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SOUTHERN NEWS

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CSCU President Cheng speaks to faculty, students

**By Sarah Shelton
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By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor
By Tyler Fisher
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President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Terrence Cheng, made his first official visit to Southern Tuesday conducted townhall meetings with faculty, students and staff.

The day featured meetings with faculty, students and staff consecutively in the Adanti Student Center ballroom in front of large crowds in each session. In the first meeting of the day faculty equipped with signs and red t-shirts expressing their disapproval of the contract proposed by the Board of Regents marched in and expressed their disapproval of contract negotiations between the Board of Regents and the American Association of American Professors.

They also wore red shirts to show their unity, with most of the shirts representing the CSU-AAUP. The shirts read, 'Opening Minds, Opening Doors,' which is the slogan for the association's contract campaign.

"We need more money to fund the CSU's. That's all there is to it," Cheng said. "Without further relief funding, with our current projections for enrollment and additional revenue, we're looking at a pretty steep hole. About a \$43 million deficit across all four CSU's."

Having taken the job after contract negotiations had begun, and not taken much overt action since, Cheng inherited some of the criticism from the faculty upset with what the contract proposals might mean for the university, their jobs and their students.

There was a good deal of pushback from

the faculty. Things grew awkwardly tense at moments when President Cheng was interrupted before he was finished speaking, but he listened and took notes throughout the process.

"I think he did as well as anyone could do," Professor Emeritus and former CSU-AAUP President David Walsh said later. "He's in the middle of it. He didn't start the negotiations. This was done by people who just don't know anything about education."

The town hall ended, but not the discussion. Faculty from CSU campuses from across the state picked their signs up, and headed back to their rally on campus

negotiations between the BOR and the AAUP.

Contract negotiations are underway for faculty and staff. unions have also sent emails to students detailing the proposals potential impact on their education.

Many students at the forum used the opportunity to ask Cheng about the negotiations, to which he became visibly bothered.

"I would like to ask for the reasoning behind leaving decisions on the modalities of classes to managers who may not be educational experts and who don't know what modalities work best for their students?" asked early

you're so concerned about the rights, so to speak, of what faculty can and cannot do. So let me ask you a question. Have you read these proposals given?" Cheng responded.

Lupo explained she was going off a paper that was handed to her outside at the protest going on at the same time in front of Buley patio. Cheng interpreted this as faculty and/or staff giving her questions for this meeting.

"So, the AAUP gave you questions for this meeting?" asked Cheng.

The student questioned Cheng's response, adamantly stating that it was their question and not that of the AAUP.

that, but I won't speak to certain proposals."

Answering the question, Cheng said he thinks that faculty have accurate plans in terms of what is needed, how and why.

This interaction was one of several like it that occurred during the open forum.

Students continued their line of questioning in an attempt to learn more about the proposals. Students have read what has been given to them by the AAUP, but beyond the bulleted points found in the paper distributed to students, little else was publicly known.

Southern President Joe said, "I'm actually happy to give you information. I can speak to what we

Cheng returned to the conversation about faculty, giving information to the students after the graduate student who was upset said their professor sent them the proposals to read before coming to the forum. The student said they believed faculty problems also affect students

"I want to talk to students. That's what I would like to do. But if like you said, if your position is that faculty stuff is student stuff, then we'll spend the time doing that," Cheng said.

"I'm sorry I'm a little chipper than usual today. I don't feel particularly well; I'm a little tired now, but no excuses. I don't mean to be condescending. My experience at a different campus was literally text messages from faculty with verbatim questions being read to me," Cheng responded.

"I want to spend time with students talking about student stuff. That's what I would like to do, but if, like you said, if your position is that faculty stuff is student stuff, then we'll spend the time doing that."

Cheng went on to explain how even when he worked at his previous institutions and went without a contract for six years, he never emailed a proposal to a student or spoke to them about what was going on with him, his job, his career or his contracts. He expressed the ordeal made him uncomfortable. He wanted to focus on the students.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

CSCSU President Terrence Cheng speaking at the forum in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

which included a giant inflatable skunk outside of Buley Library draped with a sign reading; "Regents' proposals stink."

"The people here expressed two things," Walsh said, "one is their complete aggravation and dissatisfaction with what's been happening for so long, and secondly, they also expressed their loyalty to the university and the fact they are concerned about the students above all."

Cheng's meeting with students provided opportunity for them to voice opinions about the future of their education and the current state of the university.

Much of what was discussed was related to the ongoing

childhood education major Francesca Lupo, a senior.

"This is particularly concerning because professors who know their students well, who know what modality works for them, will essentially have no say if I'm interpreting this correctly. Why is this and how will they address students who may not have the same access to me as when moving classes online with no input from the professors?"

The introduction of "managers" is one of the BOR's proposals throughout the contract negotiations that would allow decisions about course modalities to be made by those not directly involved in the teaching of students.

"I'm glad to see

"No, I've literally made up this question right now as an education major reading this. I don't understand why you would say that," Lupo said.

This interaction upset a graduate student in the audience, which led her to tell President Cheng he was condescending, and he apologized.

Cheng stated, "I won't talk about contract negotiation specifics and proposals because contract negotiations are supposed to take place in private. That's how we approach it, and so how any particular bargaining unit might approach that with the sharing of certain information, whether it's true or untrue; I can't control

do in southern specifically. Well, there are a couple of ways we determine the modality. First, a faculty member actually makes a request to their department chair, and so the departments themselves actually engaged in the discussion to try and determine which modality is best for their students. Then that goes to the dean."

