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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Plans for the next five years Spike tickets

**By Destene Savariau
News Writer**

with a potential transition in leadership for a presidency position at Stockton University, President Joe Bertolino felt it imperative the university begin to plan for the next three to five years.

The Strategic Action Planning Forums were an open floor meeting for faculty, staff, and students to attend. Bertolino and his leadership team.

"The strategic plan really outlines the future of the institution. I think it's really important for us to be planning given all of the changes in the state that have happened," said Bertolino.

The top three priorities outlined by Bertolino were social justice, enrollment, and student success. In addition, he plans to place a renewed focus on the culture of care at Southern for our students. How the leadership communicates, engages in inclusive and transparent dialogue and value entrepreneurship amongst students.

"At this point, we're sharing where we are at in the process; just getting feedback. And if folks have ideas or want to con-

tribute, this is a great opportunity to do that," said University Administrative Assistant Roland Regos.

At the end of this forum, Regos hopes there will be a comprehensive plan they accomplish over the next three to five years.

Looking more in-depth at the plan there is a focus of the social justice initiative. These would be, embedding the Division of Diversity Equity Inclusion in the Academic Mission, and continuing to implement equitable and anti-racist policies and processes.

Though the administration hoped to get feedback, students did not seem too interested in joining the event.

"I just came in for the snacks. I didn't really want to stay," said Special education major Aiden Moore, a junior.

Despite the lack of student presence, Bertolino expressed his expectation to have these conversations with students, faculty, alumni, and community members, so the different groups will have an opportunity to participate and be at the table.

"I expect there to be student forum student town halls, working with student government working with other stu-

dent entities, just to talk about the student voice and the student impact as we develop this plan," said Bertolino.

Nevertheless, the leadership council and administration focus on why students should come to the university.

"We have to be able to be prepared to give a good reason and not just for bringing students here but give him a reason to then stay," said Regos.

According to the Strategic Initiative Plan, part of the enrollment initiative is centralizing the K-14 relationships, promoting

the university's brand, enrolling and supporting adult learners, ensuring equitable affordability, and expanding accelerated bachelor's degree offerings. Part of the priority of academic excellence and student success is to facilitate social mobility, invest in and foster analytics, and provide more student financial support and faculty scholarship.

"It's time for us to think about and rethink who we are and the direction we want to go. And how we're going to meet the needs of the students moving forward," said Bertolino.

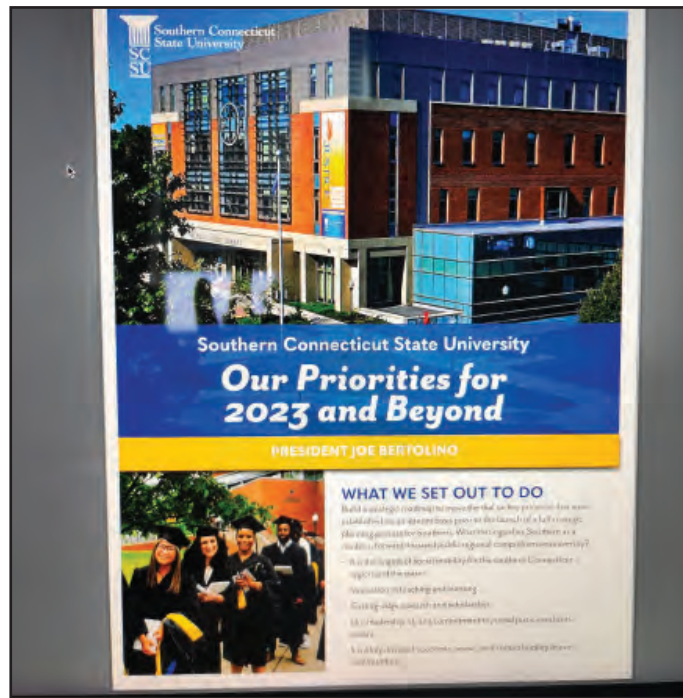


PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

PDF of the priorities for the following years.

**By Destene Savariau
News Writer**

As part of the Mary and Louis Fusco Distinguished Lecture, Academy Award-winning film director, producer, writer, and actor Spike Lee is coming to the university to speak about his new book "That's My Story & I'm Sticking to It: An Evening with Spike Lee."

