out on their website. The anticipation in Element50's heart to greet you is simply palpable!



# A SUMMER SPENT ABROAD IN ATHENS, GREECE!

By **Luiza Sperling**Contributing Writer

If you have ever wanted to study abroad, do it. I promise you will regret it if you don't. I went to Athens, Greece, with College Year in Athens (CYA) to take a travel writing course (LIT 348) this summer. This greatly excited me as an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing, and I saw this as an opportunity to learn and grow immensely as a writer. And that is precisely what I did throughout my four-week course.

Our course was focused on writing from a traveler's perspective, not in a touristic way. There is a big difference between the tourist and the traveler. The difference lies in the purpose of the trip, entertainment versus education. A tourist is scratching the surface level of a place, looking for activities and the best sites to see. A traveler wants to see through looking glass and be immersed in the culture of the locals that surrounds them. Travelers come to a foreign territory willing to be altered by a new and unknown place. Writing facilitates changes that limit who we are and how we see the world.

I took this new knowledge with me and began my writing journey as a travel writer. My mission was to write from the lens of a traveler. Throughout my writing journey, I found a sense of safety and independence within my creativity. I learned to write stories through my authentic connections with the people around me.

One of our assignments was to write a destination article about a place we have visited in Greece and how we felt being there. I wrote about Poros, Greece, especially one of the beaches on the island called Kalani Beach. This was the place where I found comfort, serenity and, later on, inspiration. Captain Beach Bar on Kanali Beach was my escape from reality, where I could dive into a book and journal and be in my world. I would pack my beach bag with my journal and my current read almost every day and head over to the beach. Letting the smell of the sea envelop me, I became immersed in the local town of Poros. Here is a short passage from my destination article that perfectly describes the feelings I have depicted:

"The familiar melody of a homey environment resonates within me as I recline, listening to the soothing symphony of crashing waves. The sea breeze caresses my face, carrying a hint of salt and refreshing coolness on this hot summer day. I find comfort in knowing that this is a place where I can unequivocally be myself. An atmosphere that provides warmth, enveloping me in a big, comforting hug. Judgements and high expectations are absent, allowing me to immerse myself in the peace and independence

I seek, embracing the joy of spending a moment alone."

Kanali Beach essentially became my home away from home. I went so much that it became familiar, and I learned to feel 100% comfortable there. The hostess, Jenni, and I formed an incredible connection. I would walk onto Kanali Beach, and Jenni would see me and wave me over, her radiant

smile lighting up her tanned face. She welcomes me back as if she has been awaiting my return, and her excitement is recognizable.

Captains Beach Bar and Restaurant on Kanali Beach represented more than just a destination for me. It has become a cherished haven that symbolizes comfort, peace and relaxation. This beach holds a special place in my heart, as I am thankful for finding solace and tranquility in the comfort of their chairs.

As I look back and reflect on my time in Greece, I am so thankful to have had this opportunity. My study abroad experience was remarkable. Greece is one of the most fascinating countries I have ever visited; it is captivating. My travel writing course was indeed an incredible learning experience. I gained independence, peace and serenity during my time in Poros, Greece. Learning to live by spending time alone is beautiful. I left Greece with an open mind, an improved set of writing skills and an immense love for Greek culture. Once again, if you want to study abroad, whether it be for a semester or in the summer, don't hesitate to apply and do it!



College year in Athens (CYA) allows students to study abroad in Athens, Greece.

# Fall Fashion Favorites

By Lucy Crowley Contributing Writer

Fall fashion is by far my favorite. The outfits are comfortable and cute, featuring muted colors and lots of soft textured styles. However, the weather this time of year makes it hard to dress for the day. For morning classes, it's cold, so bundling up in sweatshirts and sweatpants makes sense, but by the time the afternoon rolls around, it is way too hot to be wearing all those layers.

Dressing for this season is especially difficult because fall fashion makes me want to dress like an autumn-themed Pinterest board from head to toe. Jeans, cozy sweaters and uggs are very popular clothing items, but the weather just makes it too hard to wear them all day long. Here are some stylish and practical outfits that can easily be worn from morning to night during this transitional weather period.

The first outfit that I would suggest is a simple one: leggings, a light sweatshirt and a pair of sneakers. This pairing makes it easy so that when you are heading out for your 8 a.m. class, you can be comfortable and warm, but it is easy to cool off by simply removing your sweatshirt when the blazing afternoon sun beats down.

