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SOUTHERN NEWS

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PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

SGA invited Associate Director of Student Involvement Eric LaCharity (standing) to discuss the future of the spring concert.

Need for spring concert debated

A smaller pool of artists to choose from may lead to a spring week concert revamp

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

Funding for the annual spring week concert is up for debate by the Student Government Association, as well as whether students value the event.

“It’s becoming increasingly difficult to get an artist that the students are happy with and recognize,” said Associate Director of Student Involvement Eric LaCharity, at the SGA meeting.

This year, finding an artist has been more difficult, LaCharity said.

Typically, he said, the process is completed by December, but the committee is still searching for an artist.

The student activity fee—which is used to support clubs, and other student activities—currently allocates \$40,000 to spring week each year, according to LaCharity.

In their fundraising budget line, \$16,000 is also set aside from previous ticket revenue.

“We have \$56,000 which years ago would have gotten us a fantastic concert and now it’s like okay, let’s have a discussion,” he said.

See Spring Concert, Page 3



Representative-at-large Ian Bergemann discussing the concert at the meeting.

To-go box system reduces plastic use

Students can now buy to-go boxes when dining at Connecticut Hall

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

The newest addition to Connecticut Hall will continue to promote the dining hall’s commitment to a zero-waste facility; a new re-usable, recyclable to-go containers.

Jeff Kwolek, Chartwell’s food services resident district manager said are an idea of the reusable container had started while he was working at Eastern Connecticut State University.

“When I came here, I went to the university and office of sustainability and said ‘What do you think about these,’” said Kwolek, “and they loved it.”

According Brad Crerar, the director of the Adanti Student Center, about 80,000 of used plastic to-go containers were being thrown out every year.

The new containers, Kwolek said, are a one-time charge of \$5.

“As long they bring one back, they get a new one,” said Kwolek.

A student could theoretically keep a container from freshman until their senior year as long they remember to bring it with them, Kwolek said. If a student were to break their container, they are eligible for one replacement.

“It’s washed, rinsed and sanitized in a dishwashing machine,” said Kwolek.

See To-Go, Page 2

Website aims to attract prospective students

The new website has been in the works for two years

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

The new website, which was unveiled on Jan. 30, is intended to clearly and concisely show the services available to prospective students through new imagery and “optimized wording,” or highlights of certain aspects of a section with links to more information, according to Jian Chan, web administrator for the office of integrated communications and marketing.

“Historically, the university’s website changes after a period of — you know around five to

six years every time,” said Chan, “so it was — we knew it was coming.”

The initial idea to revitalize the website was discussed two years before the launch, said Chan.

In order to revamp the website it takes a gradual, “migration process” into the new system, he said.

This time around, the approach was much different.

“This is one of many launches,” said Chan. “This is our first big push to get our prospective student content out there, but we’re doing lots of mini launches behind the scenes to move content over.”

With the use of a home page — which every section will eventually have — Chan said he wanted prospective students to feel as though they were on a guided tour.

“The images are meant to align with our brand as well,” said Chan.

Benjamin Yambao, a senior, social work major, said if he were applying all over again the new site would be, “more welcoming.”

“It’s a lot more vibrant,” said Yambao. “A lot more clean. A lot more — the interface is a lot more user-friendly.”

Personally, he said he likes that both the old and new website are available and it would be a shame if the old website was discarded.

The biggest issue as a result of the revamping was the search bar, said Chan.

“We’re now falling back to a Google search,” said Chan, “that will allow us to include results from both the old and new site.”

See Website, Page 3

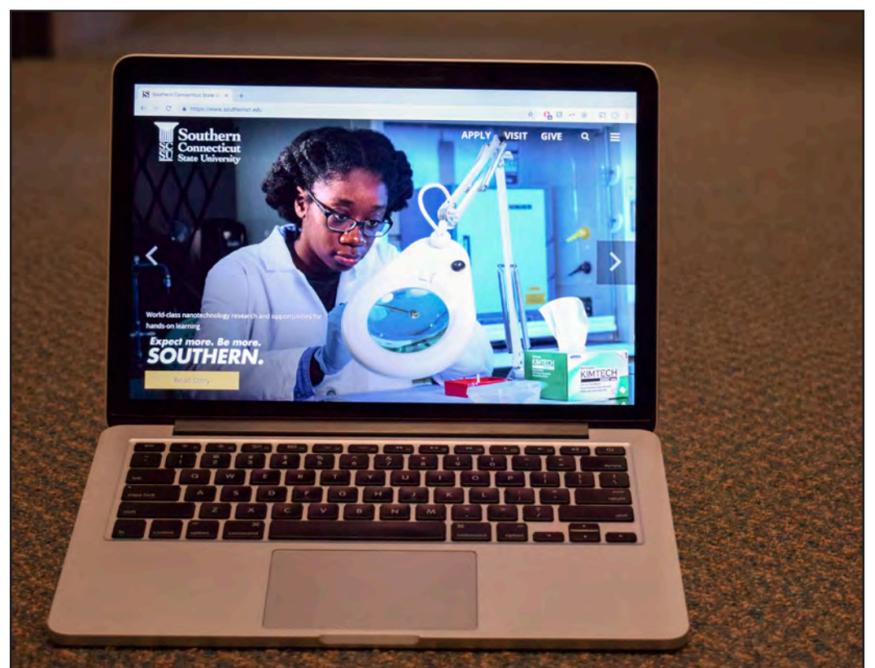


PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The website features a slideshow that highlights different aspects of Southern.

Registration a problem for late transfers

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

The goal to ease the registration process for transfer students begins by first educating them early on.

Undergraduate Admissions Director Tony Pace understands all too well the common complaints most students have and urges them to be adamant when it comes to paperwork.

"The closer you get to that registration deadline, the more problems you're going to have. Classes are full," said Pace.

Timing is a challenge for many transfer students due to the narrow window openings in November while most community colleges end their semesters in December.

The notable differences are accounted for as estimates for fall transfers

entirely outnumbers those in the spring—835 to 300, respectively.

Of those 300, 120 registered for classes the week before school started. With that number in mind, it is easy to imagine the disorientation hitting them all at once if they wait any longer.

Even then, issues with registration stem from a simple misunderstanding. This can come from the myth of ensuring that all student paperwork is properly secured and transferred before a student can even go to class. The biggest upset seems to come from delaying a whole semester because financial aid had not been finalized.

"Why not come in June? We have to educate transfers that you don't have to have your aid in order. You can wait for your aid in July," said Interim Director of

Academic Advisement Frank LaDore.

LaDore and his team have initiated such incentives by visiting a slew of community colleges twice a month.

There, he said, he would meet with students, asking and informing them, if they had successfully transferred their transcripts, LEP's and reminding them of deadlines.

Getting students to register much earlier guarantees a better chance of being satisfied with course availability.

"It's a cultural change so that students get the mindset that... 'I can't just do it anytime. I have to do it now,'" said Pace.

For some, the idea of a student doing it themselves is obvious.

"It really comes down to you. There were a couple of hoops I had jump through, but if you're a diligent

person, there's not going to be a lot of problems," said Saheed Sanders, a junior and finance major, who also felt those who tried to cut corners can suffer from unwanted setbacks.

About 40 percent of new students are transfer students. Amidst the clutter of fall applications, almost reaching 9,000, LaDore and Pace believe there has been an improvement in honing students early on.

This is despite limited resources and the fact staff dealing with the bulk of applications only amounts to seven members.

"It's stressful...we're always trying to provide better service. And you can always do better... it's frustrating for students. I'm sure. It's equally frustrating for us," said Pace.

As a part of their service, LaDore said there there will be a Community College Counselor day to improve this issue.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Undergraduate Admissions Director Tony Pace who oversees the registration process for new students.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A to-go box that students can now purchase at Connecticut Hall.

To-Go

Continued from Page 1

The containers, he said are rinsed at 181 degrees in order to clean any excess food particles and potential bacteria.

According to Kwolek, all food bacteria is cleared at 165 degrees.

Aidan Coleman, SGA co-chair of food services advisory committee, said the hygiene process is similar to what most people would expect at any restaurant.

"They take the importance of health, very, very importantly," said Coleman.

Conn. Hall gets inspected by the health department,

he said, and there are health codes that have to be abided by.

Under Kwolek's leadership it has been "very peticular to do it correctly.

TJ Thomas, a sophomore and studio art major, said she started using the container because she does not particularly enjoy sitting down to eat in Conn. Hall, but the main reason was the re-usability.

"So, there's so many containers I keep throwing away," said Thomas, "I hate it."

Thomas was not upset with the transition to the new containers, and said she thought they were perfect.

Students biggest complaint about the new containers is having to plan their day around possibly

getting a to-go plate before heading to class, said Coleman.

"[You] do have to plan out okay how's my schedule going to look, or do I have time to go back to my room," said Thomas.

She does have to plan her day in advance as to whether or not she plans to get a to-go plate, but she said it is a small price to pay.

She said the container is light and compact enough to fit in her backpack without getting in the way of other supplies she may need for class.

"We're not getting rid of the reusable to-go," said Coleman, "so some creative thinking will have to into a process of how they're gonna work their way around it."

Connecticut Hall cafeteria revamped

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

While students can still get their mac and cheese and chicken tenders in Connecticut Hall, there are several healthy options for them to choose from as well, said Chartwells Food Services resident district manager Jeff Kwolek.

