

M&T Bank Center for Women & Business hosts panel discussion about women redefining leadership

By **NATHAN ROJAS**
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 4, the M&T Bank Center for Women & Business hosted Shelly Carter, Cristina Schoeck, Sara Wilbur and Teodora Lupu to lead a panel discussing the challenges of being women in male-dominated fields.

This event was hosted in collaboration with the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Director of M&T Bank Center for Women & Business Tuvana Rua.

Carter is Hamden’s first-ever fire chief who is both female and a person of color. Carter did not plan on becoming fire chief, in fact, she had no plans of becoming a firefighter at all. It wasn’t until talking to the lieutenant of a fire department that she thought of becoming one.

Schoeck, the Meriden fire chief, shares a different story. While in college to become a respiratory therapist, she joined the volunteer ambulance. Through that, she joined the volunteer fire department. After some time, she changed careers and became a full time firefighter.

Wilbur, much like the others, unexpectedly found her career after applying for a job with People’s Bank while studying marketing at the University of Connecticut. She is now the executive vice president of financial crimes at M&T Bank.

Lupu is currently in her third career change.

She started in international trade before switching to portfolio management and data analytics. Her current job is as the head of U.S. SS&P Business Processes & Strategy.

During the discussion, each panel member spoke on the challenges they faced within their careers and gave advice from their experiences.

The main issue Carter faced in her career was switching departments. Having been raised in Hartford, after switching to Hamden, Carter needed to learn their procedures. “But the language, the processes, the policies, the Hamden way, I was like, ‘wait, so when you started talking about asking questions it’s not because I don’t know how to fight a fire. It’s because I want to know, why are you doing it that way?’” Carter said.

Schoeck experienced similar challenges early on in her career. Because of her upbringing, Schoeck did not know many of the skills other firefighters did.

“And when I joined a fire service, I didn’t have the same skill levels as a lot of the other men, but what I did have was the ability to learn and the willingness,” Schoeck said.

Similar to Carter and Schoeck, Wilbur used her curiosity to her advantage.

“In order to be strategic, I felt as though I had to understand the details at the lower levels first

to then kind of be able to coach and develop the team and understand exactly what’s going on,” Schoeck said.

For Lupu, her main concern was getting people to listen to her. She believes that if an outcome is achieved through logical thinking, then that is the appropriate response.

“But I think it’s really important to trust your judgment. Obviously, think deeply and trust your judgment once you’ve done that thinking,” Lupu said.

As for the advice, each shared a variety of tips inspired by their own experiences.

“Go with that gut instinct,” Schoeck said. “That gut instinct that made you step up, that made you raise your hand, that made you walk into the center of the room and be a part of it. That’s what got you there. Don’t doubt yourself afterwards.”

Wilbur’s advice focused primarily on networking and building connections.

“Begin to build your network in terms of doing that. Now, you know, any sort of networking event like this is great, where you’re getting to know people, LinkedIn, things like that, but as you get into an organization, you know, set up those one on ones, get to know different people, ask other people that have been there, questions of, who are those people



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From left to right: Tuvana Rua, Shelly Carter, Cristina Schoeck and Sara Wilbur

you should get to know,” Wilbur said.

In addition to this advice, many of the panelists spoke about authenticity, something that resonated with many members of the audience. Kathryn Sakoulas, a second year 3+1 marketing major, agreed with the advice.

“I feel like the most important thing that I learned from this was being authentic, because sometimes you feel like you always have to be the one to fit in and be like everybody else. But I learned that it’s good to be okay, to be different and kind of shine bright wherever you want,” Sakoulas said.

Hazardous conditions cause Hogan Lot’s closure to food delivery and rideshare services

By **AVA HIGHLAND**
News Editor

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, Quinnipiac University students received an email from Public Safety Chief Tony Reyes informing them that Hogan Lot is now closed to food delivery and rideshare services.

“These changes are being implemented to reduce traffic congestion, prevent hazardous conditions and to keep our campus community safe,” Reyes wrote.

Hogan Lot was previously used as the main location for Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Uber Eats, however in an effort to keep the campus and community safe this is no longer an option.

“Services such as Lyft, Uber/Uber Eats, DoorDash and others are prohibited from stopping on or parking along Hogan Road and New Road,” Reyes wrote. “All drivers must use the designated lots for pickups and deliveries.”

