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# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

VOL. 55— ISSUE 17

## Racial slur in class causes outrage



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Students gathered in the Adanti Ballroom to discuss the use of a racial slur in the classroom.

By August Pelliccio and Josh LaBella

Professor Eric Triffin's public health class at Southern Connecticut State University began with him dancing, singing and spreading cheer but when he slipped a racial slur in, several students became outraged and he was suspended.

Triffin's Feb. 6 class began as usual, with the professor taking suggestions from the students for songs to dance to.

"Somebody played a song by Playboi Carti that had some profanity in it," said student Steven White, "and he was

doing his thing, dancing to it."

Along to the tune, Triffin said he sang aloud, "I'm a happy n-----"

White said he did not take this lightly, and after a moment's thought he said he chose to not let such a thing slip by.

"I basically told him, 'I don't appreciate you saying that, and please don't say it again,'" said White. "He went on to justify why he could say it, and I took offense to that."

Triffin said that his background from a "blended family" warrants his use of the N-word and that he has felt racism in his family. Triffin went on to explain that the

daughter he raised is a woman of color born to Triffin's wife and her ex-boyfriend, an African American immigrant.

Triffin said at times while raising his daughter, he sympathized with the racism she felt.

"I use it as a learning experience in the classroom," Triffin said.

White said upon hearing this justification, he stormed out of the room, yelling and cursing at the professor. White said he later apologized for doing so to Triffin, who still stood by his justification for using the slur.

After hearing word of the incident, Southern Connect-

icut State University President Joe Bertolino promptly called a meeting in the student center in order to hold an open conversation with students about the values of social justice.

Bertolino apologized to the students on behalf of the university, before inviting students to share any feelings they had regarding the incident.

"It's easy for me to stand here and talk about this; I'm the white man with power here," said Bertolino. "But know I understand my privilege."

Bertolino stressed he wanted all voices to be heard.

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## Republicans claim SCSU has political bias

By August Pelliccio

Lack of clear communication is what a few university officials attribute to a turn of events that was portrayed as discrimination against the Republican community in two publications last week.

Sarah O'Connor, president of the College Republicans at Southern, said when she decided to book space on campus to host the CTGOP Digital Summit, she was very clear about what the event entailed. There were several speakers there to represent the Republican Party, whose goal was to inform students on how to effectively utilize digital and social media.

"It's a private event, and people have to buy tickets," O'Connor said, "and I told them that."

O'Connor said she booked three rooms in Davis Hall for the event, which stretched across three days: Feb. 9-11. Daphney Alston, in charge of making that arrangement through a computer program, Ad Astra Information System, said every detail was not clear.

"Maybe we should have gone more in depth," Alston said, "but we didn't."

In a statement by Tracy Tyree, vice president of Student Affairs, said she wrote the event was presented as a student organization. This was the understanding according to Alston and according to Brad Crerar, director of the Student Center.

Tyree went on to explain that on Jan. 26, a call came in to the university switchboard, housed in Adanti Student Center, inquiring about the event.

"Clearly a Democrat tried to sabotage the event," O'Connor said, "and they fell for it."

Crerar said during the phone call, a student asked about the \$150 admission fee associated with the Digital Summit.

"At that point we realized," said Crerar, "this really isn't a university event."

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## ALEKS math program receives mixed reviews

By Josh LaBella

The ALEKS math program is in its first semester of full use and it has received mixed reactions from students.

Leon Brin, chairman of the math department, said the department have been using the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces program or ALEKS since the summer of 2016 - but this is the first semester it has been fully utilized. He said before the department was using MyMathLab in their development classes. He said the cost of the program is a bit cheaper than what they had been using - about \$60. He said ALEKS was "very different" than other programs.

"It likes to call itself an adaptive program," said Brin. "It adapts to individual students. So it's not like a standard course where everybody does this this week and this the next week. It's really designed to cater to the individual. The model they like to use is with ALEKS you don't have a class of 30 - you have 30 classes of one."

Brin said the program's strong point is that there can be students with varying strengths and weaknesses in one class but it is all addressed properly. He said the program is only used in Math 100 and Math 100p. He said he has heard mixed reviews but thinks there is a misconception on ALEKS's role in the class.

"Because in the Math 100p class we run it emporium style, which means there's essentially no lecture," said Brin, "class time is spent on the computer on an individual basis. So the misconception is during that time the instructor's job is to sit there and answer questions when

they arise and that ALEKS is the teacher."

Brin said he does not understand how someone could come to that conclusion, but that is not how it is supposed to work. He said comparing the success last semester, when the program was being tested on a larger scale, to the historical rates, the last semester was better. He said despite the fact that some students do not seem to like the program it is working and getting better.

Jeremiah Banto, a freshman sports management major, said he used ALEKS last semester and in the summer and thinks it was good. He said it was the first time he had had a full class focused on the computer and he found it easy sometimes and hard others.

"ALEKS gave you examples and stuff," said Banto. "but sometimes I found it harder when it would give you one example on how to do it but then another problem came up with the same concept but harder. Sometimes ALEKS wouldn't have it. Overall it was good though. With a professor there it is better. Some people struggled that didn't ask for help."

Vance Upham, a freshman sports management major, said he used ALEKS three times and, while he preferred the person-to-person interaction of a classic classroom he liked the process ALEKS has to teach a student the steps to solve a problem. He said he failed it last semester but only because he took a while to get the course code.

"The actual program itself," said Upham, "is not hard." Christian Slowik, a freshman earth science major, said he used the ALEKS program last semester and thought it was awful. He said the first couple weeks went alright, but it kept adding problems on and he got one week behind,



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Vance Upham, a freshman sports management major sitting in Conn. Hall.

the next thing he knew, he was 200 topics behind and he never caught back up.

"I ended up failing the class because of it," said Slowik. "I strongly disagree with ALEKS."

Slowik said he thought the program went to fast and he found it harder to keep track of online stuff opposed to hard copy homework.

"The whole class was talking bad about it," said Slowik, "saying they don't like ALEKS."

# Top Owl Awards encourage social justice



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

January recipients Virilinda Billups (left to right), Natalie Schriefer, and Sabrina St. Juste.

## Josh LaBella

Top Owl Awards have been a part of Southern's commission on social justice since November. Dian Brown-Albert said making the phone calls to recipients has been wonderful.

The awards are presented in three different categories, according to Brown-Albert, the coordinator of multicultural affairs: students, faculty and staff. For every month, one from each category is selected and presented the award.

"It's a way to encourage students, faculty and staff to help the university achieve its mission," said Brown-Albert, "of acceptance, diversity and social justice."

Brown-Albert said the

commission is divided into a few segments, including campus climate committee, social justice committees and recognition committee, for which she is chair.

Student and SGA representative Madeline Causapin sits in on the recognition committee, and she said students are nominated via written forms online. The nomination form can be found on the social justice page of Southern's Website.

"Please send in nominations for Top Owl Award," said Causapin, "I like reading them."

Brown-Albert said a member of the community should be nominated if they work to address issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice.

"If they educate themselves and others, if they participate in events and activities addressing

social justice," said Brown-Albert, "if they advocate on behalf of targeted communities, they should be nominated."

The nomination form prompts for specific examples of how a nominee has carried out the core values of social justice. Causapin said the more in depth, the better.

"Make them lengthy," Causapin said. "Not bullet points, but paragraphs."

Winners of January's award were announced at a multicultural center activity on Jan. 31. Virilinda Billups, psychology department secretary, and students Natalie Schriefer and Sabrina St. Juste were recognized. Brown-Albert said there was not a faculty member awarded last month.

Jessica Holman and Mary Xatse from the Violence Prevention,

Victim Advocacy and Support center nominated St. Juste. In their nomination, they wrote that St. Juste makes everyone feel valued and respected, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender identity or socioeconomic status.

"She presents herself with such dignity; she's compassionate with others," Xatse and Holman wrote. "She's always thinking of ways we can help others on campus, in the city, in the state and globally."

Brown-Albert said students are often excited by word of their nomination, which makes the job more enjoyable.

"I called one person who was screaming in excitement," said Brown-Albert. "Then they said, 'so what is the Top Owl Award?'"

That being said, Brown-Albert wishes for more students to be

educated about the award, as most of the nominations have been from faculty members. More importantly, she would like more people working on the committee.

"I could use some help," Brown-Albert said.

The committee currently consists of six people, but Brown-Albert said she would like to see two more faculty members, an additional student and staff member represented in the committee.

Brown-Albert said to get the ball rolling, the committee was getting together rather frequently; but now that the awarding process is organized, they will meet once per month.

Brown-Albert said, "It's been a very exciting process."

## Racial Slur



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

President Bertolino addresses students in the Adanti Ballroom.

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"We have got to speak up, we have got to address it and we have got to end it," said student Robert Heron. "If we don't, then our sons and daughters will have to."

Eric Clinton, president of the Black Student Union (BSU), said the group had put together a list of changes they suggested Southern make. They included having at least 31 percent of Resident Life employees be black or people of color and to hire more black people or people of color in the administration and faculty.

"Student Government Association also needs to be representative of the black students," said Clinton. "The Multicultural Center needs as much funding as Student Involvement. [Also,] teacher and faculty development and sensitivity training. And then the professor needs to issues a public apology; not only to the student, but to the student body as a whole."

Many of the students present during the discussion were active members of BSU or other organizations for people of color, but not all shared exactly the same perspective.

