



**Real
Talk
Podcast
Page 2**



**Muslim Student
Association
Karam
Page 5**



**Womens
Basketball won
51-47
Page 6**

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

VOL 62 - ISSUE 15

President Joe finalist at Stockton University

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-chief
By Jaylen Carr
Sports editor

President Joe Bertolino has been picked as a finalist for a job at Stockton University in New Jersey.

"I have not been offered a position. I have no idea if I will be and if I am what that would mean for me and my family," Bertolino said.

Bertolino said that the main reason he would take the job if offered is because he has his family in New Jersey and his late mother attended Stockton University.

"I do love Southern, I mean it has been a great experience here, so just the thought of leaving I can't quite wrap my head around that possibility," Bertolino said.

He was approached by a search firm in the fall and had no intent of leaving the university. In the next couple of weeks Bertolino will know if he got the job at Stockton University.

"If this doesn't work out, I'm here. I'm done, I'm not doing anymore searches," Bertolino said.

He said it is too early to talk about the impacts of him leaving the university and what will happen.

"If at some point there is a change or something emerges, I will certainly communicate that, and we would talk about what does that mean? What do we need to do? It would not happen immediately anyway," Bertolino said.

Bertolino was torn when he found out because he loves being at the university, but he also misses being close to his family.

"I don't think I ever thought of leaving, quite frankly. But at the same

time there is also the excitement of something different and to be near people that I love," Bertolino said.

The Chair and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Yi-Chun Lin, has worked with

Bertonlino for seven years on multiple issues involving Women's and Gender. She heard about the news about Bertolino job opportunity on Friday, Feb. 3.

"In a way I was not actually surprised because

I have seen a path that academic administrators would take on," said Lin. "We no longer see Presidents sit the position for 20 years anymore."

Lin said even though we do not know yet if Bertolino is leaving she wants the best for Bertolino and for the university.

"His leadership is such we would like him as long as we could," said Lin. "I have enjoyed surely working with President Joe."

Kari Swanson, the Chapter President of the Faculty Union said, "As far I am aware he has not been offered or accepted the position. Should he be offered or accepted the position, I would thank him for his years of service at Southern for working with SCSU AAUP and wish him well."

Swanson said her job is to represent the faculty in any way she can. "That includes for things like contract negotiations, working with administration to solve problems, working with faculty on things like the minority recruitment and retention committee."

Lin concluded that they will work with him to the best of their ability as long as he is here.



President Joe sitting at his desk in Engleman Hall.

PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Campus AED

By Destene Savariu
News Writer

With the goal of taking care of the campus to be prepared for the unexpected, the university has implemented Naxalone or Automated External Defibrillator boxes all around campus.

Automated External Defibrillator, is a medical device designed to deliver an electric shock to cardiac arrest victims to restore the heart rhythm to normal. If someone has a heart-attack, an AED is the only way that someone would be able to help without being CPR trained.

"They are the most user friendly device I've ever seen in my life. They tell you exactly how to operate them through a series of voice commands, and it will not operate unless you do the thing correctly," Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Edward Gleason said.

According to Gleason, students must know how to use these boxes not just for themselves but also so they have life skills that can be used in the real

world and in life.

"Yes it's bad we need them but its good to have them just in case. Any inference is good in that situation," said Sociology major Keira Thomas, a sophomore.

In addition to the boxes on campus containing AED kits, they also have Naxalone kits. Naxalone, more commonly known as Narcan, is a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids during an overdose.

If students are ever worried about using these boxes but are concerned about being liable afterward, the best part about all these programs is that they're covered under Good Samaritan Law.

"I've been working hard to bring this initiative to Southern," said Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Resources Sarah Keiser. "What's most important is bringing awareness to the things around us. Not just the boxes, but the educational training, the resources, and the support available when students need it."

For more information go to thesouthernnews.org

Safety on campus this semester

By Destene Savariu
News Writer

Following the Fall semester and winter break of SouthernAlert emails some students started questioning their safety as incidents around campus have risen.

While some emails were letting students know of maintenance issues on campus, issues such as power outages and road closures, some emails were more concerning amongst students.

For example, during the fall, there was an investigation of shots fired near campus. In addition, over winter break, an investigation of violent and criminal behavior ended with a suspect in custody.

Sociology major Zaria Anderson, a senior, shared why she felt unsafe on campus. As a North Hall resident, she feels she lives by "the hood" due to people getting their cars were broken into, the criminal behavior investigation, and shots being fired surrounding campus.

"There are always shots being fired on Dixwell and Whalley Avenue. There is nothing the university can really do since we live right by the hood, but for

North, since we're so out of the way, the police can do more rounds at the very least," said Anderson.

Another North Hall resident shared this sentiment about feeling the area around North was not the safest but was used to this.

"I used to live in the hood, so to me, living out here is basically the same thing as being back at the crib," said healthcare studies major Fritz Mesibor, a senior.

Not all students feel the same about the university's ability to keep students safe. Some have commented that they have felt safer on campus since police have increased their presence on campus.

"I feel kinda safe at Southern. I think the safest places are on campus because the police have more of a presence. Public areas like garages or on the street don't feel as safe but definitely safer as I have noticed the police making more rounds," said communications major Janyra Whitmore, a senior.

Interim Chief Kenneth Rahn commented on how he strives to make sure his officers are more visible on campus and make students feel more familiar

and comfortable around them.

"As a department we do a great deal of networking with campus security at other schools so we can stay up-to-date of patterns or trends that might be taking place so that we can take steps to prevent them here on campus," said Rahn.

Elementary Education major Anaya Matthews, a senior, agrees that the university is safe but for a different reason. Matthews said she felt safe at the university only because she looked out for herself.

"I'm confident in myself keeping myself safe. I'm

self-aware so I know what to look out for, what areas to avoid, and how to handle myself in dangerous situations. I would suggest students do the same," said Matthews.

In addition, Rahn explained how he plans to help make students feel safer on campus.

"Part of what we will try to do in 2023 is send out more safety tips to help members of the Southern community stay safe wherever they are. In addition, we encourage all members of the community to utilize the Livesafe app on their smart devices," said Rahn.



Police patrol car outside of the police station.

PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Real Talk: Voices for Change

By Gabrielle Tunucci
Contributor

College campuses are open where important social movements start; students encounter new ideas, debate important issues, and think critically about the impact they want to have on the world. This is where education becomes action, and nobody recognizes this more than KC Councilor and his co-hosts on Southern's "Real Talk" podcast.