"I was a chef by trade, so for me, the main focus is food quality," he said.

Kwolek came to the university in August 2018 and said he had heard from students about the bad reputation associated with the food in Conn. Hall.

The healthy ideas and initiatives, Kwolek said, come from Chartwells corporate menu planning software called Webtrition.

"They work with, it's called Menu Directions," said Kwolek. "It's a group of chefs and professionals that

work the Hartford Public Health and CIA [Culinary Institute of America]."

One healthy option available to students are hand-pressed burgers, Kwolek said.

"We hand form them, and then we cook 'em - kinda on the same lines as a Five Guys or Smash Burger," said Kwolek, "so they're fresh they're not a frozen product, so they stay juicy and they have a lot more flavor."

According to Kwolek, the beef used is 80/20 ground beef meaning 80 percent meat and 20 percent fat content.

Chartwells has also added a corporate program known as F.U.E.L. [Fueling Your Unique Lifestyle].

"It's designed around not just athletes, but for anyone," said Kwolek.

The overall program is based on healthy eating, he said, and it offers students options such as ancient grains, poached fish, and pickled vegetables. The program is an addition to the salad bar.

The F.U.E.L. program was implemented this year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Doors have also been installed outside the G8 station and a swipe-pad must be used for students to access it.

The 'G,' he said, stands



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The lock and swipe-pad on one of the new doors installed outside G8.



A door has been installed outside the gluten free section to ensure only certain students can access it.

for gluten-free and the '8' refers to the eight major food allergens.

"What people were doing is, people who weren't gluten-free, and that's the thing it's open to all students," said Aidan Coleman, SGA co-chair of food services advisory committee, "but people who weren't gluten-free were coming in and saying 'Oooh I like this stuff' and emptying it into a bookbag."

Coleman said, with the station being locked, students now have to find a manager to unlock the area and grant them access from that point on into the station.

Before the door and swipe-pad were installed,

Kwolek said the station would be filled on a Friday afternoon and by Monday morning it would be "totally wiped out."

Eventually, security cameras will need to be installed.

"Not that we're looking to be big brother," said Kwolek, "but there's an issue, we can look back and check the keypad and see who was in there last."

Kwolek said the student would not get in trouble but would be asked to be considerate of their fellow students who may really need that specified food.

There are also gluten-free options available to students on the lunch line.

Conn. Hall also continues

to partner with St. Ann's church and soup kitchen, said SGA Representative-at-Large and Vice President for the Board of Academic Experience, Brooke Mercaldi.

According to Mercaldi, Connecticut Hall is a "zero-waste facility."

"The food that's untouched is donated," said Mercaldi. "The food that is touched is, is like [recycled] into compost."

According to the Food Recovery Network's website, which is a group of students on college campuses fighting against food waste, between 2016 and 2017 over 10,000 pounds of food was donated.

Chief Dooley to lead a new task force

By Haljit Basuljevic Reporter

While not many details have been revealed, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system is creating a task force to implement more crime prevention policies and procedures upon student campuses.

Still in its infancy, University Chief of Police Joseph Dooley, who will be appointed as head of this task force, stated the Southern police department's aim is to integrate campus community remains intact with this new task force.

"Our colleges and universities should be safe and welcoming learning environments, and hearing from people with wide variety of perspectives will help better meet that goal," said CSCU Director of Communications Leigh Appleby, who also stated the plan will include the voices of students, faculty, administrators, and campus safety officers with the goal of adopting the best practices on a system-wide basis.

In the meantime, Dooley is focused on moving past outdated technology.

The Blue Emergency lights dispersed throughout campus have been subject to failure due to water leaking inside the underground wires and are costly to fix, said Dooley.

The LiveSafe app, which



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

University Chief of Police Joseph Dooley will lead a new system-wide task force.

was implemented in 2018, has been an effective and relevant substitute.

The app allows students to anonymously tip-off police officers, report an incident and contains detailed instructions in case of emergencies.

Dooley said although the app has been working well, there have not been many students who are even aware of it.

He hopes to alleviate this problem by word of mouth across campus and media coverage.

However, despite these new safety precautions, the technology cannot completely cover what Dooley likes to call the "human element."

For example, scams disguised as job offers have been sent to students' email inboxes and in return sensitive information could be turned over.

It is then difficult to determine the culprit because of the sender's encrypted email address.

"Technology is driving what we do," said Dooley.

But, "[We] can't rely solely on technology. [You] need the human element."

Further development in this area works better by way of the campus police's use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

He stated in a previous interview this is a method to keep crime at bay by preventing criminal activity in the first place.

This includes keeping areas well-lit, keeping car doors locked and allowing community residents to

Website

Continued from Page 1

Chan said the new search engine will take time to "learn itself," as there are at least 5,000 pages on the old site and nearly 1,000 more on the new site that it will have to cycle through.

Jessica Komacki, a freshman, communication disorders major and student worker at the information desk in the Adanti Student Center said an issue that arose for her was in the directory tab.

"On the old website there's a part that goes directory and you can just like type in a person's name or department," said Komacki, "and their phone number, fax number, location, everything comes up and on the new website they don't have that."

Komacki said the directory on the new website will simply link the person's name to their department that usually only showed their phone number or email.

Both issues, the search bar, and directory have since been fixed.

At this week's Student Government Association

meeting, representative Sarah Gossman said the new website has good ideas, but "poor execution."

Chan said additional difference in the new site is the fact all of the pages will be new when the site is uploaded in its entirety.

"That is something that has never been done before," said Chan. "We [have] 700 new pages built out across the board, in all various capacities. You might not see it all at once, but they're there."

The overall goal for the launch is to separate content for prospective students, current students, and faculty and staff, Chan said.

The Inside Southern tab on the homepage is meant specifically for current students, faculty and staff, Chan said.

"From there, for the next few months, we're going to be expanding that area," said Chan, "so that when students and faculty, especially students -when they land on that, they're really only going to find information that's relevant to them."

play a role in establishing security.

Dooley said he acknowledged there were certainly setbacks involved in trying to integrate technology.

He said an ideal situation for him would be having a facilitator who can stay in the building and manage all the technology that the police department uses.

Such a position, he said, is vacant at the moment.

"If I had a perfect world, those are two things [the

other being Chief Deputy] that would make my life easier," said Dooley.

What potential precautions may ensue with this new task force is still yet to be seen.

According to Student Government Association Board of Academic Excellence Vice President Brooke Mercaldi, a meeting between the Board of Regents Student Advisory Committee will discuss further details in Hartford, Conn. on March 22.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Representatives-at-large, Shamariah Grant (left to right), Isaiah Yopp and Trimaine Brown at the Student Government Association meeting discussing the concert.

Spring Concert

Continued from Page 1

A conversation about the future of the concerts has been occurring for some time, said Denise Bentley-Drobish, director of student involvement, at the meeting.

At one point, spring week concerts lasted much longer, but the cost was cheaper, she said.

"Now, we have artists that literally are performing for 40 minutes," said Bentley-Drobish. "That's what they are performing for, and their cost is \$40,000 to 50,000."

The committee has considered hosting other events, LaCharity said such as a carnival, if the options for artists do not seem as

favorable to students.

For last year's concert, which featured singer Jacques, LaCharity said a little over 1,000 tickets were sold. In 2017, 3,000 tickets were sold to the A Boogie wit da Hoodie concert, and Bryson Tiller sold out the Lyman Center with about 1,500 tickets sold.

Currently, Bentley-Drobish said the university might not be allocating enough money to hire someone students would enjoy.

In addition, LaCharity said the committee has discussed hiring several smaller artists that could hold a concert amongst a bigger event, such as a carnival.

Money aside, he said the conversation has also

focused on the type of language and message a hired artist may use.

"Being a social justice institution like what does it mean to bring an artist that will swear a lot and potentially degrade women, or whatever the lyrical content is," Lacharity said. "We try to be really cognizant of that too."

More money should not be allocated for an artist that might not be acceptable, said Carlos Lopez, SGA representative-at-large.

"I just don't think we need to have another mediocre concert," said Lopez.

The body agreed to resume the discussion with the committee by their next meeting and will be reaching out to students about how they value the concert.

MSA participates in Run for Refugees

By J'Mari Hughes Reporter

The Muslim Student Association participated in the 12th annual Run for Refugees in New Haven.

The race began at Wilbur Cross High School and was conducted to help raise money for the 68.1 million refugees.

"They're displaced from home," said MSA President Haroon Chaudhry. "We raise money for them, we run for them to show that we appreciate refugees in America."

Chaudhry said MSA, which was created on campus in 2010, welcomes Muslim and non-Muslim students and tries to promote diversity of Islam to educate people on what their religion is really like.

This year, he said, was the first time the organization participated in the race.

"Our hope is to continue this every year just to support our refugees and make them feel welcome," Chaudhry said.

Treasurer and senior Zaha Naeem said people gave away shirts to represent the event, but the runners from Southern instead wore their school spirit clothing.

Over 3,000 people

participated and they included those from Yale University, Quinnipiac University and sponsorship businesses.

"It was a welcoming feeling, being able to see different, diverse groups," Naeem said. "It wasn't just a 'race' race where you have to want to come in first or strive to be the best. It was a nice, friendly race of different cultures and different people."

Naeem said types of races such as this rarely occur in his country so for him to see groups of people come out, enjoy their time, and experience it firsthand, it was a comfortable sight.