"And then the dean may turn around and say yes, or they may ask the department chair to go back and have additional conversations with the faculty because students might say or we might be hearing from students, we need more online courses, or we need more on-ground courses."

**For more
photo cover-
age on
President
Cheng's vis-
it go to the-
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Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Every year, the SAGE Center holds a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil to support the LG-BTQ+ community, specifically the transgender and non-binary community. This year, it was held Nov. 18, 2021.

On the SAGE Center's Owlconnect, under the event, it stated, "Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed nationally on Nov. 20, is to commemorate all the transgender and nonbinary people lost to violence this year, particularly transgender women of color, who experience the highest rates of anti-transgender bigotry and violence."

SAGE Center's Graduate Intern, Aaron Morabito, said it takes some planning, but believes putting on this event brings the community together.

"So this day was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, in begin-

ning an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance," Morabito said.

This vigil was held in Engleman hall. Right outside the room, there were support tables from the Multicultural Center, VPAS, the SAGE Center and the university's counseling services.

First a reflection was held to explain the vigil, and then each resource table got a chance to talk to the students to let them know they have their support.

"Thank you all for being here this evening, my name is Jenna Retort, I do she/her pronouns, and I'm the coordinator of the center," Jenna Retort, SAGE Center coordinator, opened the event.

Retort first wanted to recognize the institution is on traditional territory, then she talked about a student from her first INQ class, Asher Wells.

"We believe it is important to recognize and reflect on the prejudice that indigenous people have faced and continue to face as they continue to advocate for their communities," Retort said. "Our ceremony this year is being dedicated to

Asher Wells. Asher was a Media Studies major and a SAGE center ambassador. Asher brought many skills and talents to the SAGE Center team, and he was particularly passionate about transgender day of remembrance. He loved using his creativity, his passion and skills that he learned in his major to develop this program each year to bring awareness to the violence that the transgender community faces, and to celebrate and affirm trans identities."

Communication disorders major Sam Gontarz, a sophomore, said he works for the SAGE Center and was honored to be a part of the vigil.

"This event is to commemorate all the non-binary and transgender figures that have passed away this year. We do a list we readout. There's like names that we read out to commemorate everyone," Gontarz said.

Morabito had everyone light a small LED candle before reading the names of the transgender lives taken too soon from the world due to violent anti-transgender acts.

"Most of the individuals that you're remembering this evening are trans women of color. Trans

women of color face disproportionate rates of violence. Think about the systems of oppression that exist that marginalize these individuals, and that perpetuate violence, they continue to disenfranchise them. And think about the ways you are privileged and the ways in which you have power and identify ways that you can use both to educate and advocate for those in marginalized communities," Retort said before each member of the SAGE Center took a turn reading the names of lives lost this year in America due to violent acts against the transgender community.

Morabito pointed out how many of these deaths go unreported. One big reason this could happen is transphobia; their gender identity is ignored.

Some of these names included: Tyianna Alexander, the first known violent transgender death of 2021, Dominique Lucious, Remy Fennell and so many more.

After the reading, the center invited Asher Well's family and friends up to the front of the room to get a chance to commemorate and share about him.

"I had the great honor and privilege of being



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Jenna Retort and Aaron Morabito presenting.

Asher's mother," Shannon, Asher's mother, publicly spoke at the event.

Asher's friends and family talked about his warm hugs, his contagious laugh and how passionate he was about many issues, specifically going on in the LGBTQIA+ community.

"Thank you for the opportunity to honor him once again here," Shannon said.

Many students sat with tears in their eyes and L.E.D. candles in their hands. Morabito pointed out how it is important to honor these lives and to

keep the memory of Asher Wells and all his hard work alive at the university.

"I think this event is really important because, even if we don't know them personally, these lives often get lost or forgotten about and we really want to make sure we honor them and highlight them," Morabito said. "Especially this year, our ceremony was dedicated to Asher, who was a SAGE Center ambassador and student here. We wanted to make sure he got the honor and recognition he deserves."

2022 Grammys: three different takes on the nominations

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief
Sarah Shelton
Features Editor
Dave Lee
Contributor

Every year around this time, there is huge talk about the Grammy nominees for the upcoming show, especially around campus. Many artists get "snubbed" and others finally get recognized for their hard work.

Sofia Rositani:

BTS performed at the American Music Awards, won three awards, and now they are nominated for only one Grammy. This is not right.

BTS was at the top of the charts for multiple weeks for their song "Butter" and for "Permission to Dance." And as an Army, the name of their fanbase, I feel like they are being snubbed by the award show. BTS has become one of the biggest boybands in the world and the fact they only got one nomination makes no sense whatsoever.

The group is a South Korean boyband made up of Kim Namjoon, leader and rapper, Kim Seokjin, singer, Min Yoongi, rapper, Jung Hoseok, rapper, Park Jimin, singer, Kim

Taehyung, singer, and Jeon Jungkook, singer. All the members also do choreography and work very hard to make everything perfect, so the fact this happened was very aggravating for Army since we know how hard they work to get where they are.

As much as I like Olivia Rodrigo, she did not deserve seven nominations. "Driver's License" came and went, "Good 4 U" was good, but again it was good then but now it is over. The hype ended so long ago, but you know what hype did not end? BTS.

BTS has been doing their "Permission to Dance" concert at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. It was also sold out all four days. The last concert ends on Dec. 1.