"Let's be real: we use this word every day," said political science student Ryan Lumpkin. "Black people use the word every day."

Lumpkin said he recognizes the history of the word, and the power that it has, but that any individual who speaks it should take responsibility.

"I think he should apologize for being a professor and using the word at an institution," said Lumpkin, "but he shouldn't apologize for just saying the word."

Student Jaquan Nelson pointed out some truth in Lumpkin's statement, but disagreed with his message.

"We all do use that word," said Nelson. "That doesn't make it right; it never will be right and it should have never come out of the professor's mouth."

Throughout the evening, Bertolino kept returning to his message that Southern is dedicated to transparency and open dialogue. Nelson indicated that there is still room to improve on that front.

"I'm glad it happened," said Nelson, "because now it opens up a platform for a plethora of problems that have been happening at Southern Connecticut State University to be talked about."

Tiffin confirmed that the next morning he was suspended. He said he was "very surprised" that this would happen after 32 years "without a blemish."

"I feel this is being blown out of proportion," said Tiffin. "I would like to be in class tomorrow but, obviously, it's going to take a lot longer with the investigation."

## Republicans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crerar explained that student groups are allowed to charge admission in order to cover event costs, but that would be something coordinated with the school and processed through the school's financial accounts. Because tickets were being sold and transacted through Connecticut GOP, Southern had to follow standard protocol for outside organizations.

"The reality of it is, as a state institution," said Crerar, "we are not allowed to use our space to support any political party."

This meant the school could not subsidize the event, and between the custodial staff and the site director, the room rental fee and insurance, the going rate was about \$4,100.

"We like to try to make things happen," said Crerar.

This is why Crerar said he handed the baton to Janet Klicsu, coordinator of Conferences and Events, who offered to change the location from Davis Hall to the Student Center Theater. Klicsu brought the cost down to roughly \$2,100 with the change, largely due to the fact that a private company is contracted to maintain the Student Center 24/7, regardless of ongoing events.

O'Connor said if she knew from the beginning that the reservation was only possible at such a cost, the College Republicans would have gone elsewhere for a venue from the beginning. By Jan. 26, O'Connor said tickets were already being sold.

The CSCU Guidelines for Communication with Federal and State Public Officials and Political Activity on Campus clearly states that political events are welcome on campus, with certain restrictions.

"Institution facilities may be rented for political events in accordance with campus policy on facilities use," the guidelines read. "Such sponsored events may not be 'subsidized' or otherwise supported by CSCU or an Institution."

Crerar said he went over that contract with O'Connor in their Jan. 26 meeting.

In review of that meeting, O'Connor said: "How am I, a student, supposed to know about that? It is not my job to know about that, so don't put the blame on me."

She said the whole situation would have been avoided if organizers knew what to ask, and properly relayed regulations and rules.

On Feb. 2, News 8 reported on College Republicans at Southern saying they are being discriminated against.

"I say with conviction," said President Joe Bertolino, "that I won't tolerate discrimination based on a political belief, or based on anything else for that matter."

Bertolino said he was disappointed that instead of raising concerns to the school's administration, the decision was made to go straight to the press and "shape a story."

"I'm empathetic to the College Republicans' frustration," said Bertolino. "If they feel there is a culture of discrimination, we should engage that conversation, and talk about how to combat it."

Bertolino said the College Republicans missed an opportunity to open a dialogue about political discrimination on this campus.

"I think it went to press too fast," Bertolino said.

In addition, Bertolino was disappointed in the event coordinators failing to be communicative after the misunderstanding had surfaced.

"The state GOP could have returned the university's calls to renegotiate," said Bertolino, "because there were options."

O'Connor said the decision was made quickly to secure the new location, the Caritas Christi Center, on the Campus of Sacred Heart Academy. After the weekend-long event, O'Connor said there was a good crowd, and she was happy to have knowledgeable speakers.

"I wish it still took place here," said Alston. "I feel very badly about the miscommunication."

Alston said during the first reservation of Davis Hall space, there was purely a misunderstanding. Alston said there was no interference regarding political agenda.

"My goal is to build up and maintain a positive rapport with the College Republicans," said Alston. "It makes me very sad when a student feels discriminated against over their political identity."

Alston said she wants to make herself available to have a conversation about how political identity relates to social justice, and that her office remains a safe space for anyone.

# Chair of Makerspace wants students to utilize it

By August Pelliccio

Cindy Schofield said a lot of students do not know that Buley Library offers free 3D model printing, and most do not know what Keva blocks are, even though they have been available for about two years.

Schofield is the head of technical services for Buley Library, and the chair of the Makerspace committee. Schofield said the makerspace is an independent learning environment that can be found in the back of the "Media" area on Buley's ground floor.

"Right now we are funded by the library's materials budget," said Schofield, "but we are looking for grants to support us."

The resources available through the Makerspace include four 3D printers, a green screen and lighting equipment, Maker Monkey robots and more.

"One goal is to educate librarians and teachers," Schofield said, "but it applies to everybody."

Lauren Johnson is Schofield's graduate assistant. Johnson graduated from University of Connecticut and is now working toward a masters in library science at Southern. Johnson said she would love to see students utilizing the space for class projects.

"This is a whole new way that libraries are serving student and communities," Johnson said.

Schofield explained Makerspaces are appearing more frequently around the globe, and cited University of Nevada's

library as an example to strive for.

"Libraries used to make globes and models available to borrow, and that is just being replaced with technology," said Schofield. "Nobody wants to borrow a globe anymore."

Open Education Database has published a librarian's guide to Makerspaces, on which resources for libraries looking to build one could be found. Also in the guide is a description of why Makerspaces are important in the 21st century.

"One could argue that the phenomenon of Makerspaces has led to a revitalization and reimagining of libraries in a digital world," the guide reads.

It goes on to say that as means of accessing digital information grow, this concept is a renaissance for the library as a place to gather, create and explore.

As for Buley's Makerspace, at the moment, 3D printing is a free service. Schofield said the printing can be accessed as long as students are able to submit .stl files. The green screen can also be used at will, and lighting equipment and robots can be checked out as reserve items.

Some of the resources, such as the Keva blocks, are available to be borrowed like a library book. Johnson said Keva blocks can be stacked like Jenga pieces, or used as a stress relief tool. Students can put together complicated structures with these small wooden boards.

"You could even take them home," said Johnson, "You could build some-



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Greenscreen in Buley Library Makerspace.

thing in your dorm room."

Schofield and Johnson set out a large box full of the Keva blocks in the Media area at Buley over the last couple weeks in an effort to get exposure for the makerspace. Johnson said she has yet to actually see a student creating

something with the blocks, but new and intricate structures seem to appear when nobody is watching.

Schofield said, "students and organizations are welcome to make suggestions on new ways to utilize this space."

# SGA members recap committee meetings

By August Pelliccio

Recognition was given to a widely loved food service worker and acceptance of undocumented students was discussed among other committee reports at Student Government Association's last meeting.

SGA's President, Julie Gagliardi, attended Southern's undocumented student support team committee Feb. 5, and reported on a couple minor news points discussed at their meeting.

"It was a mixed group there of faculty, students and staff," said Gagliardi, "and Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) was there."

The first discussion Gagliardi mentioned was a proposed bill for the state of Connecticut that would change the way undocumented students pay for state schools.

Currently, Gagliardi explained, undocumented immigrants are eligible to pay in-state tuition if applicable, but they do not have access to federal student loans. Gagliardi said the bill they are suggesting would give these students access to financial aid.

"They're working on gathering testimonies," said Gagliardi "so they'll be able to submit a proposal about it."

Additionally, at the undocumented student support

team meeting, Gagliardi said members discussed arranging "undocupeer training" for Southern's members of the American Association of University Professors, the faculty union.

"The support team is also looking to provide an optional statement for faculty to put on syllabi," said Gagliardi, "saying that Southern supports undocumented students."

The statement would provide contact information for faculty that sit on the committee for any questions undocumented students may have.

Another committee that was recapped at SGA's meeting Friday was the Media Board. SGA Vice President Becky Kuzmich said the highlight of their meeting was the need for new staffers next fall.

"The paper, the magazine, the radio station and all the media organizations will be having a lot of openings," Kuzmich said. "A lot of members will be graduating."

Aiden Coleman, SGA representative, responded with his concern that not enough students are picking up newspapers.

"They're printing a lot more copies than what is being read," Coleman said.

Coleman said Southern's "recycle-mania" will be coming up soon, and he does not want to see un-read copies being put into recycle bins.

Next, Stefany Mitchell and Joey Gentile reported on the food service committee. One announcement Gentile made evoked a loud applause and cheer that filled the room.

"They are going to rename the North Campus Market 'Roberta's,'" said Gentile.

He explained this is in recognition of Roberta Read, the manager of North Campus Market, who has been servicing the community for 27 years.

"Roberta deserves this more than anybody else," said Gagliardi, "that woman is a goddess."

Gagliardi said Read is best-known for her home-made cookies, and any student who has been to North Campus Market to have a "Roberta cookie" knows how kind she is.

Mitchell also announced that Connecticut Hall will be adding a popcorn machine for students.

Gagliardi said at that meeting, the committee voted that all minors henceforth would require a minimum of 18 credits.

"It was previously something that had just been agreed upon on campus," said Gagliardi, "but now they have just put it on paper."

Gagliardi closed the meeting by announcing to the public that there would be no SGA meeting on Feb. 16, in recognition of President's Weekend Recess.