"I liked that you didn't know the thousands of people with you," said club secretary Rachel Schaffer, "but being all together, looking at each other, smiling and cheering each other on, there was a good sense of community and I felt like you didn't feel lonely."

MSA member Dabar Ratupenu said his favorite parts were meeting refugees and getting to help people with the registration process at his own table.

"I felt like a VIP," Ratupenu said.

In the future, Chaudhry said he hopes the event will be promoted throughout all

of Southern to allow more organizations to support their cause.

"We want to encourage people to attend," Ratupenu said. "Not just as a runner but just partake even if it's just helping set up a table."

Chaudhry gave a special thanks to his E-Board and said they worked really hard.

Community outreach member Asma Rahimyar, he said, had a connection to the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services or IRIS, the organization that held the race, before MSA had signed up.

"The fact that we already had connection to IRIS, we were definitely going to participate," he said. "It's going to help us build good relationships with Southern and IRIS groups so in the future if IRIS is planning to do another activity like that they're most likely to reach Southern because they have our contact information."

Chaudhry said it was their first time racing so he was happy for Southern's name to be put in.

"Our hope is that the next president will continue and that this will become an annual thing," Chaudhry said, "It had to start somewhere and it started this semester."

State of the Union, is just one Trump-specific problem

By Izzy Manzo
Copy Editor

At this point, few would be surprised to learn that President Donald Trump has a bit of a penchant for stretching the truth, kind of like a kid at the lunch table, desperately trying to make friends. Tuesday night's State of the Union addresses an "agenda of the American people" that focused heavily on the economy and the recurring fantasy that there will be a wall between the U.S. and Mexico to combat the drug trade and "coyotes" that prey on women and children.

There was no shortage of news sources standing over Trump like hawks, hanging on to his every sentence and rapidly fact-checking as the night went on. Politico and The New York Times stood as watchdogs during the address, as well as the Democratic rebuttal by Stacey Abram that followed.

First and foremost I want to say that is not a Democrat

vs. Republican issue, but a Trump-specific problem. It does not matter if the President is a Republican, Democrat, or anything in between. Blatantly lying and embellishing statistics just for your own self-satisfaction is not cool.

I also want to point out that there still was some truth to what he said. It was a rare occasion, but it was there. The times he told the truth were just marred by him making statements and listing facts that honestly just sound like he came up with them on the spot, boasting about the creation of 5.3 million jobs and additional 600,000 manufacturing jobs, "something which almost everyone said was impossible to do," according to The New York Times.

In actuality, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that since Jan. 2017, 4.9 million new jobs have been created, as well as 454,000 manufacturing jobs. Still impressive, but it's comparable to growth the Obama

administration saw in the same amount of time and is slower than the pace of job creation in the 1990s.

He was also prone to blanket statements such as, "more people are working now than at any time in our history," which sits in limbo. Trump is technically right, but it is of no thanks to him and his policies; more people are working in the U.S. now than ever before simply because more people live here now than ever before.

Immigration was the main highlight of the State of the Union, and Trump used fear-mongering and hate-filled rhetoric to give off the illusion that immigrants are apparently taking over the country.

Kind of like what happened in 1620 where the Mayflower landed and the pilgrims colonized what is now America, But I digress. Trump referenced the caravan of thousands of immigrants that made headlines in Jan., stating that organized

hordes of people are marching towards the U.S.-Mexico border "as we speak." While some of the travelers of the caravan did plan to make it to the United States, most actually intended to stay in Mexico according to the New York Times, thanks in part to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador making it easier for Central Americans to obtain visas and jobs.

Trump also referenced the

"Trump used fear-mongering and hate-filled rhetoric to give off the illusion that immigrants are apparently taking over the country."

Reproductive Health Act passed in New York, which ensures a woman's right to an abortion even if Roe v. Wade gets overturned. It will let a woman have an abortion if it's for the sake of her health or if the fetus is not viable. Trump, however,

said that lawmakers in New York "cheered with delight upon the passage of legislation that would allow a baby to be ripped from its mother's womb moments from birth."

Not only is that statement incredibly misleading, but it is harmful and does nothing to help lessen the stigma around having an abortion. The image that a baby can be aborted right before its born takes away from the fact that that not only does not happen, but the fact that such a late-term abortion would only happen if the mother and/or baby's life is in danger.

The blanket statements he made surrounding illegal immigrants and abortion only instigate fear where there should be none. By perpetuating such stereotypes that all immigrants only bring crime and drugs into the U.S., or that women can choose to abort their children moments away from birth, is harmful and only increases hate and stigma.

Jaywalking is a life or death decision on southern campus

By Jacob Waring
Opinion and Features Editor

Imagine this scenario: You are at the intersection of Wintergreen and Farnham and you are waiting for the signal to switch from stop to walk. It is taking forever, and you impatiently hit the button thinking it would expedite the process. You glance both ways and cross. A speeding car, or someone not paying attention while on their phone, causes the vehicle to have a near-miss at you, or crushing you like a soda can.

It infuriates me to no end when I see someone jaywalk. Perhaps it is the mythical millennial laziness or perhaps college students just tend to become impatient at crosswalks. Jaywalking may seem harmless, but you could die or be seriously maimed.

Last fall, a freshmen student crossed the intersection while the light was green assuming that it was safe to cross. That assumption was an error because she ended up getting hit. Thankfully

it was not a fatality, but she did get hit by the front driver-side bumper and hood of the vehicle, leading to an leg injury that resulted in wearing a boot for weeks.

Vehicles are not made of feathers. They are subjected to the laws of physics. Last I checked, we fragile beings known as humans will always lose against vehicles.

According to Smart Growth America, from 2008 to 2017 pedestrian deaths increased by 35.4 percent. In that same span, over 49,340 thousand people were struck and killed. A startling number from that report was that 13 people per day or one person every hour and 46 minutes would die. That is a lot of carnage on the streets in the United States.

I know for a fact that I would never want to be part of that statistic. As a Deaf man I am not able to hear a car speeding towards me or someone shouting for me to get out of the way. I do not care if I am waiting until the end of time for the light to finally turn to walk. I value my life to not allow



PHOTO BY | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The crosswalk at Fitch St. is just one of the crosswalks Southern students use on a daily basis.

the little voice in my head called Impatience to nudge me to cross.

If you are on your way to class and find yourself becoming late due to the crosswalk's wait time then you better find a way to manage your time. You can not control how fast someone is going or if they are distracted by a meme on their smartphones but

you can control what you do. You can control the misguided assumptions of roads being safe or the inexplicable urge to cross willy nilly due to impatience. You can control your actions, your fate is within your own hands.

I know I sound like an old man shaking his fists at the youths who cross the

streets of Southern. I have had my fair share of eyerolls and quizzical expressions aimed at me, expressions that clearly inquire as to why I was not following them across street. I am not a duckling following a misguided mother duck as a screaming metal death trap zooms forward with deadly intent. That was

overdramatic, but the potential of being seriously injured or killed is not overdramatic, as those previous statistics paint a frightening image.

Just wait until the light flashes to walk. Just manage your time better. Life is too short to waste it due to impatience or by throwing caution through the wind. Just wait to cross.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Looking back: Spring of 1992



More students seek financial aid as result of budget cuts

As a result of the state budget cuts and spikes in tuition, 2,700 students were forced to go on some form of financial aid. Officials estimated 300 to 400 more students are expected to need financial in the following semesters.

March

- Senior Joe Bena and freshman Gene Hanemann qualified for the division II wrestling championships. Hanemann broke the Southern record for most wins in a season by a freshman.
- Leading scorer for the men's basketball team, Jonathan Greenfield, was hit by a car and missed the Owls semifinal game against New Hampshire. Southern would advance to the finals, but lost and was denied an NCAA Tournament bid despite going 20-10.
- About 1,000 people took part in a march and rally to protest Gov. Lowell P. Weicker's proposed cuts to Southern's budget. Students gathered in the quad, marched to the front of Buley Library, and listened to various speakers.
- Robin Roberts, anchor on ESPN's SportsCenter, spoke to discuss the dangers of drugs and alcohol, especially in sports.

April

- Southern celebrated Women's History Month with movies, lectures, and art exhibits. Women's History Month is celebrated nationally in March, but because of spring break, Southern extended their celebrations into May.
- Nearly 50 Southern students joined a rally for abortion rights in Washington D.C. As marchers exited their buses at the Pentagon parking lot, tennis balls with pre-inscribed messages were handed to to be thrown at the White House.
- It was announced the campus police station will move to the back of the Granoff Health Center.
- Pitcher Damon Piccolo threw a no hitter in the second game of a double header against University of Bridgeport, walking three and striking out eight.
- After 18 years, Southern decided to end "one of its most interesting programs," glassblowing, citing lack of money, faculty cutbacks, and issue of safety. Southern was the only public institution in New England that offered the class.

May

- The Student Government Association sponsored the first club fair, with 22 clubs participated in the event. A similar event was planned for the following fall semester.

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

Southern students exposed to Chinese culture

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

The annual lunar new year celebration brought students together to experience Chinese culture as they learned about the Year of the Pig.

The Chinese Student Association and the Multicultural Center held their annual Chinese New Year celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Students came and enjoyed the event which included food and dancing.

Paula Dobles, the president of the Chinese Student Association said it was a good way to expose students to the culture.

