



Piana brothers take on Beasts of the East
Page 9



Alpha Phi Delta music festival for charity
Page 8



Behind the lens: Amber Frank
Page 5

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

APRIL 24, 2019

VOL. 56— ISSUE 11

Giving Day goal surpassed Donors exceed last year's earnings by more than \$151,000



Emily Carbone, Office of Annual Giving Graduate Assistant, during Giving Day.

By Essence Boyd
Copy Editor

In one day, students, alumni and university members surpassed their goal of raising \$125,000 for the annual Giving Day campaign by taking in \$205,853.

"Our goal is to get students aware that it's important to give back, to give to students in need, to give to student scholarships, you know to help people get an education," said Office of Annual Giving Graduate Assistant Emily Carbone.

The campaign also broke last year's earnings of \$54,000.

The money earned from the campaign will

go to funds such as Save Our Students, or the SOS Fund, to help those in need complete their education.

Giving Day was created to raise money for students, but Integrated Communications and Marketing Assistant Director of social media Allison O'Leary said that was not the only goal when creating the event.

"Its two parts, one is to raise money for students, everything goes back to students. The second part is to just raise community awareness that Southern is a great place to live, to learn, to work. We are a community," said O'Leary.

Director of Annual Giving and alumna Kaitlin Ingerick and the department of Institutional

Advancement, put together the event.

However, clubs hosted events encouraging students to donate in order to enjoy the games, snacks and contests that were held.

"The nice thing about an event like this is it's such a campus wide initiative, it's not just, like, one office doing it. Everyone understands the importance of giving back to the university and providing money for student scholarships," said Office of Student Involvement Associate Director Eric LaCharity.

According to Carbone, planning for the event started almost a year ago as there were many parts and roles that had to be filled in order to put on the event.

See Giving Day Page 3

Compost bins tested in student center

Project intended to keep food out of landfills

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer
and August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

Sustainability Coordinator Suzanne Huminski said food scraps from Connecticut Hall have been sent to a composting facility to be turned into energy since 2017.

"In the first year we sent 45 tons," said Huminski.

Based on numbers recorded since, Huminski said she knew the project could be expanded to the student center food court.

Last week, Kristen Chaney, a graduate intern for the Office of Sustainability held an all-day event in which she set up a three bin system to observe and help students dump their trash into a compost, recycling or a trash can.

Brad Crerar, director of the Adanti Student Center said separating food waste in the back of the student center is easy, but the dining area is a different.

With composting, the food scraps cannot be contaminated said Crerar.

The biggest issue is getting students to separate containers and utensils before tossing everything into a compost bin Crerar said.

Food scraps from Connecticut Hall and the student center are collected, weighed and sent to a food waste recycling center called Blue Earth, according to Chaney.

See Bins Page 3

Bronze owl statue commemorated

Statue was dedicated to the 125th anniversary during the ribbon cutting ceremony



A great horned owl was present at the 125th Anniversary Owl Statue commemoration last week.

By August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

With its wings spread and eyes focused ahead, the bronze owl in front of Engleman Hall has been installed for months with no identifying plaque or installation celebration. Until President Joe Bertolino officially cut the ribbon and kicked off Giving Day last week.

The 125th Anniversary Owl Statue is now complemented by a bronze panel embossed

with the date April 16, 2019, the fourth annual Giving Day. Bertolino said he was pleased to officially hold a dedication.

"It's symbolic of who we are and who we hope to be," said Bertolino.

The celebration of school spirit centered on the statue at first, but also included the school Mascot, Otus, and four other owls brought on campus by A Place Called Hope, a rehabilitation center for birds of

prey that is located in Killingworth, Conn.

"One of our graduate students knows about A Place Called Hope, and we thought it would be wonderful and very appropriate to have live owls on campus," said Kaitlin Ingerick, director of annual giving.

Christine Cummings, co-founder and president of the sanctuary, said one of the birds they brought to the event was a great horned owl, the same species that represents

the school as its official mascot. This owl has a wingspan of just over four feet, she said, which is average for the species.

Ingerick said when she initially reached out to the sanctuary, they were eager to participate in the day's events.

"They thought it was a wonderful idea," she said. "Then when we told them it was for an owl statue dedication, they were very excited, so they were more than willing to come out."

See Statue Page 3

Annual Spring Concert canceled

Student Appreciation Day given a boost in light of cancellation

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Student Government Association President Alexis Zhitomi announced at an SGA meeting that the Spring Concert has been canceled for this semester.

"We're sad that we couldn't make it happen," said Zhitomi, "but sometimes these things aren't in our control. We aren't a university that allocates \$100,000 to Spring Concert because we value resources, student resources, and textbook cost, things like that, more than a spring concert."

The concert had a \$40,000 budget before an additional \$15,000 was allocated by SGA.

The usual events leading up to the Spring Concert will still be held, Zhitomi said.

Out of the \$55,000 funds designated for the concert, Zhitomi said at least \$5,000 was taken out to boost Student Appreciation Day last week.

"We want to protect the money for the concert, like a little bit and see if it's possible to like, you know, do better next year for the show because we weren't able to do one this year," said Eric LaCharity, Associate Director of the Office of Student Involvement.

See Concert Page 2

World language requirement examined

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

For many decades, the university has required students to learn a foreign language and about its culture.

Since at least 2015, however, students have petitioned twice for the Liberal Education Program's Multicultural Communication, or world language requirement, to be revised.

Last week, the Student Government Association distributed a statement to the University Curriculum Forum and Liberal Education Program Committee calling for the requirement to be changed to, "three years of the same language in high school with a grade of C or better; or level 101 at SCSU."

"It's true that we are different from the other CSCUs, but we have different values than the other CSCUs," said Spanish Professor Resha Cardone. "We are also regionally situated within the most diverse region of Connecticut and also the types of students that we produce professionally interact with populations in such a way that they really need language education."

Learning a second language is necessary for many of the university's students, such as nursing or education students.

In Connecticut, Cardone



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

The hallway in Engleman Hall going toward the World Languages Department.

said teachers need to have the ability to interact with their students who speak other languages.

This, she said, is a reality that is not going away.

According to Statistical Atlas, a website displaying demographic data in the U.S., 11.5%, or 391,576 residents of Connecticut speak Spanish in their household.

The university solidified several years ago that learning a foreign language is something they value, she said. It is their goal to prepare students to do

more than other CSCUs.

Cardone said she appreciates that students came together to express their opinion about the requirement through the statement.

"I think that's wonderful," she said. "You know, that's what we are supposed to educate students to do—is to formulate an opinion, and then sit down with a pen and paper, and to form coalitions. I'm proud that our students have taken the initiative to do something like this."

While Cardone said she does not want to cut down the students' statement, she believes some of the information in the statement needed more evidence.

In the statement, SGA President Alexis Zhitomi stated the association is concerned with how retention rates may be affected by the world language requirement.

This idea would need to be developed more with evidence, Cardone said.

According to data from the School of Arts and

Sciences, in 2017-2018 Spanish 200—the level needed to complete the requirement—had a DFW rate, or the number of students receiving a D, F or withdrawing, was set at an average 15.7%.

The success rate, or the number of students receiving an A, B or C was 84%.

Italian 200 had a DFW rate of 6%, and a success rate of 93.3%.

Lastly, French 200 received a DFW rate of 11%, and a 88.9% success rate.

Additional data stated that 80% of students need to take only the 200 level course.

"So the data—the actual hard data—actually suggests this is a benefit to students," she said.

The World Languages Department works with the First Year Experience program to ensure proper advising is given so students are placed in the correct course.

"[The advising] has actually totally changed our numbers more than anything," said Cardone.

In 2015, when the language requirement was last discussed, anecdotal evidence was provided from local community college advisers that alleged some students were not transferring to Southern due to the requirement.

The data needs to be harder than anecdotal, said Cardone.

"Though perception is very important," she said. "We want to listen to the anecdotes, but we shouldn't call anecdote, data."

Currently, the requirement necessitates that students take at least one semester of a language at a 200 level.

The STAMP exam, which discerns someone's ability to be proficient in a language, can also be taken to place out of taking the language requirement.

French Professor Luke Eilderts said speaking more than one language opens more doors for students. While the second language may not be the one they use, learning the third language becomes easier, he said.

While he has not read the entire SGA statement, President of Italianissimi—the Italian club—Nicholas Talarico said, in a phone interview, he knows the association is calling for the requirement to be revised.

Although he said he is biased because he majors in Italian, he thinks students should be required to take many semesters of a foreign language.

He said when students learn a new language it pushes them out of the box and to experience a new culture.

"I just can't understand why they would want to pass this," he said, "because it doesn't make sense to me."

Concert

Continued from Page 1

The funds for this year, LaCharity said do not disappear. Instead, they go back to a general fund.

For next year, he said he plans to be more consistent with offers from artists earlier in the planning stage for the concert.

"We put out offers to multiple artists and we didn't have any accepted," said LaCharity, "so, we hit a certain threshold where we

have to make arrangements for security, for sound, for [a] stage."

Earlier this month, when it was announced no artist had been booked or approved for the annual Spring Concert, alternative events for the day were explored.

Events such as a festival or a much larger carnival to supplement the loss of the concert were considered.

"So the festival," said LaCharity, "we called just about every vendor we have a connection with and were told the same response by pretty much all of them that, 'this is the

busiest weekend of the year for us and this is what we have available to you' and it was next to nothing."

Nursing major Jackie Salgado, a freshman said while she enjoyed Student Appreciation Day because the event gave students a chance to get together.

She said she was surprised, however, there would be no annual Spring Concert this semester.

"I'm not mad about it 'cause like a lot of schools, like the artist haven't been showing up or whatever," said Salgado, "but I wish it was like all day and like they kept it 'til night 'cause

like a lot of people have class right now [or] a lot of people are at work."

Health Science major Isabel Lopez, a freshman said she wished students had been told sooner about the cancellation of the Spring Concert.

Public health major Curtis Smola, a freshman said he enjoyed Student Appreciation Day more than he would have a spring concert.

"Having rides and everything, I think is more fun," said Smola. "Because there's always something to do rather than watching them.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A carnival at Student Appreciation Day in Lot 3.

Project Gear program popular amongst students

By August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

Dave Bakies said he could not believe how well a community powered bike-sharing program took off on campus.

Bakies, a senior and geography major, is the hands-on mechanical leader for the GEO 403: Applied Sustainability initiative, Project Gear. Now that the program has launched and the students have had the opportunity compile data, Bakies said it has exceeded their expectations.

"[At first] I think we all had our own reservations and doubts about the project," Bakies said.

The further along the project goes, however, the more optimistic the group becomes, Bakies said. At this point, the usable bikes donated to the project have all been repaired, painted and placed on bike racks around campus.