"Real Talk: A Diversity in Higher Ed Podcast" was created in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, a tragedy that compelled colleges and universities across the country to address the problematic and systemic racism inherent in higher education. It was launched in October 2020 by the then-newly formed Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and was hosted then by executive producer Diane Ariza, vice president, Diversity and Equity Programs, and alumna Shanté Hanks.

For Season 2, the podcast introduced two new co-hosts: KC Councilor, professor of Communication, Media, and Screen Studies, and Jamil Harp, an alum who, as an undergraduate, pursued activism through his leadership roles.

In addition to teaching, Councilor is a cartoonist, who uses his comics to share stories concerning social justice issues, such as in his graphic memoir, "Between You and Me: Transitional Comics," which describes his life experience as a transgender person.

When the podcast began, Councilor was new to Southern's faculty. Councilor, interviewed last semester, that hosting the podcast not only aligned with his own ethics, but it also seemed like a valuable opportunity to have important conversations about social justice and amplify student voices.

"It's not to say that there was no activism on campus, because that's not true. But there was a lot of stuff going on, and I'm looking around campus as someone who is new and going, 'Why is nobody talking about this?'" Councilor said. "So, I was refreshed to be able to have a dialogue and a place to have these conversations, and then to bring that into the classroom."

Councilor also said he believed the podcast could facilitate and re-frame these essential conversations.

"This can sort of break the ice and help create more of a culture of open dialogue on our campus, so I was really excited to be a part of that."

Harp was initially invited as a guest on the podcast during its first season.

"I was on one of the episodes for student activism," Harp explained. "Right before that podcast episode, I was actually going to be hosting the Black Lives Matter movement at our campus. So, I was there to talk about student activism, my role as a student leader, how it has impacted me, what's going on with Black Lives Matter, and how it is impacting black students. So, I came on as a student leader at the time."

"When I was offered the podcast, I was excitedly nervous," Harp recalled. "I said yes because KC was doing it, and only because KC was doing it. In order to have real social

justice conversations, you need a person you can trust."

Still, having social justice conversations is something that Councilor and Harp recognized can be anxiety-provoking.

"At the beginning I was nervous because we're having social justice conversations, and, you know, social justice conversations are typically under attack," Harp explained. "They are. People are having huge screaming matches at The Board of Ed over critical race theory and what they think critical race theory is. So, when I thought about, 'What is the ramifications of me having these conversations so publicly?', I was a little nervous. I wasn't sure how I was going to be accepted on a public platform."

Because of this common fear, Councilor and Harp emphasized that creating a safe space is crucial for having meaningful, honest discussions. They prioritize thoughtful conversation and curiosity rather than hostility.

"It's not just audio, it's us," Harp said. "We're very keen on making a space that's safe and allows people to express meaning. That's what we do. We allow people to share their story and share what they're working on."

Councilor also explained that they considered each guest and their work individually in order to enrich discussion through new connections and discoveries.

"Whether we are talking to a bunch of students or people on campus, or we're talking to somebody who wrote a book, or a community activist, we're always trying



CRESCENT PHOTO

KC Councilor, right, with former "Real Talk" podcast co-host Jamie Harp.

to have slightly different conversations than what's happening elsewhere in the media about an issue," said Councilor. "We're not NPR; we're not trying to duplicate what anyone else is doing. But it's sort of always a goal in my mind that someone we're talking with is like, 'Huh, no one's ever asked me that before,' or, 'I never made that connection.'"

When Councilor and Harp began cohosting, "Real Talk" expanded the conversation about social justice in higher education by inviting a wide variety of guests with unique perspectives, from scholars who are professionals in their field to community activists pushing for change at the local level.

"It was a little different [at the beginning]," says Harp. "We definitely spanned social justice topics. However, we focused a lot on SCSU students and faculty. Since then, we have expanded our scope to talking with folks from

other universities, other walks of life, people in the community, people across the country and even across the pond over in London."

As the podcast's audience grows, Councilor says that he hopes that students, professors and administrators involved in higher education will use the podcast as a resource for facilitating social justice conversations.

"We're housed here [at Southern], but we're having conversations and our audience is broad, so we have people listening at all different universities and using the podcast in their trainings or professors using it in their classrooms," Councilor explained.

Councilor also emphasized accessibility as one of the podcast's goals. He says that wants to break down academic topics that may otherwise feel confusing and help inform more people about social justice concepts.

"It's also rare making things in academia accessible. So, we're never talking above people's heads. We're having real conversations that anyone could listen to and get something out of, even though we're talking with people with PhDs, sometimes," Councilor said.

Alyssa Couture, a senior majoring in communication, said listening to the podcast has given her better insight about these complex issues.

"The podcast encourages students to ask tough questions, engage with real people and learn about complicated topics from multiple perspectives," Couture said.

Councilor said that his partnership with students and alums breaks down

some hierarchies in higher education, advocating for a space where professors and students can communicate and learn as equals.

"I think it's rare to have professors and students on an equal playing field since there's such a hierarchy in higher ed," said Councilor. "I appreciated that."

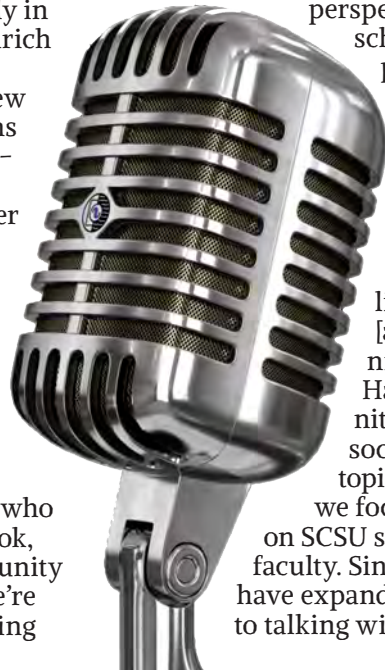
As Councilor suggested, a huge part of the higher education system is students themselves. He encourages students to get involved with the podcast and express their desire for more student guests.

"I do believe that the podcast is something that should be used by student voices if they do believe they want to be used on that kind of platform," Harp said. "Students were important to us. We wanted them to listen, and we wanted them to feel heard. We also wanted them to be a part of our work."