As of Friday 500 tickets have been sold for this event, according to interim Director of Lyman Center, David Starkey

"It's meant to bring the community together around an event that is thought-provoking and generates discussion and just kind of a community building event," said Assistant Director of Integrated Communications Betsy Beacom.

Director of Integrated Communications and Marketing Patrick Dilger speaks on how vital Spike Lee's presence is to the university and how it ties into the goal of the lectures.

"The purpose of the lectures is that it's a famous person coming, but their message will resonate with us, whether it's a message about leadership or anything else. Spike Lee has been

a trendsetter in the film industry, particularly a great role model for other young black producers," said Dilger.

In preparation for Lee's arrival and honor of black history month, the Integrated Communications and Marketing department and the Greater New Haven African American Historical Society are hosting a film series of Lee's work.

"We thought it would be fun to have a film series on campus. We figured if people could watch the movies and start talking about his work and have a little more familiarity with this work before he comes," said Beacom.

The film series consists of three movies by Lee; School Daze, Do the Right Thing, BlackkKlansman.

President of the Brotherhood for Scholarship and Excellence, Coby Hawkins, commented on how he felt having someone as empowering as Lee coming to campus.

"I think it's a good opportunity for the students on this campus, especially the students of color to see such a talented and gifted person. Rather than watching his work or seeing him in interviews, you can ask him the questions that you've been dying to ask him," said Hawkins.

Support and advice at leadership luncheon

**By Destene Savariau
News Writer**

The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development held a luncheon for leaders and aspiring leaders about mental health and wellbeing.

Hosted by Graduate Interns of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, mainly Talia Lent, the event was meant to provide support and advice for the university's student leaders. The coordinator of the Wellbeing Center, Allyson Regis, spoke to students about taking care of their mental health while they are balancing other things.

"I want students to try to really think about how to really help leaders focus on their wellbeing since a lot of times they're so focused on other people's wellbeing that their own slips through the cracks," said Regis.

Talia Lent, Graduate Intern of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, and the host of the event for students in the bronze leadership and campus student leaders to get those additional leadership skills.

"I invited Allison to open up our leadership luncheon series that we're doing this semester to learn different skills, talk to different faculty members, make connections with other students, everything like that," said Lent.

According to Business Administration and English major Reyna Singleton, a freshman, the event was about self-reflection and self-celebration. It was about the things those student leaders have accomplished as a group,

"I came here today because I made so many great friends and connections during these leadership trips and being back here reuniting to everyone has been a joyous thing. It was about celebrating ourselves a little bit," said Singleton.

Information Management Service major Alayna Woodhams, a junior, highlighted how it's essential to hear from established leaders on how they got to where they are, the struggles they faced and how they overcame.

"It's important to hear from other perspectives because as a leader, you have to be able to un-

derstand everyone," said Woodhams.

Math education major Giovanni Bautista, a freshman, felt the event was a success. He notes how it was beneficial and thought he took a lot from it.

"I think Dr. Alison really gave us a new perspective on being a leader, on my wellbeing, and how I can better it and become a better leader," said Bautista.

For students to attend the luncheon, they had to make an RSVP through Owl Connect.

"What makes people qualified to come to this event was just being in any leadership or social justice leadership position. Everyone here made some type of commitment to be a better person to Southern, to community, or to themselves,"

said Singleton.

Regis left many words of advice for student leaders who could not make it to the event.

Including figuring out what is required versus optional. Asking yourself what are things that you may be able to either let go of or modify your involvement in and what are the priorities you have since being a leader is not

their only role.

"My biggest tip for student leaders who could not make it is, letting go of perfection and also making sure to communicate. If you are struggling to meet the goals that you have set, it's important to finding the support you need so that things still get done, but you also take care of yourself," said Regis.



PHOTO | DESTENE SAVARIAU

Students and faculty getting lunch at the leadership luncheon.

PHOTOS

Peanut Butter and Jelly event every Thursday

Photos By Luke Molwitz
Photographer

Every week, Programs Council holds a "PB&J" event for students to grab a snack.