"We're starting to see these things all over the place, people are sending us pictures, [saying,]

'Hey, just saw one of your bikes,' Bakies said. "It was astonishing how much ground these things covered once they were implemented."

Geography major Allie Smith, a senior, who is also in the class, said students are looking out for the bikes with an honor system.

"It's a sense of community on campus," Smith said. "These are our shared bikes—we're all going to take care of them together."

Geography major Sierra Mayerson, a senior in the class, said she was nervous at the beginning that students would not want to use the bikes, but has seen them disappear quickly when out on the racks.

She said people take them to and from class, and even ride in groups.

Bakies reported that none of the bikes have needed any repairs in the first couple weeks of use, but he continues to check them for safety and function frequently.

As part of the donation

process, Bakies said many children's bikes were taken in, without a real purpose for Project Gear.

Those smaller bikes, according to Bakies, are going to be donated to an incoming community center on Grand Street, which will be run by Lucy Fernandez, current manager of St. Ann Soup Kitchen in Hamden. This will likely be the home to any other children's bikes donated to Project Gear, said Bakies.

Besides recruiting donors for additional bikes and physical maintenance, Smith said, the continued effort for Project Gear has gone partly into social media presence.

She said a student updates the Project Gear twitter account, often posting with the whereabouts of the bikes as he sees them.

"It's been good for the people that follow the account," Smith said. "They know where the bikes are."

The roadblock on social media has been the lack of a large following, said



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Geography major Dave Bakies, a senior, on a Project Gear bike.

Mayerson.

Organizations on campus such as the Adanti Student Center Fitness Center have a larger following, and have offered to spread news and share posts, according to Mayerson.

Smith said being a student-athlete means she

has heard a great deal of good feedback about the project. She said the project has partly been a success because of the local area.

"Especially here in New Haven, because everything's so close together, bikes are a good and reliable source of transportation," Smith said.

The only piece of critical feedback the group has gotten, according to Smith, regarded the shortage of bikes in this rapidly growing trend across campus.

"People want more bikes out," Smith said. "They want them to be more available."

Executives share empowering stories

By **Essence Boyd**
Copy Editor
and **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

The School of Business held a networking event and panel discussion to introduce their pilot project, the Women in Business Mentoring program, said Ellen Durnin, dean of the school of Business via a short video.

The event, Finding Your Voice as a Leader: Women Executives Share What They Would Tell Their Younger Selves, took place for an audience of students, faculty, staff and other female business professionals last week in the Adanti Student Center.

Judite Vamvakides, Associate Vice President of Alumni and Donor Engagement said her goal in creating the program as part of her final project for her master's program was to positively impact and enhance leadership skills in female students.

Throughout her professional career,

Vamvakides said the young women she worked with would often self-select themselves out of higher-ranking positions and opportunities.

"I worked with other young women, you know who, who said, 'I don't think I wanna be a VP,' and it was sad to me," said Vamvakides. "Yeah, it was sad to me because they were setting that bar at 22."

"There is a lot of comradery around this event and amongst this group. We are here not only to learn but to lift each other up and to encourage many of you," said Associate Vice President of Enrollment Terricita Sass.

The event was mediated by Good Morning Connecticut Co-Anchor Jocelyn Maminta.

Amongst the line-up of panelists was Comcast Customer Care Vice President Sandy Weicher, who said being a woman in the workplace can be both an advantage and disadvantage.

"Sometimes you're

under the radar. Women tend to be—which can be one of our downfall's—we tend to go do the work, really hard and think the work will speak for itself, and, well, you have to learn that's not true," said Weicher.

Alumna and founder of Wow! Creative Design Group Jackie Buster said being a woman of color in business means constant pressure to succeed.

"You cannot make as many mistakes as other folk or you're singled out," said Buster.

Each panelist was able to provide a time when being in a male-dominated field was hardest, and each of said it was when they became pregnant.

"I had to kind of hide [pregnancy] because I was the first female CEO of any major sports organization," said Anne Worcester, tournament director for Connecticut Open and chief marketing officer of Market New Haven. "When I finally let everybody know I was pregnant, I had the head

of the German Tennis Federation say to me 'How can the CEO be pregnant?'"

Throughout the course of their professional careers, one important lesson each woman kept with them was to always say 'yes' to all opportunities that taught new skills.

"Always say 'yes,' always volunteer for something that needs to be done. Keep saying 'yes,' try something different it's just an opportunity to learn and grow within your positions," said Director of Corporate Communications and Public Relations of Assa Abloy Marna Wilber.

According to Vice President of Student Affairs Tracy Tyree, the event was a great way to even the playing field as "every day is an opportunity for men to network."

"A man would not say 'hm, can I do that?' a man would assume he will be successful you should be no

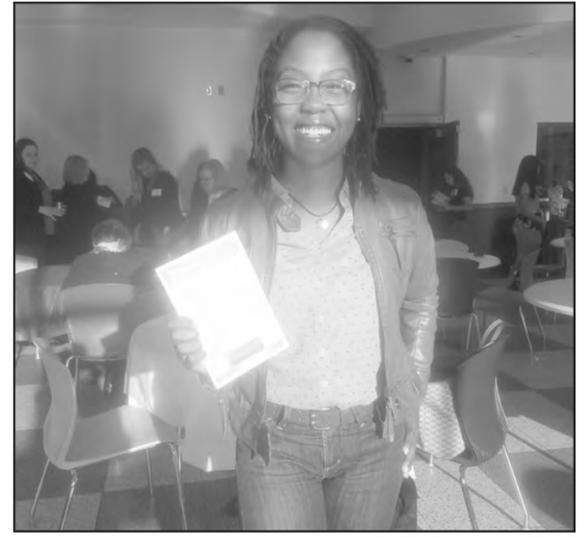


PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

English and Spanish double major Judaen Brown, a senior, at the event.

different," said Worcester.

Although the program was anticipated to encourage perspective business women, the idea of networking events for perspective business men was proposed as well.

"There are many ways

in which it is still a man's world," said Tyree, "girls and women need their own spaces and their own opportunities to connect with each other, to hone their skills and to feel like the most important people in the room."



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

Associate Director of the Office of Student Involvement Eric LaCharity at a Giving Day event.

Giving Day

Continued from Page 1

Along with the quad activities, students were given the opportunity to take pictures with a pair of hand sketched wings that were created by Graphic Design Professor Alex Girard inside of the Hilton C. Buley Library.

"Our thought process was how can we create some visual content so people would want to share the word about Giving Day on social media and let more people know," said O'Leary.

Students and staff were urged to donate to their favorite club or organizations, as not only would they hold the number one spot

on the 2019 Giving Day Designation Leaderboard, but they would also receive a reward of \$800 that would go back into their fundraising account.

"An incentive we'd come up with in [Student Government Association] is we decided which ever organization, whether it was by themselves or for an organization; whoever raises the most over \$500 their incentive is they would win \$800 put in back into their fundraising account," said Student Involvement and Leadership Development Graduate Intern Jenna Dunn. "Second place would get \$600; third place would get \$400."

Donors were given one last opportunity to donate at local restaurant Wood n' Tap in Hamden, which partnered with

the university in hosting a cocktail hour. 20% of each bill was added to the campaign.

Although the 2019 Giving Day campaign is finished, Ingerick said students, staff and alumni can donate to the Southern Fund daily. When donating to the fund, 20% of all earnings goes toward scholarships.

"We want students to be able to succeed and we understand that sometimes that takes money in order to do that. The reason we are here is to make sure that you have a wonderful experience and get a great education, so that you can go out and lead the world," said Ingerick.

An unnamed donor is also said to be matching the campaign earnings. When asked who the identity of the donor is, Ingerick did not disclose.

Bins

Continued from Page 1

From there, the compostable scraps are sent to a processing facility in Southington called Quantum Biopower.

Huminski said Quantum Biopower is the first food composting facility in New England to utilize anaerobic digestion, a special decomposition process she described as different from the average home garden compost pile.

"If you have bacteria that will decompose the food for you without oxygen, then the byproduct is methane rather than [carbon dioxide]," Huminski said, "and the methane can be used for heating fuel."

Additional byproducts of the process include landscaping materials like compost soil and fertilizer that are inherently safer for agricultural use due to their composition of only food products.

"[The Office of Sustainability has] always wanted to implement composting within the student center," said Chaney, "but they didn't know the feasibility of it, so I was the worker that was put in to audit how to do it and the feasibility of it, and here we are."

Several years ago, Huminski said, legislature



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Kristen Chaney, a graduate intern for the Office of Sustainability setting up the compost bins.

passed regulations mandating operations over a certain threshold of food waste to dispose properly of it within 20 miles of a composting facility.

"Universities are not required to do that, but we wanted to do that as part of our climate action plan," Huminski said.

The conversations about feasibility, Chaney said, had been taking place for years even when she was an undergraduate in 2014.

"It's always been a question as the feasibility, as [in]— can the students do it," said Chaney, "and if the students are even having enough waste."

The university was one of the first customers for Quantum Biopower, according to Huminski, and were in contact with them before they even opened.

In addition to the environmental benefit, Huminski said the school is rewarded with a financial benefit for the initiative as well.

Between the transportation charges, and payment to the facility, food waste sent to be composted costs at least 20% less than traditional waste management, pound by pound.

Statue

Continued from Page 1

Ingerick said between the temperate weather, the live birds and the general turnout of students, it was "a perfect fit" to honor the bronze owl statue.

According to Bertolino, a more permanent plaque will be installed after it undergoes a weather-proofing process, and then the work of art will be complete. He said he wants graduating seniors, prospective freshmen

and all students alike to cherish the statue and spread its image through photography.

"It's a symbol of pride," Bertolino said. "Every other institution has one, and I think it's important that we have one too."

"It's been a long time coming," said Roland Regos, assistant to the president.

Regos said having an icon for the mascot represents school spirit, but the statue means more than that.

"The owl is representative of Southern, but [also] of knowledge and wisdom," Regos said.

"Having that directly next to the library is very symbolic."

Regos said he has been walking past the owl for months now, so having an opportunity to celebrate its arrival to campus was due.

Bertolino said the installation was a surprise to many students, but they got acclimated to it quickly, and it has already become a visual landmark on the campus.

"For the most part, students just take pictures with it," Bertolino said. "Between now and commencement, there will be a lot of picture taking here, I think."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Christine Cummings, co-founder and president of A Place Called Hope.

OPINIONS

PAGE 4

APRIL 24, 2019

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

Classroom behavior void of common etiquette

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Upon flipping through my syllabi of classes I am currently enrolled in and have taken in the past, I have seen a common rule among professors. Most emphasize the fact that they do not want students on their phones during class. Obviously, this rule is to keep students from being distracted so they can focus their attention on what the professors are saying. However, as millennials with easy access to the internet and communicating with friends, students may find themselves taking their phones out against the professor's wishes.