Once Harp departed from the podcast later last fall, other co-hosts included Kelvin Rutledge, associate vice president for Institutional Inclusive Strategies & Change Management; Alex Grant communication student; and Jess Holman, a graduate student in the Dean of Students Office.

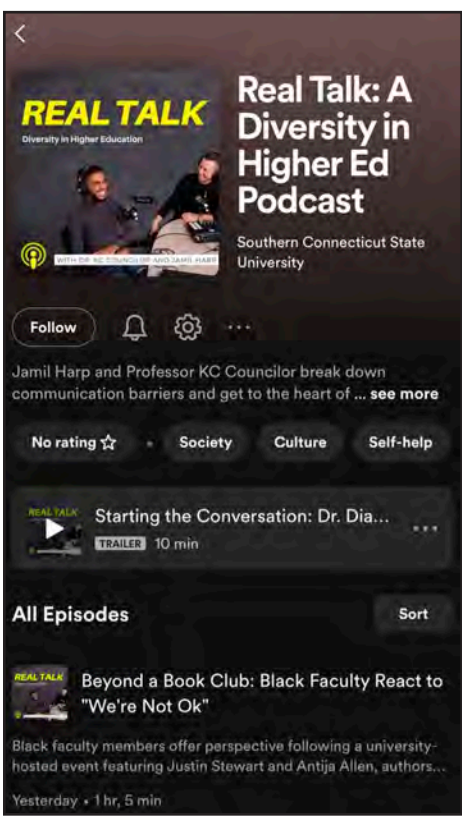
The new, Season 6 of "Real Talk" began Monday, Feb. 6. Councilor's co-hosts this season are: Zoe Pringle, psychology major; Saieda Lataillade-Lewis, psychology master's student; and Danielle Campbell, sociology graduate student.

The "Real Talk" podcast's impact shows that social justice topics aren't reserved for administrators: students have a voice, and Councilor and his co-hosts prove those voices hold infinite possibility and power.



professionals in their field to community activists pushing for change at the local level.

"It was a little different [at the beginning]," says Harp. "We definitely spanned social justice topics. However, we focused a lot on SCSU students and faculty. Since then, we have expanded our scope to talking with folks from



Spotify home page for the "RealTalk" podcast



KC Councilor, former co-host Jamil Harp, right, and guest Andreina Barajas Novoa, left, during a virtual podcast session.



CRESCENT PHOTOS

Commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Destene Savariau
News Writer
Sole Scott
Contributor

In honor of Black History Month, the University and the Multicultural Center collaborated to hold an event in honor of Rev. Martin Luther King Junior's legacy.

The event opened with Dian Albert-Brown, Director of Multicultural Affairs, highlighting the importance of Dr. King and the freedom he symbolizes to the African-American heritage.

"This event was important because King's legacy encourages us to reflect on our actions and how far things have come and how much work is left to be done," said Albert-Brown.

After Albert Brown, there were various speakers from many organizations on campus. From Diane Ariza of the DEI to Winston Bethune of the Black Student Union.

Bethune, the Event Coordinator of the Black Student Union, said he was glad that the event gave him the opportunity to speak in front of a community he is actively trying to serve.

"This event shined a light on the greatness that Brother King inspired as a society," said Bethune. "It was important because sometimes the work that has happened in black history sometimes goes unnoticed."

Actor John Ivey elaborated on the missing parts of black history through his performance of "From Myth to Man: Martin Luther King, An Interpretation." Written by Ira Knight, the play is an original one-person play about Dr. King's final moments.

"The play was beautiful and very powerful. It

helped us see and appreciate King as a human and not just someone who sacrificed himself for our benefit," said Albert-Brown.

Psychology major Stephen Ibekwe, a junior, highlighted what he liked best about the event and what stayed with him the most.

"I liked the performance of the African-American Anthem by Thamar and the African Student Association Dance Team's performance and Winston's speech was dope."

"I think the event was amazing. It was great to

see so many different communities and voices come together to highlight a man as important as Dr. King," said Student Government Association President Kyle Thaxton.

Nevertheless, a great event has its few critics. With most of the crowd built up of faculty and alums, students of color felt underrepresented.

"It would've been nice to see more black student leaders speak," said business major Ryan Williams, a freshman.

Psychology major Elijah Kapene-Kabwit, a freshman, felt the event needed to be advertised

more to its students of color.

"They advertise all these other events so much, but don't keep the same energy with an actually important event like this. If I wasn't on the ASA dance team, I wouldn't have known," said Kapene-Kabwit.

With this in mind, Bethune poses a question for the community to reflect on.

"After this event, we must ask ourselves, have we reached the dream that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had or have we strayed from it?" said Bethune.

Growing up means learning to communicate

By Ali Fernand
Features Editor

As I've gotten older, I've expected my dynamics with people in my life to change. As a teenager, especially in high school, I often felt frustrated with the social interactions

This was really difficult because I'm a person who needs direct communication, clear boundaries and emotional maturity. I entered my 20's last August and was immediately afraid of the weight of the maturity that I assumed came with that age. But I quickly realized that my expectation is not reality.

I don't like to act like someone who thinks of themselves as higher than others. In fact, I usually feel the complete opposite as I have dealt with a lot of insecurity. However, I think that is the issue. I am not the only one my age who is now at a point in life where I am adjusting to maturity but also facing my insecurities. I am a person who is hyper-aware of

myself and who I am. This has made me frustrated with people who aren't as bothered.

Insecurities are the main driver of negative behavior as teenagers. We tend to project onto others, bully others and try to hide what makes us insecure. I personally don't look back at my grade school years fondly because of that.

A lot of the interactions I experienced were ingenuine. Many people tried to act like someone they weren't. In my case, a lot of people acted like they were too cool to even acknowledge my existence. I was often disregarded for being a little weird, which led to me struggling with social interactions into my adult life.

I did a lot of work to recover from this. As I entered my adult life, I worked really hard to build confidence to interact with people. I began to accept who I am for my quirks and flaws. This became something that I embraced in my interactions with people and I found that I was appreciated by the right

people. Now as an adult, I am once again struggling with interactions. I feel that the way I interact with my friends, acquaintances, peers and romantic interests has made me unhappy. The main feelings I've gotten from social interactions lately are disregard, confusion and sadness. This isn't something I've felt since high school. Even though that was only a few years ago, I didn't expect this to be a thing that I would once again experienced. When I graduated, I expected the indirectness of the social dynamics to go away. They just came crawling back.