In one of the previous Grammy's BTS performed, but were not nominated for a Grammy. They only used them for marketing purposes so people would watch the Grammy's. They did not perform until the very end so we were forced to sit through an entire show that did not have BTS getting any award they worked very hard for.

The BTS fandom is very dedicated to the group, and we will do a lot to make sure our favorite group gets the credit they deserve.

Sarah Shelton:

One thing that really stood out to me this year for the 2022 nominees was Selena Gomez finally getting recognized. In 2021, there were many articles about how The Weeknd and Selena Gomez were snubbed. In 2020 there were also many articles about how Harry Styles and Selena Gomez were robbed of a nomination. I mean, how did her first number one, "Lose you to Love me," not win a Grammy, never mind a nomination. In 2018, many people, not just fans, were amazed how Gomez did not even get a nomination for her song "Bad Liar."

This year Gomez is finally nominated for her EP "Revelación" and after the nominations came out, she was most talked about on Twitter, trending worldwide at number two, for this nomination.

Gomez is in the category for "Best Latin Pop Album," and I honestly hope she wins it. I am very biased because Gomez was my childhood idol and one of the most inspiring people in my life, but I truly believe she deserves her first Grammy. We grew up on "Wizards of Waverly Place," and her music as "Selena Gomez & the Scene." We continue to grow with her music and now she put herself out there with a Spanish record and sounds amazing in it.

Another thing very noticeable is Olivia Rodrigo and Billie Eilish. Both girls got seven nominations. I definitely think Rodrigo's is well deserved, but I also think it is crazy. Rodrigo just came into the spotlight this year, well she was on a few Disney shows with supportive fans, but "Driver's License" put

her in front of millions of people and I am rooting for her. If she were to only get one, I hope it is for Best New Artist because her first album was this year and its release was huge.

For Eilish, I have been following her from when she only had about 18K followers, the "Ocean Eyes" days. As a long-time fan, I wish the best for her and hope she gets one this year, but it is hard to guess if she will be adding another Grammy to her collection in 2022.

Dove Cameron, who I believe is very talented, also got a "Special Recognition" because of her show "Schmigadoon!" got a nomination for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media.

Time for the negative part: one person I do not like in this industry is Scooter Braun, known as the guy who bought Taylor Swift's masters and the guy who manages Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato, and Justin Bieber.

I know Bieber has had so much success, but for him to be a 22 time Grammy Nominee? I personally believe Braun is just paying the Recording Academy for nominations, just a theory, this is not a fact. I first thought this when his terrible song "Yummy" got nominated.

In my opinion, "Peaches" is not Grammy-worthy and how is his album nominated for both Pop and R&B?

However, looking back in the past, many years ago, Bieber lost "Best New Artist," and he definitely got snubbed back then. I never liked Bieber, even before he dated Gomez. I just feel like, maybe he deserves one nomination, but he should have been getting the nominations for "Beauty and a Beat," or "#thatPOWER" not whatever he is doing now.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Selena Gomez thanking everyone on Instagram.

Dave Lee:

Lets kick things off with Record of the Year. Shout out to ABBA, I mean ABBA's not going to win, but seeing them nominated in 2021, that is huge. I think it is going to go to "Driver's License." Olivia Rodrigo has a decent solid record and I think she is going to steal the show this year. It is a basic song, but there are worse options, like Bieber.

Please do not let Justin Bieber win any of these Grammys, "Peaches" is such a bad and overplayed song.

I want to see "Happier than Ever," get some Grammys. It is a super great song, Billie Eilish really shook us with that one, but it is longer than five minutes so it is probably not going to get the Grammy. The same thing with "Montero" by Lil Nas X, great song, problem is, it is not "radio friendly enough."

When we got Album of the Year. Again, I can see this going to "Sour" by Rodrigo or even the new Taylor Swift record.

I would love to see it go to Lil Nas X or Billie Eilish, but people were not so crazy about "Happier than ever," compared to Eilish's first record. There is also Kanye's album, but they are probably not going to give it to Kanye or Doja Cat. I

just hope it is not Bieber. At this point it is just the same pattern, for Song of the Year give to Olivia Rodrigo and do not give it to Justin Bieber.

ust to add insult to injury, "Bad Habits" by Ed Sheeran is in the same Category as "Peaches," which is just as bad of a song, in my opinion. Driver's License is the most decent, and most likely to get a Grammy.

Again, it is a shame "Happier Than Ever" will most likely not get it. I can see it going to "Kiss Me More" by Doja Cat because of Tik Tok, where the song became a trend, but I will be happy if they just give it to Rodrigo.

Now it is just getting out of hand. For Best R&B performance "Peaches" by Bieber gets nominated again. It really is not an R&B song, I get that it gets those vibes, but on top of that, what makes their performance of the song so great? The melody is so repetitive and boring.

Shout out to Anderson .Paak, Silk Sonic and Bruno Mars in this category because they work so well together. "Leave the Door Open" is a fun song. I also feel like Doja Cat is going to get snubbed, which is unfortunate.

The moral of the story for this years Grammys: "Driver's License."



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

A picture of BTS on a Southern News computer.

A long college career ends at the Southern News



By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

My time as a senior is coming to an end. I am graduating in December after such a long undergraduate career. Although this is my second degree, it feels like my first. My first love was always writing.

I started my career in 2009, fresh out of high school, unaware of the journey this college thing would take me on. My first degree took seven years and three schools. One private, one community college and one state university, Southern.