Now, the pick-up and drop-off location is the North Lot, located outside of The Recreation and

Wellness Center.

When drivers arrive at the North Lot they are required to stop at the gate and provide identification and proof of the service they are providing.

As of now there are no plans for Hogan Lot being reopened for pick-up and drop-off services, however Reyes notes that it is possible.

Earlier in the week, rumors circulated via Yik Yak that a student was injured in Hogan Lot over the weekend. Yik Yak is an anonymous site used by students.

As a result of the speculated injury, students rumored that Hogan lot will be closed before the official announcement was made.

“Wait so what the hell happened?,” a student wrote on Yik Yak early in the week. “We can never use hogan again? What is going on?”

Reyes denied this rumor.

“I am not aware of any injury,” Reyes wrote. “This decision was made to ensure the safety of the community and to avoid hazardous conditions on Hogan (Road) and New Road.”

The decision comes after hazardous conditions were observed over the first couple weeks of the semester.

“Over the past two weeks, since the start of the semester, we’ve received multiple reports of students being dropped off along New Road and Hogan Road,” Reyes wrote. “These drop-offs created hazardous conditions for both pedestrians and drivers. After observing the situation firsthand, Public Safety—alongside the Hamden Police Department—determined that immediate action was necessary.”

They chose North Lot as the designated location for its “ample space for safe drop-offs” and because it “is centrally located, making it accessible to all areas of campus.”

For many students, the location comes as an inconvenience.

“I understand why they are doing it but as a student it can be frustrating,” sophomore nursing major Alyvia Bailey said. “Especially as a sophomore when it’s what you are used to.”

Hogan Lot sits close to several residence halls, while North Lot is a further distance for many.

“Closing the Hogan parking lot has created such an inconvenience for students who live in dorms close by,” sophomore marketing major Genna Calton said. “I would have groceries delivered to Hogan since I cannot park my car on main. Having to go out of my way to get to a further parking lot to pick up food is a waste of time.”

In regards to food delivery, a plan is currently in the works to reinstate a program allowing local businesses to deliver food on Bobcat Way.

“The program required businesses to register their delivery drivers with Quinnipiac Public Safety, granting them access through the South Gate,” Reyes wrote. “Students would then meet drivers at a designated location on Bobcat Way. We’re currently reaching out to area businesses to gauge interest, and if there’s sufficient participation, we’ll share the details with students right away.”

INTERSTRIDE from cover
..... informed decisions and feel more confident about their future,” Driscoll wrote.

Online resources for connecting with the Quinnipiac community, including posted events hosted by the Office of Career Developments and OISS, are also available within the platform.

Students can easily connect with international peers and network within the greater community.

While initially created for international students, Interstride also offers opportunities for domestic students within the global community.

“It’s like a one stop shop for globe trotting, immigration, things like that,” Gamuchirai said. “I would encourage everyone who is globally mind-

ed to join the platform.”

Domestic students can use the platform to search for global internship and job opportunities in over 160 countries.

Students “would see all these resources for what it’s like to work and live in [that country]” and information on “what it might be like to pursue a visa there,” Galligan said.

“Whether you’re an American student eager to intern or work overseas, or an international student hunting for U.S. employers who sponsor, Interstride has helpful tools to navigate that journey,” Driscoll wrote.

The Office of International Students and Scholars and the Office of Career Development

& Experiential Learning will be at the university wide career fair on Oct. 14, to showcase the new platform and help students access the variety of resources available to them.

“We really want to make sure we’re giving our international students (the) best in class service, just like our domestic students,” Galligan said. “We’re really excited about the potential (of this platform).”

Galligan hopes to include Quinnipiac graduates from the last three years on the platform later this fall. These alumni will provide additional support and resources for international students exploring employment opportunities.

Once the alumni are included, “it will be an

even stronger resource for student networking,” she said.

Remmy Khamis, a graduate student in the M.S. Cybersecurity program, expressed excitement for the future of the platform.

“Especially students who are graduating soon, to see how it’ll help them,” he said, and “to also see how the results from it motivate students who are coming in.”

He is looking forward to students successfully using the platform to land job opportunities in the U.S. and just wants to “see that final outcome.”

The launch of Interstride brings an exciting new chapter in Quinnipiac’s international career development resources as the new platform con-