This event typically has Uncrustables, which is a prepackaged frozen sandwich, and snacks such as chips and poparts.

"PB&J" is held in Englemen every Thursday.



Peanut butter & jelly and peanut butter & strawberry jam Uncrustables on the table.



A student after grabbing some snacks and a drink.



Programmer handing a student an Uncrustable.



Zoe Pringle posing for the camera with her snacks.



Programs Council's, also known as ProCon, PB&J table of snacks.

Residents miss their pets: Puppy Bowl photos and review

By Sarah Shelton
Photo Editor

While many students watched the Super Bowl, some tuned into Puppy Bowl XIX.

Some residents, like me, have dogs at home that we miss, so this was a cute nice event to watch while I did homework.

Every dog that played or was showcased are adoptable rescue puppies.

As the show announced, the Puppy Bowl is the "loudest call of action to adopt, not shop"

There were many different dogs who took turns playing for either Team Fluff or Team Ruff.

The way it worked was the puppies had to bring the toy to the end zone for a touchdown. It was adorable to watch because they just let them play rather than have people standing there bribing

them or trying to get them to go to the end.

The dogs would pick up the toys and either run, drop them or even steal them from each other. They even came up with funny storylines when they barked at each other such as Phoenix is "venting her frustration" out on the other dog, even though she was just clearly playing.

I especially loved it because they did not force the dogs to play. I never fully understood what the Puppy Bowl was, but I did not expect it to be as entertaining as it was.

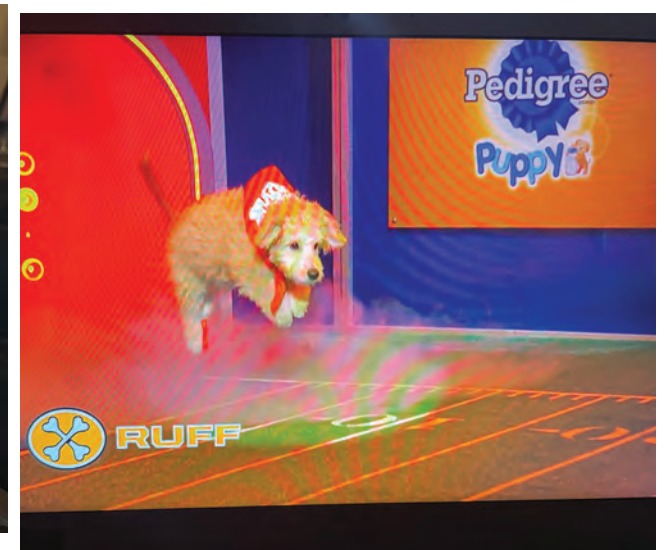
The game ended 87-83 to Team Fluff.

The puppy jokes, the narration and watching puppies playing together brought a smile to my face after a long difficult week.

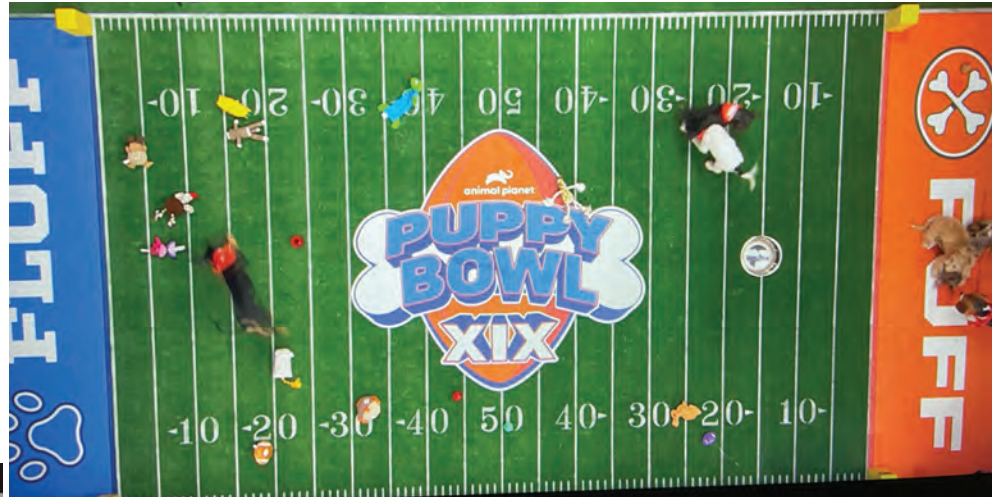
All photos taken on an iPhone of a laptop screen.