I've entered the same loop of people acting and saying things to me that are unclear, me assuming I've done something wrong and then pulling myself back. This is not healthy for me as an adult. I don't want to feel scared to communicate or even exist going about my daily life. How am I supposed to focus on the big goals that I've set for myself if I feel judged by every person in my life. It is

extremely taxing.

I don't know if this is a common experience for people my age. It is also possible for this to be because of the social setbacks of COVID-19. It's possible that young adults are now socially stunted because over two years of their adolescents and/or adult life were spent in isolation.

I definitely feel the effects of post-pandemic social anxiety, but I can't help but think there's a little more to what I feel. There is an ingenuineness to some of the people I've interacted with. I feel like there's something holding them back. Maybe judgement from themselves, discomfort with their identity or mental struggles. There's something that prevents us from maturing emotionally from our teenage years to our adult life.

I'm not going to beg for people to like me. At this point, it's not worth worrying about doing the thing that makes everyone happy with me. That is something I want to leave behind; I have too much

responsibility to worry about something so vain. I just want to feel like I can exist without people being so cryptic in their interactions with me.

All I ask is that people open up in their interactions with others. Someone giving me a dirty look or ignoring what I have to say is not going to make me or any situation change. If anything, that will bring out the stone-cold stubbornness in me.

This has been particularly frustrating to me because I am at a place in my life where I would not like to worry about social interactions. I am the most satisfied with myself than I've ever been. I have exciting opportunities currently. I am looking forward to my future and what I will accomplish.

My drive for my passions is stronger than ever and I love learning every day. All the stars feel perfectly aligned with my place in life. But this social discomfort I feel has distracted me completely. It's hard to feel satisfied with myself when I am

just deeply uncomfortable and confused by mostly everyone I interact with daily.

I feel that I have done enough in terms of my own character to try to ease how I feel. Hiding aspects of myself that I feel other people don't like is something that I don't want to do anymore. There's no reason to overanalyze how people feel about me when I feel good about myself. That should be more important than people pleasing.

We are all adults. Please learn to communicate when you are upset. People are not mind readers and often don't have the time to overthing indirect hostility. Being passive aggressive won't change a person's mind. It just makes them uncomfortable and not want to interact with you.

Learn to think through your anger and decide what really matters in your life. I really doubt that people will tolerate negative attitudes outside of a school setting. I could once again be wrong, but personally I would be rooting against someone who behaved like that.

The residence halls are falling apart to this day

By Sarah Shelton
Photo Editor

Leaking ceilings, bug infestations and mold are among some of the problems brought to Residence Life's attention within the last year.

The biggest complaints I hear among residents all involve their dorm and how problems are not solved.

When brainstorming topics in one of my journalism classes, one of my classmates shared how when their toilet was leaking, their Resident Adviser, RA, told them to spill more water because maintenance can only come if it is an emergency.

This reminds me of how last semester when my ceiling was leaking, it took over a day to get someone to fix it. The RA on duty came, looked at it and sent maintenance. Maintenance then went upstairs as that was the source of the leak. The RA then said to come down to get her if we have



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

The lobby on the first floor of North Hall Residence Complex on Nov 19, 2022.

any questions.

My roommate and I went down an hour after maintenance came because the ceiling was still leaking and the RA was gone. The desk attendant had no idea what we were talking about.

I filled three big bowls of water overnight.

My classmate mentioned how the Hall Director and RAs are not at fault and I totally agree. They are in the same boat as us. With this specific problem, my hall director came up right at 8 in the morning and got the problem solved. However, I now sleep with

mold right above me on my ceiling from this incident.

This classmate also described how their first floor window is broken and maintenance has not come for months, so they just put the bed in front of the window.

More problems, just in

North Campus, include broken toilets, broken elevators with out of date certifications, holes in the wall, mice and dryers not working.

Schwartz had a wasp infestation and a big spread of mold.

West Campus has broken windows, broken shower lights and spiders.

Someone down my hall had a toilet leak in the room above her and the water leaked on her bed. They moved her to another room for the night as she did not want to sleep in "poop water."

At the beginning of this year, I got placed in a bug infested dorm. For more information on that, you can read my article, "Senior year starts off with fleas and stitches - Opinion" on thesouthernnews.org

In the article I mentioned how there was a cat allowed in the dorm over the summer that had fleas and my roommate and I got bitten up and were

forced to stay in the room for days. When they finally moved us out, it took the exterminator two weeks to come.

As we could not bring the stuff that could not be washed, we lost a lot of items. The Associate Director of Housing Operations said in an email to my roommate that they took fast action and could not reimburse us because we did not have renters insurance.

Everyone I asked had never heard of renters insurance for dorms before this, however during Spring 2023 check-in, they finally made a clear pop-up that you can get it. My roommate can probably be thanked for that.

Reslife has all summer to fix these problems, however they instead rent out the dorms to strangers and flea infested cats.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: scsu.southernct.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](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org)

View print edition at: [OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern](https://www.OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern)

Sofia Rositani

Editor-in-Chief

Vacant

Managing Editor

Section Editors

Sofia Rositani

News

Ali Fernand

Features & Opinions

Jaylen Carr

Sports

Sarah Shelton

Photo/Online

Vacancy

Layout

Staff Reporters

Destene Savriau

News Writer

Vacant

Sports Writer

Vacant

General Assignment (3)

Luke Molwitz

Photographer

Copy Desk

Abiba Biao

Maddy Reyes

Business/Ad Manager

Vacant

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 222.

Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.

Column: On the NFL

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor



The big game is Sunday, Feb. 12, and you know what that means...A Super Bowl LVII prediction is needed. The Chiefs come off a close 23-20 victory over the defending AFC Champions Cincinnati Bengals. The NFC Champs Philadelphia Eagles dominated the San Francisco 49ers defensively so severely that the 49ers were out of healthy quarterbacks to play.

This year's Super Bowl will be intriguing to watch because of the matchups.

This year's Super Bowl will be intriguing to watch because of the matchups.

First off, the Eagles' offensive line versus the defensive tackle of the Chiefs, Chris Jones, and defensive end Frank Clark.

The Eagles have the best offensive line in the NFL, led by three pro bowlers, center Jason Kelce, guard Landon Dickerson, and offensive tackle Lane Johnson.