"We are trying to bring a bit of Chinese culture here since we do have a fairly large population of Chinese descent and Chinese nationality in New Haven," said Dobles. "So, we just wanted to bring some of that culture here for those people and those interested in Chinese culture."

Dobles said there would

be traditional Chinese dancers, calligraphy, and a traditional Chinese medicine doctor who would be taking students pulses. She said they also would be giving out red envelopes with candy in them.

Though many students who attended the celebration said they were unfamiliar with the Chinese New Year, they still appreciated the festivities. Doralis Ceballos, a biology major, said she came for the free food, but was interested to find out more about the holiday.

"It's great because it's different cultures and stuff so that's kind of cool, like they're doing pulse reading. It's cool that we get to experience something new at Southern," said Ceballos.

David Better, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, who is part of the association,



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Traditional Chinese dancers, dancing at the lunar new year

said he had been to the event in the past. He said there were more students there than in previous years, as it is their biggest event for the association.

"I think it's pretty great," said Better. "I've been coming here and volunteering for the past two years. I think every year it gets bigger and better, so I'm glad to see the turn out."

Better, who has studied Chinese for two years, said that having the Chinese medicine doctor and the calligraphy added to the event in the sense that it made it seem more like a traditional Chinese New Year celebration.

Molly Deegen, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, said she was also impressed by the turnout, as the line of students waiting for food was out the door. Deegen, who is familiar with the Chinese New Year even though she does not celebrate it, said a lot of students have no idea what it is and that the event was a good way to bring awareness.

"I think it's a good way in terms of telling people what it is in a sense, like getting people exposed to Chinese culture and things like that," said Deegen.

See Lunar, page 6



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Calligraphy (left) done at the event while people ate authentic Chinese cuisine.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Southern students watched President Donald Trump during his State of the Union address.

College Democrats host State of Union watch party

By Jacob Waring
Opinion and Features Editor

President Trump's distinctive voice echoed throughout Engleman A120 as members of the College Democrats and others watched with intense focus.

Those in attendance focused because, according to many, they care about the content of the president's State of the Union address. The intensity of their focus also was due to playing a form of bingo where they must mark down specific phrases or words that President Trump would say during his address.

Phrases such as "fake news," "disaster," "make america great again," "witch hunt," "national emergency" and many more such phrases. Despite many opportunities during the one hour and 22-minute address, no one got a bingo.

Ryan Plourde, social media coordinator for the College Democrats said that having watch parties have become a semi-regular event.

"It's almost like a tradition for us. We for the last few years been doing these watch parties for State of Union, primary debates. When the governor debates were happening, we had a watch party for them," said Plourde.

Students in attendance had been following annotated, live transcripts

from the New York Times and Politico to follow along and have the president's factoids and claims checked. Justin Gendron, president of College Democrats said he felt President Trump's speech was lacking factually.

"The New York Times have been fact checking [State of Union] all night but my impression was that he gave very broad claims without basis of fact," said Gendron.

Gendron said he wished the president would cite where he got his information from rather than just spewing information without indicating where he got such facts.

The topics President Trump spoke included the border wall, Venezuela, tariffs, Trade-NAFTA, and the economy.

Plourde was in disagreement of the President's policy of how Venezuela should be handled.

"I disagree with a lot of [Trump's] policies and everything. I don't like—whether or not you like Maduro [Venezuela's president], forcing change isn't good in any capacity and it's a much more complex situation, it's just much more complex," he said.

Nick Carbone, vice president of College Democrat however thought President Trump's address was full of lies and very broad. He did find some positives out of the address too.

See State of Union, page 6

Valentine's SCSU dates

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

For most, it is a day of love and happiness, while for others they just wait for the half-priced chocolate the day after either way most choose to spend it with the people they love.

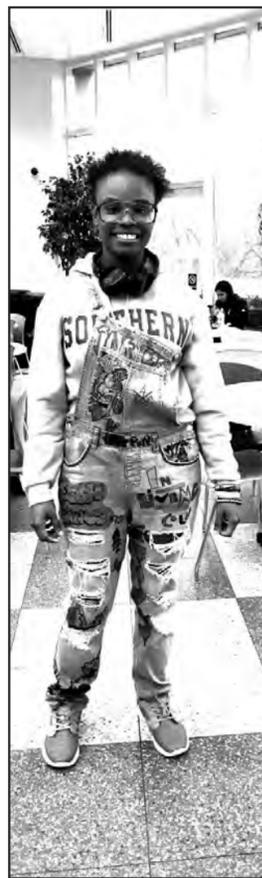


PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Leashia Langley, a graphic design major.

While the cliché is to go out on dates with significant others, Valentine's Day is not only for those in a relationship. For Hayden Davis, a social work major, she said she would be celebrating

Valentine's Day with her friends at Marist College in New York.

"We're all single and figured it would be fun. We will probably go to the city or just go out for the night. It will be a fun Thursday and I'm staying till Saturday," said Davis.

Others see it as an opportunity to spend time with their family. Mike Burns, a business management major, said he wants to spend the holiday with his mom and his brother, but the rest of his day will go as usual.

"I'm going to wake up, go to school, and then I'm going to go to my mom's house for dinner," said Burns. "She's Italian, so she's probably going to make some sauce. We're going to hang out, and maybe my brother will be there."

Johnathan Lopez, a physical education major said he would also be spending time with his mom and plans on buying her roses. He said Valentine's Day should not just be about significant others, but all the people that you love.

"I just think it should be not just about relationships, but relationships with your family as well," said Lopez.

For students in a relationship, like Leashia Langley, a graphic design major, she said she is looking forward to a night out with her boyfriend who is coming from New Jersey to see her.

"We are going to Red Lobster, and then we are going to get a hotel room for the weekend, and then we're going to do gifts. We are also going to take my parents out to eat, and that's my beautiful weekend," said Langley

See Valentine's Date, page 6

State of the Union

Continued from Page 5



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Justin Gendron attempting to get a bingo as he watches President Trump's State of Union.

"I thought his rhetoric on trade was good. I don't think he'll deliver, he notoriously not delivered. I think his push for family leave was excellent and I applaud him," said Carbone. "Again, I doubt his ability to push that through and I doubt the senate republicans will even think to allow that."

Sarah O'Conner, president of the College Republicans planned on attending the watch party but had a conflict with work. She did, however, end up watching the State of Union later on.

O'Conner said she thought it was a fine, generic theme

of unity. She was surprised at his approval rating after the address as she noted it was higher than she expected.

She said when Trump mentioned Syria in the speech, she felt that his decision to pull out was not smart at all. She said she knew his intention was to imply that it was a great decision for America, but internally she knew it was not.

"I was very against him pulling out of Syria. I took [a] terrorism class here and I learned a lot about terrorist groups. I know ISIS isn't finished and would just reform into another group," she said.

Everyone at the watch party also watched as Stacey Abrams, former Georgia gubernatorial candidate, delivered the Democratic response to the State of Union. Some students in attendance knew both speeches written ahead of time and were basically a script to follow. People opinions, those who commented on both speeches, tended to fall on their respective political ideology.

"Obviously both were very scripted, writing their speeches ahead of time," said Plourde "How I am politically, I enjoyed Stacy Abrams more than Trump."

Valentine's dates

Continued from Page 5

Ciara Walker, a social work major, said she is going with her boyfriend to the botanical gardens at Yale and then to dinner downtown, but also said that Valentine's Day is not important to her.

"I can do without, but it's an American thing I guess, so a lot of people like to go all out, but I can just say that 'I love you' or 'I like you,' and that will be it for me personally," said Walker.

For those who aren't spending Valentine's Day with someone special, they still find other ways to celebrate. Janaisha Twyne, an accounting major, said she would be delivering sweet treats around campus as part of a fundraiser for the Steppin' Up Drill Team.

Twyne said that sometimes the best way to spend the holiday is by herself. She said her plan is to stay in bed, watch Netflix, and eat some ice cream.

"It's the best way to do it," said Twyne. "You buy yourself that dollar box of chocolates, and then go home. Pretend it wasn't you. I bought myself a gift so then when it comes I'll be like 'Oh my god who got me something?' Oh, I did."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Janaisha Twyne, an accounting major

Lunar

Continued from Page 5

Dobles agreed with Deegen and said that many students know very little about the Chinese New Year, despite it becoming more relevant in recent years.

"A lot of people know something, whether they know their Chinese zodiac, or they know it's [the] Lunar New Year, but it is something that is very culturally

relevant in not just China, but a lot of other east Asian cultures," said Dobles.

Heather Hayhurst, who is the vice president of the Chinese Student Association, said the club wants to bring awareness and continue to bring more people out to experience different cultures.

"I feel the event went really good," said Hayhurst. "It was a really good turn out, and the dancing is awesome. Just like everyone being aware of everything, it seems like people are more interested now in other people's cultures."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Four traditional Chinese dancers dancing in synchrony.