# Greek rush comes to a close: prospects hoping for bids

By Josh LaBella

Fraternities and sororities have finished their search for new brothers and sisters last week - the Greek Life Rush has come again.

Devon Wrinn, a junior communications major, said the Rush goes for two or three weeks starting at the beginning of the semester. She said during that time her sorority, Delta Phi Epsilon, throws different events for prospective members.

"One night we had a crafting night," said Wrinn, the sorority's coordinator of recruitment.

"Another night we had pizza and watched 'The Cheetah Girls.' It's just a way to relax, open up, be yourself and for us all to get to know the girls coming in and for the girls to get to know us.

According to Wrinn, in order to start the process of joining a Greek Life group a student needs to get a bid. She said all that needs to happen to get a bid is for the organization to get to know them and both sides agreeing it is a right fit.

"The actual choosing process is a little bit more confidential just so no feelings are hurt and everyone can still have a good relationship," said Wrinn. "Sometimes it's just not a good fit.

Maybe a potential new member or PNM as we call them gets to a certain event and says, 'You know what? Maybe this isn't for me.' Or maybe we decide to give them another semester to find their niche at Southern and maybe come back. This is a big commitment."

Wrinn said Delta Phi Epsilon has about 47 active sisters and that it is a very diverse group. She said they are not looking for a "cookie cutter" match but instead try and confirm the PNM feels like a good fit and everyone is comfortable. She said they do not have a quota for how many members they will take on.

"If you fit you fit," said Wrinn, "and we'll make a place for you."

Tori Santamauro, a junior social work major, said she decided to rush because during Meet the Greeks she saw the Delta Phi Epsilon's rush video and fell in love with their purpose. She said it looked like a blast. She said the rushing events have been "so much fun."

"The events were amazing, the girls make me feel supported and comfortable," said Santamauro. "I don't have to be afraid to be myself. I'm completely home when I'm with them."

Santamauro said she is spent the past few weeks getting to know the sorority and the other



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Tori Santamauro, a junior, rushing Delta Phi Epsilon.

prospective members. She said she does not want to say she is confident she will get a bid.

"I love the girls and I hope they love me as well," said Santamauro. "I'm hoping for the best."

Mike Lupoli, a freshman exercise science major, said he was rushing Alpha Phi Delta because he wanted to get more involved on campus and for an opportunity to grow with the fraternity. He said at the end of the day it is a brotherhood and he will always have people to depend on. He

said he is always wanted to join a fraternity.

"I wanted to pledge last semester but I couldn't because my work schedule was all over the place," said Lupoli, "so I didn't have the time. But now that it's not I can."

He said rushing has made the frat feel like home. He said for during the rush Alpha Phi Delta has had game nights and gone out to dinner. He said it is a good way to interact.

"You don't want to do student stuff," said Lupoli, "You want to

do fun stuff - communicate and hang out with them."

Lupoli said he is feeling confident about getting a bid. He said he thinks everyone should experience rushing a fraternity or sorority.

"Even if they don't think they'll fit in," said Lupoli. "Everyone fits in somewhere - you just need to find the right place."

Both Santamauro and Lupoli confirmed Monday that they had received bids over the weekend.

## Unsung Hero: T. Wiley Carr

By Jeffrey Lamson

It was never his plan to teach, but now T. Wiley Carr has been at Southern since 1992, teaching students the arts of painting and printmaking.

Carr received his bachelor's of fine arts from Indiana University. He then proceeded to get his master's from Yale in 1987. At Yale, he taught color and color theory as a graduate student for two years. Carr said that he just knew that he wanted to paint.

"But," Carr said, "I enjoyed the experience—teaching—because I found getting feedback from students kept me really engaged and thinking about how I made my own work."

He said that he is more concerned with being a liaison to help students follow their own vision. The way to do this, said the painting and printmaking professor, is to respect the student, be open to their ideas and to grant them a certain level of freedom.

Carr said that he views teaching as a journey with an emphasis on exploration and self-analysis.

Quoting George Bernard Shaw, Carr said,



T. Wiley Carr helping a student in a printmaking class.

PHOTO | JEFFREY LAMSON

"I'm not a teacher: only a fellow traveler of whom you asked the way. I pointed ahead - ahead of myself as well as you." Carr has a photo of this quote saved on his desktop.

Carr said that he helps students isolate subject matter that they can make

their own, personal work. "It doesn't have to be super profound, but it can be. It can have lots of layers of complexity," said Carr.

He also said that his approach and style of teaching is still changing to this day.

He grew appreciative of

how guiding people can help them.

Carr said that he was not an art therapist but recognizes the, "positive value in being creative."

One of Carr's projects is the copyrighted Painter's Pointing Stick Project. In this, Carr goes to places and takes photos of places

and things that he wishes to document. His pointer stick is pointed at places where he has or will collect pigment samples.

He takes these samples of rocks, minerals, roots or even bugs and grinds them into a pigment to be used in watercolor paintings of that place.

One of Carr's goals for the future is to visit more diverse locations in terms of geography, geology and elevation from sea level.

In a way of giving back, Carr has taken to making art that is not typical of a gallery show. These works, such as a mural at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, are mostly anonymous. They serve a larger audience and Carr said that it was very gratifying.

Finding value in collaboration and working with a group, Carr says that such projects, such as his work with glass and ice, are special and rewarding in their own way.

Carr said that if the time comes when he is not a full-time professor, he would still like to stay engaged and remain involved with Southern's diverse community.

While he said that he maybe has not gotten to do as much of his own work as he would have liked, he does not feel deprived because he likes teaching.

As to why, Carr said that he is grateful to be part of someone's education and expression: "It gives people options for how to express themselves they may not have considered before."

## SART provides resources for survivors

By Victoria Bresnahan

After becoming a victim of sexual misconduct, Catherine Chrissy, coordinator of the Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART), said all the little things can become overwhelming to a survivor.

"[We] try to keep it as normal for a student as possible," said Chrissy.

According to SART's webpage, the team provides a collaborative victim-centered response to different forms of sexual misconduct such as assault or harassment. The webpage stated the team is dedicated to helping victims transition into survivors through the services they provide.

Chrissy said a concept of SART has always been to train employees to help students who are sexual assault survivors. The team, Chrissy said, has pamphlets describing Title IX rights, symptoms survivors may experience and resources for survivors.

"[It is] really just about the concept there is support across the university," said Chrissy.

This past fall, SART provided training to inform employees how to respond to stalking and intimate partner violence. Chrissy said there are constant opportunities for SART members to get training.

"We do get positive feedback from a majority, I would say 95 percent of the students we work with," said Chrissy.

However, she said students are not always happy with how the criminal justice or school system handles their reports.

Chrissy said she can help survivors get doctor appointments, walk them through criminal proceedings and understand how to report a crime on or off campus. She said she has gone with survivors to meet campus police officers. Students do not always file a police report, Chrissy said, but they may be able to get a "no-contact" request filed.

"Even as much as we simplify it, it can still be complicated," said Chrissy.

Parents, friends and others sometimes

do not understand what a survivor is experiencing, so Chrissy said she will speak to them on the survivor's behalf as well.

In addition to providing these resources, Chrissy said SART hosts numerous events throughout the year. In the fall, she said they focus on educating students through the INQ courses, residence halls, the Red Flag Campaign and the mandatory HAVEN program all SCSU students take online.

In the spring, programs such as Take Back the Night are held. Chrissy said SART is working on a new program called "I Choose," which teaches men about intimate partner violence.

"[It is] really about men thinking about taking responsibility," said Chrissy. "I Choose" not to use violence against women."

Noelle Couture, a freshman social work major, said SART does enough when it comes to providing resources and informing students. She said SCSU is generally a comfortable environment with the resources being provided.

"There is always someone you can talk to," said Couture. "There are emergency buttons all over the place."

Mary Xatse, a SART graduate intern, said her role is to supervise student workers and help with programs such as the Brock Turner panel discussion held on Feb. 1.

"I love talking to students and getting their perspectives on things," said Xatse. "It is so important. If I want someone listen to me and my point of view, then I think it's crucial to listen to them and respect them as they are talking."

Xatse said it is amazing to help survivors and give them resources for their recovery. She said even though she does not always see how students are helped, it still means a lot to her that students understand SCSU cares about them.

"I know that it's not always a situation where we will get to see everyone who has benefited from it," said Xatse, "but I know that they are receiving help and services, and that's a great feeling."

## Students' Valentine's Day plans

By Jenna Stepleman

Valentine's Day inspires different feelings in different people, from extravagant expectations to just a night alone with some chocolates. Students said price is a major factor when considering their plans.

Matthew Staniewicz, a first year graduate student pursuing a master's degree in social work, said his plans with his girlfriend were going to be intimate but on a smaller scale.

"This is my first Valentine's Day with my girlfriend," Staniewicz said, "so I want it to be special and memorable, but nothing too crazy."

Staniewicz said they both have classes here at Southern until late at night, but after that he is going to surprise her with the gift and dinner with a nice bottle of wine.

"I bought her a \$100 vinyl record that I know she'll love and a dinner and drinks, which will probably run me around \$50," Staniewicz said, "I think that's about what the average person spends on a special occasion like Valentine's Day."

According to the National Retail Federation, U.S. consumers are expected to spend an average of \$144 on Valentine's Day as 55 percent of the general public celebrates this year, which is an increase from last year's average costs at approximately \$137.

