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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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# RACE AT SOUTHERN

## Students question faculty senate

By Victoria Bresnahan

After two Southern professors allegedly used racial slurs in a classroom setting, Katia Bagwell, sophomore and vice president of the Black Student Union, said students of color want to feel comfortable and safe in their classes.

"We do not want to walk into a classroom and be afraid of where a conversation may or may not go," said Bagwell, at the faculty senate meeting on Wednesday.

This meeting follows accusations against adjunct public health professor Eric Triffin who allegedly sang a racial slur in class. According to reporting from Southern News, journalism professor Jerry Dunklee also faced backlash this week after using the n-word in class.

Eva Joyce Spivey, a senior and political science major, said this is the fourth conversation students have had with faculty. She said at this point, their stories no longer need to be shared because now faculty needs to do something about the situation.

"Now we are asking you, what are you going to do?" said Spivey. "We could tell you our stories. We could

SEE FACULTY SENATE PAGE 2



Students marching from Buley Library to West Campus during protest.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

## Students rally for racial solidarity

By Josh LaBella

In response to two separate incidents where racial slurs were used in the classroom, students, faculty, and staff protested for equality and solidarity at Southern Connecticut State University.

Eric Clinton, senior and president of the Black Student Union (BSU), said during the protest those in attendance would walk to West Campus and back to the Buley Library. He said the overall theme for the event was "If it happened to you, it happened to me too," and invited students to share their experiences.

Tatyana Andre, a student who was in a journalism class where Professor Jerry Dunklee used the n-word in a discussion about the incident from a week before, said while she understands the professor has the first amendment right to use the word in class she thinks it is immoral to do so.

"Once a student is uncomfortable, then you shouldn't say the word," said Andre. "I know that we are in a politically insensitive time right now and I'm really glad we are all here right now marching. I just want to recognize this

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Professor Elizabeth Kalbfleisch speaking to faculty senate.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Eric Clinton addressing the faculty senate.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Katia Bagwell sharing her concerns with the faculty senate.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

# Fire safety demonstration at North Campus

By Victoria Bresnahan

It took four and a half minutes for a faux dormitory to be engulfed in flames during North Campus Residence Hall's mock burn on Tuesday night.

"You probably would not survive if you waited this long inside the room," said Tim Lunn, Hamden deputy fire marshal. "That room would bank down with smoke."

In collaboration with the Hamden Fire Department, North campus staff demonstrated how quickly a fire could spread after firefighters ignited a wooden apparatus representing a dormitory in a North parking lot.

"I know there are a lot of nuisance alarms," said Lunn. "You still need to treat everything as though it was real. Grab your jacket and get out as fast as you can."

Hugh O'Callaghan, Hamden Fire Department captain, said he hopes students learned how quickly a fire could spread through the mock burn.

"People think they have a long time to get out of a house, but they really don't," said O'Callaghan. "So, when the alarm goes off, it's because there's an alarm of fire. So, we want people to take it seriously and we are hoping this shows them how fast it can spread."

O'Callaghan said Southern does a great

job of educating students, but after so many alarms students may have started to assume they are not legitimate.

"They, do not see a big fire, so they assume it's false," said O'Callaghan, "but that is not always the case. So, people tend to get lax that way."

Kaitlyn Cody, director of North Campus, said last spring semester North had many fire alarms going off and most of them were preventable.

"This [past] fall semester, they were not false alarms; they actually were considered real alarms because they are being set off by smoke due to cooking generally," said Cody.

A higher number of alarms tends to produce a slower and more lax response from students to evacuate as quickly as possible, she said.

Cody said campus wide students struggle with fire safety and show a decent job of evacuating the buildings quickly.

"We have found, over time, we haven't done as good as we could have done," said Cody. "I don't think we are at a point where anyone is in danger."

O'Callaghan said students should never cover smoke detectors and always stay aware when cooking. The apparatus built for the mock burn featured both covered and uncovered smoke detectors.