We will see the first matchup between two Black quarterbacks in a Super Bowl, which is a historical moment for the NFL. Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts grown and improved since his rookie season. He can not only run the ball efficiently but throw the ball accurately.

Mahomes, on the other hand, won a regular-season MVP in 2018 and already won a Super Bowl back in 2019 season after beating the 49ers. His valiant performance versus the Bengals in the 2022 AFC Championship will go down as one of his best because of the circumstances.

Mahomes was battling an ankle injury all week, and there was some doubt by the media if he was going to be able to move outside the pocket like he usually does.

Despite the injury, Mahomes finished the game with 326 passing yards and two touchdowns.

I think because of Mahomes' will to win, toughness, and the Chiefs' Super Bowl experience will help propel them to win the Super Bowl against the Eagles. It will be a close game, but the Eagles' linebackers will have difficulty guarding Travis Kelce because of his versatility and wide receiver skills.

I predict a Chiefs 31-28 victory. The game is going to be close because I think its going to be hard for both defense to stop each offense. I hope Kelce wins Super Bowl MVP but the NFL loves the quarterback too much so Mahomes will probably receive the award for the second time in his career.

Women's basketball improves to 13-7

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

The Owls were able to sneak past the College of Saint Rose for their third straight win despite



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ
Guard Delaney Connors drives the ball to the basket.

having 24 turnovers and being outscored in the fourth quarter.

Head coach Kate Lynch said, "we just did not take care of the basketball; obviously, it's a conference win, so we're

happy." The Owls came into the Jan. 30 matchup against Saint Rose winners in two of their last four games.

After having a rough early January, the Owls needed to win to close out their final games.

The 13-7 and sixth-seeded, Owls are trailing conference rival Bentley University in the Northeast Conference standings, who are 12-8 so far this season.

During the game against Saint Rose, the Owls were outrebounded by three in rebounding but allowed Saint Rose to grab 16 offensive rebounds that turned into 12 points.

"Saint Rose is a great rebounding team, and we knew that," said Lynch. "In the first half, we gave up 11 alone."

The team had to focus on the main task which was to rebound

against one of the best rebounding teams in the conference, said Lynch.

Guard Isabella Santoro said the team did not play up to the competition of Saint Rose because the last two teams, Bentley University and Southern New Hampshire, were games against the top teams in the conference.

"We played down to their level," said Santoro. "I think it is a good eye-opener to see that we are a better team, and we just have to come together to pull out the win."

Santoro would finish the game with six points and shooting 50% from the field. She would also help contribute to the win by leading the team in rebounding with nine and forcing two steals.

Guards Zoe Amalbert and Delaney Connors would help the Owls in scoring. Amalbert would

lead the team in five assists and contribute by helping the Owls score 51 points by scoring 11 points.

Connors would score 10 points while shooting 5 for 11 from the field.

Even though the Owls had a double-digit lead going into halftime, coach Lynch said, "handle the pressured, control the tempo, and don't give offensive rebounds," was her message to the team coming out of halftime.

Saint Rose would mount a comeback late third quarter, and entering the fourth, as the Owls would constantly turn the ball over and shoot 35% from the field in the final quarter.

To read more of this story, visit our website at thesouthernnews.org

Women's Swim team looks to win NE10s

By Avery Martin
Contributor

For the Southern Connecticut Women's Swimming and Diving team, their next competition is a big one.

On Feb. 9th, they will head to Worcester, Massachusetts to compete in the Northeast 10 (NE10) conference.

Political Science major Maddie Dean, a senior, said, "We are just getting down to the details now, working on things we can improve that we have been working on all season long."

The 2022-23 season has been full of ups and downs for the Owls. The reigning NE10 Championship winning team has recorded six losses, six wins, and one fifth out of six place finish.

When asked about how he feels the team is going into the Championships,

Coach Tim Quill said "We are feeling pretty good. We just had a stretch of four meets in eight days, which is not easy in any competitive environment.

It was a pretty demanding schedule and they performed extremely well considering the situation."

The team's last meet before the NE10s was on Jan. 19th against Le Moyne. In this conference matchup, the Owls took a 159-128 victory.

Two Southern relay teams finished second and third in the 200-yard Medley relay.

Individual swimmers Paola Castillo, Brooke Keeney, Heiley Nyquist, Maddie Dean, Justice Glasgow, Arianna Arturi, Faith Littleton, Lindsay McCawley, Jasmine Urrichio, and Olivia Strelevitz all topped their respective events. Diver Nicholle Denault won the 1-meter diving event.

Quill says some of the

standout stars on the team include Maddie Dean, Olivia Strelevitz, Lindsay McCawley. These are three that can contend in that championship fight scenario.

We also have some new faces this year with Jasmine Urrichio and Paola Castillo. They have a really good shot to maybe make a national championship."

The team competed in four other meets after the semester one final exams were over. Out of those, three were wins and one was a loss.

Castillo, Urrichio, Strelevitz, Arturi, Dean, and Denault were among those with especially strong results. Denault finished in the top three in her events at every meet since Dec. 9th.

"We've been performing really well and working together really well so it is going to be a powerful statement that we are going to put out at the

NE10s" said psychology major, Paola Castillo, a freshman.

"Every athlete on the team has a realistic shot of making a championship final in one event or more". Quill says.

The team will take these encouraging words with them to Massachusetts in February.

Before they go, however, they will be in the pool continuously working on bettering themselves and their skills.

"We are working on little things on our starts, on our turns, and just working on race strategy and any little thing we can do to get ahead right now," Dean says.

As the days near closer to the all-important championship meet, Dean and Castillo are keen to see their individual goals come to fruition.

"I want to make it to NCAA's possibly and I want to come out with a

few first place finishes" said Castillo.

"I definitely want to improve my relay starts and diving off of other people, but I also want the whole team to get more and more excited about what we can do each day," says Dean.

Being defending champions means there are added expectations this year, Dean said.

"There's definitely pressure but it helps us throughout the whole season knowing that we are going into defend. I do think we have a good shot at winning this year so there's a lot of excitement."

"They are ready. They are battle-tested," Quill said.

When asked what the public should know about her team, Castillo said,

"Just keep and eye out for Southern and watch us live! We will be doing our best to represent Southern and we are going to put on a great show!"

Coleman passes Connors on scoring list

By Matt Cain
Contributor

Guard Ulyen Coleman passes former Owl basketball player Kevin Connors to be 17th on the all-time scoring list in the university's history.