Staniewicz said he as a man is not super excited for Valentine's Day like he imagines his girlfriend is, and said he likes the holiday for the sentimental value, something not everyone feels.

Not everyone has grand romantic plans out on the town this Valentine's Day; some just plan to eat some candy and do some school work.

Gabrielle Salters, a junior business major, said she has no particular plans for Valentine's Day this year.

"I think I'll just be working on

school assignments. The holiday is on a weekday anyway, and I'm sure on the weekend I'll just do something with my friends, if anything at all," said Salters.

She said if she was to plan her ideal Valentine's Day, she would keep it classic with dinner and a movie.

"Dinner and a movie is kind of the minimum so I would want that," Salters said, "I think the plans you make all depend on who the date is for. A long-term girlfriend makes for different circumstances than a first date; spending anything over \$100 seems excessive."

This does not seem to be the norm in American culture, however. According to Statista, in 2017, the nationwide total spent on "an evening out" on Valentine's day was over \$5.5 billion.

Salters said, "I think doing something together is important, more important than a gift usually."

The shift from gifts to experiences seems to come at a time when millennials are looking for more value in their money.

According to the National Retail Federation, 25-34 year olds spend the most on Valentine's Day activities, but are also seemingly getting the most for it.

Jill Lenti, a freshman earth science major said she would be sitting, working and thinking all by herself on Valentine's Day.

Lenti is one of the 45 percent of people not celebrating the holiday this year, but she does have a philosophy on what makes spending money on your significant other worth it.

"I'm probably going to do nothing but hang out with a friend at most," Lenti said, "I think if I was doing something, the price of whatever it was would be worth it, even if it's a little bit much; having one day that's all about you is always important."

# Students react to professor's use of racial slur

By Victoria Bresnahan

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, university President Joe Bertolino sent out an email describing an incident in which a professor allegedly used a racial slur in a classroom. A student in the class reacted and allegedly yelled and cursed at the professor for his use of the word, according to earlier reporting by the Southern News.

"This was a mistake on both the student's and professor's part," said Katie Jimenez, a freshman earth science major. Some people may be hurt by the word used in this confrontation, she said.

"I feel like there needs to be an apology on both [ends]," said Jimenez. "For [the student] lashing out and for [the professor] saying

the word. But I don't think anything serious needs to happen, just a formal apology."

Jimenez said that if the professor had apologized sooner, then it would not have been such an issue.

"I just think the fact he tried to justify that he had authority or a reason to say [the word] made the situation worse," said Jimenez.

This is currently a sensitive subject due to the violence occurring against black people and the beginning of Black History Month, she said.

"People [are trying] to get other people to understand why this is such a big thing," said Jimenez.

Gerai Evans, a junior biology major, said it is not a regular curse word—it has a lot of history behind it and goes deeper than other

profanity. He said it was thoughtless of the professor to use the word.

"I know some people that aren't offended by the word, but I know some people that are," said Evans. "So even though there are people that are not offended, you still shouldn't say it because there [are those who are offended]."

Evans said it was okay for the student to play the song, despite the words used in it.

"You can't really control what people put in their music," said Evans. "If you like the music, then you like the music."

Kenny Baah, a freshman sports management major, said the professor behaved unprofessionally during this incident.

"It just slipped out, but as a professor that shouldn't be the case," said Baah.

Baah said the way the student reacted was not wrong, especially since it is a word that should not be said in class by a professor.

"Maybe it was implied or whatever, but you can't really tell," said Baah. "That's the thing most of the time; you can't really tell the intent."

Jamal Hanley, a senior biology major, said the impact of the racial slur depends on the context it is said in.

"If I was the professor I probably would have kept my mouth shut," said Hanley. "I wouldn't put myself in that situation."

Hanley said the professor should not be fired due to this allegation, since it could have been a lapse in judgment.

"He wasn't thinking clearly or whatever," said Hanley. "But definitely have a discussion with the president and

the board."

Marissa Siemiatkoski, a junior psychology major, said she heard of the incident per a video posted on Facebook.

Siemiatkoski said the incident was inappropriate and the professor should have examined the song before allowing the student to play it.

"Obviously I see where the student was coming from, but I feel the professor was not aware it was [being used] as a racial slur at the time," said Siemiatkoski.

Siemiatkoski said the student should not get in trouble for their actions.

While she said the professor can learn from this encounter, the incident itself was racist.

"We have a lot of diversity here, so it definitely was not appropriate," said Siemiatkoski.

## Registered independent students on campus

By Victoria Bresnahan

As a registered independent, Adam Helgeson, a junior biology major, said he can be more involved with political conversations when speaking to a Democrat or Republican. He said there may be tension between students and professors due to the generational gap.

"Just the age difference and the experience that professors have had with political candidates versus with what we are dealing with today," said Helgeson. "I think also a large part of it—at least from what I have observed on college campuses—conservatism isn't quite as looked down on."

Today's college students, Helgeson said, may be more open to sharing their political beliefs that do not align with their professor's.

"I think that both Democrats and

[conservatives], at least from what I have seen, they feel more [comfortable] having an open discussion for the most part," said Helgeson.

Committing to a specific party may create an obligation to side with it regardless of whether a person agrees with all its viewpoints, he said.

"When you tell someone you are a part of a political party, it automatically creates a sort of stigma if the person you are talking to has an opposing viewpoint," said Helgeson. "Or, it kind of creates this artificial feeling of being an ally if you are talking to someone of a similar political party."

Stephen Marsico, a junior sociology major, said he would prefer to not get involved with politics or the discussions which come along with it.

"People saying 'Trump this, Trump that'—I don't want to hear it," said Marsico. "He is our president and

[they've] got to deal with it."

As a registered independent, Marsico said he can still engage in discussion with others who may have a different political view than him—the conversations tend to stay mellow.

"When professors talk about it here, I don't chime in—I just stay out of it," said Marsico. "I can only talk about it with my immediate friend group."

Marsico said he voted for President Trump this past election since he seemed the best candidate to him.

"In my opinion, it could have gone either way," said Marsico. "[Hillary Clinton] had different things than [Trump] did, and, I don't know, I just did not like her views on some things."

David Rivera, a freshman social work major, said although he stays up to date with politics he does not affiliate with a specific party.

"I feel like both sides are right when it comes to certain issues," said Rivera. "So, I kind of take both values from what each party believes in. I kind of intertwine both."

Rivera said he is registered, but he chooses not to vote due to feeling uninspired by politics. He was considering voting in 2016, but lost interest because of the candidate's platforms, he said.

"If a social issue were addressed that I really do care about," said Rivera, "and I heard about it, then of course [I would vote]."

Rivera said he respects others' political views and beliefs. However, he said when others bring up their view consistently or pressure him to take a side it becomes complicated.

"At the end of the day," said Rivera, "I would still respect what they believe in."

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# Professor writes book on early sea exploration



PHOTO | MELANIE ESPINAL

Jason Smith, a history professor, in his office.

By Melanie Espinal

The open sea can be an enigmatic concept in poetry, canonical works of fiction and in so many texts of early American history.

Professor of history at Southern, Jason Smith, looks at the early interpretations of oceans to determine the emergence of the American 'Ocean Empire,' in his book, "To Master the Boundless Sea: The U.S. Navy, the Marine Environment, and the Cartography of Empire."

"It's in its final stages," Smith said. "It's been exhausting, very satisfying and rewarding."

The book, which comes out in June 2018, is the product of 10 years of Smith's research, exploring early attempts of man seeking to control the ocean, according to Smith.

"Long projects are like building a house," he said. "Long projects take you a long time, but they are the most rewarding."

This research includes the analysis and history of nautical charts from the 19th century, to understand how science and chart making reveal imperial interests, like controlling ocean spaces and defining those spaces.

"I'm trying to take historians away from land centered perspectives," he said.

Smith acknowledged that historians may be criticized for studying articles or concepts that are not pertinent to today, but said the concepts he has explored in ocean imperialism are still very relevant.

Specifically, he said, the relationship between man and nature is still very relevant, considering environmental issues and the effects humans have had on the environment.

The book addresses some of these issues to a degree, he said, and attempts to provide the context for an important question: how can the ocean be territorialized?

For his research, Smith dissected the work of early hydrographers and cartog-

raphers, specifically those in the U.S. Navy, who were actively attempting to measure and map the surface waters of the Earth. He said he felt the work of these people is really underrated.

Specifically, cartographers like Matthew Maury, an American ship captain who recorded data in logs of ocean temperatures, biometric measurements of various ships and passages.

"He was really a pioneer of crowd-sourcing," Smith said, "getting the data from others that he needed."

Maury is just one of the many "neat stories" Smith said is in his book.

Smith's fondness for these stories and interest in military history and nautical history goes back to when he was a kid.

"Both my grandparents were veterans from World War II and Korea," he said. "I was fascinated with ships as a kid."

Smith said his fascination only grew when his family went for vacations to beaches and the ocean.

"I developed a profound relationship

with the ocean," he said. "I'm drawn to the coast, to salt water. It is a passion of mine. I am happy that it became an intellectual pursuit as I grew."

As for writing, Smith assures students who may be in a similar position as he was, deciding to move forward with dissertation research into a book: it is no easy feat.

However, Smith did have some advice for those looking to do the same. That includes writing every day, reading every day and appreciating the profound beauty and sophistication of a concise three-word sentence. He advised that students invest themselves in projects that are long and evolutionary.