"Students can actually see how fast both



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Hamden firemen battling model dorm fire.

sides will burn," said Cody. "But [also] how fast the smoke detector will go off versus the covered smoke detector which will take a lot longer to go off."

Cody said in North Campus, staff speak to students about evacuations and fire safety by going door to door or during floor meetings at the beginning of each semester. Fire evacuation drills also take

place randomly throughout the semester to time student's response to the drill.

"We absolutely talk about evacuations and how fast you should be evacuating," said Cody. "Using the closest exit, making sure you are going out the first exit, not using elevators; those sorts of things."

FOR MORE PHOTOS SEE PAGE 14

# Longtime Chartwells Employee may get recognition



PHOTO | MELISSA NUNEZ

Roberta Read, manager of the North Campus Market.

By Josh LaBella

Next semester there may be a change on campus that changes very little.

Joey Gentile, the co-chair of the food service advisory committee for the Student Government Association [SGA], said next fall the North Campus Market may get its name changed to “Roberta’s” after Roberta Read – the 28-year Chartwells employee who runs the store. He said the idea originated with the faculty on the committee.

“It’s a long process to name any building or any space after someone,” said Gentile. “So they are looking into that

process. But, regardless, I think it’s really exciting.”

According to Gentile, Read has been a loyal employee for Chartwells and everyone refers to the market as “Roberta’s” anyway. He said the change will give Read recognition for what she does.

“She already puts so much into that store,” said Gentile, “and doesn’t receive any extra funding for that. She’ll have contests and all those things – and those are coming out of her own pocket. Some other exciting news is that they are looking to sell Roberta’s cookies across campus.”

Read said she heard about the idea and it makes her feel

happy. She said students have always called it Roberta’s.

“I feel really appreciated,” said Read. “I love the kids. The kids are all good.”

In reference to the contests and raffles she runs, Read said started doing that when she ran the store in Connecticut Hall and has always enjoyed it. She said both her and the students enjoy it. She said she hopes the name change happens.

“I was told by somebody that was higher [at Chartwells] that it was,” said Read. “One of the kids that came in, I guess she works for the government [SGA] and she mentioned it to me.”

Liz Novoa, a senior international business major, said she thinks that the change would be great, and she goes to the market all the time. She said she participates in the raffles when Read has them and thinks they are cute though she never wins.

“I think she’s so nice and kind,” said Novoa. “I mean, she’s kind of like a second mom here.”

Dan Klein, a junior management major, said he uses the market pretty much every day. He said people call it Roberta’s all the time and he thinks it should be officially changed.

“That’s what I thought it was called at first just because

people here call it that,” said Klein. “She’s been here 28 year so I think laudable to call it her own place.”

Jake Lahiff, a senior exercise science major, said he thinks the change would be awesome. He said while the North Campus Market is run through Chartwells, Roberta has made it her own.

“She has added so much character and life to it,” said Lahiff. “I mean, it is referred to by everyone here a North and, [by] a lot of people outside of North, as Roberta’s. The woman works so hard. She’s always so friendly and giving that it’s only natural that it would be called Roberta’s.”

## Faculty senate



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICIO

President Bertolino addressing the faculty senate meeting.

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tell you our stories. We could tell you what did or did not happen. The alleged use – which it is not alleged, it was used.”

During the meeting, Southern President Joe Bertolino said he hopes Southern does not make the same mistake other institutions have made when addressing these issues.

“We have watched these conversations happen around the country,” said Bertolino. “At other institutions, people don’t stop to talk, learn from their mistakes and then make decisions on how to evolve.”

Students passed out the SCSU Fact Book during the meeting, which stated faculty race and ethnicity information. According to the Fact Book, in 2016, 19 percent of Southern’s faculty were minorities.

Bagwell said students want to know the hiring process of professors and why there are not more people of color being hired as faculty members.

“Is it because they are simply unqualified?” said Bagwell. “Is it a race issue? Is it a fact that they are just not applying for these positions? We have a right to know that. We are paying for the classes we take on this campus.”