The last three years in college, I have noticed there are two types of professors. Those who reprimand students for being on their phones and those who do nothing.

The trend of diverting attention away from a professor does not stop solely at cell phones, as laptops are an issue as well. I have had professors that do not even allow laptops on the desk while they are teaching because while students may be taking notes, they could also be doing the complete opposite and slacking off. This applies especially if teachers are not, in the

student's eyes, saying anything that is worth taking note of. While an open computer may make it look like one is taking notes, surrounding students can see that others are often on social media, doing another class's homework or even watching a closed-captioned and muted episode of a Netflix show.

On a different note, there are other priorities in life that may interfere with a student's arrival to class—such as commuters who could, for example, get stuck in traffic—and students can arrive while the lesson has already begun. Tardiness not only disrupts the professor but could also be distracting to peers.

Not to say that it is better to miss a class than to arrive late, but the student they could potentially miss valuable information and either need to have it repeated by the professor or reiterated by a classmate.

If a class ends, for instance, at 3 p.m., it is not very fair to whomever is teaching that some students pack up their bags at 2:57 p.m. It does not take three minutes to get a notebook into a backpack and it is also disrespectful. I am not a professor, but the thought of a person trying to leave the room during a lesson shows that they do not care. Of course, there

are the rare cases where a professor is goes over the time allotted for the class, but if not, professors, like students, can tell time and therefore should not need a classroom of students putting their books away in efforts of getting across the message that class is ending soon.

One last nuisance students may partake in is side conversations while the professor is teaching. This affects other students in addition to the instructor. It is one thing to whisper, but it is not whispering if everyone around you can hear the entire conversation. Side conversations can be distracting for other students and could make it hard to focus on what the teacher is saying.

Despite syllabi explaining what not to do in class and side glances from irritated professors and classmates, I do not think there will ever be an end to disrespect in the classrooms.

I am not saying students do these things specifically to be rude, but I think if they were to think of others around them, and put themselves into their professor's shoes. They would hesitate to spend their class time using technology, talking to their friends or trying to get out early.

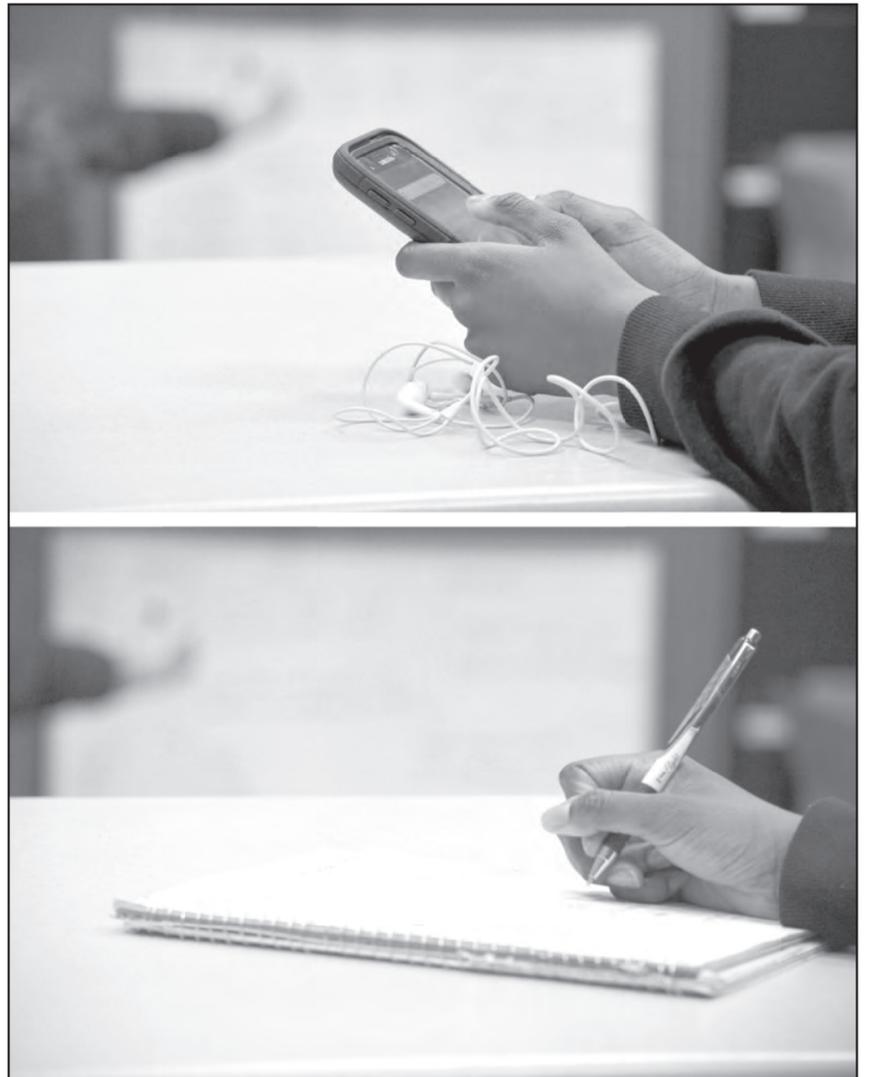


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | AUGUST PELLICCI

Illustration shows proper and improper classroom etiquette.

For some, physician assisted suicide is a humane, dignified death

By Jacob Waring
Opinions & Features Editor

One day, we are all going to die. Young college adults, if we are lucky, do not have to worry about that reality for many years. We are more than likely going to worry about our grandparents or parents passing. Insidious conditions such as cancer and other illnesses could make the final chapter of someone's life become an undignified, grueling affair.

This is why I am a huge supporter of physician assisted suicide. Everyone should have the right to die a dignified death or, at least have the option to choose when they want to end their suffering.

New Jersey passed the Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill Act into law on Friday, April 12, making it the eighth state to allow terminally ill patients to make life or death decisions.

Back in March, Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport, presented a house bill that would allow terminally ill patients to make requests for lethal prescription to hasten their deaths. This was the fourth time lawmakers introduced such a bill in this state. I assume that one day in my lifetime Connecticut will be one of the next states to create similar legislation.

I have seen family members suffer agonizing deaths from illnesses that made their passing

undignified for all involved. They did not like the feeling of being a burden on their loved ones. Others in my family wish their passing was more dignified.

I have seen friends in their early 20s have a parent lose their battle to cancer. People who have lost loved ones to horrific illnesses where they experienced agonizing suffering. When I was young, I witnessed my grandmother become a shell of her former self and attempt to continue to be present in my life despite the cancer attempted to be in the way.

We should have the choice to decide how we die with a terminal illness.

The choice for a death

where people can pass knowing they did not become a burden to their family in the final stage of their life.

If you feel this choice is morally reprehensible, that people should live their entire life down to the final painful moment, or you just feel it is wrong for other reasons, then you can decide for yourself not to have that option, but leave others to be able to make that choice.

When it is my time, it is my time. If I have the bad luck of becoming afflicted with a terminal illness, then I would hope I live in a state where I have that option. That I have that choice. Personally, I feel like I would not make that choice for myself based on

my own personal beliefs but would still want the option.

I remember my grandmother choosing not to do chemotherapy for her lung cancer. I remember her choosing to go into a nursing home for her grandkids' sake. I remember her being considerate of everyone in her final moments. I do wonder that if she had the option for physician assisted suicide, if she would have decided to end her life in a way that she could have died with more respect than she did.

I do fear being in a position where I will be forced to suffer due to societal norms. I do not, and I assume no one does, want a death that is

prolonged and filled with suffering.

The humane action is to provide people the option to choose when to end their suffering. Whether they choose to do so or not is dependent on who we are as individuals.

If we can decide what can be done to our body post-death then we can decide what to do with our bodies in our final moments.

It is odd our pets can have their suffering cease but we are willing to extend the suffering of our love ones and ourselves.

I feel that having a choice is better than not having one at all. As the alternative is far more horrifying, excruciating and undefined.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southern.news@gmail.com

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
Student Center Room 225
New Haven, CT 06515

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow Us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thesouthernnews](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernnews)
Visit us online: TheSouthernNews.org
View print edition at: OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern

Kevin Crompton
Michael Riccio
Section Editors
Victoria Bresnahan
Jacob Waring
Amanda Cavoto
Hunter O. Lyle
August Pelliccio
Alexandra Scicchitano
Samuel Fix
Staff Reporters
Tamonda Griffiths
Matt Gad
Jessica Guerrucci
J'Mari Hughes
Haljit Basuljevic
William Aliou
Copy Desk
Izzy Manzo
Essence Boyd
Nina Bartlomiejczyk
Business/Ad Manager
Makenna Wollmann

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

News
Opinions & Features
Arts & Entertainment
Sports
Photo
Online
Layout

News Writer
Sports Writer
General Assignment
General Assignment
General Assignment
Photographer

Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.

Looking back: Spring of 2002



Earthquake felt on campus

On April 20, a 5.1 magnitude earthquake was felt at Southern at 6:50 a.m. The center of the earthquake was at Plattsburgh, New York. No injuries or fatalities were reported. Marie Hart, a sociology major, said she thought it was thunder when she heard the rumbling. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said people in Connecticut are at risk because buildings are not built with reinforced materials. With Southern under construction at the time, students and workers were concerned with the safety of campus if another earthquake hit.

February

- Former football player Joe Andruzzi helped the New England Patriots beat the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.
- A new broadcasting booth was being built for the campus radio station, WSIN, on the first floor of the Student Center. The station was previously located on the second floor. Handicap access was built for the station after a student complained to administrators that he did not have access.
- A fire caused by a contractor error in the mechanical room of Engleman Hall's basement closed the building for a day. No one was injured.

March

- After Joe Bandiera retired after 26 years, the baseball team began their first season with Tim Shea as head coach of the team. The team also began playing at a new on-campus field named Bandiera Field, which was right behind Seabury Hall on Crescent Street. The team previously played home games at a field about 15 minutes away.
- A new system, called Banner, was implemented to make registration easier for students. Previously, students would wait in line to register at the Wintergreen Building or register over the phone.
- LaShante Kelley was crowned Southern's first Ms. SCSU after winning a pageant on campus. Kelley teamed up with Chris Crampton, Mr. SCSU, to promote Southern.
- Ben Michaelson, a junior, was named the Outstanding Male Swimmer of the Year after winning the 100-yard freestyle, 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard butterfly. He broke the NCAA record in the 100 and 200-yard butterfly.

April

- A student broke into the campus radio station and stole 170 CDs.