The Owls rallied to a 73-65 victory over the Georgian Court University despite opening the game by missing their first two shots and turning the ball multiple times in the first three minutes.

The Owls dominated the game in rebounding, grabbing 44 compared to Georgian Court's 32. The Owls shot nearly 50% from the three-point line to get the win.

Georgian Court is a fast-paced team; they got out running, notching themselves with 13 fast break points in the first half and scoring 21 points off turnovers. Owls also sent Georgian Court to the free

throw line 20 times while shot 50% from the line in the first half.

Coming into the game, the Owls lost three games in a row to rugged Northeast 10 competitions like Saint Anselm, Southern New Hampshire University and Bentley University.

The game plan coming into the game changed by halftime because of the Georgian Court's style of play.

They played much faster than the Owls, and the players knew they had to adapt to their style.

"We knew they were a fast-paced team; we had to beat them at their own game and adjust on the fly," guard Sean James said.

James scored eight points in the Owls' win. It was an all-around team effort from the Owls, with seven players scoring over five points in the victory.

The team's leading scorer was Coleman, who scored 20 points. The Owls



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON
Guard Ulyen Coleman goes past Georgian Court University defender.

received contributions from the bench, and Coleman went three for four from the three points.

This 20-point outing from Coleman was his third game of the season, scoring 18 or better.

Forward Kazel Stewart and junior Logan Bagshaw provided the spark off the bench. Stewart scored 14

points, and Bagshaw scored 5 points and made a three-pointer.

The Owls had 21 bench points, outscoring Georgian Court's bench by six.

"You got to be locked in at all times; you never know when your name is going to be called," Stewart said.

Even though the Owls

got the win, Coach Burrell feels as though they could have played better.

Burrell said despite the halftime lead that, the team's energy had to change.

To read more of this story, visit our website at thesouthernnews.org

Muslim Student Association 'Karam' fundraiser

By Destene Savriau
News Writer

Meaning generosity in Arabic, Karam is also the name of the fundraiser dinner the Muslim Student Association held.

With guests from Quinnipiac, the University of New Haven and the local Muslim community, the event was a rousing success in bringing people together to spread awareness.

"This event is for Syrian refugees and people who have been struggling with what's going on in Syria, and the foundation uses donations to help them out," said Vice President of MSA, Razan Abunar. "We just wanted to spread that message. We wanted to spread the message around to anybody who would listen, and people who can donate and help out the cause."

Karam representative Rema Majzoub introduced the non-profit charity and explained how they strive to make lives better for Syrian people who their country has displaced.



Students attending the Muslim Student Association "Karam" fundraiser dinner.

PHOTO | DESTENE SAVRIAU

"Many Syrian children have to grow up used to the sounds of bombs dropping. We strive to offer a place where these people can feel at home. A place where we redefine what it means to be a refugee by providing

community, mentorship, and innovative education to Syrian youth and families," said Majzoub.

The community members who came to show support were singer, Elman Nusrat,

who serenaded guests with original songs and local restaurant, Ali Baba's Kitchen, who sponsored the dinner. In addition was a Muslim worship leader, Omar Bajwa. He explained how as Muslims,

they understand why charity work is essential. The donations from this event not only help the people but helps to make them humbler and more appreciative of what they have been given.

"I loved the event. I think it had the perfect amount of people to feel like we reached a lot of people but also not too much where our message gets lost among too many people," said Computer Science major Shahzaib Raza, a freshman.

President of the MSA Sarah Majzoub asked why the importance was so important to her. As someone born in Syria but was fortunate enough not to experience war, she has many extended families still living there.

"It is still devastating to see what has happened in my country and how the people have been strongly affected, so I wanted to help create change," said Majzoub. "My goal was for people to stop overlooking the tragedies that happen around the world and instead of having the mindset of not being able to do anything, they'd become more inclined to want to help. This was my first big event that helped to change lives as president of MSA and I hope it won't be the last."

Commuters struggle with the extra toll of time

By Bradley Robidoux
Contributor

An extra layer of preparation is needed for commuter students as they need to make sure they have enough time to compete with traffic and park to make it to class on time.

"I drive 35 minutes from Waterbury and I have done this since I was a freshman," said senior Katie Pelletier.

Pelletier has had it easier this semester, having classes start on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. allows her to not have to compete with buses and morning traffic as she did

in her commute in prior years.

The average commute time in Connecticut in 2021 was 25.6 minutes, according to a 2021 American Community Survey hosted conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau website.

Pelletier's commute of 35 minutes places her above the average time for Connecticut residents.

When she arrives at school she has enjoyed the convenience of being able to park at the Fitch Street Garage. The Fitch Street Garage is closer to the buildings where she has classes compared to parking at the Wintergreen Avenue garage and needing

to walk across campus.

The Fitch Street Garage is often stuffed to capacity with parked cars of students who live off campus and commute to SCSU.

Pelletier said that unlike years past, it has been significantly harder for her to find a parking spot in the Fitch Street Garage.

"Sometimes I will show up to park at the Fitch Street Garage and it'll be full even at 11 a.m., so I ended up parking in the nursing lot," said Pelletier.

The Fitch Street Garage being difficult was something that sophomore Angela Grindrod said is an issue she faces as well.

"On my Monday and

Wednesday classes when I show up at 9 a.m. it can be difficult and sometimes I am stuck parking on the top floor," said Grindrod.

She commutes from Stratford; which she said usually takes her 20 minutes, but sometimes it can take longer depending on traffic.

"The time I have classes in the morning are right when morning rush hour hits. Since I'm coming from Stratford, the traffic can be bad sometimes," said Grindrod. "When I leave school I'll hit the evening post-work traffic and that can add up to 10 minutes to my commute."

There is also a large gap

between the On-campus and commuter student populations at SCSU.

According to the Common Data Set survey that was posted by Southern Connecticut State University, in Fall 2021, 25% of students lived on campus while 75% lived off-campus.

This means that 75% of students at Southern have some form of commute to school, whether it is walking, taking a bus, train or driving, as they do not live in on-campus housing.

Nadia Morales is a commuter assistant who started in the position this semester. Her position deals specifically with commuters who may have

questions or problems that need to be solved.