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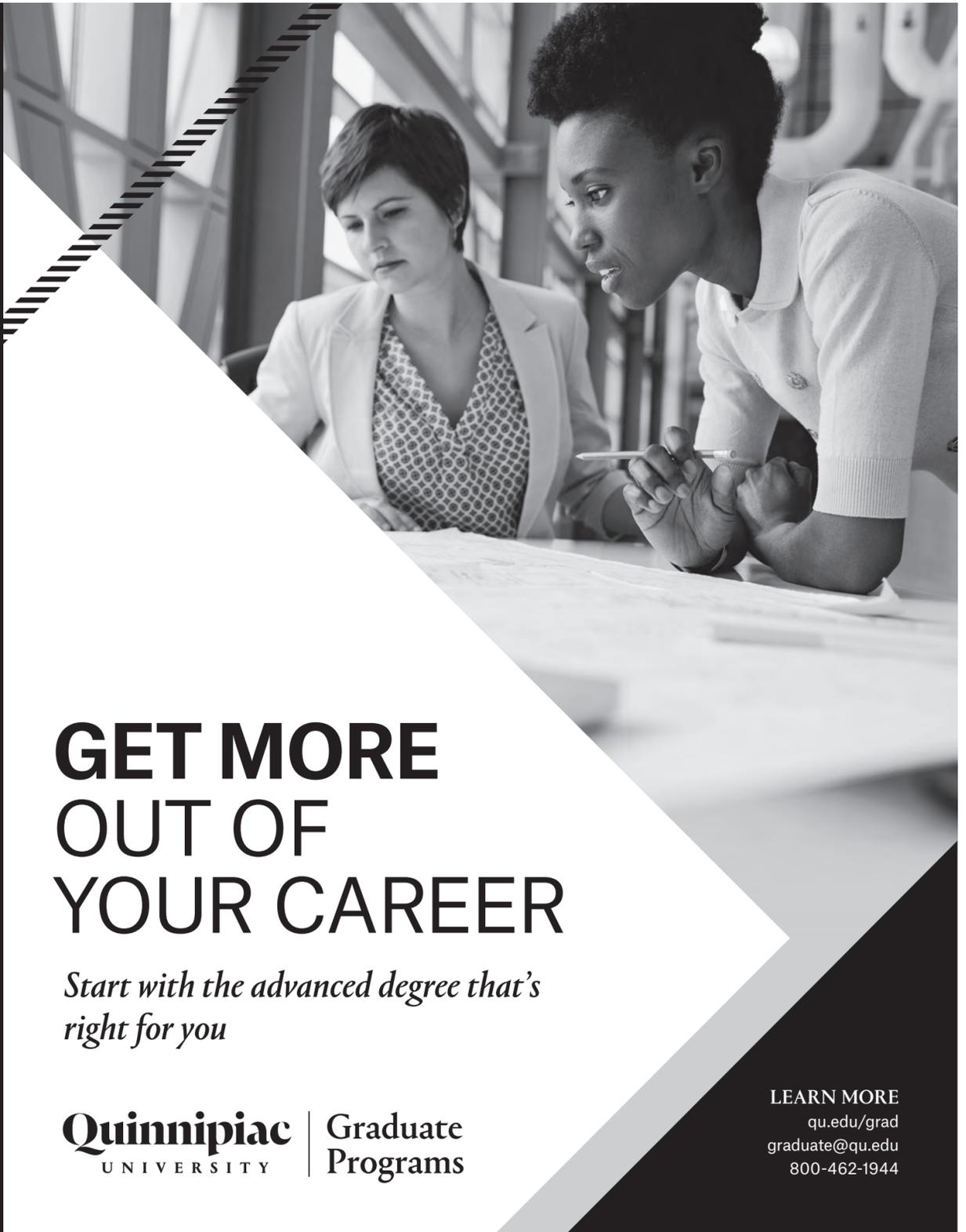
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Valentine's Day movies go where the love grows

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

For everyone's favorite romantic holiday, the lore of watching movies on Valentine's Day have become a tired and worn-out ritual amongst students on campus.

Except for Celease Jackson, a political science major, who celebrates Valentine's Day with a gift of heart-shaped chocolates and donuts given to her by her mother. Her favorite movie to watch around this time of year is

"Silver Linings Playbook".

"What I love is the bizarre romantic connection between them [the two protagonists]," said Celease Jackson.

The film features bipolar disordered Pat Jr. and depressed widow Tiffany Maxwell, played by Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, respectively, whose serendipity sparks after talking about the different medications they've both taken.

She was not alone in keeping up with the tradition. Theater majors Ryleigh Rivas and Kat Duffner chose to express their

sentiments after a nice dinner with some "Shrek 2", a quirky twist in the realm of the usual rom-com.

Several students have said that they planned to forego the idea of watching a movie and instead opt for more venturesome routes, such as going to dinner or taking a stroll through the park. To them, having a preferred movie to watch on Valentine's Day is usually exchanged for whatever Netflix has stored for them that day.

Although with no particular favorite movie in mind, Macayla Hroch, a junior psychology major, on the other hand, said she opts for the best of both worlds by dovetailing from a romantic dinner to a snuggling session at home.

Jessica Samatulski, an elementary education major, offered an interesting perspective. Eschewing the ordinary romantic comedy or drama, she said that one of her favorite ways to connect with a partner is watching horror movies.

For those looking, but ambivalent on choices, there is wide variety of choices that one can catch up on or choose. The classic "When Harry Met Sally" still sparks genuine emotion. For some sensual healing, "Dirty Dancing" sees Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey at their most fluid. "500 Days of Summer" if you want a little bit of a nonlinear challenge.

The idea of settling on a certain standard even if it's traditional ultimately rests on what couples want. And as always, Valentine's Day is all about appreciation of the meaning two people may have between one another.

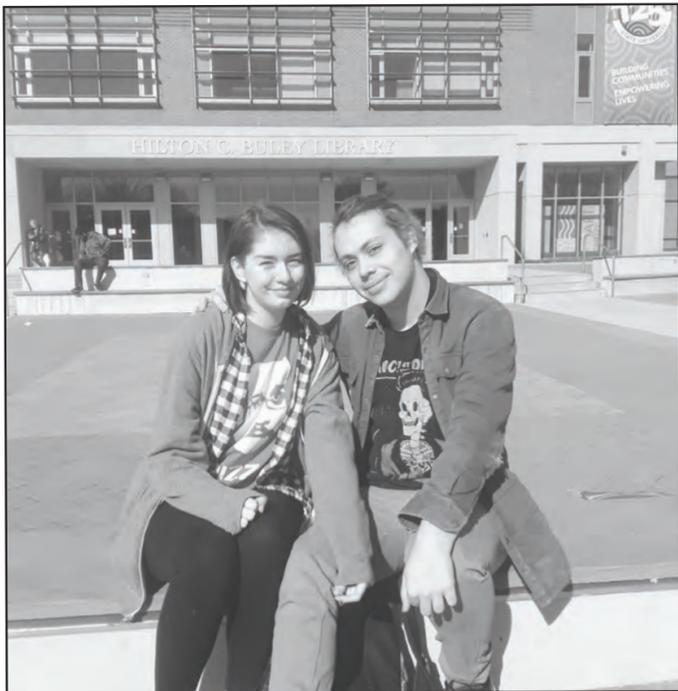


PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Ryleigh Rivas (left) and Kat Duffner on the patio of Hilton C. Buley Library.

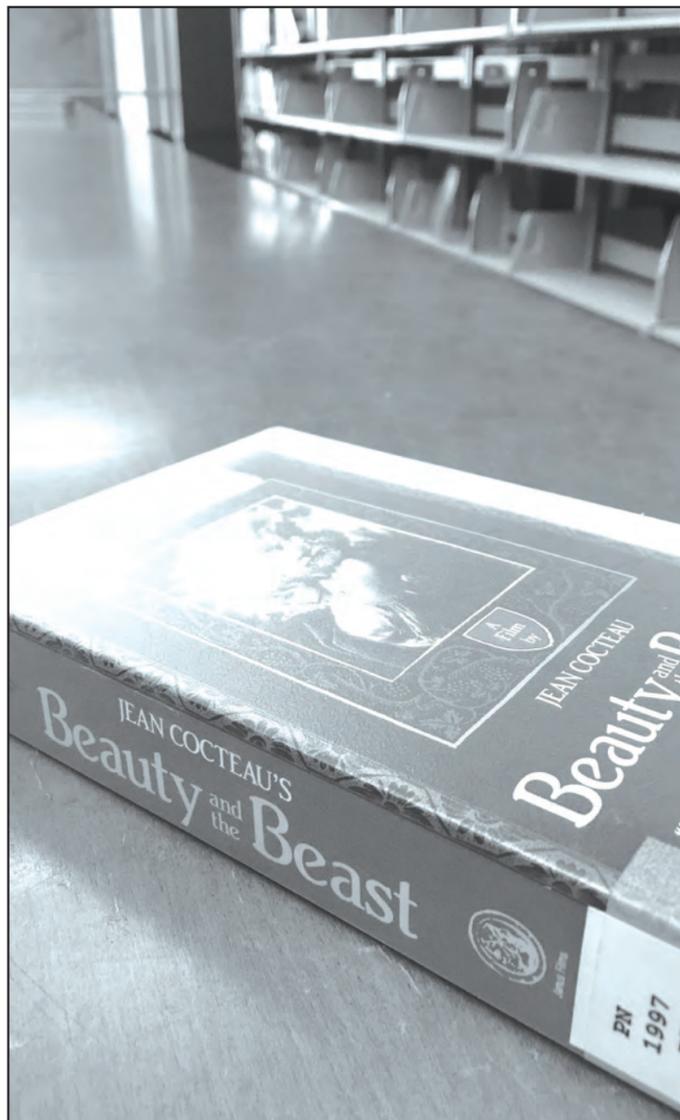


PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO

A VHS copy of "Beauty and the Beast" from Hilton C. Buley Library.