It has been my home away from my very close-in-distance home. I joined many groups and made sure to experience as much as I could while in school. I have been a part of the tv station, radio station, newspaper, magazine, society of professional journalists, Caribbean students' association and more. I made sure to spend my time doing things I loved around people that made

it worthwhile.

Finally saying goodbye to my life as a young college student is bittersweet. It has felt safe here. I know who I am here and where I stand in the world. Transitioning into the real world for a second time with even more experience is scary but I think I am ready this time. I was always ready. Life just handed me curveballs you can never fully prepare for.

This second undergraduate experience began in the fall of 2020. I had been unemployed after catching COVID-19 earlier in the year and was unsure what my next steps were. It is a pandemic but I wanted to be sure I did not continue to stay stagnant.

Coming off the heels of months with borderline agoraphobia, I was not very involved when I first came back. We were still mostly online, and I was still afraid. What would this new experience give me in such trying times?

It turned out there was a lot I needed to experience to say with confidence "I'm done." There was so much stress from being in a different stage in life and being around so many younger people but also realizing just how different I was. I was not the same Danielle who came to Southern in 2013. I was completely different. It was not just my age but my likes, dislikes, style, temperament and more had all changed.

I was a different person, and I did not recognize myself most days. Mental illness will do that to you. I had recently been diagnosed with persistent depressive disorder with anxious distress. I was having more panic attacks. I had changed and I had no idea when.

Being this new me and navigating college life as a hardworking and highly involved senior was very trying. I slept very little. I was stressed very much. I cried some. I ate some and many days I never ate at all. It was a learning experience. I had thought I was the same me and was taught how much I was not.

If anything, this experience made me

solidify who I wanted to be. I want to talk about mental health and social justice. I was to be heavily committed to actions which are aligned with those values. I want to be an active participant in positive change, equality and equity.

Senior year this time around taught me it is okay to change who you are. It is okay to be in a different space in your life. It is okay to admit you are afraid. It is okay to act despite those intense fears.

I am heading into the world renewed and with the understanding of my differences, from others around me and from the old me, but it is okay. I will be okay.

Finals week creates stress with college students

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

Finals are coming up and we all know what that means. Stress.

While going to class and getting homework done is stress-inducing as it is, finals make it seem like the end of the world at points. Writing 8-10 page essays, studying for that 50-question exam, praying it is all multiple choice, and crying when it is half multiple choice and half open ended.

While to be stressed out

is normal during this time we should also be aware of our mental health impact and how it is affected.

Being stressed and trying to focus does not help anyone and making a list may help with the stress of getting your finals done, this method can also help with homework in general.

"Write stuff down. The average college student has a laundry list of tasks to complete. By writing everything down, you transfer what has been weighing heavy on your mind onto a piece of paper. Physically seeing all of

the things you have to do can help you manage it. Through creating a to-do list, you can actively work to cross each item off as you complete it. Bonus: for every task you cross off your list, reward yourself," an article from MEFA.org said.

A really important part of getting your work done and also not being stressed is getting sleep, college students get little to no sleep as it is so being able to relax and sleep at night or even getting a little nap in during the day is very beneficial for students

especially during finals week.

Having a positive mindset is something that can get you through so much, not just finals.

Rewarding yourself throughout the process of studying or getting the work done is one thing which can help you. One thing I do is each time I finish a chapter in a book or get a paragraph done I give myself a piece of candy or give myself five minutes to go on my phone and scroll through Tiktok, but you have to be careful with this because you will

go through a rabbit hole and be on it for an hour or two. I usually set an alarm, so I know when to start working again.

While studying do not use your phone. Put your phone on do not disturb or silence it. Hide it if you need to. I would recommend also setting up a timer so you can take a break.

I use studying websites, personally my favorite one right now is "Life At Virtual Spaces" where I can study with a nice background, my personal favorite is the ones with celebrities, I

usually do the one with BTS or Stray Kids, it plays music in the background while it looks like they are studying with you.

If you do not want to virtually study with someone, find a study buddy and go to the library together and book a study room. You can even study in your dorm as long as you keep the distractions to a minimum.

Studying is hard, finals are harder. But we will get through this end of the semester and finish our finals with the grades we deserve.

I did not get my drivers license last week, Olivia

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

One thing most college students have is their license. I do not, yet.

I remember at 16 and in high school and everyone around me thinking I was crazy for not going for my license. I actually had no interest in driving until this year, at 20 years old. I still hate the idea of driving, but at this point, I feel I need it.

I feel like it is expected of us, as university students, to have our driver's license, but honestly, I know so many people at this university who do not. I think going for it when you are ready should be more normalized.

I went at 20 years old and took my permit test for the first time and passed.

This week, I finally took my driving test and did not exceed. And it is okay.

Yes, the driving test is easy. I just have bad anxiety and I am not a good test taker something I actually wrote about during midterms.

I had the test originally scheduled for a week before, and I felt so ready. I just had my last lesson two days before, I was driving good and safely. They called me the night before and said Department of Motor Vehicles, DMV, was not going to send anyone out, so it had to be rescheduled.

The morning of the rescheduled test, I had bad anxiety, had a headache and did not sleep well. I had a feeling I was going to fail. I was not ready

that day, which absolutely sucks.

Also, if I am to be honest, the guy who I took it with only seemed interested in when his last student was and was extremely rude to me, making me even more nervous. I almost missed a hidden road, that he pointed out was hidden and kept going "holy moly holy Jesus."

Would you drive well on a driving test when your DMV agent is doing that? I also turned safely. The turn was definitely wide because I almost missed it, but in real life, I would have found a different route at that point. He made me turn.