"Writing is not utilitarian," he said. "It is a profound mode of expression. It's so rewarding to know that someone can sit with something you wrote, and hopefully they're rewarded with it too."

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# Middletown stop on Mandala's drummers journey

By Tyler Korponai

It was raining heavily at night in Middletown, Connecticut, when musicians rushed to get inside the Mac 650 Art Gallery and Artist Co-Op to keep their amplifiers and instruments dry. Among them was Sean Connelly, a Southern student and music major. He plays drums for Mandala, a Connecticut band that hit their stride over the past year.

Among the other musicians, Connelly, with a few select pieces of his drum kit, quickly gets inside. But the rain was hardly a set back for Connelly and his ensemble.

If anything, as a musician, Connelly has faced much more severe trials during his career.

Outside and away from the sounds of the other performing acts, Connelly and his lead guitarist Chris Desiderio explained how getting out to play their music has challenged them in the past. In particular, they remember breaking down in New York City.

Taking the lead, Desiderio boldly said, "It's a landmark in my life as a terrible day."

Getting into Brooklyn, the band's car, which was carrying all their gear, died a few blocks away from the venue after an axle broke. After pushing the car to the side of the road they carried all of their equipment to the venue and still played the show. Well into the early hours of the morning afterwards, the band got towed by AAA and drove back to Connecticut in Connelly's car. Upon reaching Connelly's hometown of Cheshire, his car also broke down. Connelly still made it to work at seven in the morning.

It is just another challenge of the job.

"Half your day is going to class and spent doing homework," said Connelly, "and the other half of your day is however hard you want to work at booking a show and thinking about the future. Communication is a huge factor, so we try and do the best as possible. When it comes to making a record, you have to come together. If we weren't in school, it'd be a completely different story. I'd be practicing every single day."

Morgan Fasanelli, the lead vocalist of Mandala, agrees with Connelly about the levels of dedication required to make their passion come to life.

Fasanelli said, "We've learned that it takes a lot of planning. Right now in the beginning of February we're planning for April and May and June already. And sometimes that sucks because last minute shows come up and



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

Sean Connelly performing with his band Mandala.

we'll already be booked. The biggest interference is work." Nevertheless, it is worth it for Connelly.

Connelly said, "Being an active drummer, I love it. It's very hard. But I just try and work with it the best that I can. Traveling is amazing. Philly is definitely one of the furthest places I've gone. I played a show in Delaware. I've played in D.C. before. That was with Mandala. I have played in New York City and upstate. Some shows in Vermont. We try and hit every corner of the east coast. It's great. I never really traveled my whole life."

Middletown is just another stop in the musical journey for Connelly and Mandala. After getting warmed up

among the many prints and paintings decorating the walls, Connelly began to play. He sat behind the drum kit.

Connelly said, "My favorite part about playing a show are the moments before. The last hour before you go on is always interesting. I love being in the moment. Not remembering anything and just being in the zone. All in your head and you're thinking about the music and sometimes it's all instinctual."

# University Choir is going to Portugal for spring break



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

The University Choir rehearsing.

By Jeff Lamson

A trip to Portugal, a remembrance concert for Sandy Hook in May and the regular spring concert are on Southern's University Choir calendar for Spring 2018.

The choir will travel to Portugal over spring break next month to perform alongside another choir from Portugal. "Foi Deus," and "Accordai," will both be performed in Portuguese and were recommended by the other choir. There will also be a song in both French and Russian.

"Their songs are really beautiful," said sophomore music major, Candace Naude. "I really look forward to singing them, even though I can't pronounce Portuguese at all."

Megan Baker, a junior history and political science major is going to Portugal along with Naude and most of the choir members. When she went to Greece with

the choir, she said that the days were long, with multiple rehearsals and concerts at the end of the long day.

She said that it was not all about being on vacation and that it was a lot of work. Baker did say that it was a way to break through cultural barriers and, "when you love it, it doesn't really feel like work anyway."

"Everybody's there because they want to be there," said Choir Director, Terese Gemme. She said that some of the roughly a dozen alumni who sing in the choir have been doing so for 15 years. Two of the community members in the choir are the parents of someone that Naude had gone to school with.

Naude said she loves the presence of these community members in the choir. "You can meet anybody," she said, "and it expands your social world."

On the selection of the music, Naude said, "Dr. Gemme chooses the music,

but it's never songs that we wouldn't have picked ourselves." Some additional songs that will be performed include "In Remembrance," "Soon Ah Will Be Done," and "Turn The World Around." Gemme said that the themes of this semester's music are peace and justice.

Naude and Baker are in their fourth and sixth semesters of Southern's University Choir, respectively, and both plan on continuing with it for their entire time at Southern.

"If I wasn't doing it," said Naude, "I would be thinking about doing it." She said that there was nothing that could stop her from doing choir and asked, "What's three hours out of your day just to be able to have that experience?" Naude said that singing in a group is just as important as the work of a soloist.

Baker said that the inconvenience of 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. is minimal compared to what she gets out of it. She

also said that going to Greece and being able to sing there for the choir was a, "double-whammy."

She said that to be able to travel, "and to also do something that you love there, it's kind of just an unparalleled experience."

Gemme had introduced Baker to the choir in the Honors College, where they both work. Baker said that she was glad that she was able to be a part of the choir without sacrificing the studies in both of her majors.

For her future in the choir, after university, Baker said, "If I'm here, I without a doubt would probably keep coming back, probably as one of those alumni-community members."

## Students shine at annual Kennedy Festival



Olivia Davenport and Steven Belli performing in the musical "Violet."

PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

By Victoria Bresnahan

The only short come of theatre is time cannot be stopped, or at least that is what JT McLoughlin said when describing his award-winning sound design performance at the annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

"It's tough because

we are presenting at a festival," said McLoughlin, junior and double major in communications and theatre. "You've [only] got a minute to talk [in the first round]."

According to its website, KCACTF is an annual competition which welcomes 20,000 students nationwide. The website stated the KCACTF recognizes students through

awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, dramatic criticism, directing and design.

As a sound designer, McLoughlin said his presentation consisted of exhibiting audio he had created for "Stop Kiss"—a play performed at the Lyman Center during the Fall 2017 semester.

After winning the second round of the competition,

McLoughlin will now progress to the national round held in Washington D.C. this April. He will be representing the Northeast as he presents his audio again.

"[My presentation] relied a lot on describing what I did and my intentions," said McLoughlin. "I think that is what got me in."

McLoughlin said it would mean a lot to him

if he wins the national competition. Regardless of the outcome, McLoughlin said he would like to attend the festival again next year.

"[In] this [show] I was a part of the story; I was a part of the narrative," said McLoughlin.

Theatre professor Michael Skinner said 14 students attended the Kennedy Festival and overall the group did wonderful. Skinner said three students received Merit Awards, in addition to McLoughlin advancing to nationals.

"The last person we sent to nationals for sound design was me when I was a student in 2006," said Skinner. "So, it's come full circle for me."

Skinner said the students could always be more prepared when competing in this competition. Some of the students, such as those from 'Stop Kiss' only had a month to prepare, he said.

"They do very good jobs and I am proud of them," said Skinner. "But I always want them to work a little harder. I thought we represented the school very well."

Olivia Davenport, junior and sociology major, performed two scenes at KCACTF and said the energy of the event was

fun, but also scary.

"You would think it would be a competitive feeling being around everyone you are competing with," said Davenport, a theatre minor. "It was just more fun. Everyone was really nice to each other and supportive."

Davenport performed two scenes with her partner Steven Belli—one was a romantic encounter and the other a British farce. Davenport said they were competing in the Irene Ryan Scholarship and were the only ones to make it to the second round from that category.

"I feel like a lot of us did not take it seriously because you go into it thinking 'I am probably not going to win,'" said Davenport. "One of my best friends actually won the singing competition. So, then you open your eyes and say, 'Oh wow I could win this if I actually put in all this effort!'"

If Davenport returns to the Kennedy Festival next year, she said she wants to practice more and keep an optimistic attitude towards how far she could progress in the competition.

"It is really good experience for theatre people," said Davenport.