Black History Month Luncheon celebrates culture

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Foods from cornbread and fried plantains to buttermilk biscuits and Jamaican beef patties replaced the everyday pizza and sandwiches while students were able to listen to a live band, Caribbean Vibe, playing songs from cultural icons such as Bob Marley.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, Southern held its yearly Black History Month luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It takes you back into history," said Diane Brown-Albert, coordinator of Southern's Multicultural Center. "You get to hear some of the liberal, spiritual songs from back in the day."

Saschin Choy, as well as freshman and social work major Arabelle Ebnoti said the music gave off a positive vibe. Vartaysha Reed said she loves African music, and the band, which featured steel drums, was her favorite part of it all.

Choy, a freshman, said she felt like she was back home as she danced around Conn Hall to the Afro-Caribbean sounding from the dining room down to

the main entrance.

"We're teaching you a little about history through music," Brown-Albert said. "It brings a community spirit to the dining hall."

Black History Month pamphlets served as table centerpieces and featured names and occupations of those like Martin Luther King Jr. and Maya Angelou, as well as trivia on Shirley Chisholm, Jack Johnson, as well as other African-American influences.

"It shows acknowledgement for our culture and our history," Ebnoti said. "You see that they have certain things for other cultures and I was hoping for our month, they'd do something."

According to Ebnoti and Rayah Peterson, Black History Month symbolizes freedom.

"It's our month," said Peterson, a freshman, majoring in communication disorders. "We overcame a lot and we still are overcoming a lot. We're still being the first of many so this month you really get to acknowledge all the people who paved paths for those like us."

Reed, who said she made sure to make time for the event, said she believes Southern

is supportive of the African American community and loves to show diversity.

When Peterson learned of the wide variety of foods available including banana pudding, curry goat and catfish, she said she realized the food was all part of her culture. Choy said of the soul food, Caribbean and more she could not even pick a favorite.

"It's a diverse menu so it gives people the chance to experience different things," Albert-Brown said. "That curry goat—it has a kick to it. It is awesome."

To her, she said, Black History Month lasts all year. However in Feb., people can take the time to appreciate those who came before them.

"It's an opportunity to honor our ancestors and the people who are currently living that sacrificed for me to be here today," she said. "I really feel extremely proud to be a person of color."

Albert-Brown, who started the event about five years ago, said the music and food were nicely put together.

"It's a nice atmosphere, she said. "People come together to enjoy this time."



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Matty Lou (left) and a member of Caribbean Vibe performing on Feb. 7 at Conn Hall.



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

A member of Caribbean Vibe performing at Conn Hall on Thursday, Feb. 7.



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Matty Lou dancing at the Black History Month Luncheon.

SCSU Ceramic Collection an inspiration for many students

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

Southern's ceramic collection features a wide range of artists from across the globe, several different styles of art, and gives students an opportunity to learn.

The ceramic exhibition is on display in the art gallery in the basement of Buley Library from Jan. 30 to Mar. 28. Cort Sierpinski, the gallery director and ceramics professor, said the collection includes 60 different pieces, each one created in a unique way.

"We have functional pieces, sculptural pieces, and pieces from different firing methods, different types of clay," said Sierpinski. "So, the whole point of that was to also use it as an educational tool for our own ceramic program."

Sierpinski said the collection was started 50 years ago by Mary Lou Alberetti, who taught ceramics, and originally intended it to be a women's ceramic artist collection, and it was not till later than it expanded out.

"Over the years, even before she left, the collection started to evolve outside of just women artists, and pretty much just anything we

saw that we thought added to the breath of the collection," said Sierpinski.

Terrance Lavin, chairperson of the art department, said the collection is an opportunity for students to be up close to and see how a successful piece of pottery was created.

"That particular exhibition is a pretty interesting collection, and for anybody that is interested in ceramics, it is a really incredible diversity of forms, of surfaces, of textures, of techniques, processes, I mean there is a wealth of information in there for anyone who is interested in studying ceramics," said Lavin.

In addition to having the ceramics collection in the gallery, Lavin said students have access to the art in the ceramics studio where they can pick things up and get a closer look.

Amy Guo, a studio art major with a concentration in graphic design, said the exhibition is a great way for students to learn, regardless of what kind of art they are interested in.

"Having a background in a lot of things, like no matter what you're doing, writing, drawing, music, like whatever, going out



Earthenware clay vase crested by Swedish artist Tina Reuterberg.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

and seeing what is there builds your background," said Guo. "It gives you material to work off, even if it is not directly related to what you are doing."

Guo said in her free time she does character design, but at school she

does still life design. She said she has a limited background in ceramics but looking at the pieces gave her inspiration.

Kulsoom Farid, a graphic design major, said she likes to create logos. However, she is currently

in a ceramic class and using hand-building techniques, which is the same method used for several items in the gallery.

"We're creating things that are very similar to what is down there. Like

the trays and teapots, that is what we are creating in my class right now," said Farid.

Sierpinski said that the art gallery should show students there is not just one way to create art. Creating something different is what makes it interesting.

"Students can see a plate doesn't just have to be a round flat form, so when they approach an assignment for something that is functional, there are a lot of different ways of approaching it that are beyond traditional work and conventional approach," said Sierpinski.

Without a full time, gallery director, Sierpinski said the goal is to keep the space running with exhibits and continue to have high quality shows.

"We are really hoping this is the start of a more professional space that the university will continue to support," said Sierpinski. "We are really pretty pleased so far."



In focus: the highlight on a stoneware clay bowl created by Utah artist Joseph Bennion.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

'Sequelitis': a pop culture movie trend on the rise

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

"Sequelitis" is a popular culture term that refers the overproduction of movie sequels, particularly ones that fail in comparison to the original.

"There are movies that are into their fifth one," said freshman Juan Perez, "and it's like, okay be done."

According to TV Tropes, a pop culture source, classic movies such as "The Santa Clause" initially gain a large amount of popularity. As film companies produce sequels, some movie-viewers find them lazy, unnecessary and poorly written, a dramatic decrease in popularity occurs from both film critics and audiences.

"With some movies, you just need to stop after the first one," said computer science major Kayla Corey.

IMDb said in 2018, 35 books were adapted into movies. As some books are a part of a series, success may lead to a production

of movie sequels based on their novel predecessors.

"The Hunger Games—," Perez said, "I know it was a book series but the first movie was really nice. The second, not so much and the third was even worse."

For Corey, "Fast and Furious" should have ended after Paul Walker died, while Perez and freshman Neisha Rivera agreed the "Spider-Man" franchise should have started and ended with Tobey Maguire, the original Peter Parker.

"Some series require long stories," Rivera said. "Some have really good fans and assume they're gonna keep them if they keep putting these movies out."

Rivera said movie-makers may overdo their production, but in the end they care about the money.

But before the long-awaited "Incredibles 2" hit theaters in summer 2018, director Brad Bird promised the film was to entertain audiences and was not solely a cash grab, as said in an interview

with Screen Rant.

"I feel like Disney as a franchise doesn't like to produce anything that isn't going to be popular," said interdisciplinary studies major Rachel Pierpont. "They probably do a lot of background research to make sure the audience is going to like it."

Pierpont, a junior, and communication disorders major Sam Widomski both said they are excited for the upcoming Disney Pixar movie, "Toy Story 4," set to release nearly 25 years after the original. Despite it being the fourth film of the franchise, Pierpont said Disney movies are still creative in their plotline. Everyone knows about them, she said, there are even parks dedicated to Disney, so people are not going to forget about the company.

"I feel pretty good about them," she said, "especially with the new technology they have today to make the animations that much better, you could really live within that movie, but the way our

culture is changing, they can change their movies to be a little bit more appropriate for today's Times because obviously things were different now."

Widomski said she enjoyed the third "Toy Story" film and likes that Disney is producing more because she thinks it is fun to see where the company will go with it.

"Sometimes they answer questions that weren't answered in the first movie," Rivera said, "so they can get even more interesting in the sequel."

To Rivera, "The Avengers" movies will never get old. She said she can watch any of the three and is excited for the new ones that will follow.

Pierpont said sequels can botch the original movie but that it all depends on the specific movie. Sometimes they are better, sometimes they are worse, she said.

"If you're gonna do a sequel, make it better than the first one," said Corey, "and if not, don't do it at all."



Neisha Rivera (left) and Kayla Corey at the Adanti Student Center food court on Feb. 6.

PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Injuries shift role players from bench to starting lineup

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

With multiple injured players on the roster, the men's basketball team relied on some of the team's role players to step up and grab a conference win against the College of Saint Rose.

At the start of the game, the Owls were missing two starters, sophomore guard Ulyen Coleman and forward Luke Beesely, leaving senior guard Joey Wallace and junior forward Taurus Adams II to take their place.

"They stepped up. I trust them to start and they did their job," said head coach Scott Burrell. "Our team is beat up right now, we have a lot of guys that are fighting through some injuries.

Luke, Isaiah [McLeod], Joey, they're really struggling with their health right now, but other guys did step up and make it easier for them. We'll be good, if guys step up like that."

The two new starters helped the team almost immediately. Adams powered his way into the paint and dominated the post, dropping 14 points in the first half shooting

5-8 (62.5 percent). Wallace also helped trail blaze offensively, shooting 71.4 percent from the field (5-7), including 60 percent from beyond the arc (3-5), and tallied 13 in the first half.