Phoenix's introduction sponsored by Pedigree.



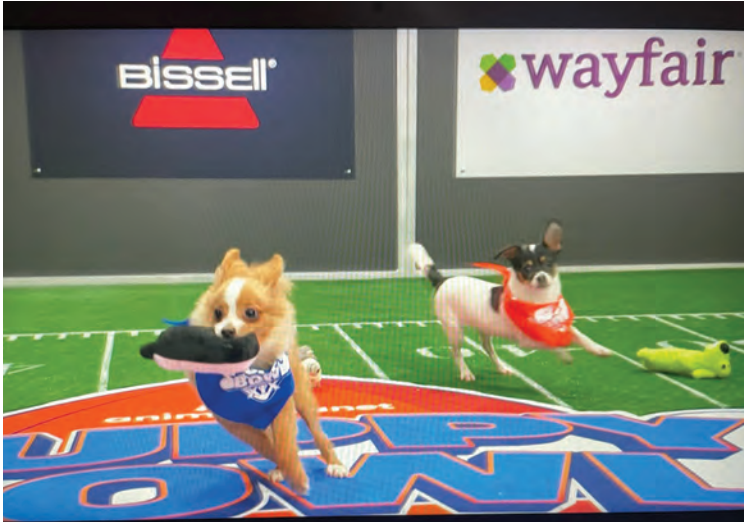
Fluff from Team Ruff jumping into the field.



Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl XIX field that the puppies played on.



Team Ruff's "Cheer Team."



Team Fluff's Pickle running with a toy.



One of the Puppies who made it to the endzone.



Second Quarter Touchdown made by Team Ruff.

LGBTQ students support transgender rights

By Ali Fernand
Features Editor

Transgender people have found themselves as a main topic of conversation in the news and social commentary. This has raised concern for trans people and their allies.

"There's a lot of bills that are being considered or even passed in the United States that encompass making it illegal to be trans," exploratory major, Rowan King, a freshman said.

According to NBC News, 22 states have proposed bills targeting trans health care and drag queens in just 2023 alone. This has become a successful strategy for political campaigns. Trans activists are concerned, as these bills target the ability to be openly queer, receive hormone replacement therapy, and gender affirming surgery. Activists have said that these things are vital to the safety of trans individuals.

"This puts trans people at risk for mental health issues and physical health issues," SAGE Center Graduate Intern Brandon Iovene said.



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Nik Matjek, a freshman, studying in the SAGE Center on Feb 13.

According to Yale, transgender individuals are six times more likely to experience mood and anxiety disorders than those who are not trans. This is attributed to a diagnosis of 'gender incongruence.' This is commonly known to the public as 'gender dysphoria,' which is the discomfort trans people experience with their gender assigned at birth.

"Your genitals, the combination of hormones and chromosomes you were born with have nothing to do with your identity," Iovene said.

According to the Trevor Project, mental health improves when trans people, specifically trans youth, can change their name and gender legally on their public documents. Many of the proposed bills have a particular focus on

children. The argument is children are not able to make the choice of hormones and surgery as young people.

"Children can be weaponized, people will always say 'think of the children,'" business management major, Nik Matjek, a freshman said

Trans activist advocate against the idea that children can't understand their gender identity. There

is also the concern from activists that the halting of gender affirming care is not just going to stop with banning youth from this care.

"What about reforming public education, access to proper nutrition in public schools?" Iovene said.

Iovene is not alone in his concern that anti-trans advocates do not genuinely care about protecting children. They attribute this legislation and ideology to the fear of queer people.

Trans people have also been facing exclusion from movements they have historically been included in. The 'LGB Alliance' is a queer group focused on purely advocating for lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights and against transgender rights.

"Queer people who are erasing trans people from the narrative are just so crazy to me. Where is that getting anybody?" Iovene said.