Be sure to wear a short-sleeved shirt

underneath your sweatshirt so that you are not fully covered up with your leggings on. The sneakers also allow your feet to not get too hot when walking from class to class.

The next outfit suggestion I have is one for those who are willing to brave the morning chill. It features a sweatshirt, shorts and

This combination may be better suited for days when the weather is a little warmer in the mornings and definitely hotter in the afternoons. When wearing shorts and a sweatshirt, you won't find yourself needing to remove or change any pieces of your outfit as the weather warms up throughout

As previously mentioned, the sneakers prevent your feet from overheating during the long walks around campus.

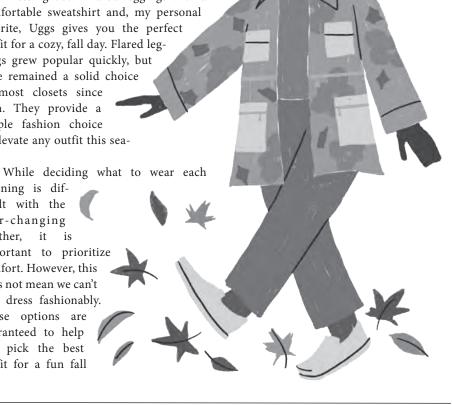
While the weather may be difficult to dress for now, in a few weeks, it will be the perfect time to dress in my favorite fall fashion trends. Uggs are my number-one pick for this year.

They are a staple shoe in any fall wardrobe. Their popularity has remained constant throughout the years. Uggs are a comfortable, warm and stylish piece that can be paired with almost any fall outfit from a matching sweat-set to jeans and a fun

Another fall fashion favorite of mine is flared leggings or yoga pants. These bottoms can easily be dressed up or down. By pairing these leggings with a cute sweater and sneakers, you have an easy and fashionforward outfit for the day.

Dressing down flared leggings with a comfortable sweatshirt and, my personal favorite, Uggs gives you the perfect outfit for a cozy, fall day. Flared leggings grew popular quickly, but have remained a solid choice in most closets since then. They provide a simple fashion choice to elevate any outfit this sea-

morning is difficult with the ever-changing weather, it is important to prioritize comfort. However, this does not mean we can't also dress fashionably. These options are guaranteed to help you pick the best outfit for a fun fall day!



# THE ERAS TOUR: WAS IT WORTH THE HYPE?

By Jacqui Rigazio Assistant Vine Editor

Unless you have been living under a rock, you know that Taylor Swift's Eras Tour absolutely took over Summer 2023. It was the concert everyone was talking about, and if you didn't personally go, chances are that you know at least one Swiftie who did. While I was not in attendance at an Eras Tour show myself, my three roommates all kicked off their summers seeing Taylor Swift at Gillette Stadium. I sat down with them to chat about the concert and ask the question that we've all been thinking ... was the Eras Tour really worth the hype?

Juniors Kate Enriquez, Jenna LaRochelle and Erin Resnick were more than happy to share their experiences with me. Enriquez's face lit up as she talked about the show, "it was just beautiful," she started off with. Enriquez had the unique experience of going to the Eras Tour twice, on both May 19 and 21 at Gillette Stadium. "A lot of people ask me if I spent a fortune on tickets, but I spent less than two hundred dollars for both nights combined," she shared. I would consider that a pretty good deal for the concert of the summer!

LaRochelle was lucky enough

to snag a decently priced ticket in pre-sale, which her friend battled in "the queue of Ticketmaster from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m." to get. Sounds like being in the pre-sale line was "The Great War!" LaRochelle thought that the price she paid for her ticket was definitely worth it, saying "your money was well spent because [Swift] did not skimp on the quality of her show." She continued that even though her seat was high up in the stadium, she still felt immersed in the concert experience. Resnick echoed this, saying "I think [Swift] knew that people spent a lot of money, so she really put her all into the show."

three concert-goers agreed that the word "production" best described the show that Swift put on. From fireworks to backup dancers to light-up bracelets for audience members, this concert really had it all. Resnick added that she "didn't mind being in the nosebleeds because even the seats higher up get a whole view of the arena with all the lights and effects."