"I like to be the energy guy, the guy getting everybody involved, gets everybody going," said Wallace. "Sometimes we come off to a slow start, that's where I got to come in and get that energy up and get us going."

Along with the scoring efficiency, the Owls also smothered the Golden Knights on the defensive end, and set the pace offensively by rapidly moving the ball and setting the pace early in the first half.

"Well, we definitely needed to [set the pace]. We need to win every game, and I knew Isaiah [McLeod] was struggling with his injury, Luke wasn't playing," said Burrell. "So, I knew we needed to have a big start because I didn't know if we had the fire power to come back if they had a good start."

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10



Guard Amanda Pfohl, a senior, in a game against the College of Saint Rose on Feb. 9.

PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Pfohl powers Owls past College of Saint Rose

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Senior guard Amanda Pfohl brought the offense Saturday at Moore Field House. Pfohl dropped a career-best 28 points on 10-15 shooting, including 6-10 from three-point range. The Owls were able to put a four-game losing streak to bed in an 80-55 demolishing of the Saint Rose Golden Knights.

"It was definitely important to win," Pfohl said. "I don't like to miss two shots in a row, I don't like to lose two games in a row so the mentality going into this game was 'we are not losing' and we talked about it with coach before the game that we were almost going to think of it as a new season."

And that reasoning for a so-called new season is due to the fact that coming into the game against the Golden Knights, the last four games were not so pretty. It began with a 69-56 loss to Bentley Jan. 26 and continued with less-than-ideal performances versus Assumption College, Saint Michael's, and the Feb. 6 contest at the University of New Haven.

"It is playoff season at this point and we have sort of approached it that we have a five-game season left ahead of us and we can put ourselves in a position where we can be in a good spot for playoffs," coach Kate Lynch said. "We have kind of re-adjusted and said 'hey, whatever happened before this does not matter and let us attack

these last five games one game at a time and 40 minutes at a time."

The Owls are currently 13-11 overall and 7-9 in the Northeast 10 conference, tied with rival University of New Haven for fifth place in the Southwest division. Despite losing to the Chargers recently, they both hold the same conference record.

"We kept the intensity for most of the game," Lynch said. "We did not shoot well with New Haven but were able to recommit [today]. I am glad we came today and gave that effort for 40 minutes."

In addition to Pfohl's achievement, Kiana Steinauer scored 24 points and picked up 16 rebounds while Imani Wheeler took home 18

points, five rebounds and four steals.

"I just try to do whatever I can as a captain and as a senior to get the team to win," said Pfohl. "When I am hitting shots things are going great but whatever I need to do to get the team to win, I am down to do it."

The team will have more challenges ahead, with the final games of the regular-season being against American International, tied for second in the division, Le Moyne, the first-place team in the Southwest, Adelphi and Pace.

"We just want to finish the season out strong," Imani Wheeler said. "It is time to go big or go home. Each game counts and we just take it one at a time."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard Isaiah McLeod, a senior, gets introduced on Feb. 9 during a home game.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Utility player Connor Redahan, a junior, at bat against Adelphi University last season.

Baseball primed for bounce back year

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

After a 21-23 season that left the Owls without a playoff berth last season, head coach Tim Shea is hoping that a large number of walk-ons, as well as some transfers - specifically in new starting pitcher Ronnie Rossomando, a transfer from UConn - will lead them to more success this season.

"Rossomando's a big pickup for us; he'll be right at the top of our rotation," Shea said. "That's gonna help tremendously and then Nate Carney is feeling great so we're really excited about our top two guys."

He also said that redshirt junior Brandon Rentas, who hasn't

pitched during the last two seasons while dealing with a prolonged injury, is "getting himself back to where he once was after a great freshman year."

"So that'll give us a third guy and then we have some young guys competing. Brandon Ebert's back and freshman Brandon White was drafted out of high school so we're excited about some of those pieces," Shea said. "And we're going to have Tiki White back on the back end, a senior who's been through it for three years now and really gives us some stability."

In addition to recruits, they added walk-ons Jared Smith, Eric Ross, John Bucci, Nick Smith, and mid-season transfer from UConn-Avery Point, Joe Nemchek.

"We have some good young

guys," Shea said. "Mike Ferrett is an infielder who swings the bat pretty well; Tommy White's a swing guy who can play middle infield and pitch...we'll see how those guys grow and develop as we move forward into the season. It really could be a difference maker for us if they grow up quicker than expected."

Captain Jim Palmer, a redshirt senior shortstop, said he's "ready to lead by example" in his final season.

"I want the younger guys to know how to work hard in practice and how you play. If you bring energy to practice you can bring that to the games and I want them to have fun with it," he said.

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

Alliance of American Football receives approval from SCSU football



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The Alliance of American Football kicked off last weekend with two games Saturday night on CBS, another Sunday afternoon on CBS Sports Network and another Sunday night game on NFL Network.

The league, with most of its teams placed in non-NFL markets, killed on its opening weekend, with Action Network's Darren Rovell (former ESPN sports business guru) tweeting that Saturday night's action out-performed the ratings for NBA Saturday Primetime on ABC, a game that featured the Rockets vs. Thunder and two incredible scoring displays from two superstars: Houston's James Harden and Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook.

"The Alliance of American Football is definitely a good opportunity for a lot of guys," Owls inside linebackers coach Nathan Tyler said. "It gives another 500 plus players a chance to progress into the NFL or the Canadian Football League."

Of the eight teams in the league, those rosters feature former NFL talent with players trying for a second chance, as well as recent college graduates who were overlooked during the draft and last season but still had spectacular NCAA careers and are ready to put on a show to get noticed.

The league is a true minor-league for the NFL and the CFL, something that's tried to be created over the years and has received massive failure, most recently with the United Football League. However, with powerful guys like Bill Polian behind the AAF and Vince McMahon behind next year's new XFL launch, as well as big television and media rights deals, we will have to give these things its fair shake.

Also, the AAF's rosters are created with territorial restrictions, which, for example, limit the San Diego Fleet to five area colleges as their recruiting base.

To my knowledge, the league also lacks Division II talent in its system. While it is anyone's guess if the XFL will, Southern previously placed players in the Spring League, a short-season showcase style set-up which plays six games in April, as well as in the Arena Football League. Former quarterback Ray Catapano also signed a contract last month to play professionally overseas.

Senior Jharron Wallace, a star four-year linebacker for the Owls, who is drawing some attention at the next level, could be invited to a pro day this spring, possibly at Yale. The same could go for regionally-recognized senior halfback Eli Parks.



Jessica Fressle, a junior basketball player, talks to children at Moore Field House on Jan. 9.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICIO

Upgrades brought to annual hosting of the Girls and Women in Sports Day

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

On Saturday, Moore Field House hosted the annual "Girls and Women In Sports Day," a national initiative, and young girls were lead through training drills along with members of various campus athletic teams and clubs. Athletes from the soccer, field hockey, track and field, softball, volleyball, cheerleading, dance, lacrosse and gymnastics all came out to show their support and enthusiasms.

Junior softball pitcher and outfielder Delaney Turner said, "It is a pretty cool event. There are kids ranging from they are already playing softball or another sport to never done any sports in their lives, so just introducing being athletic and active is pretty cool."

Girls ranging from elementary to middle school competed in groups at various sports stations

for about a two hour period. Student-athletes also stayed with their groups so they could get to know each other, one of the changes field hockey coach and senior woman administrator Kelley Frassinelli put in place this year.

"I have taken over as the senior woman administrator with running this event and we have just done a few different things with it this year. We have done certificates for the kids this year because we thought it was really important for them to have documentation of their day," Frassinelli said. "We are just trying to bring more unity and have the kids more involved with what is going on."

While she has held the role of senior woman administrator for the past several years, the previous main director of this event used to be under the former associate athletic director of communications, Michael Kobylanski, who left the university earlier this year

to accept the position of head athletic director at UConn-Avery Point.

Frassinelli said it was "super important" that this year's event not only featured NCAA Division II women's sports that are run on campus but club teams, like the cheerleading and dance team, as well.

"They are also a part of campus and athletics should continue that conduit with all the other campus clubs and organizations," she said. "It is something that we need to do a lot more of."

This being the first year the dance team was part of the event, the day's participants were welcome to stay and perform alongside the team during their halftime performance at the women's basketball game as well.

"My team and I were very excited to be part of such a great event," senior Tia-Simone Gardner said. "Dancing with them during the halftime show was so much fun and

we were slightly surprised with how quickly they picked up the routine. It was a great experience."

Senior field hockey player Emily Stross said she has even noticed some of the same girls come back to this event year-after-year.

"I have done this for four years and I see a lot of the same faces," Stross said. "It just gets better every year -- organizationally I liked the times we had the girls for and it was put together really well."

Turner said the rotating groups of girls got smaller to allow for a more personal experience between the kids and the student-athletes.

"We can actually teach them all the qualities of softball whereas before we had not really been able to get through all the little stations," she said. "They are learning more instead of just kind of watching."

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While Saint Rose managed to cut the lead to eight with a three-point barrage nearing the end of the first half, the Owls came out of the break with a head of steam.