Bertolino said he hears students when they say there needs to be more minority faculty. He said he met with the minority recruitment and retention committee – which, according to its webpage, works to hire and retain minority staff – on Friday to discuss this issue.

“I will commit,” said Bertolino, “to working closely with you to make every effort to make sure we are doing faculty searches, meeting searches, when we are doing leadership searches, in terms of senior leadership – we can do that.”

Eric Clinton, senior and president of

Southern’s Black Student Union, said the dialogue of the meeting was not about the use of the n-word in class. The focus should be on why a professional used a racial slur in a classroom setting, he said.

“A lot of the professionals in here believe that this is about a word,” said Clinton, “a single word.”

As professors, Clinton said when a student expresses discomfort they should know to stop and reevaluate the situation.

“Both times, the incidents escalated,” said Clinton. “It should have never gotten to that. That is the problem.”

Additionally, Bagwell said since the two incidents occurred in a wellness class and then a journalism class, the n-word should not be used in these types of courses.

“Don’t try to diminish a student telling you that [they] feel uncomfortable in a classroom,” said Bagwell. “Just because of your academic freedom and your pride as a professor. That’s unacceptable.”

Tatyana Andre, a sophomore sociology major, was in class on Monday when professor Jerry Dunklee allegedly used the n-word when discussing last week’s incidence of another professor allegedly using the racial slur.

Andre said she asked Dunklee to not use the word because it is disrespectful and makes some black students feel uncomfortable.

“I am saying, ‘Yes I do respect the fact that if it is an educational setting, then yes, you may say the n-word,’” said Andre. “But first you could say, ‘Hey, warning: I am going to use a racial slur.’ and then proceed to say the wording.”

Andre said if a student becomes uncomfortable by the use of the word, a professor should apologize.

“It is traumatic,” said Andre, “the word itself is traumatic to a black person.”

## Rally



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Steven White, student from Eric Triffin’s class, speaking to demonstrators in front of Buley.

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is more than just us. This is about what’s going on in the world, what’s going to happen to our children, our grandchildren, what happened to our parents, our grandparents.”

History professor Carter-David, co-advisor to the BSU, said the black faculty has had discussions on the issues in the past week and are paying attention. She said they know the particular needs that black students have in this country and the problems they face.

“We do not think it is right that you would pay for the privilege of being insulted in class,” said Carter-David. “You come here to learn and to be respected. And we have your backs 100 percent.”

The protesters then started their march, chanting, “No justice. No peace.” When they returned, a number of students and faculty stepped forward to speak. Daphney Alston, assistant director of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, said it is white peoples turn to take action.

“You need to do something now,” said Alston. “You need to come into our spaces. You need to join our conversations. You don’t need to be a spectator anymore. Your voices are powerful. Help us. Help our faculty. Help our staff. Help our students.”

Alston said it is okay to fail or to say the wrong thing but it is wrong to not do anything or to be afraid. She Southern students of color have been afraid long enough and white people on campus need to join and support them because it is their turn.

Robert Heron, a senior marketing major, thanked everyone for coming to the protest and supporting their struggle

against oppression. He said he supports and loves his “brothers and sisters” and wants them to know they are not alone. He asked everyone not to be hesitant or scared.

“Although your suggestions may fail or they may succeed,” said Heron, “that’s not the point. The point is to inspire each other and the youth to continue the movement and the change.”

Heron said the people there may inspire the change and they should not forget that. He said they should not hesitate to help, make suggestions or share thoughts because they may miss the opportunity.

Julie Gagliardi, president of the Student Government Association, said on behalf of SGA, they hear the students of color on campus and are working to figure out what they can do. She said she encourages the staff and faculty on campus to take part because the students need their help and want their support.

“With that being, [we need to make sure] that white people on this campus are doing their part,” said Gagliardi. “That we are helping are students feel comfortable, because what’s the point of a university having students if they are not comfortable and are not learning.”

Another student who spoke was Justin Farmer, a political science major and Hamden city councilman. He said it is very obvious that people of color are not in many positions of power.