When asked why the Eras Tour stands out from other concerts. Enriquez answered that "vou could tell [Swift] put so much effort into choosing the songs and deciding which era to go into

ter which T-Swift era you prefer, you were sure to hear one of your favorite songs played live! Resnick next." She also marveled over the agreed with this, saying that "the atmosphere was very fun, and there were a lot of different people there. Mothers, daughters, dads, friends-everyone had a fun time!"

When asked if they encountered any negative experiences about the show, Enriquez was the first to jump in, saying that "leaving the Gillette Stadium parking lot was a zoo." Just the mere thought of thousands of Swifties flooding out of the parking lot at the same time is enough to give me a lifetime of road rage. Props to whoever battled the T-Swift

length of the show, which was "a

little over three hours long." As an

artist with over 230 songs, Swift

definitely made sure that her fans

were experiencing everything

of the best things about the Eras

Tour was that it really was for ev-

eryone. "I feel like it was enjoy-

able for anyone who was there,"

she shared, "and the fact that it

was an eras tour means she played

songs from each era that every fan

would like." It sounds like no mat-

LaRochelle noted that one

from "Debut" to "Midnights".

LaRochelle had a diffi-

cult time coming up with anything negative, and the only thing that didn't pique her interest was that the weather was a little hot and her feet were hurting by the end of the night.

Resnick also struggled to recall any gripes, and her only complaint was that the merchandise line was a little too lengthy. Overall, the girls had very few negative things to share about their experi-

When asked if the Eras Tour was worth the hype, all three Swift fans unanimously said yes, and that they would all do it again if given the chance.

Resnick shared that she lives near Gillette Stadium, and the craze in Foxborough leading up to the show was like nothing she had seen before. She said that "there were signs on the road days before the concert warning people not to drive there.

People who live near the stadium were renting out their lawns for concert-goers to park there. I definitely think the concert was worth the hype, but it's insane how much reach [Swift] has."

It's undeniable that Taylor Swift took over the summer with the Eras Tour, and from what I gathered from my Swiftie roommates, the concert was everything it was hyped up to be!



Taylor Swift's performs some of her biggest hits for large crowds of fans on her Eras Tour.



# COFFEE BREAK

SATIRE, GAMES, PUZZLES AND MORE

Editors: Brooke Lathe, Max Limric, Kathleen Morris





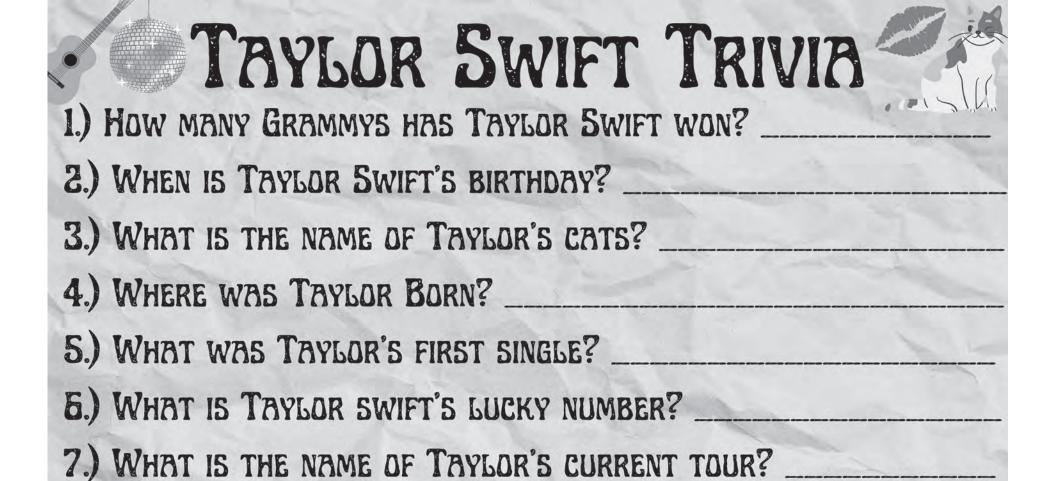
S Y C E F U B N K G P K V F R R N N R G X Z S S D P B I X S A X A G S H L Y Z E X K Q V K E E E S E N I X N O S C M S U C P C R B J V L C D I F Z B X S S X G U P E F L I M H X J I K Y P O S T R S L Y F M J Z W Z E K H A V U O I H B X M R W C N A O L D U O V R G A V Z J T T Q H D P I Z C K W V N R O G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