May

- Softball broke the program record for wins in a season with 25 and made the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Michael Riccio, Managing Editor

Capitalism beyond the individual

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

When Co-Founder Joseph Amarante, a graduate student with a degree in business management, first discovered the concept of Conscious Capitalism, he found it to be a perfect fit for what he was looking for. He said that, in addition to complimenting what he was researching and studying, he found the philosophy behind the movement to be trendsetting in the current cultural landscape.

He said that the organization transforms the embodied values of traditional business interaction into a good, ethical and noble effort.

Conscious Capitalism strives to instill the idea that, contrary to what cynics may be thinking about capitalism nowadays, instead of "me", the focus is on "we." Co-Founder of the club, Bryan Sapione, a senior business marketing major, added that to supplement this idea, one of the organization's main principles is to serve a higher purpose.

"It involves more than just regular dealings of business where everyone is out to make money," said Sapione, who also said that serving a higher purpose means performing business roles that do not solely satisfy one person or entity.

Stakeholder orientation, rather than shareholder orientation, is the second definitive principal of Conscious Capitalism. Amarante said that, in keeping up with the theme

that capitalism need not place all its value on monetary gain, businesses would take into account the voices of customers, workers and suppliers.

"You have conscious culture, which is just trying to create the best culture. The most accountable, transparent organizations," said Amarante. "Kind of like a fun place for employees, a place they take pride in."

CEO of Whole Foods John Mackey created this movement so his employees could enjoy a wide range of innovative benefits. Amarante said that this functions as a part of the organization's emphasis on social responsibility, which includes not only comfortable wages for workers but also addressing environmental issues that have been impacted by corporate industries.

"It's something that will really help you give back in a way or promote a better ecosystem or take into the account the rippling effects of what business can do to a company or industry," said Sapione.

Amarante said he sees more business models genuinely adapting to the idea that owners and organizations should be mindful of the feedback they receive from their customers. He said he sees that consumers are more aware of where products come from, prices, the treatment of workers and the social impact of company decisions.

Both men said they are enthusiastic to implement more of this philosophy into the



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Co-Founder Bryan Sapione, a senior.

school of business, and those who aren't specifically business majors are also encouraged to partake in the conscious movement.

Sapione said that they are looking to plan an annual event sometime in the Spring of 2020 in conjunction with the other organizations from the School

of Business. The event would serve as an introduction to the Conscious Capitalism movement as well as a networking event.

They said they are looking forward to learning more about the movement in detail and about the movement in a conference trip next week in Arizona.

Students learn about legal perspectives of nursing

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

When it comes to being a nurse, Steven Jacobs said the job can be stressful, but the fact that nurses are pulled in many different directions does not excuse them when they make a mistake.

On April 15, Southern's National Association of Hispanic Nurses invited Jacobs, a Jacobs & Jacobs attorney, a law firm that handles injury cases, to come speak to students and offer a legal perspective on medical

malpractice and tips on how it can be avoided.

"The first thing that you must do, and I think I'm just speaking from the standpoint of common sense, is be cautious, be circumspect, in other words be careful in the way that you provide nursing care and be clear in the way that you provide that care," said Jacobs.

In addition to being cautious, Jacobs said having a good bedside manner and keeping good records are a necessity. He also gave clear definitions of what does and does not define

medical malpractice.

"We turn away most cases because most complaints that we receive because they are not malpractice, more often than not, they are bad outcomes that lead people to think that the bad outcome must have resulted from a medical mistake," said Jacobs.

Ioanna Lemonas, who is the president of NAHN, said she has already heard much of what Jacobs said though the legal course that Southern offers, Legal Issues in Healthcare, but the issue is that it is an elective.

"Not everybody takes it and not everybody has the knowledge," said Lemonas. "We both took the course and we know what's going on, but some other people are not taking the course and they are not really familiar."

Jacobs discussed the case of Tennessee vs. Vaught, where a nurse gave a patient the wrong medication that ended up being a paralytic, causing the patient to go into cardiac arrest and end up brain dead, being taken off life support by the family shortly after.

See Nursing Page 6

Behind the camera lens: Amber Frank shoots nature

By Jacob Waring
Opinions & Features Editor

With her Cannon EOS Rebel T6 in hand, Amber Frank aimed the lens at the fauna around Southern's East Campus, primarily focusing on the trees, shrubbery and the pond near the baseball fields. She was not photographing for a class nor as an occupation.

For Frank, a senior sociology major, this is her hobby. Evidently, nature is often her favorite muse.

"I love nature a lot. So, that's like a big focus, sometimes," said Frank. "The trees, I was just taking a picture of, the flowers and just like, water. I like environments in nature."

People are also subjects of her photography. More precisely, people in a natural setting rather than posing for the camera.

"Like, if they are just doing their thing. Not necessarily looking at the camera, I like more natural shots like that," she said.

She is currently exploring different realms that

photography has, and is seeing what niche best fits her.

She did not start out with a sophisticated camera but with a simple point and shoot, or her phone. It was a study abroad trip this past summer in Italy, and the ART 369 The Photographic Travel Journal course was the origin of her photographer journey. It was during that trip where she felt like she finally became invested in the craft.

"I like learned more about photography and got more comfortable with creative photography. Cause I always I really liked it but never really invested in it," she said.

Frank gained ample experience during her studies abroad in terms of utilizing various techniques. Her professor during the trip, Jeremy Chandler, helped cultivate her skills as a photographer. Traveling to various Italian locales and interacting with her classmates allowed her to learn along side them as well.

Ultimately, that trip in Italy trained her eyes to be more attentive and was a beneficial experience otherwise.

"We got to experience a culture and capture it through our own eyes," she said. "Like, [it] made me pay a lot closer

attention to my surroundings as we were traveling from city to city. Like, taking pictures, I was like paying more attention to the people and everything that was around me."

See Photography Page 6



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Sociology major Amber Frank, a senior, shooting with her camera.

Students say artists do not have to define sexuality

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

When Ariana Grande sang the line, “I like women and men” in her new song, “Monopoly,” fans began speculating about her sexuality, but she said it is not something she needs to define.

Rumors regarding Grande’s sexuality began to circulate after she released the song with Victoria Monét on April 1. A fan tweeted at her, telling Grande that she does not need to label herself, and Grande replied that she had not felt the need to define her sexuality before, and still does not now.

Several students, including Tia Bonessi, a psychology major, said an artist’s sexuality is not important to her, and it is up to them whether they want to label themselves. Bonessi said no artist should be forced to “come out” about their sexuality because it is not public information.

“They always are in the spotlight and everything, and they can’t go out without paparazzi knowing and everyone knowing everything, so then not defining their sexuality is one piece they get to keep to themselves and have their own privacy,” said Bonessi.

Whether Grande used the song to come out or not, Bonessi said it should not be a huge deal, even though defining one’s sexuality does take a lot of courage.

“Society is jerks about things and everything, but nowadays it should be normalized, like they should be welcomed to be who they are,” said Bonessi.

Zoë Stradinger, a pre-nursing major, agreed, and said an artist’s sexuality is not anyone’s business. She said it should be about what they want and what they are comfortable with.

“Their choice is their choice,” said Stradinger. “If they want to, they can

be open about it, but if they don’t want to tell anyone, they can keep it to themselves.”

Most artists are a big influence on their fans, so a possible benefit of them putting a label on their sexuality could be giving others the confidence to do so as well, but Stradinger still believes artists should only define their sexuality if they are comfortable.

“It will influence people, and that’s one of the pros of telling their audience, but then again, they’re also human, and if they’re not ready to come out, then they shouldn’t,” said Stradinger.

Some speculated that

Grande was just sharing her support for the LGBTQ+ community in her song and not placing a label on her sexuality. Madeline Gil, an early childhood education major, said if celebrities like Grande want to use their platform to show support they can, but they do not have to.

Even if Grande was using the song to come out, Gil said putting a label on one’s sexuality is a personal choice, and if artists, or people in general, decide to do so, they can come out on their own terms.

“I feel like it’s whatever the person makes it to be and wants it to be,” said Gil. “If the person wants it to

be a big deal and makes it a big deal, then it is a big deal, but I feel like, especially at our age and younger, they’re far more accepting than older generations.”

Jordan Lembo-Frey, a business major, said sexuality is a part of a person’s identity, but it does not define them, nor their music either. He said artists, like Grande, should put themselves first and do what they are comfortable with.

“As they say, it’s 2019, and you are who you are,” said Lembo-Frey. “Just because you’re gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, it doesn’t change who you are as person.”



PHOTO | JIZZY MANZO

Steven Jobs explaining how to avoid malpractice.

Nursing

Continued from Page 5

Jacobs compared the Tennessee law, where the case took place, with Connecticut law, and said he does not believe she will be held accountable because of how words like “reckless” are defined. Ryan Johnson, a nursing major, said he agreed with his perspective.

“Based on the information he provided, it seems it’s often those very tiny technicalities in the wording of a law that can sometimes decide a

case,” said Johnson.

While a life was taken in the Vaught case, Daniele White, the vice president of NAHN, said that nurses are human, and she was most likely unaware of what she was doing.

“We have learned about cases where nurses were aware that they were doing harm and they did it, so those people should be incarcerated, license removed, and all that, but in her case, she just did something without being careful,” said White.

On the other hand, Jamal Barrett, a nursing major, disagreed and

said that she should have been held accountable. He said he believes she went against what the computer was telling her and had the chance to correct it.

“Medication systems have certain checks put in place so you prevent medical error, but I feel like because she overrode it. She had the opportunity to make sure it was the right type and check to see if it was the right name, but she overrode it,” said Barrett.

Lemonas said the first thing people learn when they come into medical school is the

five rights of medication administration: the right patient, the right drug, the right dose, the right route, and the right time, and that following these will help prevent malpractice. Additionally, White said that it is critical to stick to the protocol.

“Yale New Haven Hospital, they have a little star where you have to stop and think, and the medication area, you should not be talking to other people,” said White. “So, follow the five rights, and follow protocol, because they are there to maintain safety for everybody.”

Students learn to merge their career aspirations with community outreach

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

During a roundtable discussion between seven community leaders called Transformative Careers in the Public Humanities, students learned to bridge the partnership between their aspirations and community outreach.

The discussion took place last Wednesday, in the Adanti Student Center’s theater which was almost at full capacity. English major, Emily Wolfe, a senior, asked the guests what the best approach would be to get a job after graduation. Executive Director of

New Haven’s Pride Center Patrick Dunn said for the specific job markets, cover letters written with vogue buzzwords make an impression.

Dunn’s mission consists of political advocacy that helps form laws for the LGBTQ+ community, and as a part of a community service, they have helped create various programs to tackle issues such as social and job inequity. He said that the laws established currently within the state do not have the safety of LGBTQ+ members in mind.