As someone who is on medication for anxiety, I feel like it is very normalized to me to

talk about how it is a real illness. I also understand others may mess up because of it, but this man told me, with no emotion, "everyone is nervous, it's not that. You need more practice."

Of course, if I mess up, especially because of my anxiety, I do not expect to get a pass. It just really hurt me that he insinuated it was not my nerves which caused me to fail. Both of my driving instructors have insisted I was well enough of a driver to pass, in fact, they were excited for my test.

I drove perfectly right after the test in my own car.

According to the paper the DMV agent wrote, the real reason I failed was: I did not turn my head fully during the back-in portion.

The nice man inside even let me know that after I handed him my "you failed" paper. I do not know how that requires two weeks of more practice. I think after almost missing a hidden road, he just wanted to fail me, to be honest.

Not everyone passes their first time. My friend actually failed three times and another friend of mine recently failed his second time. He became discouraged and does not want to take it again, but I will try again and get it before 2021 ends.

Now that I know what the test is like, I think I will be okay. I took it through a driving school and I definitely prefer my car over theirs'. It was harder to drive. Maybe I can take

it with my car directly through the DMV instead.

Always try to figure out what is more comfortable for you, because I may look at that option instead.

As a junior in college, I feel like the need to have my driver's license is coming. But I want other students to know it is okay to take your time and wait until you are ready. And it is disappointing, but not the end of the world if you fail your first try.

Basically, in the words from my mom through a text, "just don't give up! You're a good driver!"

I guess I will not be listening to "Driver's License" by Olivia Rodrigo. But seriously, make sure to fully turn your head and body when doing a back-in.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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'Out of Bounds' play was devised by theatre students

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

'Out of Bounds' was the second production to be offered this semester by the theatre department and Crescent players.

The piece, devised by students of the class THR 298, Devising Theatre, was performed in the Kendall Drama Lab, with performances from Nov. 18, through Nov. 20.

"This play I believe was about the areas of our life that are out of bounds. Whether they're relationships, gender, parents or school," audience member Ethan Deer said. "The topics in our life that are hard to talk about and we usually don't."

The play consisted of a series of different scenes brushing on different social issues like sexual orientation, gender identity and rocky relationships.

The introduction scene featured 'I Want to Break Free' by Queen on a well-constructed set in a small space, with the golden ratio spiral making appearances across the set.

Given the nature of the play, all cast members were thrust into multiple roles and all but one member was wearing suspenders at the start for some reason.

Things moved fast. There was a wedding, kids playing video games then back to the wedding.

A phone conversation from the character Amy served to upset her

boyfriend, which resulted in a mock boxing match, complete with lacing up the gloves, a ring announcer and trainers in the corners to hype up their combatant after each round of trading verbal barbs.

When the guy spit on his girlfriend, he was promptly booed out of the building, for it was a low blow.

They jumped around some more. An old man told a droning story. There was a wardrobe change and a stage freeze to transition to a game of Jeopardy.

The Jeopardy game had categories like pride flags, gender identities, abbreviations and orientations. There was no clear winner of the contest.

Then the play moved to



Photo | Roma Rositani

The cast of 'Out of Bounds' takes a bow after their final performance in the Kendall drama Lab on Saturday, Nov. 20.

outer space it would have appeared as a character in a purple beard listed as 'The Boss' in the playbill acted in the role of a god or goddess of sorts, creating a new human with some help.

A reaper-like figure listed as 'The Messenger' in the playbill then appeared to tell 'The Boss' they were needed below, but it's okay, because 'Baby J' shows up to complete the human by giving it asthma and anxiety.

The crowd was into it. "I thought it was pretty good," said audience member Alex Rice. "I'd call it successful."

The following scene was centered around two Yale students. One from an affluent background and the other a first-generation college student; one of the themes of the play.

"I definitely learned a lot about being a first-generation college student, because I am one," said cast member Jenna Guluzy, a junior. "But I really didn't know anything statistics wise and I didn't realize how disadvantaged first-generation college students really are."

The scene ended rather abruptly with a rap song. 'Standing on the Precipice' was the next scene, featuring the characters Esme and Rose telling each other their whole life stories before they even got around to explaining each other's name.

'Comfortably Numb' by Pink Floyd was played as a transition between the 9/11 talk and the civil rights scene, where the characters plotted a sit-in at the local

diner in town.

'Out of Bounds' drew to a close soon thereafter, having brushed on a lot of serious topics over a relatively short period of time. The cast did not have a ton of time to put this production together, seeing as it was done as part of a class.

"We touch on a lot of heavy subjects," Guluzy said. "To have the cast agree on such hot button issues and such big things was really hard."

'Out of Bounds' was the final production offered by the theatre department for the year. They will be back come spring.

"We started Aug. 26," Guluzy said. To see something go from Aug. 26 to Nov. 20, there's so much of an attachment, so it's definitely a success."



Photo | Roma Rositani

The cast of 'Out of Bounds' perform a scene from their devised play in the Kendall Drama Lab on Saturday, Nov. 20.

Rhoyal BlueZ karaoke night

By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

Nostalgia was the name of the game when it came to the Rhoyal BlueZ karaoke night. The divine nine sororities Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. collaborated to bring a fun night of singing to the songs of students' childhood.

The room was slowly filling up as you could hear side conversations throughout the room. Small laughs and light discussions on a Tuesday night felt necessary for the students as the semester is at its most stressful, the end.