The acronym has usually been LGBT, standing for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. Though many in the community have lengthened the

acronym to further include different identities, the LGB alliance has decided to cut people out. They feel that trans people are not to be included in their community.

Trans activists have been outraged at this sentiment, particularly considering that trans people have been at the forefront of queer movements for decades.

"Sexuality and gender are different, but people target them in the same way in terms of bigotry. We don't fit social norms," Matjek said.

The other fear according to Iovene, is that advocacy against trans people will eventually backfire against them. Queer people fear legislation won't just stop at trans people.

Intersectionality has entered the forefront when discussing these issues. This philosophy entails that there is overlap in all social identities and movements. This is a key idea in many different types of social justice; feminism, queer rights, and racial justice.

"If you believe in equality, you must believe in equality for all," King said.

Review: Italy holds its annual Festival di Sanremo

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

This year's Festival di Sanremo 2023 was an interesting event. This year, the winner was a power ballad with the voice of an absolute angel, Marco Mengoni with his song "Due Vite." Second place went to "Alba" by Ultimo. Third place went to "Superoi" by Mr. Rain, who should have been the winner.

This is Mengoni's second year winning Sanremo, he first won in 2013. The first night of the music festival was a rollercoaster ride. First, we find out Gianni Morandi is one of the hosts. Then Morandi and Amadeus, the other host, take a selfie with Chiara

Ferragni. After Blanco performs his song and ruins the flowers on stage which causes the crowd to boo him.

Each night of the festival has a runtime of four hours. The first, third and final nights were longer, each with a runtime of five hours and 13 minutes. This was expected, when I watch Amici Di Maria Di Filippi, each episode is at least 2 and a half hours.

The Festival Di Sanremo is a three-day festival in Sanremo, Italy that has the biggest singers in the country compete to make it to Eurovision each year. During the show, there are appearances from other artists and actors. This year they had two big performances

from American bands, Black Eyed Peas and Depeche Mode. Both bands were good, but I cared more about the singers competing, so I skipped that part. The covers this year were also great, which included songs spanned from the 1960's to the 1980's. I enjoyed the performance Gianni Morandi did with Sangiovanini.

Mr. Rain is a prominent name in Italy with a lot of his songs charting top 10 in the country. His song "Superoi" should have been the winner of the festival because it has the potential of winning Eurovision, or at least getting top 10.

No Italian singer or group has won Eurovision since Måneskin won in 2021.

Since then, Maneskin has been touring the world and have made a name for themselves. This is something all Italian artists hope for especially when competing in Sanremo.

As a child I grew up watching movies like "La Vita E Bella," "Johnny Stecchio" and "Pinocchio," the real one not the Disney version. Even though my parents absolutely hated this version of Pinocchio, I love it to this day. All these movies have the legendary actor Roberto Benigni in them. He attended Sanremo this year as a guest. It was so nice to see him on something again even though he has aged a lot since his last films.

Watching Festival diSanremo every year gives



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Blanco speaking to Amadeus after his performance..

such a sense of normalcy and happiness with a mixture of feeling like I am home again. I love Italian music and hearing my language sung for millions across the world with a chance to be in Eurovision.

While I am not a huge fan of the winner, I am so glad he sang in Italian since it is slowly becoming less popular for most singers in Eurovision. I am looking forward to his performance at Eurovision in May.

Opinion: You should love yourself this Valentines Day

By Sarah Shelton
Photo Editor

Chocolate and flowers are things I can buy for myself this year as it is my first time being single on Valentine's Day in seven years. Well, my mom already got me chocolates.

Valentine's Day is a little overrated in my opinion. Being single on this day is like being single every other day, except it is rubbed in your face.

But even when you are in a relationship, it is sometimes not all that. Last Valentine's Day, it was so cold I ended up door-dashing boba and quesadillas for my boyfriend at the time and me. To be fair we did go out the weekend before.

The year before that, I was with my other ex. We drove to the mall and once it closed, we sat in his car while I played my Ninten-

do Switch. Some advice, if your long-term boyfriend can't even get you a rock from outside on a special day for you, leave. It is the thought that counts, not the dollar amount.

If you are single, I hope you feel better after reading that. You're welcome for getting personal.

