



LGBTQIA+ Prism hosts 'Drag Ball'
Page 3



K-9 Jules celebrates his fourth birthday
Page 4



2024 class government on graduation
Page 5

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Future accountants learn from professionals

By Brandon Cortés
News Writer

In an effort to provide valuable insights and guidance to aspiring accountants, the School of Business recently organized a roundtable event, inviting seasoned professionals from various firms to share their expertise.

The event, held at the university campus, aimed to assist students in pursuing an accounting degree, navigating the requirements for 150 credit hours and successfully tackling the CPA exam.

The event commenced with an introductory address by the dean of the School of Business Jess Boronico, highlighting the significance of such initiatives in nurturing the future generation of accountants.

"It is always a pleasure to give students the opportunity to participate in these events so that they can maximize their potential," Boronico said.

During the event, panelists shared tips and strategies for completing the requisite 150 credit hours for an accounting

degree, a crucial milestone for aspiring CPAs. They also offered guidance on preparing for the CPA exam, a rigorous assessment that is essential for obtaining licensure in the accounting profession.

One of the discussion's highlights was the support provided by accounting firms to their employees pursuing CPA licensure. Several panelists emphasized their firms' commitment to assisting employees with exam preparation costs and offering internship opportunities to gain practical experience.

Julie Consorti, a senior accountant, emphasized the importance of mentorship and hands-on experience in preparing for the CPA exam.

"At our firm, we recognize the significance of investing in our employees' professional development," Consorti said. "We provide comprehensive support, including financial assistance for exam fees and mentorship programs to help our employees succeed."

Echoing similar sentiments, Mike Tarrago from CliftonLarsonAllen



The accounting roundtable at the School of Business in Room 122.

PHOTO | BRANDON CORTÉS

highlighted the firm's internship programs designed to provide students with practical exposure to the accounting profession.

"Our internships offer students the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, preparing them for successful careers in accounting," Tarrago said.

Moreover, the panelists delved into the nuances

of fulfilling the 150 credit hours requirement, a prerequisite for CPA licensure in many jurisdictions.

Drawing from their own experiences, they elaborated on diverse pathways available for students to attain the requisite credits such as pursuing advanced degrees, participating in specialized programs, or engaging in coursework

relevant to their career.

Nick Solec mentioned that numerous firms consider it a crucial requirement for students to have fulfilled their 150 credits, emphasizing its immediate significance.

"I had the opportunity to finish my 150 credits once I completed my master's degree in accounting. However, not everyone has that opportunity, so I recommend

that you complete those 150 credits as soon as possible," Solec said.

The School of Business plans to continue hosting such events to facilitate meaningful interactions between students and industry experts with the use of "PEP Talks" to further enrich the educational experience and prepare students for successful careers in accounting and finance.

Students shocked by the earthquake in the northeast

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

On April 5 around 10:30 a.m., Connecticut was struck by an earthquake. What was supposed to be a normal Friday morning on campus was interrupted by an aftershock.

According to NBC Connecticut, the 4.8 magnitude earthquake's epicenter was in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, and the aftermath was felt across Connecticut. Those in the tri-state area also felt the impact.

This included more than 42 million people.

Although the United States Geological Survey classifies an earthquake of magnitude 5.3 as moderate and a magnitude 6.3 as strong, the quake left many students on campus rattled.

Healthcare studies major Chrystophe Obiang-Ze, a freshman, was confused by the sudden shakes.

"I was walking out of the gym, and I saw all of the weights shaking," Obiang-Ze said. "I thought I was about to

pass out because I over-worked myself."

Even though the rumbling lasted less than two minutes, many students did not know what to make out of the sudden shaking.

"I didn't know what was happening. I just thought it was my mind playing tricks on me," Obiang-Ze said.

Other students were still in bed during the aftershock.

Sports management major Tyvonn Thompson, a sophomore, said that he was in his

bed sleeping when he felt his room shaking.

"My bed was shaking out of nowhere," Thompson said. "It felt like someone was rocking my bed back and forth."

Similar to Obiang-Ze, Thompson thought he was just hallucinating from being suddenly awoken. While the quake hit many residents on campus by surprise, some students were unphased.

Early childhood education major Priscila Adebambo, a sophomore, was sound asleep in her

bed when it struck.

Adebambo said that she was unaware that an earthquake occurred until she woke up.

"I woke up to my desk lamp on the floor, but I didn't think anything of it," Adebambo said.

Adebambo said that it was not until she opened her phone that she realized what she had missed.

"I saw a message from hours prior from my mom asking if I was okay and making sure the earthquake didn't affect anything," Adebambo

said.