“We do a little bit of everything,” said Dunn. “We live in a state where up to

40% of the youth homeless are identified as LGBTQ+.” That’s higher than the national average.”

Founded 23 years ago, The New Haven Pride Center was created by a congregation of activists after New Haven voted to deny same-sex marriage.

Calling these disparities “the reality of our system,” CEO of CONNCAT Erik Clemson added to Dunn’s statement by highlighting that the response to poverty in his organization is a \$150 million project that will provide comfortable housing and dining. He said that not only does CONNCAT help those

unemployed with job-training programs, but there is also equal support for students to secure employment by learning through mock interviews, company research and networking.

“It’s important to me and the people I work with and the people that govern the organization that we change the narrative around poverty,” said Clemson.

Director of IRIS Case Management Alexine Casanova said that her organization is there to save the lives of immigrants who have fled persecution and look to resettle

themselves. She said that IRIS provides the most vulnerable population of refugees with registered schooling, English tutoring, healthcare, housing and their rights and responsibilities.

She also said that even those who have suffered through the worst, are physically disabled or speak little English are expected by the government to become self-sufficient within three to six months after their arrival.

“Many do succeed. Of course, it’s not possible in all cases, so we do provide on-going services, as I said, up to five years after

arrival,” said Casanova.

Clemson also responded to Wolfe’s question by saying that one of the essential qualities he looks for when interviewing an intern is if they have an ecstatic personality for the job. The remaining members agreed, as Clemson said that what drove him towards this avenue, towards work that benefits the community, is a calling. This is also a quality he sees in successful candidates.

“I like interviewing people who are looking to manifest their calling. What are they called to do?” said Clemson.

Photography

Continued from Page 5

Frank said that her experience today is mostly going out every day and putting in the mileage with her camera and accruing experience over time.

“Like I am today, I just wasn’t doing anything, so I decided to get out there and shoot and practice the techniques and give myself that creative space to try to learn from it,” said Frank.

Her boyfriend Dan Taylor aids her in developing the technical skills that she is still learning about. She said Taylor helped make her feel more comfortable with photography, but she always had that urge to capture the things she sees.

“Towards the beginning of my college career I realized that I really like taking photos, even just on my cellphone,” said Frank. “I just started to grow into feeling more comfortable, taking it to the next level. I always really love art and being creative in that kind of way. I just decided to jump into it a little more.”

She is navigating through the idea of merging her major of sociology with her hobby of photography, as she feels the two do co-exist organically.

She is majoring in sociology due to her desire to work with people. She wants give aid to the homeless populations or work with children

or families. She said she is drawn towards the social aspect of human interactions and would not mind doing research in that area.

“I feel like they do mesh because photography is about capturing moments between people and certain expression of people. I love studying the expressions of people. I feel like it like a mixture of interest, definitely,” she said.

She takes inspiration from Belgian photographer Sanne De Wilde,

who works with colorblind people. According to Frank, Wilde would aim through the lens of someone who is colorblind by shooting and editing her photos from a colorblind perspective.

“I thought that was like a really cool perspective to take photos from,” said Frank. “It was cool to look at her photography through that sort of lens. I find that inspirational in trying to find different perspective to take photographs from.”



Sociology major Amber Frank, a senior, taking photos around East Campus, near the pond that is next to the baseball fields.



PHOTOS | JACOB WARING

National Poetry Month celebrates diverse poets

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

April is National Poetry Month, and to celebrate Buley Library has a display on the first floor featuring dozens of famous books from poets like Langston Hughes and Stephen Fry.

National Poetry Month began in 1996 and was founded by The American Academy of Poets to help people appreciate poetry and get support for it, according to Winnie Shyam, English librarian and head of reference.

Shyam brought the idea to Southern in 2014 after deciding that, with the university celebrating Women's History and Black History months, Poetry Month should be appreciated as well. She said most libraries in the country celebrate it as it is one of the most popular literary events.

"It really inspires [students] and they get to learn about poetry," Shyam said. "If they don't know some of the famous poets in the U.S., they'll get to be able to learn and to see different kinds of poetry."

The display features a wide variety of book types from children's to adult's, from British to American and from war to western themes, all coming straight from the library's selection of books. There is also an easel with magnetic words for students to arrange into original poems.

"If you want something fun to do, you don't want to study in the library," Shyam said, "or if you just wanna see what we have, it's a good way to look at the collection."

The exhibit displays a poetry themed banner and poster, both designed by junior and public health major, Mariah Villanova. She said she was inspired by her childhood teacher who created a poetry tree

where students would put a poem on each branch, and she got the earthy color scheme from the colors of the library. Her favorite poet, she said, is Maya Angelou, whom she called inspiring.

"I love how she talks about certain scenarios in a raw form, but it makes so much sense and it helps her audience connect," Villanova said.

She said that because college students often have a lot to do, poetry can be a therapeutic way to release frustrations, whether it be by writing or reading it.

"It gives students a chance to express themselves," she said, "and reminds them we have these types of resources where we can express differently whether with art or whether with writing."

Business librarian Diane Tomasku said she wants students to see the library as more than just books and realize that they are available for more than just what may be "boring stuff." It was nice, she said, to see students stopping by the display and not just professors and administration.

"The library isn't all work," she said. "You can relax and you can enjoy the literature without it having to be another assignment."

Tomasku said in looking through the poetry students may get something out of it and therefore become interested in learning more about the author or poet. It gives them, she said, a leisurely opportunity to see what Southern's library has to offer.

"It's nice to have something that is pleasant to be reading," she said. "Just the diversity of it— there's a number of different kinds of poets out there."



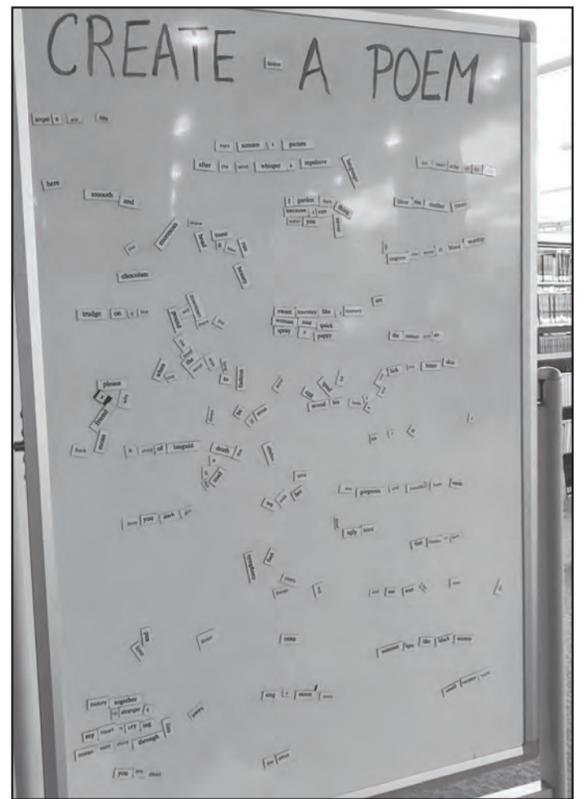
English librarian and head of reference Winnie Shyam, showing the poetry exhibit last Tuesday.

PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES



Winnie Shyam in her office in Buley Library.

PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES



The board displayed for National Poetry Month.

PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

LGBTQ+

Continued from Page 8

Regarding intersectionality, Eng is an example of someone who doesn't fit into one group. Retort said that identity often gets siloed, or viewed in the perspective that someone cannot be more than one thing.

"We think about people of color as one community, and LGBTQ+ people as this umbrella community, or women as a community,

or people with disabilities, but it's recognizing that people do have these things and they don't have it independently of each other," said Retort.

The documentary ended by saying how Eng crossed the boundaries of race, language, culture, and gender without fear, and Dunn said he hopes to see more people like her.

"The idea that somebody like that existed, like, 80 or 85 years ago, it's really cool," said Dunn. "We need more Esther Eng's in the world."



PhD exchange student from Liverpool Hannah Madden (left) and executive director of New Haven Pride Center Patrick Dunn, discussing the film in Engleman Hall.

PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRICCI

Music Fest

Continued from Page 8

Sancho is a 2017 alumni of Southern with a degree in vocal music, and a



Noah "DJ Nohana" Ramos mixing for Maaley and Demetri at the music festival on April 16.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

alongside Smith, got an encore as requested by the front row of swooning fans, whom Smith tossed his business cards to.

"I just let my feelings flow out. This is like my second home," Sancho said. "I'm so comfortable on stage. I just feel like I'm meant to be up there."

Sancho said he loves sharing his talent with the audience and seeing everyone's emotions while on stage. The connection with the audience, he said, and the feeling of being free, is natural to him.

The music fest was a free event for Southern students and, to Vinicius, a great way to show support to the community and give back to Chapel Haven.

"It's for a great cause," he said. "We're looking to expand on this and make it even bigger and better in the future."



Jamaal "Maaley" Sancho belting out a song at the music festival April 16.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Alpha Phi Delta music festival for charity

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Local performers with thousands of followers on social media and Soundcloud performed in the Lyman Center auditorium for Southern students and the New Haven community.

On April 16, Alpha Phi Delta hosted its first

annual music festival on April 16 in the Lyman Center auditorium, which featured local performers such as singer-songwriters Nicholas "Nick Rose" Costantini and Jamaal "Maaley" Sancho, as well as appearances by Demetri Smith and Noah "DJ Nohana" Ramos.

Alpha Phi Delta is a national Italian heritage fraternity, and the only

one in Connecticut.

According to member Kyle Dearborne, a sophomore and communication major, said they have had the highest GPA on campus for the past four years and strive to become better college men. The fraternity puts on a benefit event every year, and this year decided on a music concert.

All profits from the

event were donated to Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, a community organization that helps adults with moderate social and cognitive disabilities, which Alpha Phi Delta has been working with for the past year, Jacob Vicinus, a junior and computer science major, said.

See Music Festival Page 7



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Jamal "Maaley" Sancho singing at the first annual Alpha Phi Delta charity music festival on April 16.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Singer Demetri performing at the music festival in the John Lyman Center for Performing Arts.

'Golden Gate Girls' shows different aspects of LGBTQ+ community

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

As a part of a five-film series that highlights different aspects of the LGBTQ+ community and the intersectionality within it, the second film, "Golden Gate Girls," shown in Engleman Hall, was a documentary focused on the life of Esther Eng, a Cantonese-American film director who openly identified as a lesbian during the 1930s.

The film series, "I'm Telling Queer Stories Through Film," is a collaboration between the Sexuality and Gender Equality Center and the New Haven Pride Center.