First on the menu of assorted song selections was a song from the Disney animated movie Moana. The song "Where you Are." A few audience members knew the lyrics word for word, but most were singing with the lyrics on the big screen.

The crowd was still very much shy and not giving the songs their full strength. The song was sung without the confidence and gusto of a traditional karaoke night.

This shyness may be a result of the stress and social reintroduction students have dealt with over the semester due to COVID-19. Usually, karaoke nights are loud and full of confidence people usually do not exhibit daily.

"We decided on this program because we want to do something fun for the students on campus to have a chance to just relax, be themselves and just be free and be comfortable to sing their hearts out," said Vice President of the Sigma Gamma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Inc., Letitia Adumoah.



Photo | Danielle Campbell

Kyra Catubig singing karaoke at the event.

Although the Adanti Center theater's speakers were not very loud, the students still enjoyed singing along to their favorite jams. The microphone needed to be fixed but the crowd stepped in, still shy, and tried to sing the songs together.

The ever-popular karaoke song among black crowds, Fantasia's "When I see you" brought out a bit more confidence the audience had not shown yet. Those walking in the room were taken by the spirit of Fantasia as they belted out one of her greatest hits, but the room was still very much quiet.

When High School Musical's "Gotta Go My Own Way" was requested, the students gained their confidence. Something about the songs of one's childhood brings the passion out.

"What about us? What about everything we've been through? What about trust? You know I never wanted to hurt you. And what about me? What am I supposed to do? I gotta leave but I'll miss you," belted the crowd, finally gaining the volume necessary to be worthy of a

certified karaoke night.

After this song came on, the crowd continued to venture on this nostalgic path. Continuing with the Disney theme, the crowd requested Nick Jonas' "Introducing Me" from the Camp Rock 2 movie.

Further into the night, the first person to sing a solo stood before the audience in front of the big screen, singing to Lauryn Hill's "Killing Me Softly".

"Singing the song up front was my favorite part because there's not a choir on campus, so I feel like going to events like this lets me sing," said sociology major Tessiny Colon, a sophomore.

The night ended with gospel music. First, there was Mary Mary's "Can't Give Up Now" where a duet took place at the front of the room. Then there was Kirk Franklin's "Melodies from Heaven" where a mock choir of various voice ranges broke out to the melodies of the song.

To end the night, a few of the crowd sang Sinoch's "Waymaker" and Adumoah broke out in pastoral fashioned adlibs. All in all, the students got to have a night of fun.

New crosswalk signals placed

By Sofia Rositani
Copy Editor
Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

The university has implemented crosswalk lights on Farnham Avenue for students to use while they cross the street. These signals are located by the crosswalk, in-between the construction site and Farnham Hall leading to Connecticut Hall.

"In an effort to ensure the safety of pedestrians utilizing Farnham Ave, flashing crosswalk signs have been installed on both sides of the roadway at the new Crosswalk near the construction site for the new School of Business building," Patrick Dilger sent in an email. "These signs allow for pedestrians to push a button to activate the warning lights alerting motorists that they are crossing the roadway. If you or someone you know uses this crosswalk, please be aware that the signals are in place and can be utilized anytime someone is crossing the street. Please check both ways before stepping out."

Chief Joseph Dooley said the city of New Haven determines where the crosswalks are put and due to the future school of business being under construction and eventually built there, it made sense for the crosswalk to be placed on that part of the road.

"One of the biggest concerns we have right now is that there was someone there to cross people. There was signage, and there was a crosser, but now there is an electronic sign there. But a lot [of students] are just stepping



Photo | Sarah Shelton

New crosswalk signals on Farnham Avenue.



Photo | Bria Kirklon

Crosswalk on Farnham Avenue complete with signals.

onto the street and there's buttons on either side; they weren't hitting the button, so we added signs," Dooley said.

Many students are not seen using the crosswalk, never mind the new signals.

"Just walk the crosswalk," Biology major Angel Delgado, a junior, said.

Back during Delgado's freshman year, he said he would not think the signals would be necessary, but now it is a different story.

"I guess if there are [drivers not seeing students] it would probably be because of the construction," Delgado said.

The new lights will help

people notice someone using the crosswalk, especially at night. The flashing lights can help them see that a student is about to cross in front of them.

"Hit the button, and that way those signal lights will go off. If you don't hit those buttons, the lights won't go off. Attracting the attention of the driver," Dooley said.

The crosswalk lights are a permanent fixture at the crosswalk.

"It's good," communications major Valerie Neyra, a senior, said. "It makes sure people are passing the road safely, because previously it was harder to cross the street at night."

Students perform a play and fashion show



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Students in the front row watching "Out of Bounds" in Lyman Centers Blackbox for the final showing.



PHOTOS | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Student models took their place on stage.