“We know that,” said Farmer. “We know that from last year with this past election. We realize that we are going to have to have those conversations. But we also need to be very intentional with that work.”

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON [THESouthernNews.org](http://THESouthernNews.org)

# Coalition testifies for undocumented student aid

By August Pelliccio

Fifteen percent of all tuition revenue must be set aside, per Connecticut General Statutes, for institutional aid. Undocumented students are not allowed aid even though they pay to contribute to them.

Recently graduated Southern Alumni Mirka Dominguez-Salinas said the Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) Afford to Dream Campaign is fighting for a work-around that will give fair access to aid for all students. The bill being proposed to the state is titled HB 5031, Equalizing Access to Student Generated Financial Aid.

In a statement from President Joe Bertolino, he confirmed that undocumented students are not able to benefit from aid for which they contribute through their tuition.

"We at Southern believe that this is fundamentally unfair," wrote Bertolino, "and that this practice goes against our institution's core values of equal access and social justice."

Dominguez-Salinas said for the fourth year in a row, C4D students joined for a public hearing on Capitol Avenue in Hartford, Feb. 13.

"Last year we had almost 200 written testimonies," said Dominguez-Salinas. "It grows exponentially bigger each year."

Dominguez-Salinas said the written testimonies are a great way for people who can not show up in Hartford to support the cause.

Esteban Garcia, associate bursar and a part of Southern's undocumented student support team, said he was present Feb. 13, and testified in the flesh.

These testimonies, according to Dominguez-Salinas, allow students and faculty, public officials and general members of the public to tell their stories specifically.

"They get personal," said Dominguez-Salinas, "and

really think about why this is important to them."

Garcia said that there were at least 30 people who spoke in support at the hearing during the roughly seven hours he was there. He said the mix of student voices was about half undocumented, and half citizen students.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," said Garcia. "People seemed generally supportive of moving the bill forward."

He said the greater awareness of the issue and increased national discussion about immigrants and dreamers lead him to believe that this hearing was different than the last three.

In a Feb. 13 tweet, C4D quoted President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Mark Ojakian, "This is the third year I'm testifying in support and it needs to be the last year."

Garcia said that this hearing was the first step in passing the bill; next the higher education committee will bring the legislation to the Connecticut General Assembly. After that point, he said it could become a vote in the Senate, then the House of Representatives.

"In previous years, the bill passed in the Senate," said Garcia, "but it never came up for vote in the house."

The bill's passage would have no fiscal impact on the CSCU system, according to Dominguez-Salinas. She said devising a way for undocumented students to apply for aid would simply change the allocation of funds coming from all tuition-paying students.

Bertolino's testimony included that the passage of HB 5031 would increase the chance for students to complete degrees, especially at a time where more students than ever are struggling financially.

As for the undocumented student community, Dominguez-Salinas said, "it would be more than a win for us."