With the help of freshman guard Mekhi Warren, who dropped a career-high of nine points in the first half and continued to finish with 15 points and four rebounds, Southern shot just under 60 percent (13-22) from the field and made exactly half of their three point attempts (5-10), sealing the victory against the NE-10 rivals.

Warren said that while he was glad he set his own career high in points, he will not let numbers and stats distract him from playing in a way that wins games.

"I mean, it's nothing new," said Warren. "I have to do that every game, so I'm not going to expect [myself to set records] every day."

When the time ran out, Southern had handily defeated the College of Saint Rose 98-81.

The Owls moved to tie with conference rivals, the University of New Haven Chargers and the Adelphi University Panthers, for second place for the Southwest Division of the NE-10. This win also landed them in a tie for the fourth

best record in the NE-10 at a time when every game may prove critical come playoff season.

All but one Southern player, freshman Michael Mazzicato who only shot once from the field and once from the free-throw line, landed in double-digit points. Adams finished the game with 25 points and five rebounds, four points shy of setting a new career-high, while Wallace ended with 22 points and eight rebounds off 70 percent shooting from the field (7-10) and 57 percent from deep (4-7).

"We just moved the ball. We moved the ball, shared the ball. Kealan [Ives] had a great game," said Burrell. "He found open guys, played unselfishly like he always does. Guys made shots, but he spoon-fed a lot of those guys for a lot of easy buckets, and they should be thanking him and buying him a lot of dinners."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard C.J. Seaforth (above), a sophomore, goes to the line on Feb. 9. Guard Joey Wallace (below), a senior, drives to the rack during a home game against the College of Saint Rose.



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Turner Kelly has championship goals in final year

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

When Turner Kelly walked into Walter G O'Connell Copaigne High School, becoming a member of the track and field team wasn't on his radar. After thorwing for four years at his hometown high school, and another four at Southern, senior thrower Kelly said he was glad he did.

Kelly said his career started when the track and field coach at his high school recruited him during football season.

"In ninth-grade, after a little JV football, [the coach] said 'you should stay in shape for track, that way you can do well in football,'" said Kelly, "not knowing that it would kind of lead me down this path I've chosen."

Kelly said that while track was not an immediate fit, it grew on him the more he was involved

in it.

After becoming a county champion and a two time All-League select in his home town, Kelly enrolled at Southern in 2015 and has been improving his skills with each year he has been there.

Head coach John Wallin said the difference between freshman Kelly and senior Kelly is almost astounding.

"Freshman Kelly [Turner] was weak as a kitten," said Wallin. "[Now] Turner is closer to being a cat, not quite a tiger or a lion, but he's getting closer."

In his sophomore year as an Owl, Kelly became All Region in the weight, as well as All New England and NE-10 Champion in indoor and outdoor shot put.

He then went on the next year to claim those titles again, while also being named the "Most Outstanding Field Performer" at both the NE-10 Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field

Championships.

Wallin also went on to say that Kelly bought into the program quickly, and wants to be the best athletic version of himself that he can be.

"He's a guy that's really into the team. He gets excited for his teammates," said Wallin. "He has high expectations for his own individual goals. He wants to go to the National Championships, he wants to compete and be an All American and maybe a National Champ. So, he has a wide spectrum of goals and expectations not only for himself but for his team."

Fellow senior thrower Kade Amster said Kelly brings a presence to the team and he motivates and supports them time and time again.

"Turner is a really good teammate, but a better friend," said Amster. "Just knowing that he has my back, and the rest of the team, I think everyone is sure

in their heads that he's going places."

As the team currently sits at third in NE-10, Kelly said that he is focused on and looks forward to the upcoming New England meet on Feb. 16 and 17, then the National meet on Mar. 8.

"The season is going great. I think everything is building up to an even better part of the season, which is indoor nationals," said Kelly. "I actually am very much improving on my shot and my weight, and also at the same time, my teammates are too."

As his senior year winds down, Kelly said that while reflecting on his time at Southern, the one thing he has taken away the most is not to doubt anyone.

"Don't count anybody out, and that's the truth," said Kelly. "At one moment you could be on top, or you may be on the very bottom, but the next thing you know, it could switch up easily."



Turner Kelly, a senior, competes in the wieght throw.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Sport versus hobby: No place for video games to become an official NCAA sport



By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

It is no new revelation that we live in the world of adaptive technology, which has reached out and touched almost every aspect of life, including sports.

Between all the behind-the-scenes training and rehabilitation that uses new advancements in technology to NBA players and coaches using iPads on the court to watch immediate playback of games, sports are having a tech revolution of their own.

But the one newly arriving sector of "sport" infused technology that I can't seem to wrap my head around is the idea of E-Sports - competitive video games.

While colleges and universities across the country, such as Boise State University in Idaho and the University of Miami of Ohio, have adopted varsity E-Sports leagues, Southern would be urged not to join the pack.

While there's no argument against bringing competitive video games to campus, merging this concept into the athletics program would be as close to a travesty as Southern athletics have experienced in the recent past.

The main problem with these programs is the fact that even the name of their league is inaccurate. E-Sports, that entails sitting down, staring at a screen and using a controller to control virtual avatars, that is not a sport.

Sports are exhilarating events that tests a person's will and mindset as well as, and most importantly, physical exertion and strength. Since the ancient Olympics, what some may consider one of the births of sport, it has always been a test of the body.

Video games, while they may improve your hand-eye coordination, does not test, push, or strengthen the body.

The main problem with considering playing a simulated game a sport is that it takes away from all the true athletes, both past and present. To compare His Great Airness, Michael Jordan, or Jackie Robinson, or even Tom Brady to Tyler "Ninja" Blevins, video gamer and steaming sensation, would be to compare a G6 jet to roller blades.

To consider video games to be an actual sport is robbing the men and women who have sacrificed their bodies struggling to reach their goals and accomplishments.

While there may be a place on Sothern's campus for competitive video games, tournaments, clubs, or something along that nature, there is no place for video games among the athletics.



Forward Kiana Steinauer, a junior, shoots a free throw against the College of Saint Rose during a home game on Saturday.

PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Women's Basketball

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While Wheeler did pick up 18 points, she said her focus is not just about what the statistics say at the end of the game.

"It is important to not only get points and keep the team together but to make sure each

possession counts," she said.

By the late stages of the fourth quarter, the Owls held their largest lead of the afternoon, a 27-point advantage. They were also able to capitalize off 24 points

from Saint Rose turnovers, 15 from second-chance opportunities and 14 from down in the paint and low post.

"We have low numbers this year but we are definitely pretty good about spreading out the scoreboard and the stat sheet," Pfohl said. "We all really work hard together, we work well together and it is a team effort every game to get a good win."



Guard Imani Wheeler, a junior, takes a contested shot against Bentley Universty during a home game earlier this season.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Baseball

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"I want the younger guys been batting leadoff for the Owls his entire career, and said he expects to be back in the same spot this season. Shea is looking for a lot out of him and the other senior position players, such as Criscuolo, Nick Lamberti, Mike DeMartino, Connor Redahan and McNeill Finnegan.

"We're looking for them to swing the bat well, play good defense and be an example to the younger guys," Shea said.

Shea said he also expects guys

like John Spoto, Tony Zambito, Nolan Cloutier and Isaiah Likely to perform well in increased roles this spring.

"We had that good year my sophomore year where we made it to the regional, so we're just looking to bounce back," Criscuolo said. "We want to set a tone and keep everyone dialed in at all times."

Despite struggling in the previous season, the team was 27-16-1 two years ago and, as Criscuolo said, made it to the NCAA Tournament before being eliminated in two games. That year, the Owls built up a 14-4 in divisional play, winning the

Southwest.

"We have some new additions who will definitely help us out early on and through the dog days of the season. We usually hit a little cold streak but we have some guys [this year] who will really help us out," he said.

Before the season, a preseason coaches poll had Southern predicted to finish in fifth place in the Southwest Division.

The team will open the season Friday at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla. and be in Florida and Myrtle Beach, S.C. for nine games before they visit Bridgeport Mar. 1, their first game back home in

Connecticut of the season.

The Owls open at home Mar. 5 with Post before heading back to Florida for a nine-game stretch. There, they will face NE-10 conference matchups like Post University and Merrimack College. They will then return for a five game home stand starting Mar. 23 against Southern New Hampshire University.

Palmer said he thinks the key to having a successful season is to hit the ground running.

"We want to start off hot and just keep rolling," Palmer said. "We want to get off on a hot foot and then just roll into the NE-10 season feeling confident."

PHOTO

Student athletes celebrate equality

By August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

Female students in first through eighth grades were invited to Moore Field House

Feb. 9 to learn from student athletes at the university and celebrate the presence of girls and women in sports.

Student athletes guided the girls in exercises pertaining

to their sports. The young students rotated to different stations throughout the day.

The celebration was part of the annual National Girls and Women in Sports day.



Alexandra Takacs practicing a lacrosse exercise with a young student.



Samantha Cozzolino sharing a laugh with two young students after practicing lacrosse drills.



Student athletes enjoying pizza after the day's activities had finished.



Lacrosse sticks neatly arranged on the floor after the practice drills had finished for the day.



Women's NCAA regulation size basketball in front of the American Flag hanging in Moore Field House.



Members of the Southern volleyball team Jennifer Dawson (left) and Alyssa Gage playing basketball.



Jessica Fressle (left) guiding elementary school students, with a lesson in playing basketball.



Otis the Owl mascot stands on the sideline cheering.