The last real valentines I felt I actually had was an eighth-grade Galentine's party with my best friends, which is why I'm dedicating the day this year to movies, listening to Selena Gomez, chocolate-covered strawberries and hyping up every cute valentine's day post I see.

As Valentine's Day falls on a Tuesday, I will be attending class as most college students will be, but I do hope to see some cute events for the couples on campus. If not, I suggest getting some cookies from Roberta's in North Campus

or going out. I recommend Bella's Cafe or Te Amo Tequila Bar & Tacos in New Haven. Yes, I went to these both with a boyfriend.

Knowing I can celebrate myself more than anyone

can is something I need. This is something I have struggled with my entire life

I learned from the queen, Selena Gomez, herself, to "love yourself first." I have

that tattooed on my arm forever as a reminder.

Singles, go out with your friends, take cute photos or blast some music. You also could cry to romance movies with some hot

chocolate.

Valentine's day should not be the only day in the year to love yourself and your partner, that should be every day. Never forget that.

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Athletic Department hosts Women's Event

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

The University Athletic Department hosted its annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day for young girls to help connect, exercise and build connections with the university's women athletes and coaches.

Field hockey head coach and senior woman administrator Kelley Frassinelli said: "National Girls and Women in Sports Day has been something we have been hosting for a number of years. Enabling the opportunity



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Every young girl grades one through eight received a Southern shirt and cup as a souvenir on Feb. 11, 2023.

for young girls to be involved in sports and experience sports that they might never have an opportunity to be a part of."

This event was open to the public for, girls grades one through eight. When registered inside James Moore Field House, the kids were given lunch, a university emblomed t-shirt and cup.

"Women's sports aren't always recognized, and I love that we are having this event," Mariah McBride, a intern of the athletic department and event organizer said.

"To have a day just dedicated to that is really nice and to have all the sports team, even the club sports here, is great."

The university's women athletes and coaches were at the event supporting young girls at each sports station.

The young girls were split into groups and would rotate to different stations like basketball, field hockey, track and field, dance and gymnastics.

Track and field athlete Isabella Newbury, a junior, said it is important for young girls to know the different sports that are available other than the major sports like basketball, football and baseball, or softball.

"Women have been growing over the past couple of years," Newbury said.

"It's still extremely not relevant all the accomplishments that women have made in sports, so starting at a young age, letting little girls know how big of an impact they can make and how important sports can be their life," Newbury said.

All-round gymnastics athlete Ciana Rios a sophomore, said, "It's important to encourage young females to be a part of something like this."

Rios said it is vital for young girls to try different sports, especially gymnastics. "A lot of people don't know a lot about gymnastics; they just think we just do a bunch of flips and stuff, but it's a lot more than that."

McBride, the dance team captain, said, "Some



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

The universities lacrosse team teaches elementary girls how to play the sport on Feb. 11, 2023.

girls don't have that person to look up to like a role model because I feel like these certain sports don't get recognition like males do."

She said that she hoped these girls would pick a new sport from this event and be inspired to participate as they age.

Frassinelli said, "In conjunction with this year is the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, so this is a very important component to this event."

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.org

Men's basketball wins, boost record to 16-9

By Ben Martin
Contributor

The Owls men's basketball team showed some late half heroics in their 81-59 win over the Adelphi University Panthers.

With one second left on the clock after the Panthers cut the Owls' lead to ten on two free throws, the Owls inbounded the ball to sophomore guard Marty Silvera.

Silvera took one step and shot the ball from just beyond half court and scored just as the clock expired, allowing the Owls to take a 41-28 lead into half-time.

"For a couple of games I've been playing kinda bad," Silvera said. "This game felt good, I'm trying to get my rhythm back before post season, so it just felt good to play good today and get the job done."

Although Silvera had the highlight shot, he is not the only one to score for the Owls.

Guard Ulyen Coleman, senior, and forward Zack Penn, graduate student, each tied Silvera's scoring output and dropped in 16 points each.

"Coach always says play together and move the ball, share the ball," Penn said. "I think we did that well tonight and if we can do that, we



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Guard Sean James, a sophomore looks for an open teammate on Feb. 11, 2023.

can compete with anyone."