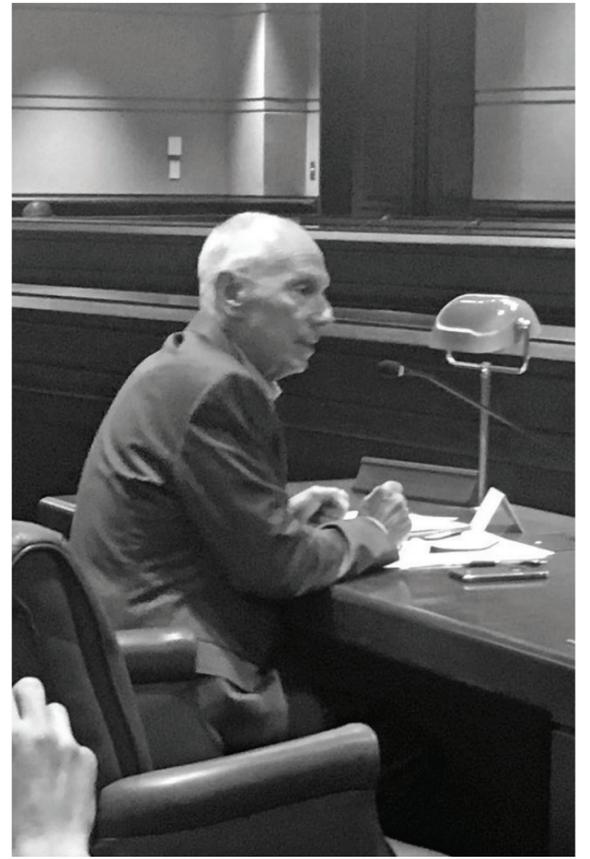


PHOTO | CAMILA BORTOLLETO

CSCU President Mark Ojakian testifying in Hartford.

# Journalism professor uses racial slur in class

By August Pelliccio and Lynandro Simmons

Nearly a week after Eric Triffin, a public health professor at Southern, used the n-word in his classroom, journalism professor Jerry Dunklee faced backlash after his use of the word in class.

With a whole section of his course and its book dedicated to hate speech, Triffin's incident was an opportunity for discussion, said Dunklee.

"Did a student bring the song in, and was it playing with the word n----- in it?" Dunklee asked the class. "Or, was the professor using that word on his own?"

At the beginning of each term, Dunklee said he warns students that he uses actual words of hate speech in the classroom. Despite this, a minute or two after asking, one of his students told him he had no right to say the word and prompted an apology. Moments later another student joined in asking him to apologize.

Dunklee said he did not apologize, but hardly had time to if he wanted.

"They left pretty quickly," said Dunklee, "I asked them to stay."

Tyler Claxton, a senior communications major, said the classroom was having a healthy discussion on the topic.

"I thought it was a positive conversation," said Claxton. "I think it needed to be talked about."

The controversial subject needs to be discussed more, said Claxton. However, after the two students left it derailed the conversation momentarily.

"It was so abrupt I didn't even hear it," said Claxton. "Professor Dunklee kept it professional, kept it mature and handled the situation great."

Still, Dunklee said, it was the furthest from his intentions to offend or hurt any of his students by saying the word.

"I think that precision is better, in our world, than euphemism," said Dunklee. "In

the context of actual words, in the subject of law, the real words are always better."

Dunklee, who was teaching a class on free speech, said this is why it has been his practice for years not to shy away from these discussions when educating.

"I don't use these terms ever outside of the classroom," said Dunklee.

After the incident, Dunklee met with President Joe Bertolino to discuss moving forward. He regarded it as a productive meeting and a valuable experience.

"Let me be very clear," said Bertolino. "I abhor any of this type of language."

However, Bertolino said context matters and these situations can be very complex. "What's not complex is being sensitive to the needs of our students and caring about our students," he said.

If a student expresses his or her discomfort it's important professors do their due diligence to remedy the situation, said Bertolino. Students should also be made aware beforehand if controversial language will be used in the course.

After the two incidents, a senate faculty meeting occurred between students, administration and professors. The meeting also led into a demonstration to show solidarity between students and faculty.

"We will march and stand with our students," said Bertolino.

It is important these difficult conversations happen. How the campus, from students to faculty and staff, responds to these moments matters and is important, he said.

"I think this is a watershed moment for the university," said Bertolino. "I think this is an opportunity for the university to have difficult conversations about oppression and about words. I think it is an opportunity to talk about our culture and what it means to be a person of color in this community."

# ASA celebrates beauty in black at My Black is Beautiful

By Jeff Lamson

The African Students Association celebrated the beauty of blackness at their event called My Black is Beautiful to boost the confidence and self-image of those who attended.

The event on Monday night had stations for hair, nails, makeup, haircuts and shoe cleanings as well as more success than ASA President Adaobi Okoro had expected. Between 30 and 40 people came to My Black is Beautiful to participate. The event had been to celebrate the beauty in people of a range of skin tones.

"I feel like putting an emphasis on black being beautiful really was a good thing for, especially this month, to show just how important African American beauty can be," said Okoro.