Jenna Retort, the coordinator for the SAGE Center, said these films are an opportunity for students to look outside their own experiences and see issues that impact the LGBTQ+ community.

"It is to be able to think more deeply about communities in which they don't identify," said Retort. "So, the films that we chose look at different aspects of the LGBTQ+ community, and also kind of looking at the intersection of it."

Patrick Dunn, executive director of the New Haven Pride Center, said he came across the documentary about Eng and chose it because he liked that it was about a lesbian woman and saw it as an opportunity to expand women's programming at the center.

"I kind of read a little bit about Esther online and I'm like, 'This is really fascinating.' Like, the idea of someone kind of

being unabashedly gay in the 1930s and being unabashedly gay and in Hollywood in the 1930s is just really fascinating to me," said Dunn.

Eng was the first female director to direct Chinese-language films in the United States, making four films in America and five in Hong Kong. Most of those films were lost, except for "Murder in New York China Town" and "Golden Gate Girl."

Though Eng was openly gay during the 1930s, she never received any backlash for it. Hannah Madden, a PhD exchange student from Liverpool John Moores University, said she thought it was because of her attitude.

"She was quite a controversial figure in the way she dressed for the time. She could've experienced a lot of negativity, but I think maybe she was just so nice and so charming that people didn't ever really challenge it," said Madden.

Dunn said he was amazed by the fact that Eng was only 23, openly lesbian and Asian, which typically would have been significant obstacles for most people in that community during that period. However, despite prejudice, she became a successful film director.

"She sounds like a fabulous lady. I wish I could've met her, like, seriously," said Dunn. "I liked that she had this kind of 'take no bull----' kind of attitude. Like, I don't know if that was her actual attitude, but it seemed like it."

See LGBTQ+ Page 7

'What's your love language?' talks relationships

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

Are gifts a visual symbol of one's gratitude and love? Or are they a superficial cop-out from someone who puts a price tag on a relationship? The What's Your Love Language event surveyed student opinion on how they give and receive love, as well as the diversity in which relationships are established and affected.

In Wilkinson Hall, students were given a stapled questionnaire. A total of 30 paired answers were printed across the survey, allowing each student to pick which of the statements best identifies their attitude towards a relationship. Letters running from A to E prefaced each question to indicate afterwards which categories students chose as their most important feature of the relationship to the least important.

Afterward, students were able to indicate which categories they thought are the most important feature of a relationship to the least important. The categories were words of affirmation,

quality time, physical touch, acts of service, and gift giving.

Holly Montpelier, a senior, social work major, coordinated this event by herself. She said that she found it important for people to better understand their relationships, and this survey can encourage students to think a bit differently about how their relationship is viewed.

Elijah Ortiz, a freshman and exercise science major, said that he found the survey valid in assessing priorities in a relationship. However, he added that he did not find the results entirely reflective of his relationship personally. Although 'words of affirmation' was his second largest tally, as he expected, he had thought physical touch would be at the top.

"In my past relationships, it feels like it's been, like, one of the major things in my relationships. But that could also be my partner. Maybe my partner made me feel that way," said Ortiz.

Last on his list was 'gift giving.' He said he feels that other aspects, like quality time, are much more

defining in a relationship.

Sammy Collier, freshman, environmental science major, agreed with Ortiz's judgement. He said that the test did not exactly match what he had hoped for, as quality time ended up trumping his preferable category, acts of service.

"I think there is a time and place for relationships, but there also needs to be distance so you can kind of, like, stay your own person and not be too invested," said Collier. "Because when you invest yourself too much into a relationship, it takes away from all the other aspects of your life."

He said that if someone would go out of their way and prioritize their partner, it shows how deeply they care for the other person and that the other partner is willing to share the burden of responsibility.

Collier and Ortiz agreed that the survey could have been formed differently so questions do not seem as repetitive, and they also said that some of the answers were chosen just to avoid circling the other.

Montpelier said that most students who took the survey had their categories accurately reflect their

relationship personally. She was apt to emphasize that, as others did, one's survey does not speak for

the rest.

"I don't think there is an ideal relationship," said Montpelier. "I think it's

just how you make out of it, as long it's healthy. I don't think there should be anything ideal."

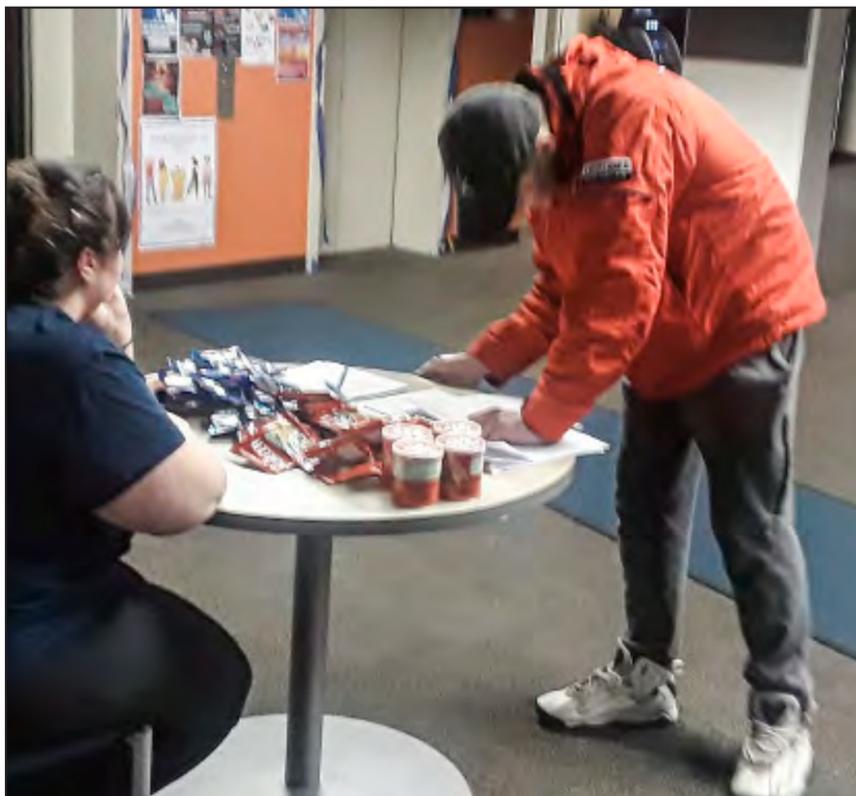


PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Social work major Holly Montpelier (left) and environmental science major Sammy Collier, at the event.

Baseball's late push for NE10 Tournament

Split bill against American International College leaves team optimistic about postseason run

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Needing a top-four finish in the Southwest Division to qualify for next month's NE10 Tournament, the Owls took the back end of a doubleheader on Friday with second place American International College.

Senior Ronnie Rossomando pitched impressively in the first game, going seven innings and surrendering just one hit, along with ten strikeouts, albeit, allowing five walks with much of the damage to his stat line coming in the first inning of the game.

"Ronnie pitched really well," coach Tim Shea said. "Other than that first inning where he walked three... but the bullpen, we gave up four runs in three innings and we need to be better."

Freshmen pitchers Mike Ferrett and Tommy Hughes, as well as sophomore pitcher Patrick Webler, combined to give up the runs while on the mound that allowed American International to climb back into the game and ultimately win the first game of the doubleheader, 4-1.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Top: Pitcher Brandon White, a freshman, pitches during a game earlier this season.
Bottom: Outfielder Nick Lamberti, a redshirt senior, bats during an away game against Stonehill College.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The Owls only had one run all game, coming off the bat of senior left fielder Nick Lamberti when he delivered an RBI sacrifice fly in the third inning that scored senior shortstop Jimmy Palmer.

"We didn't score runs either. To score one run you need an outstanding, mistake-free game and we didn't do that," Shea said.

The second game went more according to plan, as pitcher Joe Nemchek, a transfer student from UConn-Avery Point, began with a strong performance on the mound, striking out the side in the first inning.

However, despite recording nine strikeouts, Nemchek only lasted three and two thirds as he also gave up three hits and three earned runs in the 21 batters he faced.

The bullpen, this time by the way of freshman Jared Henry and junior Brandon Ebert, was more effective.

Henry said he was happy to do his part for the team in these crucial games coming down the line.

"It felt great to get out there," Henry said. "These are some of the most important games we're gonna play in all year, so to be able to pitch in one of them is special."

See Baseball Page 11

Women's rugby wins tournament

Owls claim Beasts of the East win with help from second squad

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The women's rugby team won the Beast of the East Tournament earlier this month in Rhode Island off the backs of a very strong performance from their secondary squad team.

"[The] Beast of the East was definitely a good challenge for us," senior, co-captain Kacie Gagner said. "We registered two teams and both sides came away with some wins. We played some really tough teams and even though we did lose some of the games I'm extremely proud of how we played because we managed to hold our own against some really great teams."

Junior Kasey Newman, Gagner, senior, co-captain Elanna Sanon and freshman Aunalise Anderson really keyed the team to victory with their impressive play over the tournament, forwards coach Taylor Edinger said. "Elanna has been a pretty dominant force not just on the team, but in the league, and I'm sure that when other teams are putting together a gameplan she's someone that comes to mind," she said. "And then we have a couple of other players that take a leadership role in motivating players, like Kacie; she's very good at that."

In addition to the seniors and upperclassmen, Edinger said she has been

really impressed with the play of Anderson as a freshman, someone who she hopes can move up to the A-side in another semester or two.

"Aunalise has a lot of raw talent and she'll give a hard 80 minutes, and as the game goes on you'll give her little tidbits of what to do and what not to do, and she just shows so much improvement game-to-game," Edinger said.

The team has struggled this season to put wins together but they have shown a tremendous amount of improvement and resilience even if some of the roster may be younger or newer to the sport of rugby altogether.

See Rugby Page 10



PHOTO | SUSAN GOGGIN

Pierce Piana, a sophomore, tackles the ball carrier during the Beasts of the East tournament last weekend.

Rugby made a family game

Brothers share experience on the field for the Black Attack

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Senior Palmer Piana and his younger brother, Pierce Piana, a sophomore, have made playing rugby for the SCSU Black Attack a family affair. It is something they never even thought would ever happen.

The two never played on the same team growing up and the brothers went to separate high schools and also played different sports - Palmer was on the soccer team and Pierce played football.

Last year the brothers made being teammates a reality, when Palmer encouraged Pierce to join the Black Attack.

"I was gonna go to Western to play football but Palmer convinced me to come to Southern and play rugby, and my dad had a long history playing so I've been around it for a

while, and I just made the decision to come play at Southern," Pierce said.

At the recent Beast of the East tournament, which the team won, Pierce came away with several tackles and two tries off what he described as "pretty decent runs."