"We can help with a little bit of everything and even if we don't have the answer we will find someone from student involvement or call Wintergreen (Building)," said Morales

Despite some of the grievances with traveling and the commute, Pelletier wouldn't trade it for on-campus living.

"Overall the perks of commuting allow me to not only be able to go home but living at home makes my commute to work shorter than if I was to be living here on campus," said Pelletier. "So it's a win for me."

Review: Recap of the 65th annual Grammy Awards

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor
Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-chief

Coming into the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, Beyonce needed four Grammy wins to break the record held by British conductor Georg Solt for most Grammy wins with 31. Her seventh studio album, "Renaissance," won Best Dance and Electronic Album of the Year and broke the record to secure the 32nd Grammy of her 26-year musical career.

The pundits can debate all day if Beyonce is overrated, underrated, or just rated, but we can all agree that only a few artists have impacted the music industry, like Queen Bey.

Her summer hit song, "Break My Soul," has made some rethink their current occupation and instead chase their true passion because of the lyrics. The summer hit fell short of winning Record of the Year



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Clip of musical artist Beyonce accepting a Grammy award taken on a Samsung Z-Flip 5 on Feb 6.

because of the amusing and upbeat song called "About Damn Time" by Lizzo.

Despite the loss, Beyonce won multiple Grammys in the rhythm and blues, R&B category. Beyonce's "Cuff It" won best R&B song of the year, beating "Good Morning Gorgeous" by Mary J. Blige and many other viable candidates like

Jazmine Sullivan and PJ Morton.

"Cuff It" was the best song on "Renaissance" because of its sound and vocals. She stacks her vocals or in other words, includes multiple vocals on one track to give strong harmonies and to make her voice sound full.

Thanks to the rise of TikTok, songs became a global

success instantly, and "Cuff It" was included. The videos included an iconic choreography routine that made everyone record themselves grooving to the upbeat tune and then posting it on the platform.

In the Grammy culminating stages, the Album of the Year went to Pop star Harry Styles for his third studio album, 'Harry's

House.' I'm not going to say he did not deserve the award, but his first two albums were better than this one. Nevertheless, Styles' music is amusing and sounds different than any other pop star that came before him.

"As It Was" was a big radio hit that caught the public's attention. Styles has vocal skills unmatched in the pop genre and a 'style' that makes him unique. He did something very few can, which is to step away from a group or band and become a successful solo artist.

BTS did not win a single Grammy, I am very upset. This is the third year they have not won a Grammy. This is probably why they did not show up to the awards ceremony. I do not blame them because they have been used each year for views by the Grammy's each year, last year they performed "Butter" and did not win a single Grammy.

Last year they were

beaten by Doja Cat and SZA for best Group/Duo and this year they were beat by Sam Smith and Kim Petras. Which I find very unfair because neither of them is a duo, they did one song together and that is it.

"Anyway, we didn't come to Vegas for the Grammys. We came to Vegas for the ARMYs, okay?" BTS ensured concertgoers. "The record, the title, the accomplishments, the trophies, they're really important, but that wasn't the first thing, the first reason why we started all these things, right?" RM said during their "Permission to Dance" concert last year after they were snubbed again at the Grammys.

As an Army, BTS fan name, I am highly disappointed that the boys did not win again, they are considered the number one boy band in the world and sell out their concerts and even merchandise and albums, yet they have not won a single Grammy.

Students make Super Bowl predictions

By Ben Martin
Contributor

The most important sporting event in America will be occurring Sunday. As the Philadelphia Eagles battle the Kansas City Chiefs in the final contest of the NFL season.

The game will feature both of the number one teams in their respective conferences; however, many university students did not predict this matchup from the beginning.

One of those students was business major Allen Livits, a junior. "Honestly, this was not the matchup I predicted," Livits said. "I am a Giants fan, so I wanted the Giants to win, obviously I am a little biased, but I thought the

Bengals were honestly going to win it all and I thought the packers were going to have a comeback into the playoffs and surprise everybody, but both my predictions were obviously completely wrong."

Livits, like five of his fellow students, had high hopes for the Cincinnati Bengals including sports management major, Sam Issacson, senior who hoped for the San Francisco 49ers and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Along with Issacson, sports management major Michael Puglio, sophomore, sports management major, Jaylen Lewis, senior, and nursing major, Lauren Klemonski, sophomore, agreed upon the Bengals making

it out of the American Football Conference (AFC).

As far as the team representing the National Football Conference (NFC), predictions were more mixed.

"At the beginning of the playoffs, I had 49ers Chiefs," Puglio said.

"After seeing what happened, I thought it would be Eagles vs. Bengals actually, so I kind of flip flopped them," Puglio is referencing the injuries that occurred to both the 49ers and Chiefs quarterbacks in the playoffs.

In the divisional round of the NFC playoffs, the 49ers lost their third quarterback of the season due to injury.

In the middle of the first quarter, 49ers starting quarterback Brock Purdy was hit by Eagles defensive end Hassan Reddick which caused a torn ligament in his throwing elbow.

That injury caused Purdy to miss most of the game, and to become virtually ineffective when he came back into the game.

The Kansas City Chiefs had a similar experience occur in their championship game, when their starting quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, suffered a high ankle sprain caused by a late hit out of bound by Cincinnati's defense.

Along with Puglio, Livits had predicted either the Giants or Packers, Issacson the

49ers, and Lewis and Klemonski correctly predicted the Eagles.

Now, with the matchup set, the Chiefs are favored by a 1.5-point spread; however, many students did not agree with the pick or the spread.

"Oh, Philly is about to win, Jalen Hurts about to get a ring," Lewis said. Along with Lewis, Puglio also picked the Eagles to win but provided a final score prediction of 26-20.

Issacson and Livits went with the other contender in the matchup, Issacson with by a final score of 34-22 and Livits by a score of 24-17.

Although Sunday may be about the football, a few students are looking forward to the game for reasons other than the football matchup.

"I love super bowl food," Livits said. "You got to get around with friends, each chicken wing with your boys so it's not a bad experience." Along with Livits, Klemonski is looking forward to more than just the game. "I always like going to Superbowl parties," Klemonski said. "I just think they're fun and lighthearted. I love the atmosphere and there's good food."

Regardless of whomever they wanted to win, everyone hoped for a good matchup and close game.

"The Eagles have a really strong defense, its pretty known that they have the best defense in the

league right now," Klemonski said after watching their previous matchup against the 49ers. "The Chiefs, I think they rely on Mahomes to do so much work, but he can't carry the entire team on his back, and I have a feeling they are going to let him down."