PARIS HILTON BRITNEY SPEARS
SILLYBANDS JUICY COUTURE
UGGS LOW-RISE JEANS







# SPORTS

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Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	OGL &
No games scheduled	No games scheduled	Field Hockey at Stonehill College North Easton, Mass. 1 p.m.	Women's Golf at Yale Invitational New Haven, Conn. All Day	Women's Golf at Yale Invitational New Haven, Conn. All Day	No games scheduled	No games scheduled
	180		Men's Tennis at Brown Invite Providence, R.I All Day	Men's Tennis at Brown Invite Providence, R.I. All Day	6	
			Men's Cross Country at Paul Short Run Bethlehem, Pa. All Day	Field Hockey vs Columbia Uni- versity Fairfield, Conn. 12 p.m.		
Adrian Torok	Photo Contributed by th	P Sports Information Desk	Women's Cross Country at Paul Short Run Bethlehem, Pa. All Day	Volleyball at Iona University New Rochelle, N.Y. 1 p.m.		
Men's lacrosse head coach Andrew Baxter has brought on new staff members for his coaching staff, according to FairfieldStags.com.  Adrian Torok-Orban will be assuming the role of Associate Head Coach alongside Baxter, whereas Connor McMahon will be taking the role of Asisstant Coach. According to the press release, Torok-Orban was a former associate head coach at Robert Morris University, while McMahon finished up his playing career at Bryant University.			Women's Soccer at Niagara University Niagara Falls, N.Y. 12 p.m.		Photo Confributed by the First-year William Pierce Athlete Conference rook According to the official and the leads the team in goal	e earned Metro Atlantic tie of the week honors. athletics website,

#### Women's Soccer Captain Named Offensive Player of the Week

**By BILLY McGuire**Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off of a 2-1 victory over conference foe Rider University, the Fairfield University women's soccer team has more to grasp about. Team captain and midfielder Reagan Klarmann '25 was just tabbed as the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Offensive Player of the Week.

Klarmann, an Upper Saddle River, N.J. native, obtains the award after playing a heroic effort in the Stags win this past Saturday night by scoring the game-winning goal in the waning minutes of action. She capitalized on a huge opportunity by back-tapping a low cross from forward Maddy Theriault '26 in the 78th minute, finding the back of the net for the first time in this season and the fifth time she has done so in her third season as a Stag. Ironically, four of her five career goals have been game-winners, proving that her clutchness is quite valuable to the team.

This is the second time in her collegiate career that Klarmann has earned a weekly award from the conference. She



Captain Reagan Klarmann '25 dribbles the ball against Fordham University on Sept. 3, 2023.

earned a MAAC Rookie of the Week honor back in 2021. She is the third Stag to accomplish this feat this season, following Thierault and field hockey player Lucie Vincent '27, who each earned their awards in their respective sports on Sep. 18 and 19, correspondingly.

In addition to adding her name on the scoresheet, Klarmann was a force to be reckoned with on the offensive side of the ball. She led her team with six shots on the day, with three on target. She also has two assists to go along with her one goal, totalling for three points on the season. To go along with this, she never refuses to leave the field, ranking third among all field players in the MAAC with 811 minutes in action.

Klarmann's leadership and drive helped propel the Stags to the top of the MAAC standings, tying for first place with six points. The women's soccer team will head off to Lewiston, N.Y. for a date with Niagara University this Saturday at noon. For more information about the women's soccer team, please visit www.fairfield-stags.com.

#### In this week's issue...

- Men's Soccer Transitions to Conference Play Against Rider (Pages 14)
- Volleyball Beats Siena, Falls to Marist in NY Road Trip (Page 15)
- Young Runners Lead Cross Country in the Jasper Fall XC Invite (Page 15)
- Opinion: Babcock Has Had Enough Second Chances (Page 16)

# Men's Soccer Transitions to Conference Play Against Rider

BY **BILLY MCGUIRE**Assistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University
men's soccer team played in two
games this past week, hosting
Harvard University and making
a short trek to the Garden State
by facing off against conferencefoe Rider University.
The Crimson paid their

visit to Fairfield on Tuesday,
Sept. 19. After a quiet first
25 minutes in which
neither team managed
a shot on goal, the
Crimson exerted
control of the
match by sparking a three-goal
rally in an
eight-minute

Forward Kaea Rangihaeata '26 has been a big catalyst for the Stags in the box this year.

span beginning at the 27-minute mark, and in the blink of an eye, the Crimson led the Stags by a 3-0 margin.