Many have a similar tale to tell. Nursing major Favour Amayo, a freshman, said she was getting ready for class during the aftershock.

"I was putting on my clothes to get ready for my bio lab, and I didn't feel any shakes or nothing," Amayo said.

Despite being on campus, many students have different stories on what they experienced due to the quake. Fortunately, there have been no reports of any injuries in the area.

Campus offers commuter support

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

Out of 8,820 undergraduate and graduate students that attend the university, 1,958 students live on campus as of fall of 2023.

Students that decide not to live on campus commute every day.

Psychology major Daniel Solicito, a sophomore, has been a commuter since freshman year.

"I chose to be a commuter pretty much before I started college because I live within a 30-minute radius of here," Solicito said.

Biology major Craig Huydic, a sophomore, currently lives on campus but will transition to commuting in the fall.

"So, this will be my second semester living on campus," Huydic said.

Huydic was a commuter in his freshman year but decided to live on campus his sophomore year for the experience.

Huydic is a student worker for commuter services. His job is to

help organize events and answer any questions or concerns.

With the rising cost of living on campus, students are forced to look at other options.

"Honestly I think it is unfair," Huydic said. "We put so much money as it is into new buildings and getting these different activities, and for them to up the price of something we already have problems with."

Social work major Careonna Bradley, a sophomore, lived on campus her entire freshman year until she decided to become a commuter her sophomore year.

"Freshman year, I was never on campus, so it was kind of easier to live somewhere else off campus," Bradley said.

Some students choose to live off campus because they live close to campus.

"I will be commuting from Ansonia, so a 15-20-minute drive," Huydic said.

Nevertheless, commuters are not left abandoned and neglected, as there is a resource

called Commuter Services that helps off-campus students navigate school life.

The service is to keep students connected with the university community while they are on campus.

Commuter Services offers locker rentals, free parking decals and free U-Pass. Students can also purchase a commuter meal plan that ranges from \$260-\$631.

That is not even to mention the frequent events held on campus.

"If the opportunity was given to me, I would live on campus," Solicito said. "I'm in a lot of my friends' dorm. I hang out with them. It's not like I don't know what the dorming experience is like."

Any commuter looking for unique experiences catered to them should check out OwlConnect under the Commuter Services page to see what events and activities are being held each week.

Commuter Services is located in the Adanti Student Center in Room 216. There is a meeting every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Students support those with HIV

By Jack Abbot
General Reporter

Students participating in the SHAWN project advocated for research into HIV for incarcerated persons in the Adanti Student Center.

The SHAWN project is a research initiative that aims to learn more about the changes to criminalization involving behaviors associated with HIV and AIDS risks. It is a part of the Department of Social Work.

SHAWN stands for "Stop HIV/AIDS Women's Network," and it aims to help underrepresented groups become involved in research. It was also named after activist Shawn Lang, who advocated for LGBTQ+ communities, HIV and AIDS victims and drug users in Connecticut.

"They impacted the New Haven community in a very positive way, so we wanted to carry on that legacy," social work major and research assistant Shoshana Mahon, a senior, said.

The group is researching and

advocating for women who were incarcerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're doing a tabling to sort of disseminate our data that we've found," Mahon said. "Our empirical questions are 'what happened to women who were incarcerated during COVID who were also at risk of HIV and AIDS?' and also 'how can we train undergraduates in research?'"

Their research also aimed to understand undergraduate students who were affected by incarcerations and how they could be helped.

Members of the SHAWN project are collaborating with the Social Work Organization, an on-campus group supporting community advocacy, to help make their presence known on campus.

"We're interviewing people who were incarcerated who also were affected by HIV or AIDS. Right now, we're sort of getting their stories and how they were impacted by both," Mahon said. "They were impacted

pretty negatively."

One of the things mentioned at the booth was that HIV and AIDS cases increased drastically during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is due in part to a lack of resources such as homeless shelters and HIV and AIDS education available.

"These women who were incarcerated, they really didn't have enough resources available to them," Mahon said.

"I know the woman personally, who I sat and interviewed for. When she left prison, she was homeless. And so, she was also in an area which was unknown to her. So, she really didn't have access to those resources."

This event was aimed at educating undergraduate students on the effects of incarceration on HIV and AIDS victims and advocating for research on the topic.

"I learned some interesting statistics about incarcerated people and students on campus who may be affected by that," marine biology major Julia Deponte, a senior, said.

Owls learn how to navigate networking

Jack Abbot
General Reporter

Innovation Hub and the Office of Career and Professional Development hosted a networking workshop to prepare students for an upcoming networking event for students of color.