## Student artist of the week: Taylor Thomas

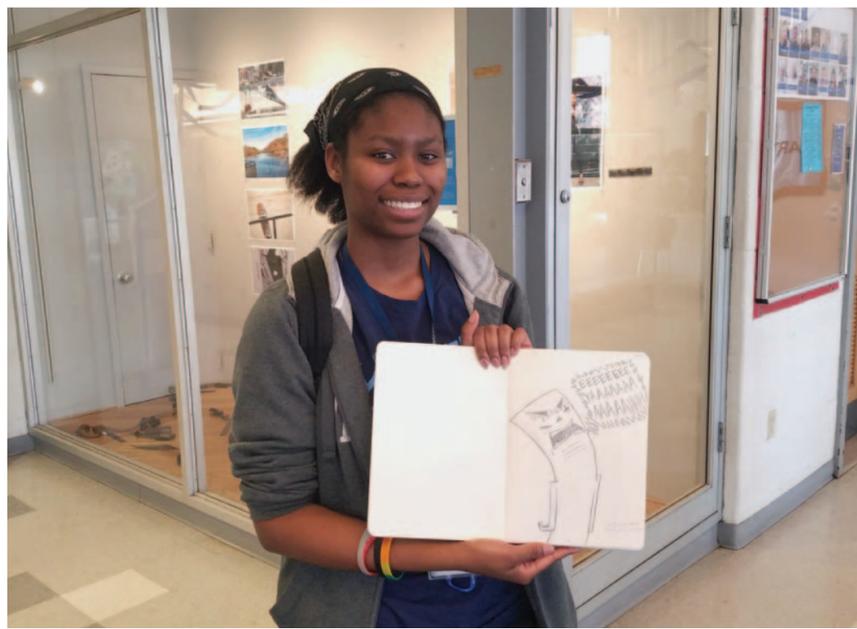
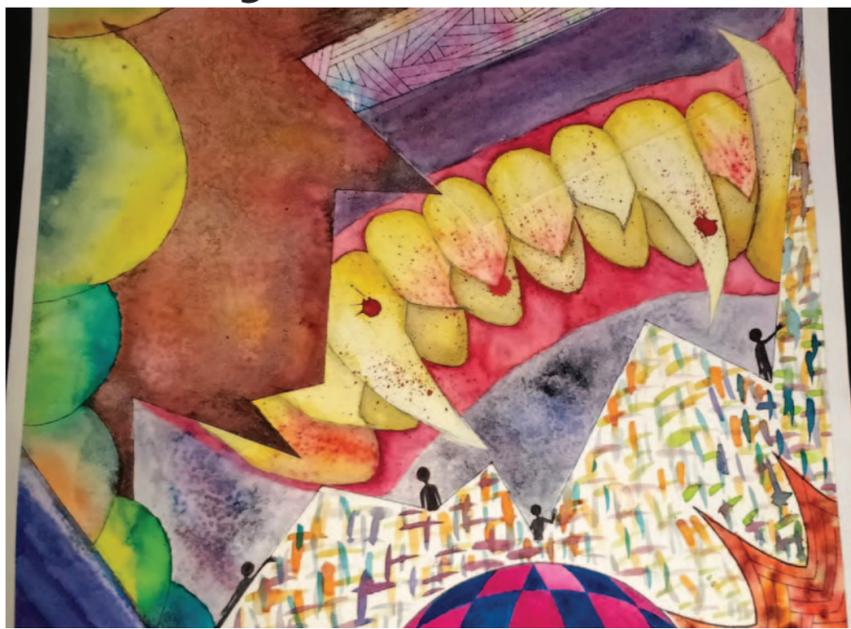


PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Freshman fine arts major Taylor Thomas, and a piece from her sketchbook.



PHOTOS COURTESY | TAYLOR THOMAS

Two geometrical paintings by Thomas.

"I always tend to base it off of either a grid, or halve the paper in a bunch of halves for some reason and structure it around that. I felt that kind of expressed my personality a little bit. Because I'm kind of logical and intellectual and I always try to look at bigger pictures and what the other perspective is. To me, I always visualize blocks and squares and stuff, because it just is very ordered and structured so having that in my art feels like I'm putting a little bit of me in there."





Sophomore Imani Wheeler looking to pass the ball during an away game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

## 40 student athletes named to ECAC honor roll



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Official Eastern College Athletic conference logo.

By Matt Gad

Forty Southern student-athletes were named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference's academic honor roll for the fall semester. Members from field hockey, football, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and volleyball were honored on either the academic or president's honor roll.

"It was rewarding to see that my hard work in the classroom is paying off," volleyball's Leanna Jadus said. "It can definitely be challenging to balance school work, practice and games, my accounting internship and extracurricular activities but I really enjoy keeping myself busy."

Jadus, who was named to the president's honor roll, meaning she obtained a grade point average of at least a 3.6, was part of this year's volleyball squad which reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. Everyone on her team that received honor roll distinctions qualified in the president's category.

"The most important thing for our student-athletes is to graduate. We love when they get the academic awards, whether it's the ECAC academic award or the NE-10 honor roll; it just shows the balance of what a student-athlete is all about," athletic director Jay Moran said. "It's about competition and practice on one end but most importantly it's about studying and knowledge so it's a great honor for these individuals to get these awards."

In addition to the ECAC honors, the athletic department also had 207 student-athletes honored with the Northeast-10 Commissioner's Honor Roll, which requires a 3.0 minimum grade point average to be maintained.

"An academic honor is like another volleyball award or winning a game because it serves as

# Owls' comeback victory

Sophomore guard Imani Wheeler scored the go-ahead bucket in the final minutes of Saturday's game securing the Owls' one-point victory over Le Moyne.

By Michael Riccio

In a matchup for first place in Southwest Division of the NE-10, Imani Wheeler scored the final four points for the Owls to seal their comeback victory over the Le Moyne Dolphins 53-52.

The Owls (18-8, 12-6) entered the game a half game ahead of the Dolphins (14-9, 10-7) in the division, with both teams leading the division in fewest points allowed. Head Coach Kate Lynch said the plan was to limit the production of McKayla Roberts, who leads the Dolphins in scoring at

14 points per game. "Roberts is an excellent player. She can handle the ball and she can shoot," Lynch said. "Our plan was to make sure she didn't get any shots off. We did what we needed to hold her to, 10 points, which is low for "They don't give up on each other."

— Kate Lynch, head coach

her." The Owls have won six of their last eight games, five by single digits. Lynch said winning a lot of close games recently is an

example of how hard her team works. "Saint Rose was a close game, Saint Michael's we won at the buzzer, Assumption we were down double digits and came from behind," Lynch said. "They don't give up on each other and don't give up no matter how much they're down. That's a good attribute to have as a team."

The Owls led after the first quarter 10-9, but the Dolphins went on a 10-2 run to start the second and took a 23-21 halftime lead. In the third quarter, both teams nearly equaled their scoring output in the first half. The Dolphins,

however, outscored the Owls 21-18 in the frame and took a five-point lead into the fourth.

The Owls started the quarter scoring seven straight points to take the lead. With five lead changes in the final seven minutes of the game, Africa Williams and Wheeler scored the final 10 points for Southern, with Wheeler hitting a layup with 1:45 left to give the Owls a three-point lead. The Dolphins had a chance to win after a turnover, but McKayla Roberts shot at the buzzer was no good.

The Owls had six players finish with at least

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10

SEE HONOR ROLL PAGE 11



PHOTO | FRANK ALBANO

Junior wing Brendan Srobel during a game this season.

## Club hockey looks to make national tournament

By Matt Gad

The Southern men's club ice hockey team is sitting at 12-9-1-3 so far this season after falling to 18-win Fairfield University, 2-1, this past Saturday at Northford Pavilion.

"Last year we had a great run," forward Brian Flanagan said. "We went on an 11-game winning streak, finished third in the region and second in our conference and we made good on a run in the national tournament in Columbus, Ohio."

This year's team is made up of 23 members: 20 players

in positions out on the ice and three on the goalkeepers' roster. Luc Amatruda and Matt Paolini, who have split the majority of time in the goal this season, both have save percentages in the .900s. Amatruda has 10 wins and two losses and Paolini is 9-3.

Tom Brunski, a forward, leads the team with 48 points while Johnny Johnson has 33 and Jake Crowe has 27. All of the 20 players have scored at least one goal this season with six scoring a minimum of 23.

The team said they are in a tough position because they play far off campus and can not draw a large crowd at their home games. They

say they do not blame people for not coming out but know that they could all feed off the energy of a large crowd.

"I think if we were closer more people would start coming and hopefully realizing that our games are nothing short of exciting every night; we've got plenty of entertainers on this roster, that's for sure," Amatruda said.

Bill Walsh is the team's head coach, now in his second season. Walsh helped the Owls get to the tournament for the first time in seven years last season and he received the Empire Collegiate Hockey Conference Coach of the Year Award.

SEE HOCKEY PAGE 11

## Olympic politics in South Korea

By Matt Gad

We can't get away from politics now, can we? At this year's Winter Olympics Vice President Mike Pence, tried to put some more pressure on North Korea in what was a clearly strategic move for an administration that has repeatedly vowed to "end strategic patience" with the nuclear leader and got himself into some more hot water of late. The Vice President and openly gay Olympian skater Adam Rippon have been paired together in the headlines

because Rippon spoke negatively of Pence when he found out that Pence would be leading the United States' Olympic delegation into the Pyeongchang Games. "You mean Mike Pence, the same Mike Pence that funded gay conversion therapy?" he told USA Today before the Olympics, adding that he would not meet with the Vice President due to obvious personal frustration for the 28 year old who would prefer to just focus on ice skating. Rippon said he would "absolutely" not go out of his way to meet someone that is not a friend

of a gay person and one who has called them "sick." Two weeks before the Olympics, Pence's team felt like an organized conversation between both parties was necessary. The Olympian declined, and true to this administration's fashion, Pence, who, if nothing else, has been rather professional with his Twitter account, tweeted, "Headed to the Olympics to cheer for Team USA. One reporter trying to distort 18 year-old non story to sow seeds of division. We won't let that happen! #FAKE NEWS."

And if it wasn't worse, Pence

tried to repair his image by tagging Adam in a tweet saying that he was supported and that he "shouldn't let fake news distract him." Through and through, the man there to skate continues to hold his head high. After competing this past Sunday night, NBC Sports' Mike Tirico asked him about the recurring incident, and Adam said he is just here to stay true to himself and to focus on competing for his coaches, teammates and his country.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

## Winning streak comes to an end for men's basketball



PHOTO | PALMER PIANIA

Senior guard Bernard Brantley reseting the offense during Saturday's game against Le Moyne College.