Going into the half, the Stags knew that there were at least 45 minutes left of soccer to play and came out of the gate with much-needed renewed confidence. Forward Asher Rosen '27 led the effort by running down the right flank and saw an opportunity by sending a cross across the box to midfielder William Pierce '26, who found an opening on the right side of the goal to put Fairfield on the scoreboard with his third goal of the campaign.

Pierce did not take his goal for granted, as he and his teammates went back to doing everything they could to narrow the gap, and they eventually got a huge opportunity at the 65-minute mark thanks to a penalty kick awarded to the sophomore. Pierce, a New Zealand native capitalized on this opportunity by sinking the ball right under the crossbar to make it a

On their next possession, Fairfield nearly caught up to their counterparts when forward Kaea Rangihaeata '26 broke loose inside the box and sought an opening in the left corner. Unfortunately, Harvard goaltender Lucian Wood was able to react in time by diving to his left and making the save.

Harvard responded by scoring shortly thereafter, as the Crimson Dylan Tellado buried in his second goal of the frame, regaining their two-goal lead and never looked back, as they took the win, 4-2.

Despite the loss, head coach Dean Rees was pleased with the squad's resiliency in the second half.

"They have some special players with very good individual skills and we had trouble when they got isolated," Head Coach Carl Rees said, according to the game's official press release. "We changed our shape and that helped us. I am really proud of the guys for coming back with the spirit and the fight."

The Stags kicked off their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference season by heading down to Lawrenceville, N.J., to take on Rider University. The Stags unfortunately could not get anything past Rider goaltender Adam Salama, who played a large role in the 2-0 shutout victory for Rider.

The Stags though, did present challenges to the Rider netminder late in the contest, as midfielders Joseph Stocchetti '24 and Sam Danner '26 came close to being difference makers as they shot twice on goal that required Salama to make saves in the final ten minutes of action. Salama made six saves on the day while the Stags shot the ball 12 times.

On the other end, Fairfield netminder Victor Nikolov '26 had himself a game. The Bulgarian native recorded six saves while facing 19 shots overall. Despite giving up two goals, the sophomore stepped up and did what he could to keep the Stags

afloat, which had the players in front of him playing hard, in the end, to back up his superb play by creating excellent scoring opportunities.

Even though the Stags failed to get in the win column this week, there are some positives. Pierce was named the MAAC Rookie of the Week this past week, who scored the Stags' two goals in the loss to Harvard last Tuesday. The sophomore currently leads the crew with four goals and eight total points in the campaign. His two other goals came in a 6-0 rout against Brown University on Sep. 4.

As a result of his stellar performances, Pierce became the first Stag to have two or more goals in two games in a season since Jonathan Felipe accomplished the feat in 2021 in games against Rider University and Canisius College, in which he pulled off the hat trick.

Additionally, Pierce is tied for the conference lead in goals with four, and is currently averaging one point a game in eight games played this season. The 1.00 point per game rate is currently third in the MAAC.

The team will rest and prepare for the weekend as they look to rebound in a tilt against Niagara University on Saturday, Sep. 30 at Lessing Field. Kickoff time is projected at 2 p.m.

For more information on the Fairfield University men's soccer team as they continue to meander through their conference season, please visit www. fairfieldstags.com.

# The Weekly 5x4

Five People. Four Questions. Because we have witty things to say.



What song do you hope they play at Pres Ball?

Would you rather have 8 a.m. class every day or 8 p.m.?

What is your go-to chipotle order?

Thoughts on the new Zuppardi's pizza truck?



Tommy Coppola Editor-in-Chief

Anything by Soulja Boy or Pitbull would be perfect.

Considering the fact that I already do the 8 a.m. thing every day, I guess that.

Bowl with carnitas, brown rice, pinto beans, lettuce, cheese, pico, sour cream, queso AND guac. I go big.

Haven't tried the truck, but the real thing is special so I wouldn't expect any less.



Brooke Lathe Executive Editor

"Low" by Flo Rida ft. T-Pain.

I've never had an 8 a.m. before and I never will.

Steak burrito with white rice, fajita veggies, lettuce, corn, pico and guac.

I can't eat pizza but it smells delish.



Max Limric Managing Editor

Ehhh whatever the DJ wants to play.

8 a.m. for sure.

