

New student organization aims to empower women in sports

By **MADELYN DURKEE**

Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University's new club for women in sports, Women's Sideline Society, was created this semester to empower Quinnipiac students and promote a safe space for women interested in sports and sports media.

Maria Keegan, a sophomore advertising 3+1 major, created the club.

"I just started to realize one day that we didn't have a club that was strictly for women who wanted to pursue a career in this field, especially since this field is pretty male dominated," she said.

Earlier this semester Keegan bounced the idea around with her friends who felt the same way. They gathered a group of girls interested in creating this club and got the ball rolling. Their first meeting was held on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

"Maria came to me with the idea and I thought it was amazing," Vice President Sofia Trosciancki, a sophomore media studies major, said.

Trosciancki noted the club's goal.

"We really want to engage our girls to have that sense of community and just make them feel empowered so that they don't feel like they're in someone else's shadow when they go into the sports world," Trosciancki said.

Their goal is to create a space for women interested in sports to connect and share experiences, something that is lacking at Quinnipiac.

However, this is not the first time that Quinnipiac had a similar organization. The Association for Women in Sports Media is a national organization that supports women in sports media, as both students and professionals.

Quinnipiac's chapter of AWSM disbanded in 2024 after the advisor for the organi-

zation — former Chair of Journalism department Molly Yanity — left Quinnipiac.

"We didn't really have the bandwidth to keep going," Brianna Trachtenberg, former vice president of AWSM at Quinnipiac said.

When asked about Women's Sideline Society she said, "I think it's awesome that they are trying to bring something back to Quinnipiac."

Trachtenberg agrees that Quinnipiac is missing a space for women in sports media to connect with each other.

"It is definitely a space that is needed at Quinnipiac. For me especially, my first years provided more of a support group of AWSM that I could go to and talk to and meet other women in sports, because there are only so many of us," she said.

Even though participation of female students in student sports media have in-

creased in the last few years, they are still experiencing difficulty in the classroom as they enter a male dominated field.

"I'm kind of intimidated about speaking up in class when it comes to referring to sports, even though it's what I love doing," Trosciancki said.

Keegan agreed with this sentiment.

"You start to get this feeling where you feel like your opinion isn't as valued, or you feel like you can't speak up during certain conversations because they think, 'what does she know?'" Keegan said.

These feelings are what motivated the creation of the Women's Sideline Society.

"I want to create that safe space for girls who feel the way that Sophia and I had felt since freshman year," Keegan said.

They hope this club will give female

students a place to express themselves and form connections within the sports industry. They have the support of older students who are hoping to see the new club pick up where they left off.

"I just hope that they are able to be successful and able to bring back this space to Quinnipiac," Trachtenberg said.

Keegan and Trosciancki want to fill the space left by AWSM and expand on what they were able to offer.

"We want to include media in our club, but also business, finance, literally anything that has to do with sports," Trosciancki said.

They plan to reach out to other student organizations, interested professors, as well as female athletes at Quinnipiac as valuable resources to support the club.

The new club is not just for students in sports media programs. It is designed to support interest in sports "as fans, athletes, or future professionals," Keegan said.

They plan to host networking and resume building workshops as well as interviews with professionals working in the sports industry. They hope to become a resource to make the sports industry accessible for students.

"We want to eventually bring some of our girls to arenas around us, or stadiums and possibly talk to women professionals or maybe even get the chance to shadow women in the field," Trosciancki said.

They are excited to grow the Women's Sideline Society and are looking forward to the future of women in sports media at Quinnipiac.

Students interested in joining Women's Sideline Society can follow their Instagram @wss-quinnipiac and find them on Bobcat Central.



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From left to right Women's Sideline Society eboard members: PR & Marketing Jordyn Yaroshyk, Vice President Sofia Trosciancki, President Maria Keegan, Secretary Melina Fricchione and Treasurer Anya Horne.

School of Communications celebrates 25th anniversary with three Hall of Fame inductions

By **NATHAN ROJAS**

Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University's School of Communications (SoC) celebrated its 25th anniversary by inducting three new members into the Hall of Fame.

The SoC Hall of Fame was started in 2020, with inductions occurring every two years. However, Dean of the SoC Nadine Barnett Cosby decided to push back the 2024 induction.

"With me coming in June of 24 that only gave me a few months until it was time to have the 2024 induction... I hadn't even really met a lot of our alumni yet," Barnett Cosby said. "So between that and also finding out that we were about to hit a historic year, 25 years, it made sense to me to hold off... and wait to have an induction in 2025 in conjunction with our 25-year celebration."

Those inducted were SoC alumni Ike Ejiochi, Mercy A. Quaye and Tim Beach.

Ejiochi graduated from Quinnipiac in 2015, as part of the sports broadcast journalism graduate program. Ejiochi has continued his relationship with Quinnipiac by teaching at the university as an adjunct professor.

Ejiochi currently works as a correspondent for ABC News.

Ejiochi said he first learned he was being inducted during lunch with Dean Nadine Barnett Cosby.

"I was surprised because, when you think of the word Hall of Fame, it's almost like a big top down look of everything you've done in your life so far... I was like, 'What have I done to even be considered for such an honor?'" Ejiochi said. "Then it was more of a

really just an immense feeling of gratitude."

For aspiring SoC students, Ejiochi advises, "If there's one skill that I can tell you to cultivate and strengthen every day, is your writing skills. I cannot tell you how important it is, especially now in the time of AI," he said.

Quaye graduated from Quinnipiac in 2013 with her undergraduate degree in journalism. Then earned her graduate degree in public relations in 2018 with a focus on applied social media.

This is not the first time Quaye has received an award from Quinnipiac. In 2023, she was the recipient of the MLK Dream Award, hon-

oring her work as a justice advocate.

However, Quaye finds her hall of fame induction "huge and different, because it recognizes me, not just as a justice advocate, but a communications professional," she said.

Quaye teaches at Southern Connecticut State University and Quinnipiac, focusing on digital journalism, public relations and branding.

When Quaye first discovered she was being inducted into the Hall of Fame, she was away in Paris for work.

"It was a complete surprise. I think that something about print journalists that is somewhat different than broadcast journalists is we're not used

to being in front of the camera, and we're not used to getting the attention on ourselves," Quaye said.

For SoC journalism students, Quaye advises them to "think of a new angle. Anytime you're able to think of a new angle, you are challenging your brain to be a problem solver as much as you are challenging your brain to be a storyteller," she said.

Beach graduated from Quinnipiac in 1990 as a mass communications major.

Beach currently works as director of business development at D3 LED, a computer and electronics manufacturing company.

This is not the first time Beach has been inducted into a Hall of Fame, having been inducted into the Information Display & Entertainment Association Hall of Fame in 2018.

Beach has continued his working relationships with Quinnipiac by serving on the SoC advisory board.

Much like Quaye, Beach's experience feels different from the last.

"My Information Display and Entertainment Association Hall of Fame induction in 2018 was being honored by my industry and come back to Quinnipiac and receive this, this honor for representing the school that I started at, where it all started, is certainly an honor," Beach said.

When Beach learned of his induction into the Hall of Fame, in August, he was "overjoyed with emotion," he said.

Beach's advice for SoC students is "to always say yes," as they go through their career.

Each of the Hall of Fame inductees attributed their successes to Quinnipiac SoC staff and faculty.



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From left to right School of Communications Hall of Fame inductees: Tim Beach, Ike Ejiochi and Mercy Quaye.