Coleman agreed with Penn about playing together and sharing the ball. "Good things happen when we share the ball, so we will continue to do that" Coleman said.

Along with Coleman, Penn and Silvera, the Owls had another player hit double figures in the scoring department; however, he did not crack the starting lineup for the Owls on Saturday.

Backup guard, Logan Bagshaw, junior, proved to be a threat from beyond the arc sinking three of four three pointers and finishing the game with 11 points in 15 minutes of play. "It just shows

that we're real deep," Coleman said.

"You can't just shut down one of us and hope that get's us out of our rhythm."

Along with the versatility on offense, the Owls defense also played well. The Owls ended the game by stealing the ball and blocking the ball more times than the Panthers with the Panthers winning in steals with 10-3 and blocks 3-2.

In addition, the Owls caused 17 total turnovers for the Panthers while only turning the ball over 10 times. "We picked up our defense from the last couple of games," Silvera, who had five steals this game, said.

"We was really

on their three main scorers and it was just a good game."

Along with Silvera, forward Cherif Diarra, sophomore, contributed two blocks and Penn had one.

"I was happy that my teammates were passing the ball to me and I was able to make some shots," Penn said.

The Owls also won the rebounding battle, outrebounding the Panthers 45-32.

"Keep the momentum up, keep the high energy, keep the positivity and we'll be in a good spot," said Penn.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.org

Women's basketball wins against Adelphi

By Ben Martin
Contributor

With the Owls up 48-33 late in the third quarter, a scare occurred for the team. The Owls leading scorer on the day forward, Katie Williamson, Junior, committed her fourth foul of the game. One more would send her to the bench for good.

Directly after the foul, Owls head Coach Kate Lynch went to the bench, calling upon Forward, Ashley Evans, junior.

Williamson, who would eventually fouled out at the 4:19 mark in the fourth quarter, she rode the bench from 43 seconds left in the third quarter till the 4:48 mark in the fourth.

Instead of allowing losing their leading scorer to weigh them down, the Owls showed the power of a balanced scoring attack which lead the way to their 67-54 victory on Saturday.

In the time Williamson sat, guard Zoe Amalbert, senior, would score nine of her 17 points. Along with Williamson and Amalbert, guard Isabella Santoro, graduate student, was the third Owl in double figures, scoring 13 points in the game.

"We don't have just one person that we have to have as our go to," Amalbert said. "We have four, five or six players, we have people off the bench who can come in and give us a spark, so that is helpful against good teams."

Along with seeing the importance of having multiple players in double figures in scoring, Amalbert sees the importance of working together on the court. "I feel good about

it, I just give it to my teammates," Amalbert, the newest member of who is the Owls 1,000 point club, said.

"They find me when I'm open and since we've been playing together since October, I know where they want the ball and where it benefits them to score."

Along with Amalbert, Coach Lynch saw the importance in having multiple players in double figures. She credited most of it as a result of the teams senior leadership and sees it as an improvement for the Owls.

However, Lynch's biggest key to the win was the teams energy level throughout.

"The biggest thing for us was the energy that we had for 40 minutes," Lynch said. "I think that's really the difference when you are playing in conference is having that consistent energy."

Along with Lynch, Santoro saw the high energy as a key to success for the team.

"I think we did a really great job of just having energy and hustle out there," Santoro said. "For the full 40 minutes, we did not let up."

That energy showed for Santoro as she had eight rebounds from the guard spot and contributed many second chance points on her road to 13 points in the contest.

Santoro was not the only Owls hustling as, the Owls ended with 40 of their 67 points coming in the paint.

In addition the Owls out rebounded the Panthers 45-30 with key contributions from forward Renza Milner, sophomore with nine points, Amalbert with six and Williamson with five.

"We just need to keep plugging away," Amalbert said. "When we come out with good energy, we can do anything."

The Owls have three more games on their schedule, all matchups in the Northeast 10 conference. The matchups include 14-11 American International College and 20-4 Assumption University.

Winning these matchups would help the Owls gain a better seed in the Northeast 10 Conference tournament.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.org



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Forward Katie Williamson, a junior looks to inbound the ball.