Bowl with chicken, rice, beans, pico, corn, lettuce, sour cream, cheese, guac and Kathleen's chips.

People are raving.



Julian Nazario Copy Editor, Head News Editor

Tommy, he better play some Pitbull.

I'm never taking a class after 5 p.m.

Am I missing out on Kathleen's chips!!!!!?

Like the lottery ... could be good or could be New Haven-burnt.



Jacqui Rigazio Assistant Vine Edi-

Jordan Belfort is me and the roomies' anthem, so I better hear that.

I'd force myself to be a morning person just to avoid an 8 p.m.

Same as Max. Trying to get in on Kathleen's chips though ...

I had a slice of my roommate's pizza once and it was pretty decent.

# Volleyball Beats Siena, Falls to Marist in NY Road Trip

By **RYAN MARQUARDT**Head Sports Editor

On Friday, Sept. 23, the Fairfield University women's volleyball team took on Siena College and swept them 3-0. The Stags had nine more kills than Siena, totaling 40 to Siena's 31. Fairfield also had a stronger hitting percentage at 24.5% compared to Siena's 14.3%.

Sophomore Allie Elliott had a double-double and graduate student Janna Schlageter had 11 kills for the Stags, leading them to victory. Schlageter also added six digs to her stats. Elliot's double-double consisted of 10 kills and 10 digs with a .391 hitting percentage.

This marked Fairfield's fourth consecutive win and brought them to 7-4 overall and 3-0 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

Other contributors included graduate student Elle Shult and Mamie Krubally '27, who had six and five kills and .400 hitting percentages respectively. Blakely Montgomery '25 also had a busy game with 25 assists for the Stags and added five of the Stag's eight aces to help the Stags in their dominant performance.

When asked about the game, head coach Nancy Somera stated, "Today wasn't the cleanest match we've played to date, but a 3-0 road win is always positive." She continued, "We got exceptional contributions from our bench today, particularly Mamie coming on for one-and-a-half sets and recording five kills on .400 hitting. We didn't block as well as we are capable of blocking, but we did have some blocks in key moments that helped keep momentum on our side."

The Stags followed up their match with Siena with another match within the MAAC conference when they took on Marist College. This one they dropped in a five-set closely contested match. No team won a set by more than three points in a match that came down to the wire, with 39 ties and 15 lead changes.

Marist had 71 kills to Fairfield's 54; the Red Foxes also had a slightly better-hitting percentage with a .172 compared to the Stags' .164. This loss dropped the



Fairfield University's volleyball team continues to prosper with solid performances against Siena College and Marist College.

Stags to 7-5 and 3-1 in conference play and took Marist to 5-10 with a 3-1 record in conference play.

The first set was very tight with the Stags scoring seven straight to take the 19-14 lead, then managing to clinch the set with a 25-22 first-set win. In the following set, the Stags kept their momentum rolling, going up 9-4 before they slowed down and allowed Marist to take the 13-11 lead. Then the teams went back and forth to get it to 22-20 before Marist rattled off five straight points to take the set.

Once again, the team who won the previous set kept momentum rolling into the following set with Marist taking a 10-6 lead in set three. The Stags slowly fought back and got it to a score of 24-23. The Stags then swung the momentum with three straight points, winning the set 26-24 and taking the 2-1 set advantage.

The fourth set saw a neck-and-neck fight coming down to the wire with the score getting to 24-24. Marist was able to fight off the Stags and take the fourth set

26-24, tying the match. The fifth and final set saw the Stags going down 8-5 quickly. The Stags showed some toughness to tie it back up at 8-8.

The final set remained neck and neck for the next few points before Marist took the 14-11 lead. The Stags managed to win one more point but couldn't close the gap, dropping the set 15-12 and losing the match.

The Stags' most staggering stat was their 20 blocks to Marist's nine. Shult led the Stags with hands on ten of the blocks with Maya Walker '26 contributing with nine of her own. Krubally added another six with Elliot and Mikayla Haut each getting a hand on five.

Their 20 blocks were the most by a MAAC team since the Stags did it in the 2019 MAAC Championship Match vs. Quinnipiac University.