By Kevin Crompton

Southern Connecticut State University's men's basketball head coach Scott Burrell and company were unable to post their seventh straight victory on Saturday evening.

Le Moyne College put an end to the Owls' six game winning streak Saturday, winning by a ten-point margin, 80-70. In the first four minutes of the game, Southern set the tone by going on an 8-1 run. By six minutes into the first half, the Le Moyne Dolphins tied the game and continued building their lead with a 24-7 run. Just before halftime, Southern rallied closing the gap to five points.

Early in the second half, freshman guard Jesper Sandager sank a 3-pointer giving the Owls their second lead of the afternoon. On the following possessions, Southern struggled to score and come up with defensive stops, enabling the Dolphins to post a 12-0 run taking the lead for the remainder of the contest.

"We didn't take them out of anything they ran," said head coach Scott Burrell. "They ran the clock down and they got what they wanted. We competed in spots at certain points in the game but we didn't compete for 40 minutes."

6-4 freshman guard Ulyen Coleman has been one of the Owls' leading scorers all season,

shooting 42 percent from the field, 44 percent from 3-point range and averaging 14 points per game. However, he struggled to get his shots to fall on Saturday.

Coleman reflected on how he tries to overcome difficulties in scoring for his team:

"You got to find a balance in whatever you do," said Coleman. "I definitely try to look for open teammates if drive but I also have to keep finding my shot because if I don't the defense is just going to stay stagnant so I got to make sure I do both."

Second chance opportunities hurt the Owls as Le Moyne managed to score on the bulk of their offensive rebounds.

"Coach was saying [Le Moyne]

got around seven offensive rebounds and scored on six of them and that gave them their run," said senior forward Jerry Luckett, Jr. who lead the Owls in scoring with 18.

Prior to Saturday's loss in Southern's previous win over American International College on Feb. 6, the team clinched a spot in the NE-10 conference tournament.

"[Playoffs have] been on our mind but we're just trying to take it one game at a time," said Luckett Jr. "We started off kind of rough this season and that's just been our motto; just take it one game at a time and try to get better every day. Keep moving forward."

Burrell also commented on

the playoff tournament that lies ahead:

"We just got to win every game. We got to practice to prepare ourselves to win every game. Jefferson is a very good team, they're going to come here trying to get a W on the road to help their power rankings but we need to win, we need wins."

"Southern has three games remaining on their regular season schedule. Their next two will be at home against 17-10 Jefferson University on Feb. 12 and 10-16 Adelphi University on Feb 14. They will close out the regular season on the road against Pace University (7-18) on Feb 17.

## Women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

six points, with Abby Hurlbert leading the way with 15. Murphy Murad said the team had to make adjustments on offense during the game in order to comeback and win.

"We had trouble moving the ball so we did a better job of attacking and kicking out," Murad said. "There was movement on their defense so we got better shots offensively."

Lynch said her team "looked timid" in the first half and were "afraid to lose." She said confidence is an important element for her team that relies on shooting.

"Coming out of halftime we made that adjustment to play to win and get open shots and knocked them down," Lynch said. "We're a shooting team so we have to be confident. Shooters keep shooting."

Courtney Webster led the Dolphins in points and rebounds with 15 and nine. Joanna Dobrovosky and Roberts also finished in double figures. Webster, a 6-foot-2 forward, and Dobrovosky, a 6-foot-3 forward, enabled the Dolphins to score 30 points in the paint. Kiana Steinauer said it was important for the Owls to stay in front of them on defense.

"They had a height advantage over us," Steinauer said, "and we just had to do whatever we could to make sure they didn't get open."



Sophomore Kiana Steinauer being guarded in the post during a home game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

## Paul Pierce joins Celtics legends in the rafters

By Kevin Crompton

After Sunday's game concluded between the Boston Celtics and the Cleveland Cavaliers in TD Bank Garden, former Celtics small forward Paul Pierce was honored as his jersey number, 34, was retired. Pierce became the 22nd Celtic to have his number retired and hung on a banner in the rafters of TD Bank Garden. Pierce gave an emotional speech thanking teammates, coaches, friends, family and many others who helped him achieve success in

the NBA, and ultimately result in his recognition as one of the best Celtics to ever don the iconic green and white.

According to former Celtic Robert Parish, whose 00-jersey number also hangs in the rafters, Pierce was a better offensive player than Larry Bird, who is widely regarded as one of the best NBA players in history. Parish, who played alongside of Bird, said that Pierce was more creative in his game which is a reason he believes him to be a better scorer than Bird.

From a number stand point, Bird has the upper hand on career average points with 24.6 points per game; Pierce, 21.8. However, despite the — always hard to argue against factual numbers — there is more to thoroughly evaluating a player and putting a crown on the more deserving. Basketball and Celtics fans will debate over who was the better Celtic and answers will likely be influenced by the generation the fan belongs to — 1980's era when Bird helped Boston win three NBA titles, or the

first decade of the 2000s era when Pierce led the Celtics in raising their first championship banner in 22 years. One thing that will not be debated upon is that Pierce is well deserving of the highly coveted honor that jersey number retirement is and that The Truth's number 34, deserves to be enshrined in the building home to one of the most historic franchises in sports history.



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

## Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | FRANK ALBANO

Members of the club hockey team celebrating after a goal this season.

He is assisted by Frank Butler, a former Division III player at Nichols College, and Mike Ginnetti.

"We all came to Southern in pursuit of higher education. Having the opportunity to play hockey is just a bonus and we all continue to play simply because we all love the game," Flanagan said. "We all take the game very seriously but also know how to have fun and enjoy ourselves in the process. Not being able to play locally definitely has an effect on our fan base."

Team President Frank Albano, who played last year but has since largely stepped aside and just takes care of managerial duties, said they all wish there was some more promotion that went on in the campus recreation office, but that they are just used to being independent.

Club Teams at Southern rely on social media as the driving force because they do not have their own sports information director or marketing department like with the NCAA Division II teams. Without being tied into the NCAA category, the club teams on campus still have to comply with the campus' regular club rules in terms of setting up an executive board and maintaining a presence on OwlConnect.

## Yakubu Ibrahim: best hurdler in conference



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Senior Yakubu Ibrahim in the 60 meter hurdles during a meet this season.

By Matt Gad

Yakubu Ibrahim, a redshirt senior and quad-captain, is ready to go for this weekend's NE-10 Indoor Championships. He is number one in the conference for hurdles and number two in the 60 meter. "My coach is looking for me to score big points at conference," Ibrahim said. "I'm number two in the country just off the national automatic qualifying time and the season has been going pretty consistently."

His head coach, John Wallin, a 10-time Coach of the Year from the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association, said Ibrahim has been doing great and he recently won his third career New England indoor title, a meet moved up in the schedule this year in a possible attempt to help qualifications for the nationals meet.

New Englands took place on Feb. 2 and 3 in Boston, Massachusetts, one week before this past weekend's Valentine Invitational. In New Englands, the Owls finished in fourth place with Ibrahim finishing first in

the 60 meters, outlasting competitors from all divisions. With a time of 8:04, he led a pack that also included sophomore Ruvens Exantus, who, like Ibrahim, brought home All-New England honors.

"No matter who you are, there's a lot of work that goes into being a leader and performing on the track," Wallin said. "The better you get, the higher the stakes so there's a lot of work that goes in whether it's Yakubu or someone else. There's a lot of work going into being prepared to compete."

Ibrahim said communication is generally better within everyone's specific event groups because people have things in common. He said that the jumpers have a different bond with each other just like throwers, hurdlers, pole vaulters and the distance runners.

He has served as one of four of this year's indoor track and field captains, along with Tikuan Johnson, Brian Sappleton, Hunter Stokes and Luke Velez. Ibrahim is a multiple time All-American and All-New England student-athlete and has also previously been an NE-10 Champion in

relay and hurdles.

"Thinking about my teammates always comes second nature, from inspiring them or making sure people get the message of the goal we're trying to accomplish," he said. "A lot of us have our eyes on making it to nationals and I bring a certain level of energy and mindset at practice that we're all here to get better."

He also said that he is felt like the coaching staff has done a good job this year in spreading out athletes over all of the event categories and making the team more balanced with depth this season. Ibrahim said that with more athletes there is less pressure for others to triple or quadruple themselves on a meet day.

"We tried desperately on the men's side to keep a very balanced team and I would say we're very balanced now, we just happen to be much stronger across the board probably in the past two or three years," Wallin said. "We have more depth and more high-quality athletes at every position."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Junior Leana Jadus, one of the athletes named to the ECAC honor roll, during a volleyball game last season.

## Honor roll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

motivation to keep working hard," Jadus said. "It shows that good things will come."

Kelli McCombs, a member of the field hockey team, said her honor roll selection attributes to her time-management skills and that she plans out her weeks on Sundays to make sure that she fits in time for every class she takes.

"If I didn't write everything down I would never get it all done. I also utilize bus rides and get a lot of work done at night and during the days when I don't have classes," she said. "I've been recognized for academics by Southern before but this is the first time that I've been recognized by the ECAC."

Moran said that each student-athlete knows their potential, not just as an athlete but also academically, and that someone who gets a 2.5 can be just as important as someone with a 3.5 as long as that is what they are striving for.

He also said that the athletic department won't just give awards for those with the highest cumulative averages but that they also take into account one's leadership skills.