The event was hosted in Adanti Student Center and was intended to help students learn about many basic networking skills. The main topics discussed were the importance of networking, how to dress for networking events, how to deal with nerves and how to build an elevator pitch.

“A lot of times when we think about opportunities, especially when we’re networking, we only think about the jobs that we had. But opportunities encompass experiential learning,” Assistant Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development Rachel Cunningham-Exavier said. “Experiential learning is everything from work to internships to volunteer opportunities.”

The presenters claimed that networking offers a variety of opportunities, and even if you are unable to find employment, a networking event can help an individual to learn

about industries and build connections within those industries.

For these events, business casual is the standard; however, many networking events will request business formal attire.

Networking events can be especially difficult for people who are introverted or otherwise not good with crowds. To plan for these events, it is recommended to embrace strategies to help your nerves.

These can include things like showing up early, doing proper preparation and research, or having positive self-talk. It can be important to understand what you are comfortable with and set realistic goals.

“Realistic goals could mean, ‘I am a person that is an introvert, and it’s a lot for me to talk to a lot of people. Maybe two is my goal, and then I’ll step out for a minute and take a breather because I know I need to do that to take care of myself,’” Cunningham-Exavier said. “Another realistic goal is ‘I’m going to go, and I don’t really want to go. I’m going to make a point to stay at least 30 minutes.’”

The final part of the presentation included information on building an elevator pitch and

practice with elevator pitches on others.

An elevator pitch is a brief explanation of yourself and your career goals and experience. These should be under a minute and can also include information that makes you unique and something that could connect you to the listener.

This workshop is in preparation for a networking event, “Connecting Students and Professionals of Color,” that will be taking place on Thursday, April 11 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

“It’s going to be a really big networking and community event, so it will be beneficial for students to get a little bit of practice in, ideally before that event,” Academic and Career Success Coordinator Muhaymina Plair said.

For this event, it is recommended that students come prepared with an elevator pitch. Some companies that will be present at this event are Boehringer Ingelheim, Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer.

“You always want to— even if this person is not in your industry— you always want to get their information because maybe they know somebody,” Cunningham-Exavier said.



PHOTO | JACK ABBOT

Presenters in the Adanti Student Center.



Presenters lead networking presentation in the Adanti Student Center.

Owls discuss their housing plans for the next semester

Brianna Wallen
News Editor

As the semester wraps up, students are preparing for the next semester.

Whether applying for summer and fall on-campus jobs or selecting their classes, students choosing to live on campus in the fall must select housing.

This time around, picking housing looks a little different. Students must choose their housing based on the living conditions they want and how much cumulative credit they will acquire by the end of the semester.

Freshman halls such as Hickerson Hall, Chase Hall, Wilkinson Hall and Farnham Hall have a minimum of zero credits and a maximum of 36 credits.

Other halls such as North Townhouse, Schwartz Hall, West Campus Residence Complex, North Campus Residence Complex, and Neff Hall have no maximum credits, but the minimum amount ranges from zero credits to as high as 90.

Since single dorms are in high demand, individuals that are seeking to live in singles are put at a disadvantage. According to Residence Life, singles available in Brownell Hall, North Midrise, North Townhouses and West Campus Residence Complex are extremely limited.

With these factors in mind, students are having trouble selecting which hall they want to live in.

Nursing major Simone Dwyer, a freshman, said that she initially intended to live in a single; however, due to the small chance that she might acquire one, she opted to live with roommates instead.

“I want to live in Brownell, which is the sophomore experience dorm,” Dwyer said.

During roommate selection week, Dwyer chose to live with four

other roommates.

This is a popular option among the freshman class.

Despite her choice, Dwyer said she still believes that having a limited number of singles is unfair.

“Most students do not want to have a roommate after their first year because they have gotten the first-year experience,” Dwyer said. “Therefore, singles and shared living spaces should be half and half, not limited.”

Dwyer currently resides in Chase Hall and shares a dorm room with a roommate.

While some students prefer to live alone, others are satisfied with the option of having one or more roommates.

Communication disorders major Ashley Donahue, a freshman, plans on living in a suite in Brownell Hall with four roommates.

Donahue said that she wants to live in Brownell Hall due to its many perks.

“I would have my own bathroom definitely and be able to have a living room,” Donahue said. “Basically, being able to have my own apartment on campus to be away from everyone.”

While living with a roommate currently made many residents realize they would prefer to live alone, Donahue believes the complete opposite.

“I honestly really like people, and since I didn’t have a roommate last semester, and I have one now, I realize that I actually really like it,” Donahue said.

With 1,958 students living on campus as of Fall 2023 according to the university’s website, it is estimated that more students will be adding to that total in the upcoming semester.