Elliott also contributed with a teamhigh 16 digs, Kayla Berg '24 also added another 12. Svenja Rodenbusch '25 and Montgomery had another nine each. Haut

82nd and 84th respectively. Rounding out

the starting five were Olli Muniz '27, who

clocked in at 27:49.0 and came in 93rd and

at the 27:59.8 minute mark, capping off a

Jack Putnam '26, who crossed the finish line

led the Stags with 12 kills and Elliott had nine of her own just missing her second straight double-double. Walker added eight kills with a .375 hitting percentage. Montgomery and Abby Jandro '26 had 25 and 18 assists respectively.

The Stags also added nine aces offensively, Jandro contributing three of them with Elliot, Montgomery and Rodenbusch each having two of their own.

"It was [a] competitive match against a good team, and we will learn some things from it," said Head Coach Nancy Somera, according to the game's official press release. "Our offensive production wasn't where it needed to be. Credit to Marist for being a tough defensive team, but we didn't force them to make many adjustments on that end of the court today."

The Stags will play their next match at Manhattan on Sep. 30 then continue the road trip to Iona College on Oct. 1. For more information visit fairfieldstags. com.

# Young Runners Lead Cross Country in the Jasper Fall XC Invite

By **BILLY McGuire**ASsistant Sports Editor

The Fairfield University men's and women's Cross Country teams participated in the Jasper Fall Cross Country Invite on Sept. 16. at the Twin Ponds on The Farm in Montgomery, N.Y., hosted by Manhattan College. It was their second meet of the

season, following the Marist season opener meet hosted by Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Sept. 2.

On the men's side, the Stags were led by Charles Orciuch '27, who finished 79th in a field of 200 runners competing for an 8K time of 27:19.2. The first-year was joined by fellow classmates Kenny Power '27 and Alex Petersen '26. They each ran corresponding times of 27:21.4 and 27:26.2, finishing

promising performance for the Stags.

Among first-year runners in the meet,
Orciuch finished 13th in a field of 62 firstyear students competing, while Power
finished 15th and Muniz came in 22nd,
displaying outstanding potential in the
process. Under the direction of second-year
head coach Jake Jayworth, the Stags appear
to be in good hands with their youthful core
moving forward.

On the women's side, it was a similar story, also competing in a field of 200 runners in a 6K. Setting the tone for the women's side was Mia Strazella '27, who finished 45th in a field of 200 runners with a time of 23:01.1. Coming in behind the rookie was classmate Natalie Haracz '27, who came in 64th while clocking in at 23:56.1. Right behind Haracz was Isabella Colabatistto '27, who came running across the finish line four seconds later with a time of 24:00.4 in 67th place.

Following the dynamic triplet was the sophomore duo of Megan Furlong and Molly Ryle. Furlong completed the course in 24:47.4 in 91st while Ryle followed in her footsteps just 14 seconds later with a time of 25:01.9 and settling for 97th. Another first-year, Michaela Kenny, finished right behind Ryle, registering a 25:06.4 frame.

Two upperclassmen, Catherine Lanahan '24 and graduate student Claire Mason eventually followed the young core, with Lanahan clocking in at 25:30.9 and finishing in 105th place. Mason finished exactly three seconds and one spot behind her teammate, registering a time of 25:33.9. Rounding out the squad were Ada Gebauer '27, Caroline Burns '25, Emily Cochi '25 and Alexandra Messina '26, who finished with times of 26:12.0, 26:28.7, 26:52.1 and 27:45.6, respectively.

The meet presented an opportunity for both teams to become acclimated with the race course, which will soon host the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championships on Oct. 28. After a promising performance, these young cores should be in better shape heading into the big meet, which is undoubtedly circled on both teams' calendars.

Both squads are currently in preparation for the Paul Short Run on the Lehigh University campus in Bethlehem, Pa., which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30. For more information on the men's and women's Cross Country teams, please visit www. fairfieldstags.com.



The Fairfield University Cross Country teams' seasons are in full swing with their young talent.

# SPORTS 16

Week of September 27, 2023

# Opinion: Babcock Has Had Enough Second Chances

By BILLY McGuire **Assistant Sports Editor** 

Everyone deserves a second chance.

You may have heard that expression before, when someone makes some egregious mistakes on their first go-around before being given another opportunity to (re)prove their talents. The Columbus Blue Jackets, an underthe-radar team that is in a small media market, decided to bring in the embattled Mike Babcock as its new bench boss on July 1, succeeding Brad Larsen, who was canned after two dismal seasons in which the club went 62-86-16 under his watch.