"Most people don't come into college rugby knowing anything, so he might not from the beginning have known what to do, but [now] he's always making the big tackles and running the ball hard," Palmer said. "And it makes me proud to see that."

There is a lot of natural chemistry between the two of them, but they said their head coach, Bob Chester, sees them just as teammates.

"We're all just trying to get better at the sport," Palmer said. "Coach does a good job helping us on an individual level but he

recognizes and appreciates the fact that we're related and playing together."

While Palmer and Pierce are related, Pierce is just one of the new players on the squad that has been adjusting and trying to make an impact with the team this year.

Pierce said while the team is young, they all have fun working together throughout the season.

"It's definitely a lot of fun," he said. "We don't always win games but it surely is a lot of fun playing them."

Palmer sees that Pierce has brought a lot of value and hardwork to the team this year, something they will need and rely on this weekend while trying to qualify for the national tournament at their upcoming conference tournament.

See Brothers Page 10



PHOTO | JAMES RYAN

Maya Obeid, a junior, carries the ball during the Beasts of the East tournament on April 13 and 14.

Looking back on the glory days



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

It must have been nice to cover Owls baseball in 2011, the most successful season the program has had of late. They won 45 games and did not lose their first regular-season contest until the second game of an April 2 doubleheader with Franklin Pierce, meaning they began their season with a perfect 22-0.

The team opened the year ranked 23rd in Division II and won their first game, 13-2, over Felician College. The second game of the day, 4-1, over then-C.W. Post, now LIU Post, with strong starting pitching in both games, first from Ryan Yerina, who, according to LinkedIn, is now an account executive based in Washington, D.C., and then from Steve Landell, who spent a year after graduation with the Sydney Blue Sox out in Australia.

On March 5 they crushed Nyack 22-1, as the No. 19 team in the country, and when they won their 22nd game of the season on April 2 they were No. 5, beating a Franklin Pierce team that was also highly regarded and 15th in the land.

They won the NE10 regular-season title as the No. 8 team in Division II on May 7, wrapping up a 21-4-1 conference mark, and then began tournament play May 13 with a 4-3 extra-inning victory over UMass-Lowell, which was still an NE10 team back then.

They ended up dropping the final two games of the tournament, 6-2 to Adelphi and 7-6 to Franklin Pierce, but based on their outstanding regular-season they went on to the NCAA Tournament, where they went 5-1, winning three of four games with Adelphi and one with Franklin Pierce.

In the College World Series they started sloppy, losing 13-0 to the University of West Florida, but they reeled themselves back in for back-to-back victories over Grand Valley State and Sonoma State, before their season ended June 2 with a tough 7-5 loss at the hands of Winona State, who went on to fall in the Division II national championship to West Florida two days later.

2011 was a serious party. While the Owls may not be near those historic levels this spring, they still have a chance to do something special as they fight here down the stretch to try to reach the NE10 conference tournament as one of the four best teams from their division. With seven games left in the regular season, anything is possible.

Students who watch NBA Playoffs pick Warriors

By Sam Tapper
Contributor

As the weather gets warmer and we inch closer to summer, that can only mean one thing for basketball fans across the country: the NBA Playoffs are back.

This year's NBA season was filled with excitement and surprises, with LeBron James in a Lakers uniform and out of the Eastern Conference for the first time being just one example.

For the first time in 13 seasons, LeBron will not play in the postseason. This came as a shock to many fans, especially seeing how teams like the Orlando Magic and Brooklyn Nets made the playoffs. Even without King James, this year's playoffs have been, and should continue to be, as exciting as ever.

This week, a survey was conducted on campus to

gauge who watches the NBA Playoffs and who students predict will win.

Of the 40 students surveyed, 52% said they do not watch the playoffs or the NBA at all.

However, of those who said they do, 48% of them are picking the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors to win it all again.

"I'm going to go with the Warriors over the Bucks," said freshman Robert Zurzola. "Because the Warriors are overpowered, four all-stars."

Despite having a down year by their standards, failing to win over 57 games for the first time in the Steve Kerr era (the previous two seasons resulted in the Warriors winning 65 in 2016-17 and 58 in 2017-2018), Golden State still has the most star-studded roster in the league.

The Warriors feature two of the best players in

the world – guard Steph Curry and forward Kevin Durant – as well as a lights out all-star shooter in Klay Thompson and another all-star and do-it-all player in Draymond Green.

That group of players alone would be enough to win another championship, but the Warriors made another big move in the offseason when they signed center DeMarcus Cousins, one of the best big men in the league, to a one-year deal. Cousins averaged over 16 points-per-game and eight rebounds; however, he is likely done for the season with a torn left quad he suffered in game two of the first round of the playoffs.

"Personally, I still think it's going to be the Warriors," said freshman Matt Urquia. "I wouldn't mind seeing another team win, but realistically I feel like they still have a super team, even with Boogie

[Cousins] injured right now."

Not everyone is favoring the Warriors though, as students' predictions ranged from the East's top seed Milwaukee Bucks to the Oklahoma City Thunder, the six-seed in the western conference.

"I would say Oklahoma," said sophomore Rolando Puello. "Westbrook gets a sense of urgency when he's starting to lose, and he's got Paul George. They started off kind of slow, but this is all it takes, all it takes is for them to turn up."

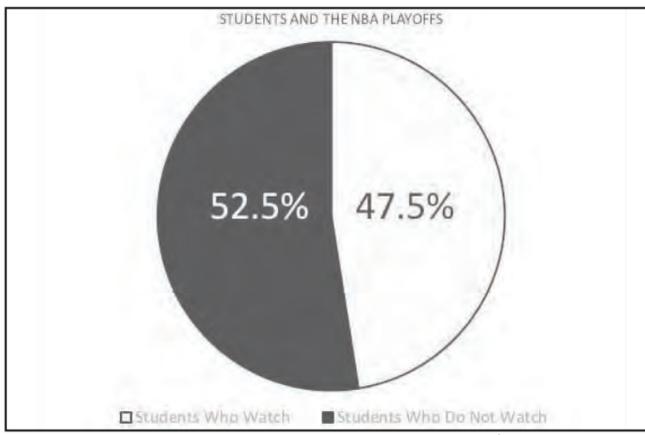
Russell Westbrook and George are both MVP candidates this season, as Westbrook averaged a triple double for the third consecutive year, making him the only player in NBA history to do so. George averaged a career high in points (28) and rebounds (8.2) per game. Currently, the Thunder are down 2-1 in their series against

Portland.

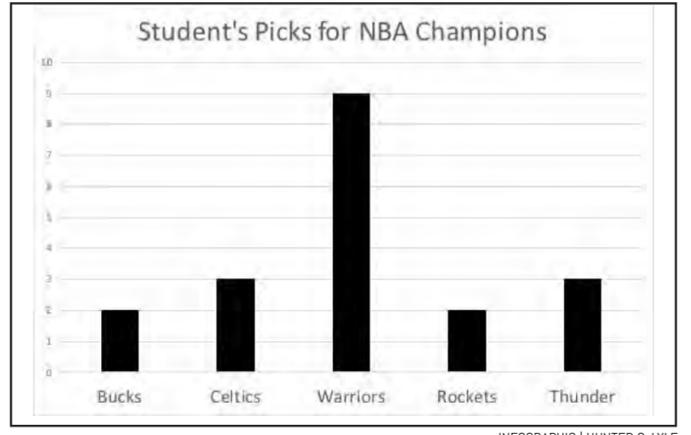
Despite being a New England university, shockingly only 15% of students believe the Boston Celtics will win the title this year. The Celtics were predicted to run away with the East, as they returned their entire roster from a season ago, that pushed LeBron and his Cavaliers to seven games in the conference finals. In addition, the Celtics also gained a healthy Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward.

Despite the talent on paper, the Celtics struggled mightily, finishing with a solid, yet disappointing 49-33 record, placing fourth in their conference.

"With the Celtics not having it together as much as fans would like them to have," said Pascal. "I think that gives the Bucks an even better chance with not many other super teams in the East."



*All teams not listed received zero votes for winning this year.



Brothers

Continued from Page 9

"He said that Pierce's performance at the Beast of the East might have been one of the best rugby performances he has ever seen from his younger brother.

"It was up there," he said. "He is new to the sport but it definitely seems like everything is coming together and he was definitely a force out there; whenever Pierce was

on the field no one wanted to run the ball because he had a way of punishing people. He was really more of a defensive player that weekend.

In addition to Palmer and Pierce Piana, there is a third family member they have on the team in their stepbrother Peter Woermer, which Palmer Piana said creates a complete dynamic on the pitch.

"We're three brothers, that's how I look at it, and having that dynamic is really good for the team because we're [like] a glue

and have good brother energy," Palmer said. "I consider the whole team my brothers so to have some real brothers there is a good dynamic for the team."

Beyond everything else, Pierce Palmer said he is just glad he is able to have players out there that he can trust in the game of rugby.

"It's not so much of the chemistry, but it's better to have that person I can always trust to run the ball or to guard the area," he said. "It is more just like, trust in each other."



PHOTO | SUSAN GOGGIN

Palmer Piana, a senior, kicks off during the Beasts of the East tournament this past weekend.



PHOTO | SUSAN GOGGIN

Pierce Piana, a sophomore, braces for a tackle during the Beasts of the East tournament last weekend.

Rugby

Continued from Page 9

"Our team has improved, during just this spring season so far an insane amount, and it's awesome to see everyone learning and progressing as players," Gagner said. "Our future is very bright and we have so much talent where every teammate is so valuable so I'm really optimistic for the rest of the spring season."

The Black Attack and Killer B's, as the respective squads are referred to on campus, have a few games left on the calendar before the semester ends.

They played some sevens this past weekend with Yale and New Haven, and they will have two more 15-a-side games before the regular-season slate ends in two weeks: one this Saturday with the Fairfield Lady Yankees and another one in two weeks on May 4 at New Haven, in a Saturday morning tilt at Kayo Field.

"We're playing a women's team [in Fairfield] so girls that have already graduated college can compete, even

up to girls in their 30s, which is crazy to me," she said, "but then we'll be playing New Haven and that's always a close rivalry."

The New Haven Old Blacks, which also play some of their home games at DellaCamera Stadium, where the Chargers' football team calls home, had a signature win earlier this season when they defeated The State University of New York New Paltz 52-0. Like the Black Attack and Killer B's, they are a club sport that relies exclusively on fundraising and the support of parents and families.

"Most of these teams, like ours, in Division I, II and III have a club sports department where they are run and give some funding but most of them are student-run and there's an executive board with a president, vice president, match secretary, you name it, where someone's running each part of the team and there are a lot of moving parts," Edinger said. "It's all just about fundraising, family support and showing up to practice and competing."