The room selection period begins on Monday, April 8, starting with those that are seeking singles and ends on Thursday, April 11 with students who have no roommate matches.

Commuters have a taste of Mexico in the ‘Travel Around the World’ event

Brandon Cortés
News Writer

To foster cultural awareness and appreciation among students, the Commuter Service at the Adanti Student Center recently hosted a vibrant and immersive “Travel around the World” event.

Held in Room 217, the event transported attendees to the heart of Mexico, offering a captivating exploration of its rich cultural heritage.

Upon entering the room, visitors were greeted by an array of vibrant decorations that instantly set the stage for an authentic Mexican experience. From colorful papel picado banners hanging from the ceiling to traditional folk art adorning the walls, every detail contributed to the festive ambiance.

“Mexico has a rich and diverse cultural heritage that extends far beyond

its culinary delights. Our aim tonight is to celebrate that diversity and foster a deeper appreciation for Mexican culture among our peers,” organizer and nursing major Maryanna De Almeida, a freshman, said.

The highlight of the event was the insightful discussion about Mexican culture led by passionate volunteers. Students had the opportunity to learn about various aspects of Mexican life, including its history, traditions and customs.

From the significance of Dia de los Muertos to the art of making handmade tortillas, participants gained valuable insights into the diverse tapestry of Mexican culture.

Moreover, no cultural journey would be complete without indulging in the culinary delights of the featured country. At “Travel

around the World,” attendees had the chance to satisfy their sweet tooth with an assortment of Mexican sweets and treats.

De Almeida also said that events like this serve as a cultural bridge, allowing commuters from all corners of the globe to come together, share their experiences and celebrate the diversity that enriches our campus community.

By fostering a sense of belonging and understanding, we not only broaden our perspectives but also strengthen the bonds that unite us as fellow travelers.

Next on the itinerary? Brazil.

With its vibrant Carnival celebrations, sizzling cuisine and diverse cultural influences, Brazil promises to be another captivating destination for students eager to expand their global horizons.

From learning the steps of samba to sampling traditional Brazilian dishes like feijoada, participants can look forward to an immersive experience that celebrates the unique essence of Brazilian culture.

These themed events not only provide students with an opportunity to learn about different cultures but also foster a sense of community and inclusivity on campus.

Commuter Services has announced plans to host similar events every other week, promising an ongoing exploration of diverse cultures from around the world. These regular gatherings aim not only to educate but also to cultivate a sense of unity and inclusivity among commuters and residents alike.

“After Brazil, we will have the Philippines next, so stay tuned,” De Almeida said.



PHOTO | BRANDON CORTÉS

Stickers and Mexican candy scattered on the table in the Adanti Student Center in Room 217.

LGBTQIA Prism's annual spring 'Drag Ball'

By Kahiona Senior
Photo Editor

On April 1, the university's LGBTQIA Prism Club held their annual spring "Drag Ball". In the Adanti Student Center Ballroom, six drag queens and a room full of students got together and put on a show. The main performer was BLEACH!, a university graduate. The event offered free STI testing, and all tips went to local healthcare nonprofit APNH, A Place to Nourish your Health. Students had a blast watching performers dance their hearts out.

Photos: Kahiona Senior



Drag queen Vypra Aura performing and earning tips that were donated to a local healthcare nonprofit.

Students in shock over drag queen Ryder Die dropping to the floor while wearing heels.



Students having fun with crowd interaction from drag queens.



Drag queen BLEACH! informing students about free STI testing and resources.

The university celebrates K-9 Jules's birthday



K-9 Jules celebrating his birthday with friends by wearing party hats and getting treats.

On Wednesday, April 3, students, officers and dogs got together to celebrate the university's K-9 Jules's birthday. Jules is a Labrador Retriever. He is four years old and serves the Southern community in emotional and physical service. Jules was sworn in on February 23, 2022. Since he started, he has helped students, officers and staff by just being himself. Students love Jules and wished him a happy birthday by stuffing a Labrador Retriever, dog yoga, oracle readings and many other fun activities.



Students stuffing a Labrador Retriever plush during the event.



Jules sitting on his friend while trying to get attention.



Jules and nine of his friends lined up. The dogs got to meet Otus and were very brave.

K9 Jules' celebrates fourth birthday party

By Lexi White
General Reporter

Everyone was wagging their tails at K9 Jules' fourth birthday party on Wednesday, April 3, in the Adanti Student Center.

Sergeant Cynthia Torres organized a fun-filled event in honor of Jules and all the love he has brought to campus. There were tarot card reading sessions, rock painting, iHeart Radio DJs and an ice cream truck full of goodies for students to indulge in while celebrating the fluffy guest of honor.