Colin Walsh, who battles multiple sclerosis and recently competed at the alumni track meet, was the recipient of the department's scholar-athlete award in 2007-08, along with former field hockey player Kate Gedney. And last year that award went to Caroline Staudle of women's soccer and Jonathan Paul of the men's basketball team. "They know that, at the end of the day, they could be riding back from Syracuse, New York and need the light on their phone to read so many pages or to pull out their Mac to write a paper. So the coaches may be sleeping on the way home but the student-athletes are probably up doing their work."

# Men's basketball vs. Le Moyne College



Senior Taurus Adams II taking a jump shot vs. Le Moyne College on Saturday.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Junior Isaiah McLeod during halftime warm ups.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Junior Isaiah McLeod prepares for free throw during Saturday's game.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Freshman Jesper Sandager looking to pass the ball during Saturday's game.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

## Northeast-10 Standings

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISION</b>						
SAINT ANSELM	18	13-5	0.722	24	18-6	0.750
MERRIMACK	18	12-6	0.667	25	16-9	0.640
STONEHILL	18	11-7	0.611	24	15-9	0.625
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	18	9-9	0.500	23	13-10	0.565
BENTLEY	18	9-9	0.500	23	12-11	0.522
FRANKLIN PIERCE	18	8-10	0.444	23	13-10	0.565
ASSUMPTION	18	3-15	0.167	24	7-17	0.292
SAINT MICHAEL'S	18	3-15	0.167	23	6-17	0.261
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISION</b>						
LE MOYNE	17	16-1	0.941	24	19-5	0.792
SAINT ROSE	17	13-4	0.765	25	18-7	0.720
NEW HAVEN	18	11-7	0.611	23	14-9	0.609
SO. CONNECTICUT	18	10-8	0.556	23	13-10	0.565
AMERICAN INT'L	17	6-11	0.353	25	11-14	0.440
ADELPHI	18	6-12	0.333	26	10-16	0.385
PACE	17	3-14	0.176	25	7-18	0.280

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISION</b>						
STONEHILL	18	17-1	0.944	23	21-2	0.913
BENTLEY	18	15-3	0.833	24	21-3	0.875
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	18	11-7	0.611	24	15-9	0.625
SAINT ANSELM	18	11-7	0.611	25	15-10	0.600
MERRIMACK	18	10-8	0.556	23	14-9	0.609
SAINT MICHAEL'S	18	5-13	0.278	23	8-15	0.348
ASSUMPTION	18	5-13	0.278	23	8-15	0.348
FRANKLIN PIERCE	18	1-17	0.056	23	4-19	0.174
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISION</b>						
SO. CONNECTICUT	18	12-6	0.667	26	18-8	0.692
LE MOYNE	17	10-7	0.588	23	14-9	0.609
PACE	17	10-7	0.588	25	14-11	0.560
ADELPHI	18	8-10	0.444	26	12-14	0.462
SAINT ROSE	17	7-10	0.412	23	9-14	0.391
NEW HAVEN	18	6-12	0.333	23	10-13	0.435
AMERICAN INT'L	17	5-12	0.294	25	11-14	0.440

## Issues with Southern's tobacco-free initiative



PHOTO | SCSU

Southern's tobacco-free initiative poster.

By Tyler Korponai

Back in 2016, Southern received a grant from the State Department of Public Health for \$235,496 "to enhance its leadership in snuffing out campus tobacco use and to encourage its students to kick the habit," according to Southern's website.

Simply these funds were, and are, intended to lower smoking rates of students on campus, to expand programs that support this initiative, and to set Southern as a leader for other colleges interested in creating similar policies. And you know what? Good on Southern for doing so. And that is coming from an off and on social smoker.

However, I know-- really we all know-- that smoking on Southern's campus still happens every single day.

You can see it in a few locations around campus. Like when examining the ground for footprints, you can see the remains of Southern's smokers here and there: a few cigarette filters scattered on the pavement, testaments to smokers' persistence. And that is where I take my issue.

As part of Southern's stance on smoking, I have come to understand from chatting with the student body that adding disposal bins for filters would violate the conditions of Southern's grant, which I think is sort of backwards.

I think any policy that positions itself as an absolute really ignores the reality of how things work. So sure, Southern has been "smoke free" for a while now. But not really. And there are still issues that persist whether or not this policy is in place.

So here is my take. Southern's hands

are tied. No one likes cigarette butts littering the ground. Why doesn't one bloke put unmarked buckets around campus? Right? Smokers are naturally in their own social club. It is not too hard to see their preferred smoke spots. Why not discretely make one petty concession so that the campus is a little cleaner?

Let me put it this way. I do not smoke frequently and yet sometimes the day gets ahead of me and, after not eating all day and still having to keep moving, a shared cigarette with a friend may be the best, or only thing, to keep me from having a total meltdown. I understand that is not a healthy way to cope with my problems. But this is the hand that I have been dealt on a few occasions. It is a small thing. I would just prefer to neatly dispose of the remains of my bad habit.

To paraphrase Michael Jackson's

song "Man in the Mirror," which I can hardly believe I'm referencing, I think that I could easily make Southern a cleaner campus by making one small change. And yes, for a lot of people quitting smoking is a massive and unthinkable change. That said, let's address a problem that has an easy solution and isn't so daunting.

As I said earlier, I think absolutes are not a great stance to take. I think having a responsible way to dispose of cigarettes on campus does not really promote smoking. If anything it could isolate smoking to a few corners even more than it already is. In the great journey that is battling a nicotine addiction, why don't the smokers of Southern out there do their small part to combat the perception of smoking. Despite our habits we can in small ways be conscious and responsible.

## The hunter became the hunted: big game hunting

By Mary Rudzis

This past weekend, a suspected poacher was mauled and eaten by lions while allegedly hunting at a South African game reserve.

The lions quickly killed him, and his head was the only part of his body that was untouched. Officers believe that the hunting rifle found nearby belonged to him.

Lions kill up to 250 people a year in Africa. It is incidents like these that, for me, are a reminder that

there is justice in this world. That is karma. Big game hunting is problematic considering that there are less than 20,000 lions are left in the wild in Africa.

Unfortunately, the skin, skeletons and teeth of lions are valuable and therefore incentivizes those who want to kill innocent, nearly endangered animals to make some quick cash.

With one less poacher/hunter in the world, I'm not shedding any tears. It may seem harsh, but anyone who sets out to kill an animal for

sport is taking that risk and it is no fault but their own if they get injured.

Morrissey has a song titled "The Bullfighter Dies" in which he writes about people cheering when they hear the news that a bullfighter was killed. "Hooray, hooray, the bullfighter dies and nobody cries because we all want the bull to survive."

While that may seem like a controversial message for a song, I would like to believe that most sane people would be upset at the fact that innocent beings are killed for sport

and entertainment, or otherwise exploited in the event of the Running of the Bulls.

I am not losing sleep over the fact that a man who intended to kill an animal was killed by that animal instead. After the incidents with Cecil the lion and Harambe, it seems as though the general public is becoming outraged when it comes to exploitation and abuse of certain animals. That is a step in the right direction that will hopefully eventually lead to a more compassionate and aware social consciousness.

### SOUTHERN NEWS

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT  
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To submit a piece, email it to [scsu.southern.news@gmail.com](mailto:scsu.southern.news@gmail.com), or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

# PHOTO

## Basketball injury results in hospital trip

By Palmer Piana



An ambulance arriving outside of Moore Field House.



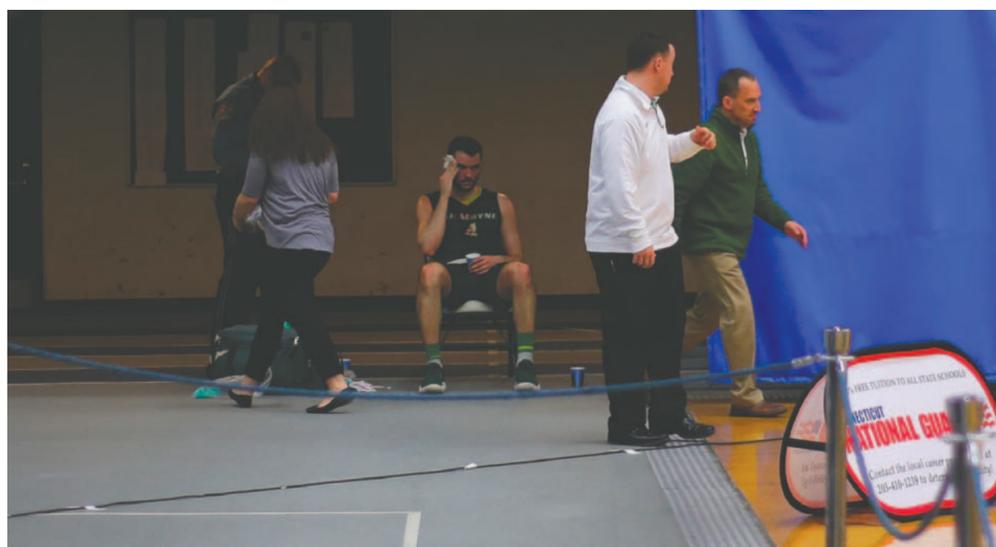
Teammates and coaches helping Tom Brown, No. 4 on Le Moyne College's men's basketball team, stands after taking a fall and hitting his head on the court.



Blood on the court as a result of the injury.



Joe Hines, associate director of athletics, cleaning blood off of the court before play resumes.



Brown holding a compress on his face while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.



Stretcher being taken out of the ambulance.