The Blue Jackets, a young team with high potential supplemented by veterans with high-end talent including wingers Johnny Gaudreau and Patrik Laine, defenseman Zack Werenski, and goaltender Elvis Merzlinkins, knew that in order to ascend to the next level, needed a coach that could find more ways to win hockey games. Enter Mike Babcock, a man that sure knows how to get the job done. He won in Anaheim, leading the team within one win of a Stanley Cup in his first year on the job. He won in Detroit, leading the Red Wings to an '08 Cup victory while nearly doing it again a year later. He helped push a Maple Leafs team undergoing a massive rebuild ahead of schedule by making them a perennial playoff contender.

Sounds like a top-tier coach

Turns out, behind the scenes, he is nothing more than "a bully," as described by Johan Franzen, who played for Babcock in Detroit. Babcock fell from grace in 2019 after numerous stories came to light about the controversial tactics he has used on his players. Even though many of these things were now coming to the view of the public eye, many of his former players

have long loathed him. Former defensemen Mike Commodore is an example of this, who has held a grudge against Babcock for allegedly mistreating him going back to his stints in both Anaheim and Detroit. Current Leafs forward Mitch Marner was asked to rank himself among the hardest-working players on the team his rookie year by Babcock, only to share the list with the rest of the team, humiliating the youngster in the process. Babcock apparently was so verbally abusive to Franzen that he suffered from depression and anxiety for years after his encounters.

It was widely assumed that his coaching career was all but over. But just under four years later, when his contract with Toronto expired, Columbus gave him a second chance. This move was widely panned by the hockey world, given his past history, but management defended the decision, believing that the veteran coach gave them the impression that he had changed as a person and would put in a sincere effort to better relate to his players.

Turns out that management got hoodwinked in brutal fashion, as former NHL player Paul Bissonette, who co-hosts the popular "Spittin' Chiclets" hockey podcast, revealed that he got texts from anonymous Blue Jackets players that he had asked to view their camera roll as a way of "getting to know them better." He then in turn displayed these photos on a projected screen in his office. Some veterans, including Gaudreau and team captain Bonne Jenner, defended the move, explaining that they had no issue with him doing this and it was simply an exercise to see pictures of family, friends, and other photos that defined each player.

> Younger players, on the other hand, were much would never coach an NHL more uneasy with game again. I don't wish this, prompting an inves- tigation by



Mike Babcock resigned as Blue Jackets head coach last week amid investigation without ever coaching a game.

National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA).

After the fallout, Babcock tendered his resignation as Blue Jackets head coach, stepping away after never coaching a game. The Jackets, deservedly so, faced a rampage of criticism and mockery for their lack of due diligence of allowing Babcock to the bench of a young, but high potential, team. President John Davidson and General Manager Jarmo Kekalianen have done an admirable job in their respective roles, elevating a once perineal laughing stock that failed to ever win a playoff game to a competitive and respectable club each preceding year after their hires in 2013. But after this fallout, they deserve to at least be questioned by their

decision-making with this move. After all of this baggage, I hope and pray that Mike Babcock on anybody, but being verbally and psychologically abusive to players, let alone the workplace, is wrong and unacceptable. Sure, a coach's job is to hold a player accountable and to correct them when they make mistakes, but at the end of the day, being a bully who humiliates and brings people down can place a big asterisk on

I strongly believe in second chances. I don't believe someone should be "canceled" over some egregious mistake that they made. I believe that it should be a teaching moment for the person to understand what they did wrong and to only grow from that point forward. We are all human in the end. We are all going to make mistakes and I think as an individual, taking ownership and holding yourself accountable for them is something that I think is very important, as well as

how you will respond after making them.

Now, do I think you should put trust in someone who turns out to not only fail to take accountability, but also revert back to its previous ways? Absolutely not. Mike Babcock learned absolutely nothing in his four years away from the NHL. When I first heard everything that came out in 2019, I was undoubtedly disturbed, but if he received one more opportunity to coach and show the world that he really did change, then I wouldn't completely dismiss it. But after what transpired this past week, he has no business being around an NHL team again. I think having someone that is a complete sociopath who relishes in the idea of playing mind games is very detrimental for anyone. I think this



Photo Courtesy of @blue jacketsnhl Instagram

The Columbus Blue Jackets took part in a preseason tilt with the Pittsburgh Penguins on Sunday, Sept. 24 directed by their brand new head coach, Pascal Vincent.