Torres has been with the university Police Department for 20 years, but was paired with Jules in January 2020 when he was only two years old. Before Jules was paired with Torres, he was raised in a prison in New York, where he learned to be a service dog.

Jules can recognize sadness, depression, anxiety and hardship. He responds by comforting the person experiencing these symptoms.

Although, Jules is specially trained for people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,

also known as PTSD.

Other than the students and faculty of the university, Jules' fuzzy friends in the field from other universities and police departments trotted over to the party.

Service and police dogs from Yale, University of Connecticut, the London Police Department, the State Police Department and the Groton Police Department came to show their love for Jules.

"I am hoping that students remember the police in a positive way and know that we care for them," Torres said. "I want this to be a fun experience for everyone."

One student who was having a great time at Jules' birthday party was healthcare studies major Kayla Tirozzi, a freshman.

She spent her time getting ice cream from the ice cream truck outside and playing with the service dogs.

"I think this brings so much positivity because everyone likes dogs," Tirozzi said. "This truly brings the community together."

Other than bringing the campus together, Jules' birthday party



K9 Jules posing with six other police dogs that attended the party.

PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

served as a way for students to relax and take a break from schoolwork.

Business major Sean Qian, a sophomore, said, "This is such a nice change in pace from everyday classes and being here is definitely something that is keeping me going."

Students were very

happy to help celebrate Jules and all that he does for our campus, such as bringing students comfort and helping the officers do their jobs.

Computer science major Sina Shojae, a junior, was another student who was very excited to be at Jules's birthday party. He was

really enjoying the music that the iHeart Radio DJs were playing.

"I think that it is really cute that they are throwing a birthday party for him," Shojae said. "Not only is this an appreciation of his service, but it also brings about the spirit of celebrating a dog's birthday."

Concrete Boys release new album: "It's Us Vol. 1"



"It's Us Vol. 1" official cover art.

PHOTO | APPLE MUSIC



A group photo of the rap group Concrete Boys.

PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

We have been waiting an eternity for the rap group Concrete Boys to drop an album, and we are not impressed whatsoever.

After teasing the release of the album in December 2023 on their collaborative song "Mo Jams" on April 5, the group released a shockingly underwhelming album.

"It's Us Vol. 1" consists of 16 songs that run for a total of 48 minutes.

The group consists of Karrahboo, Camo!, Dc2trill, Draft Day and Lil Yachty, who is not only a member but the creator.

"It's Us Vol. 1" serves as the first volume to the "It's Us" series. It is the first compilation album from this new rap group, Concrete Boys.

The album lacks consistency and any real direction. It seems very cookie cutter, randomly selecting different songs

from these artists.

The production of the album was lackluster on various occasions. For example, on the track "HIT DIFF," Karrahboo's verse was significantly quieter than Camo!'s verse.

However, songs like "LA REID" and "2 HAND 2 EYES 10 WHIPS/RENT DUE" showcase decently better production skills.

Karrahboo has significantly impressed us since her first song "Money Counter" was released in October of 2022. Her "ON THE RADAR CONCRETE CYPHER" freestyle with Concrete Boys arguably propelled her into popularity.

Karrahboo proved on this album that she is by far the best out of the group.

Even though her lyrical ability is not the best, her flow delivery and unique sound shows she can be the biggest star in the group.

Her come up story from being Lil Yachty's assistant to a rapper under his

wing is unheard of and intriguing.

The second song on the album titled "WHERE YO DADDY?" is a single from Karrahboo that did not disappoint, now the most viewed song on the album.

Draft Day and Dc2trill are more of a disappointment, as they did not shine through this album and instead served as backdrops.

The group had released "FAMILY BUSINESS" on all streaming networks with the music video being released on March 28. The song has over 874,000 views and counting.

The song was meant to be a teaser of what was to come, yet they failed to reach the hype.

Unfortunately, their fire singles run seems to have diminished, leaving fans disappointed in the collaborative album.

This being the group's first collaborative album, there is always room for improvement.

The album is mediocre at best with a rating of 4.5 out of 10.

Upcoming events:

Jenny Torres Sanchez Lecture: "We Are Not from Here"

The Latin American and Caribbean studies program is hosting a lecture featuring Jenny Torres Sanchez, author of "We Are Not from Here." This lecture will be on Wednesday, April 10 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

Ellyne Rey & Friends: "Music and the Wilderness"

Faculty member Ellyne Rey will be performing jazz songs with themes of nature. Rey will be accompanied by longtime collaborators. The recital will be on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Engleman Hall Room C112.