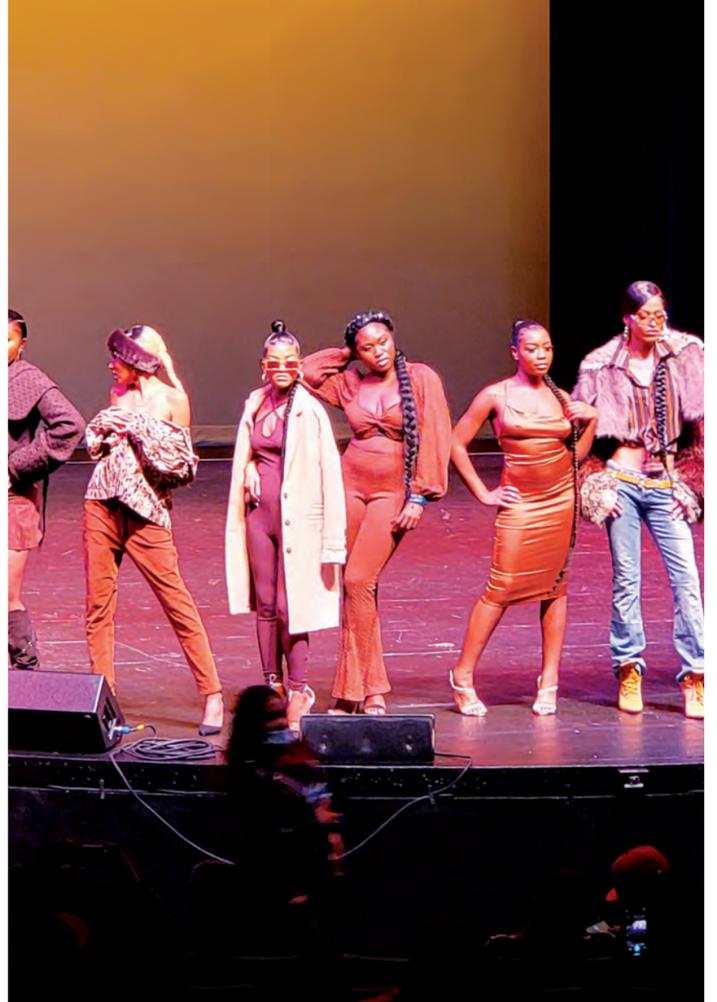
PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Scene about a first generation college student.



PHOTOS | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Part of the show where models are wearing red.



PHOTOS | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Models of F.A.C.E posing on stage at the annual fashion show.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Performers take their final bow for the last show.



PHOTOS | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Models posing with their fists up commemorating the Black Lives Matter movement.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Performers pointing at something during the scene.

Story by
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Copy Editor

The campus had a three night showing of the play "Out of Bounds," in the Lyman Centers Blackbox.

The play was written and performed by students of an inaugural devised theatre class or known

as THR 298.

The students were able to jot down ideas at the beginning of the semester and in term they created what is now called "Out of Bounds."

Another show that happened on campus was the annual F.A.C.E fashion show. It was a cumulative of local and campus designers. The students who walked the clothing were part of the F.A.C.E club.

To see more about "Out of Bounds" go to page 4.

Women's hoops scores home win

Rebounding and defensive efforts lead the Owls past Holy Family

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

A Sunday afternoon game coming off a holiday did not deter the women's basketball team as they rolled to a 68-52 victory over the Holy Family University Tigers at Moore Field House.

Forward Jessica Fressle, a senior, led the team in scoring with 18 points, rebounding with 18 boards and recorded the Owls' lone blocked shot in the contest.

"We're just starting to click," Fressle said. "Controlling what we can control. We've really started to focus in on defense and work well together on both ends of the floor."

It was not an easy ride the whole way through, however.

Poor shooting to the tune of 4 for 24 from the field found the home team down 15-10 after the first quarter, with guard Patricia Conroy, a graduate student, carrying the load for the Owls offensively, with a pair of three-point field goals in the quarter.

After the Tiger got a couple easy layups to extend their lead to 19-10 early in the second quarter, head coach Kate Lynch called a timeout for the Owls.

"At that point we just have to refocus. That's all it is," Lynch said. "Basketball is a game of runs, so when we felt that run, we just



Photo | Alvin Furlow SCSU Athletics (scsuowls.com)

Jessica Fressle takes the court for a home game.

called the timeout to just calm everybody down, relax, get ourselves in control and get out there."

It was then time for the Owls to go on a run of their own. They started with a Conroy three pointer, three more Fressle field goals sandwiched a layup from forward Katie Williamson, a sophomore, to all add up to an 11-0 Owls run, giving them the 21-19 lead.

Holy Family broke the run with a three pointer but guard Delaney Connors, a senior, answered with a triple of her own to give the Owls a lead from which they would never look back.

Connors hit a layup and another three in the final minute of the half to give her team a 32-24 advantage going into the break.

"The next one's going in," Connors said. "That's the mindset. I knew that the team had my back, and

we were going to find each other, and I just happened to get hot at that moment."

The Owls outscored the Tigers 22-9 in the second quarter.

The third quarter was not much different, with the home team refusing to relinquish the lead.

Conroy hit her fourth three of the game to give her twelve points and Connors added six points to her total in the quarter, pushing it up to 14.

The Owls outscored the Tigers 19-12 in the third quarter.

"We really stuck to our defensive principles," Connors said. "We just made a few adjustments to attack their offense. We applied more pressure on their handoffs to try to jumpstart our defense and just kept crashing the boards."

The advantage on the glass was a significant one

for the home team, as the Owls finished plus six in total rebounds and had 15 offensive rebounds for the game, compared to six for Holy Family.

The fourth quarter was much more tightly contested than the previous three. The Tigers furiously tried to mount a comeback while the Owls did their best to dictate the pace of play and choose some clock, playing with the lead.

Fressle scored seven points in the fourth quarter, as did guard Zoe Amalbert, a junior, who hit key shots down the stretch in order to preserve the lead and finished the game with 12 points.

The 52 points allowed by the Owls marked their second lowest of the season as the defense stepped up in this one, winning the turnover battle by a margin

of plus seven.