Mahomes' injuries throughout the regular season and playoffs added to the concern about his performance in the game Kelmonski added. She believes this Super Bowl could be a repeat of the 2021 Superbowl when the Chiefs went up against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I want Mahomes to win and if he wins it will add more to his legacy, but if Hurts wins, he brings back an Eagles Superbowl and he will show that Oklahoma quarterbacks can actually win in the NFL."

Along with Issacson, Puglio provided more in-depth commentary about the game. "For the Chiefs, I need to see if there defensive line will be able to stop the run against the Eagles," Puglio said.

"I think the Eagles best attributes are their offensive line and also their defensive line. I think the line of scrimmage is a big emphasis and I think the Eagles are most adept to handle that."

Lewis wants an entertaining matchup for the big game as well.

"Just a good game hopefully," Lewis said. "Not just a blowout or a one-sided game."

Amalbert reflects on time at the university

By Ben Martin
Contributor

Owls guard Zoe Amalbert, a senior, recalled their matchup against Stonehill in the Northeast 10 conference semi-finals last season. The game came down to the wire, with the Owls down by one with just over two minutes left.

However, the team would lose after Stonehill made two free throws to add two points causing the owls to drop the game 59-56, although Amalbert had a game-high 17 points. Along with that, she added four assists, five rebounds and six steals.

"It showed us that we were capable of getting to that championship," Amalbert said. "We had the skill and we had the pieces."

The Owls goal this season is to get back to that point and even go beyond it by winning the Northeast 10 conference championship and making the NCAA tournament, Amalbert said.

Although Amalbert fondly remembers that playoff matchup with now division one Stonehill, her college basketball career did not start with Southern.

Amalbert got her to start at a fellow division two program, The New York Institute of Technology.

In her freshman season there, Amalbert would help her squad win the East Coast Conference (ECC) championship.

"That taught me that I know I what it takes to win a championship," Amalbert said.

Although the program captured a championship, two years later, they would fold due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as financial constraints.

That caused Amalbert to seek a new school with an athletics program.

Along with wanting an athletics program, Amalbert knew she wanted to major in nursing, which is

something most athletic programs do not allow their student athletes to do. However, Owls head coach Kate Lynch was able to provide that for Amalbert.

"I always encourage our student athletes do whatever major you want to do," Lynch said.

"You're hear to be a student first, student athlete, we want them to have a great experience on the court, but we also want them to graduate with the degree they want to be in."

Since coming to Southern, Amalbert has to balance both of these rigorous commitments; however, time management skills she has learned through growing up with the sport of basketball help her in that process.

"I use basketball as my outlet," Amalbert said. "It is something I love to do and its fun for me." Amalbert added that she gets excited to practice and spend time with the team after long days of work in the nursing program.

Coming into the season, the Owls lost three older players to graduation in guards Megan Bianchi and Trish Conroy, as well as now European league player forward Jessica Fressle, which opened the door for Amalbert to more of a leadership role for this year's team.

Amalbert was named a team captain; however, she sees the role as just an extension of her responsibilities last

season. "It's just more so knowing how to be a leader and get things done when we need things done."

Amalbert said adding that "teaching the incoming freshman the new offense and making sure they are ok when we are going through new drills," is an added responsibility.

One of the younger players that Amalbert has been able to teach, is junior Jillian Martin, guard. The guards matchup everyday in practices and Martin credits that to her improvement.

"She taught me how to be a great defender, because she is so quick," Martin said.

Although Amalbert taught Martin defensive skills, she has taught her understudy more skills than just that.

"You want to watch Zoe, and it just helps you perform better," Martin said. "She is a good person to learn from because she has so much experience."

Amalbert and Martin have gone from guarding each other in practice to offseason training buddies. We both push each other to the limit every day at practice Martin said.

Along with teaching Martin, having Zoe as an on the court teacher is something that helps Coach Lynch out as well.

To read more of this story, visit our website at thesouthernnews.org



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Guard Zoe Amalbert dribbles against Georgian Court.

Men's Swim team prepares for NE10s champion

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

The Owls men's swimming and diving team look to defend their 2022 championship this year when they travel to Worcester, Massachusetts, to face the best Northeast 10, NE10 competition.

After defeating runner-up Bentley University last season in the NE10 Championship, thanks to players like Chandler Tucker, a graduate student who won three events to help the Owls to victory, he is determined to repeat as champions.

The Owls haven't repeated as champions since 2015-2016 after defeating Bentley University in both years.

"We are looking to do something special with this team," Tucker said.

"We have a really talented team, and hopefully, we can break some records."

Head Coach Tim Quill said the team feels excited and prepared to be on the road during the NE10 Championship.

The Owls had recently played against Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, where the team responded well despite

being away from home, Quill said.

"It's never easy to go the road because you are swimming in a foreign pool," Quill said. "It was a pretty demanding schedule, and they performed exceptionally well despite the situation."

The Owls won the meet against Le Moyne College 150-135 with the help of McAllister Milne, a sophomore who placed first in the 1,000 Yard Freestyle event and broke a Le Moyne pool record in a record time.

Milne said the team has been playing well as of late and looks forward to

topping their performance last season.

"The team culture was great last year," said Milne. "But this year, it just seems like we are gluing well, and the freshman guys are fitting well with the team, and we are ready for the conference meet."

The 6-3 Owls are looking to continue their momentum into the NE10 championship meet.

They have won their last three games to close their regular season.

"Every year, the expectation is to contend for a conference team championship," Quill said. As the head coach,

there are also individual expectations that he put on himself, which is to make sure the players are in the best position to contend for championship finals, Quill said.

"There are some athletes on the team that have the opportunity to make an NCAA cut or swim in the national championship, so we are thinking about those situations," Quill said.

Milne and Tucker said their goal is to qualify for NCAA's qualifying time. Milne said, "After NE10s, every Division II Conference has a conference meet, and that

is where they make the NCAA qualifying times, and that is what I hope to do."

Tucker, a 14-time NE10 Championship Medalist, said he wants his 800 Yard Relay to qualify for NCCA.

To prepare for the NE10 Championship meet, Tucker said, "I'm just trying to eat healthily, take vitamins, eat vegetables, go to bed early, get a lot of rest."

To read more of this story, visit our website at thesouthernnews.org