Connecting Students and Professionals of Color

The university's Innovation Hub is hosting an event to connect students of color to professionals of color. The networking event will be on Thursday, April 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Holocaust Exhibition

Buley Library is hosting a display honoring lives lost in the Holocaust. This includes books, videos, mementos and photographs. The display is open daily until April 30.

ProCon hosts tournament

By Lexi White
General Reporter

Students were so excited to participate in the Programs Council's smashing event.

The Programs Council, also known as ProCon, held a Super Smash Bros Tournament on April 1, in the E-Sports Lounge in the Adanti Student Center.

The Nighttime ProCon Committee thought it would be a nice idea to have the gamers on campus have a friendly competition to see who is the best at the enticing game.

The E-Sports Lounge provided their gaming consoles to the participants which saved a lot of time and money for ProCon.

"If we were not able to have the E-Sports Lounge help at our aid, we would have had to buy the TV and the switches," Biology major Craig Huydic, a sophomore who is a member of ProCon, said. "By collaborating with other people, we are able to save money to buy bigger things as prizes."

Due to the efforts of the E-Sports Lounge, ProCon was able to award the winner of the tournament with a brand-new Nintendo Switch!

"We usually do a Mario Kart event. That is a bit easier, but for this one we figured we would do things a little differently," Huydic said.

Participants had to RSVP on OwlConnect. Then once they arrived at the event, they had to sign in. After that, the battle began.

The six contenders fought against each other for about six minutes during each game. Then, once the final two gamers were left standing, the championship round began.

Interdisciplinary studies major John Stannard, a freshman, won third place in the battle. He was very excited to play Super Smash Bros against his friends in a more competitive manner.

"It was pretty stressful," Stannard said. "Once I realized I was still in the competition, I got really stressed, and that was what made me lose."

Stannard has been playing Super Smash Bros since 2018 and views the game as mindless fun.

"This kind of event gets you to meet new people that like the same things you do and gives you a super fun experience," Stannard said.

ProCon's mission from hosting this event was to bring students that safe space and to hopefully give them time to relax or give them motivation to complete school assignments.

"It gives students something to look forward to and even train for," Huydic said. "We wanted to give them something fun to participate in that they can feel good about days after."

The winner of the Super Smash Bros Tournament was interdisciplinary studies major Lincoln Carroll, a junior, who has won many of ProCon's previous gaming events.

Carroll has been playing the iconic game since 2014 and loves playing it with his friends.

"I think that it is really cool that we get to have a tournament that is this fun," Carroll said.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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The class of 2024 say their final goodbyes

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

So long and farewell to the class of 2024.

They could not walk across the stage for graduation. COVID interrupted and stole their prom. Finally, they are on their way out of college after a long four years.

Collaborative education major Daphne Ciarcia, a senior, is the vice president of the 2024 class government.

"This year, we've been focusing on just making sure we have a nice senior week for everyone since a lot of our senior class did not get that due to COVID," Ciarcia said.

The executive board consists of five senior students who create and execute event planning.

"We have a bar night at Stony Creek Brewery, and we are going to have game, prizes, music and food," Ciarcia said.

Psychology major Claire-Massalah Val-Fils, a senior, is the current

public relations chair.

"Everything is just now being finalized. Just trying to get people to buy tickets, trying to advertise as much as we can," Val-Fils said.

Healthcare studies major Cristal Rivas-De La Cruz, a senior, is the treasurer.

"We have a senior gala, which is kind of like, we got our prom taken during 2020, so we try to do something nice for the seniors," Rivas-De La Cruz said.

As the seniors get ready to walk across the Total Mortgage Arena stage on May 17, they wanted to give some advice to the incoming freshmen.

"I have a lot, but I would say chase your dreams. If you put in the effort, you're going to achieve anything you put your mind into," Rivas-De La Cruz said. "Make a lot of connections and network with people."

Getting involved on campus between freshman and senior year is beneficial for students.

"Get involved, but don't get too involved to the point where you are always doing something, and you don't have time to take care of yourself," Val-Fils said.

Tickets for senior week have been live since March 28 and will close on May 3.

There will be transportation to all events as first come, first serve.

A trip to Foxwoods is the first event of the senior week which will be held on May 13.

All students joining need to bring money, as food will not be provided.

"Senior Send-Off" is the last event which will be held on May 16 in the resident life quad on campus.

"It just has been so great being on the class executive board since freshman year. Like, it's just been such a great opportunity to be so involved," Ciarcia said. "As much as we did not show our faces until this year, like just trying to be a presence on campus has been so rewarding."



PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Healthcare studies Cristal Rivas-De La Cruz sitting in the back office of Schwartz Hall.



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM @SCSU_CLASSOF24

Psychology major Claire-Massalah Val-Fils runs public relations for the 2024 class government.

Owls Decide: What is your favorite dad joke?

By Lexi White
General Reporter



"Have you ever heard the sidewalk joke? Because it is all around town."

— Biology major Craig Huydic, a sophomore



"I started a business in my attic. Sales are going through the roof."

— Journalism major Trumayne Guy, a senior



"Did you hear about the circus fire? It was intense."

— Education major Jon Kirby, a sophomore



"When someone says, 'I'm hungry,' and then you respond with 'Hi hungry, I'm Lydia.'"

— Social work major Lydia Brown, a junior



"Have you ever tried archery blindfolded? You don't know what you're missing."

— Psychology major Khalil Darbouze, a freshman



"What did the horse say after it tripped? I've fallen, and I can't giddyup."

— Exercise science major Avery Watts, a sophomore

Men's track & field place second in Wilton Wright Invitational

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls hosted their first outdoor meet on their new track and turf field. After a spectacular weekend competing in Texas, the Owls would come back to their home track and compete against top conference opponents.

The Wilton Wright Invitational saw the Owls finish second out of 10 competing teams. There were still promising performances from some key contributors to the team.

Thrower Adelino Daveiga, a senior, took home first place in the hammer throw, while his fellow throwing teammate, Bernardo Mbaya, a graduate student, took home second.

It was an overall good day for the field events. Most of the Owls' points came from Mbaya and Daveiga in the throws as well as thrower Christopher Bon Tempo, a freshman, who placed 10th in the hammer.

This would be Bon Tempo's outdoor debut, as he was redshirted during the indoor season. The Owls would then show up



Thrower Adelino Daveiga, a senior, throws in the Wilton Wright Invitational.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

on the track as well.

This invite was geared to the athletes that did not get a chance to compete over the weekend in Texas. Most of the runners that competed were younger guys.

Runners Alex Cole, Noble Parker and Dylan Horkey, freshmen, competed in 800-meter and placed in the top fourteen.

The 800-meter would be one of few stacked

events. This event has depth from the distance and middle-distance runners. With the freshmen taking the ninth, 12th and 14th spots.

Jermey Rivera, a sophomore, took first place

in the event, as this is his second meet of the season, at 1:56.17. Following Rivera was his training partner Besufekad Opstrup, grabbing the third spot with a 1:58.44.

The Owls have had athletes in almost all the track events. The Owls had bodies in the 1500-meter run, 5000-meter run and competed in the sprints as well.

With the Owls returning from three big meets over the weekend, they managed to have a successful meet with primarily younger athletes.

As the outdoor season goes on, the Owls will look to stay focused and hope to complete the same goals as they did in past seasons. Even though the season is still young, they will compete at home two more times this season.

Then, it is time for the conference, which will also be held at the Owls home field. The season geared up last week, but the Owls are already in mid-season form.

The next outdoor meet will be out of state facing top talent. The Owls will look forward to having another successful meet.

Column: March Madness



By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, the "March Madness" tournament is one of the most popular and exciting events in college basketball in the United States.

A single-elimination tournament featuring 68 college basketball teams from Division I typically takes place over the last three weeks in March, or in this year's case, stretches into April.

"March Madness" is not only a major sporting event but also a cultural phenomenon. It draws millions of viewers all while generating significant attention and revenue for the colleges and universities involved.

Although the tagline refers to the men's tournament and not the women's, there should be unanimous agreement that the phrase complements both the men and women's brackets.

Women's sports, including women's basketball, has been cast in the shadows of their male counterparts for years.

Each tournament run, the men are aired on a CBS network, while the women are aired on an ESPN network. They are both broadcasted nationally, but the women are not presented like top-tier sport.

The men's first two rounds are at a neutral venue, while the women's top seeds play in their campus arena where a more local and biased crowd might be.

This season, there are more stars at many more universities than in years past. It is not just one team that has been pre-determined in one's mind to win; it is all an open field.

If the NCAA was concerned about attendance being an issue playing at a neutral site, then they should reflect on this year's first round tournament games. Locally, the University of Connecticut, UConn, hosted Jackson State University, while the winner would play the winner of the second game at Storrs, the University of Arizona and Syracuse University.

Attendance is not an argument when the Wild Cats and Orange are playing at a nearly empty Gampel Pavilion on UConn's campus.

In fact, this past weekend was the final four and championships rounds. The men will be at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. A football stadium that holds over 63,000 will see more in attendance with field-level seating.