"We switched it up a lot today," Coach Lynch said. "We feel as a program that if the shots aren't falling you can get some momentum on the defensive end. So, we do like to pressure the basketball a little bit, cause some turnovers, cause some chaos."

This victory marked the Owls second straight win and second victory at home.

They will look to carry their momentum into their upcoming three game homestand this coming week beginning with a game against the University of New Haven on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

"You want to defend the nest, and I'm proud that we did that today," Coach Lynch said.



Photo | Alvin Furlow SCSU Athletics (scsuowls.com)

Head coach Kate Lynch and her Owls discussing their gameplan during a timeout.

Once more

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion Column



So, this is going to be it for a while, with this edition of the newspaper being our last for the semester, so let's try to wrap up some loose ends before we go.

The next time I write a column, we will be gearing up for the Super Bowl, and no, I do not have a way-too-early prediction, not really my thing, especially given the unpredictability of the NFL season through 12 weeks.

Having no allegiances one way or another, a Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. New England Patriots Super Bowl would have all the narratives and storylines the country can get their fill of between quarterback Tom Brady locking horns with his former head coach Bill Belichick and his shiny new toy in the form of rookie quarterback Mac Jones, who has been getting the job done for a Patriots team which has won six in a row as of this writing.

Brady is currently the odds-on betting favorite for the Most Valuable Player and I just hope my friends still have money to bet with by the time I write my next column.

To the young gamblers trying to take advantage of the new laws.

Everything in moderation and be very wary. Do not just place bets willy nilly.

Good luck betting on landing spots for some of the top free agents in Major League Baseball who remain unsigned as of this writing.

I had always heard All-Star pitcher Max Scherzer preferred to pitch for a contender on the West Coast, now the last I heard the New York Mets were closing in on a multiyear deal for the veteran hurler.

Several shortstops will have more money than the federal government by the time I get back in the newsroom.

Carlos Correa, Corey Seager, Javier Baez and Trevor Story are all looking at the seven-year \$175 million deal middle infielder Marcus Semien received from the Texas Rangers as a baseline for their own contracts.

Of course, there is an impending MLB lockout which could put a damper on all the free agent spending if a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached in a timely manner.

The biggest NBA storyline to follow will be the return of star shooting guard Klay Thompson, who will be rejoining a Golden State Warriors team which looks as good as ever, a scary thought.

In the meantime, and in between time I will be consuming all of the sports you can throw at me, along with plenty of holiday foods as well, to be sure.

Enjoy your break.

Men's cross-country nat'l championship

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

The men's cross-country team made the pilgrimage to Saint Leo Florida with a goal in mind; to crack the top 25 in the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Mission accomplished.

After entering the meet ranked 29th in the nation, the Owls finished 19th, surpassing the expectations they had in the days prior to the meet as they waited in an airport to catch their flight to the sunshine state.

"I'm excited and ready to go out there and see how high we can finish," Chris LeBeau, a senior, said. "Our goal is to get in the top 25 in the nation, so if we just go out there and execute, I think we'll be good."

His words, as do the words of his teammates and coaches, now sound somewhat prophetic given the results from the Nov. 20 NCAA Division II Championship.

The 19th place finish is the programs' highest this century and best since they finished 15th in 1999.

It was a long journey to get back here given how sports were forced to take a back seat during the height of the pandemic, when a flight to Florida sounded harrowing enough, but this is a confident group of runners who have had a strong year.

The Owls qualified by finishing in second at the East Regional on Nov. 8 to punch their ticket to the



Photo | Jim Stankiewicz SCSU Athletics (scsuowls.com)

Men's cross-country finished 19th at the NCAA Division II National Championship on Nov. 20.

big dance.

The team was all together when they received word they had qualified.

"They were pretty confident that they were going to qualify and make another trip," assistant coach Brian Nill said. "It's a great feeling for all the guys. Anytime you can make a national trip is really nice, especially with the group of guys we have."

To go from running in Connecticut in November to running down in Florida sounds as though it would be a major adjustment, but they were doing their due diligence, checking weather reports, staying hydrated and reminding themselves the event would be early in the day before the sun had the chance to become a

major factor.

"A huge thing we've been doing all season has been packing it up," Jake Mattei, a junior, said. "We have a top group of guys stay really close together, and that should lower our overall score and we can place higher in the end."

In the end, the best finish from an Owl runner came from Terrell Patterson, a senior, who finished 60th with a time of 31:59.7.

Mattei finished in 70th place out of 245 student-athletes from across the nation with a time of 32:06.1.

"We had big goals for ourselves, and even if you're ranked a certain place in the region and you're supposed to make the meet, it's never guaranteed," LeBeau said. "You still have to go out

there and perform, so just to go out there and actually get the job done and do what we were supposed to, that was definitely exciting for everyone."

LeBeau finished third best among the Owls runners and 115th overall with a final time of 32:43.6.

The team was riding a high on their way to Florida and came out of the trip looking even better and smelling like roses, already talking about where they can go as a group from this point, now that some of the younger runners have had a taste of national

championship experience.

"As a whole we raced and placed as high as we could have so it was a successful season, no matter what," Mattei said. "We've definitely turned a lot of heads this season."

Mattei and company will look to build on this strong season and the accolades earned in Saint Leo, as they will look to surpass expectations once again, like they did going into the national championship.

"This Saturday, if we're in the top 25, we'll be over the moon," Nill said. "It'll be great."

Expectations surpassed.



Photo | Jim Stankiewicz SCSU Athletics (scsuowls.com)

Chris LeBeau placed 115th at the NCAA Division II National Championship.