PHOTO | JAMES RYAN

Both teams prepare for a scrum at the Beast of the East tournament on April 13 and 14.

Criscuolo hurdles obstacles, battles injuries in final season

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

After a brutal and terrifying injury put his baseball career on the line, senior first baseman Tyler Criscuolo was able to rejoin his team to finish his last year as an Owl.

Earlier in the season, during a game in Florida against Concordia College, Criscuolo faced a dramatic injury after colliding with a teammate. After the immediate diagnosis of a broken nose, Criscuolo found himself with a much more serious injury.

A New Haven Register article written about the injury details the full brunt of

the injury as, "14 facial fractures, [Criscuolo's] jaw and nose would need to be rebuilt, plates would be put into his face and head and a damaged eye socket as well as a blocked tear duct."

"It's just been a long, long month and a half. It's something I never expected to happen and I never expected to go through something like this," said Criscuolo, "but, overall I'm just happy to be back."

Despite the grim thought of never playing baseball again looking like it was becoming a reality, not even a month after the injury Criscuolo was cleared for practice, making his return to the field for a game

against Southern New Hampshire University on April 5.

"It was pretty scary. It was scary for everybody," said head coach Tim Shea. "Obviously, you don't even think about baseball, you just hope [Criscuolo]'s going to be okay. He spent the week down in Florida while we were continuing to play. He was stuck in a hospital, so now your focus is trying to help the guys get through it, but really help Tyler [Criscuolo] as well while he's waiting for surgery."

Shea said Criscuolo's speedy recovery was something he and his team could use as not only motivation for the remainder of the season, but a life lesson.

"It's inspirational. To have somebody go through what he went through and to get him back on the field, I mean, we were just hoping that things would work out for him from a health standpoint," said Shea. "You don't think about baseball at that point, but now that he's able to return, and return to his team, return to the lineup, do the thing that he loves to do. I'm just so happy for him that he gets to finish off his career, and the way that he's been going he's really

finishing off on the right note."

Before his long-awaited return to the SCSU Ballpark, even before coming to Southern, baseball ran throughout Criscuolo's bloodline.

"It's inspirational," -head coach Tim Shea on Criscuolo's recovery.

"All my friends played, my cousins, my uncle. Everybody," said Criscuolo. "My father was a big baseball guy so I kind of just followed the lead."

Born and raised in Branford, Criscuolo said he chose to come to Southern based of the notorious baseball program.

"First of all, it's a historic program. There's a lot of winning history here," said Criscuolo. "Also, I'm a local guy, so I've known about the program for a while, I've known coach Shea for a little bit, and it just seemed like a good fit."

After four long seasons of coaching Criscuolo, Shea said he has seen Criscuolo make major developments in both



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

First baseman Tyler Criscuolo, a senior, at bat during a game against Adelphi on April 10.

his game and mindset. [The most distinct change throughout his career was] maturity.

Maturity as a player, both offensively as a hitter, positionally as a defensive first baseman," said Shea. "He's always had the talent. He's always been a very hardworker...great leader [and] captain. I can't be prouder of who he is, what he's gone through, and where he is right now."

As far as the stats go, Criscuolo has been improving with each year. For instance, his batting average freshman year was

.276. The next year, he batted .306, and then .319 in his junior season.

Throughout his career, Criscuolo said he became a stronger person and player.

"I think I definitely learned how to work hard and stay focused, just because it's a long season. It's a grind," Criscuolo said. "From the fall to the winter to the season, traveling every weekend, flights [to Florida], Myrtle Beach, long bus rides. It just really helped me develop and just develop the mentality needed to be successful here."

A push to share the lime light



By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

During my year-long tenure as a reporter on Southern's campus, I have covered a wide variety of sports. From sitting at the courtside press table during a playoff basketball game to watching the Owls defend Jess Dow Field for the annual Homecoming football game, I have witnessed a full spectrum of highlights and athletic personalities.

However, the sports that I feel are looked over time and time again, are the club sports. The students in these groups - black belts from the karate club, grand masters from the Taekwondo Club, even senior attackers from the men and women's Rugby club - have typically claimed that these non-sanctioned sports are underrepresented on campus, with some saying that most students are unaware of half of the list.

I empathize with the athletes in the club sport sector. If I was competing and practicing as hard as them, I would want some recognition as well. To shed some light on these belittled clubs, I believe the athletic department at Southern should take these sports under their wing.

Currently, club sports are run by Campus Recreation, which offers little in the way of advertising. To even find the list of all active club sports, one must navigate through the depths of the Southern website, and even then, the athletic clubs are mixed in a list with the rest of club organizations.

If the athletic department were to pseudo-absorb club sports - and by that I do not mean make them official NCAA sports, but rather that they manage them - they would be able to publicize the events and clubs to more students. Surely more people visit the athletic website than the club organization page, which takes numerous clicks and searches.

All it would take is a new tab, titled "Club Sports," and there could be a full list of club sports as well as the upcoming games, matches and meets.

This change would help inform students about what opportunities are available to them on campus.

That being said, it could quite possibly attract new students to join some of these clubs while also appreciating the effort of the unofficial athletes we already have.

After all the blood, sweat and tears that come along with club sports, these students earned a place in the spotlight



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

First baseman Tyler Criscuolo, a senior, running the bases during a game earlier this season.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Pitcher Ronnie Rossomando, a senior, pitching against College of Saint Rose earlier this season.

Baseball

Continued from Page 9

"He went three and one-third scoreless innings and only allowed two hits as he worked to put six batters away via the strikeout."

"Jared came in with a tough spot and the bases loaded and got us out of it and then [he] pitched three shutout innings," Shea said. "I was very pleased with his performance today."

In eight appearances out of the bullpen this season, Henry has now picked up two wins and has shaved his ERA down to 4.82 after it got as high as 6.75 at one point earlier this season.

The pitching was not the only thing working in game two, as the Owls' bats also came to life. Seniors Connor Redahan, an infielder, Mike

DeMartino, an outfielder, and Mac Finnegan, an outfielder, also collected multiple RBI's as the team was able to pour on the offense and take the final, 16-7.

"We're fighting for a spot out there [in the playoffs] so it was really important for us to split today," Finnegan said. "It definitely feels good to barrel it up and put the ball in play. I wasn't trying to do too much; I just wanted to put the ball in play and help out the team."

Finnegan has battled injuries the last two seasons, but has been a contributing factor this spring for the Owls, in the form of 24 runs scored, 34 hits, 32 RBI and a .245 batting average.

"It means a lot [to be back]," he said. "I love being out here. It's been a long wait and [now] I'm happy to be a part of it."

The Owls are now 5-6 in divisional play, currently

sitting in fifth place in the Southwest behind Adelphi, American International, Pace and Le Moyne. The Owls will need to improve to be in at least fourth place by the time the regular-season ends to get into the conference tournament.

Down the stretch, the Owls have seven games left in their season. They face American International once more, Pace University three times, including one doubleheader at home, and then a matchup University of New Haven on April 30.

Throughout their seven games, six will be played with at the SCSU Ballpark.

"It's great to be at home," Shea said. "The kids love to play in front of their parents and their fans so it's a huge advantage in terms of feeling comfortable and not having to travel. We're glad we're staying home for pretty much every game the rest of the way."

After making the finals, longtime coach retires

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

After 15 years as the head coach for the Owls' women's gymnastics program, former Southern men's gymnastics star Jerry Nelson is calling it a career, having made this month's USA Gymnastics Nationals his final appearance as head coach.

"The only real safe retirement is the one that people feel comfortable with," Nelson said. "And I've had a chance to call it on my own terms."

He said he has been toying with the decision for five or six years now but it was hard for him to step down, especially because feels he grew up here.

Nelson won two national titles with the Owls in men's gymnastics in the 1970s for

a program that was highly regarded throughout its duration.

"I absolutely love what I do and leaving the athletes was the hardest part. I loved being the head coach and it was a tremendous job," Nelson said.

For all but his first season, Nelson has been assisted by Linda Mullin, who was also his head coach when he owned Nelson's Gymnastics Centers from 1974 to 1999.

"We've been a team for a long time and we've been very successful and he will be missed a lot," Mullin said. "He just has such a positive attitude."

Nelson's attitude has helped them bring in recruits over the years since, as Mullin said, he "believes in every girl" and "won't give up on them."

Senior Kylyn Dawkins,

a four-year member of the team, recruited out of Bridgeton, New Jersey, and said Nelson taught her a lot and made her a better gymnast and a better person, too.

"Coming into Southern, he was a big reason why I came," Dawkins said. "As a freshman, you want to feel like you belong and he was very encouraging, and he told me that college gymnastics was where I would make my big peak as a gymnast and he was right."

Dawkins said she exceeded her own expectations in what she was able to do throughout her time on the team and that Nelson "tried to see the good out of every situation."

Mullin said she provided a bit more of the structure in the program and that he

was the fun and positive one, but both styles meshed well together and developed into a strong coaching chemistry.

"It worked extremely well," she said. "He just has such a positive energy."

In 2005, right after he was hired at his Alma Mater, Nelson called Mullin to join his staff.

Mullin said the only reason why she was not already part of the team in that first year was because she had recently given birth to a child.

"[Linda] has been a part of everything this team has accomplished and she's been the front line for the recruiting process. The team and I sold it from there but she's the first one that they dealt with," Nelson said. "We've worked together for over 20 years

and we can accomplish a lot in just looking at each other and having some simple talks."

In addition to Nelson taking home another ECAC Coach of the Year honor this year, his third since 2006, Mullin took one home for Assistant of the Year. And after 14 years, she said she is interested in becoming the team's head coach.

Officially, Athletic Director Jay Moran, will oversee a national coaching search for Southern, but Nelson said he would like to pass the torch and would "like to see Linda step into my shoes."

"I'd like to see that but I don't have the control," he said. "But she's a great coach. She put two of five kids into the finals [at nationals] just now."

PHOTO

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

APRIL 24, 2019

PAGE 12

Students jump into spring excitement Office of Student Involvement hosts Student Appreciation Day



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Education major Kaylee Savvaides (left) and business management major Kelly Jagodzinski, both freshman, jumping off the Stunt Jump carnival ride.



Students lining up to jump off the Stunt Jump carnival attraction.



Chartwells worker cooking hamburgers for attending students.



Students riding the Zero Gravity carnival ride, one of the attractions at Student Appreciation Day.



Recreation therapy majors Alexa Andersen (left) and Olivia Thomas, both seniors, going down the slide.



Students lined up for snacks during the day's festivities.



Communication disorders major Alexis Zhitomi (left) and education major Samantha Crans, both juniors, sitting.