On the other hand, the women took the court at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, Ohio. The fieldhouse, built for holding basketball games, holds only 19,000.

Yes, in big games, everyone wants the best matchup, even with a sold-out crowd.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.org

Women's LAX lose to New Haven rival

By Avery Martin
Contributor

The defeat shadowed a tough and rainy game at Jess Dow Field as the Owls fell 12-5 to their Elm City rivals the University of New Haven Chargers on Wednesday, April 3.

Attackers Kirsten McIntire, a senior, and Allie Palmer, a sophomore, each had two goals and two points to lead the offense on the drenched field. Midfielder Anna Meserve, a freshman, had one goal and one point.

"I think we just need to come out stronger from the beginning. We have to be confident and know we can beat teams like this, and we just need to remember the film we watched and play together," Meserve said.

The first two periods were dominated by the Chargers, but the Owls caught up in the last two.

To start the game, Meserve scored her goal with eight minutes left in period one. Before halftime, McIntire scored her first goal off an assist by attack Morgan Reilly, a junior.

The third period started with Palmer's unassisted goal. In period four, Palmer scored her second goal off an assist by attack Savannah Feinberg, a senior, while McIntire scored the Owls' last goal of the day with an assist by midfielder Amelia Mansfield, a junior.



Attack Kirsten McIntire, a senior, on the field.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

"We really competed in the second half, but I think if you just get rid of those first few mistakes in the first half, it is a completely different game," McIntire said.

Despite the comebacks and goals in the second half, it was the mistakes in the first half that ultimately sank the game. Both the players and the coaching staff say improving on this

weakness is key to improving the overall team performance.

Head Coach Kevin Siedlecki encouraged his athletes to push forward to the next game on Saturday.

"The reason that we are disappointed is that we know we can win that game. We know we are good enough," Siedlecki said. "We need to find the heart that we had in the

second half and show up fired up to play."

Despite the dark spots, Siedlecki was quick to shout out some things that were done well.

"We know that we are good enough; they just outplayed us," Siedlecki said. "We showed a lot of heart in the second half. We stayed in it; we stayed competitive; we didn't let them run away with it."

McIntire also said that

a firm focus on offense would be key to improving game results.

"I think just doing a better job of sticking to our plan and just playing for a full 60 minutes," McIntire said.

The team's record now stands at 7-4 overall and 2-3 in conference games.

Their next home game will be on April 10 against NE10 competitor American International College.

Owls sports recap: April 1 - April 7

Women's Lacrosse - Record: 7-5

April 6 - @ Southern New Hampshire University - L 23-12

Baseball - Record: 17-13

April 6 - vs Adelphi University - G1 L 4-1 / G2 W 10-0
April 7 - vs Adelphi - W 15-4

Softball - Record: 9-11

April 7 - @ Bentley University - G1 L 2-1 F/7 / G2 L 4-3 F/7

Women's Track & Field:

April 6 - The Owls finished fourth in the 10-team Wilton Wright Invitational meet.

Hammer Throw: Celine Bozukluian, a sophomore, won the event with a distance of 46.23 meters.

Discus Throw: Belle Smith, a freshman, placed third for the Owls with a mark of 36.44 meters.

Shot Put: Smith finished 10th out of 23 in the shot put with a mark of 10.06 meters.

Javelin Throw: Hailey DeNucci, a freshman, had a mark of 31.24 meters for sixth place out of 22 athletes.

Long Jump: Kisha Francois, a junior, led the Owls with a

third-place finish out of 28 competitors at 5.82 meters.

Pole Vault: Maddie Hathorn, a sophomore, placed seventh out of 18 with a height of 3.05 meters.

800-Meters: Julia Mansfield, a graduate, placed first at 2:28.29 followed by Leticia DoNascimento, a freshman, in second at 2:29.48.

4x400 Relay: Mansfield, DoNascimento, Gillian Penna, a graduate, and Isabella Sorrentino, a freshman, took first place with a time of 4:06.43.

100-Meters:



Julia Mansfield, a graduate, running.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Dardielle Exantus, a senior, finished sixth out of 35 with a time of 12.82.

200-Meters: Exantus placed ninth out of 35 with a time of 27.21.

400-Meters: Brianna Cole, a freshman, finished seventh with a time of 1:05.09.

100-Meter Hurdles: Sorrentino finished eighth

with a time of 16.13.

400-Meter Hurdles: Isabella Newbury, a senior, finished seventh with a time of 1:12.63.

5000-Meters: Sarah Johnson, a junior, finished sixth at 21:17.62.

All information has been provided by SCSUOWLS.com