My Black is Beautiful was the ASA's main event for Black History Month. Okoro said the whole month is about bring up the culture and showing the beauty in it. That is when they had the thought: "Oh, why not have an event focused on the beauty of black, what we are as a culture, you know?" said Okoro.

The junior nursing major said when you are young, you are programmed to think that dark skin may not be as desirable or

attractive.

"Despite your African American features," Okoro said, "you can still be considered beautiful."

If she had known how successful the event would be, Okoro said she would have booked a different room than Adanti Student Center's room 201. This turned out not to be a problem for the event; but in some ways, it helped.

"It was very intimate," Okoro said, "cause everyone was able to talk to everyone, so I feel like that was the benefit of having a small space."

The event had started 40 minutes later than scheduled at 8:10 p.m. and kept going until past 11 p.m. when ASA were finally able to start cleaning up the room, said Okoro. My Black is Beautiful was scheduled to take place from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

During the wait for the event to start, there was a line of 8 people waiting outside and according to Okoro, new people were still coming all the way until the end.

The event was also open to men and women of all different backgrounds. This inclusiveness and diversity is important, said Okoro.

"None of our events are just only black, or only just Africans are allowed to go," Okoro said.



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Students getting their hair and makeup done at My Black is Beautiful.

"It's one thing for your own culture to consider each other beautiful, but you wanna show-case that beauty to everyone else."

Okoro said that in light of recent discussions of "whether certain words are disrespectful, or how other cultures might be a little bit insensitive to other cultures" that it was important for different groups and organizations to come together.

This follows the use of a racial slur by adjunct public health professor, Eric Triffin, in a classroom on Feb. 6. Discussions and protests have followed. Okoro says that she and her organization have participated in these discussions and events, but were not taking a leadership role.

According to Okoro, ASA, the Black Student Union and other organizations on campus will have to band together. My Black

is Beautiful provided an opportunity to bring people together and she said that inclusiveness helps with these efforts.

"Diversity is very important in making sure everyone feels comfortable enough to come to your events or be a part of whatever movement you're doing," Okoro said. "I feel like that's very important."

## Humans of SCSU: Jamie Kelley

By Victoria Bresnahan

Jamie Kelley, president of the class of 2019 and double major in political science and history, said she chose to attend SCSU because of the school's accepting atmosphere.

"You can totally be yourself," said Kelley. "Everybody accepts you for who you are. If they don't, then there's a ton of people that will always help you back up."

Kelley is currently the president of College Democrats and Pre-Law Society. She is also serving her first year as a residential assistant at North Campus Residence Hall.

"[As president of class of 2019] we fundraise and do events for the class," said Kelley. "Last year we did a hot chocolate event and the Valentine's Day grams — which are notorious. Now we are planning our senior trip."

Kelley said she chose to be a political science major due to her interest in pre-law. Although SCSU does not offer an official pre-law track, she takes suggested pre-law courses and hopes to attend law school after graduation.

"Through pre-law society, since there is no political science club, I got introduced to history and I took a couple of classes for LEP and had a lot of fun," said Kelley.

Upon graduation, Kelley hopes to attend law school in New York and practice either criminal or immigration law. When it concerns immigration policies, Kelley said it is crucial they are examined, and perspectives are changed.

"I really like to work in communities like New Haven where there are a lot of kids barely represented," said Kelley, "and need legal assistance so they can have a fair shot."

Kelley said she is looking at law schools specifically with immigration clinics where she can help as a second year law student on cases.

As the president of College Democrats, Kelley said she agrees with the party's focus on standards such as social justice issues.

"A lot of the things on their agenda and things they are working towards are important," said Kelley. "Like student



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Jamie Kelley in the Buley Library cafe.

debt, financial aid and affordability, paid family leave [and] criminal justice reform. Those things are really important and there needs to be work done."

Southern's College Democrats are constantly reminding politicians of their presence and ability to volunteer at local campaigns, Kelley said.

"Wherever there is an opportunity we will go," said Kelley. "We definitely focused a lot on local elections recently just because in the surrounding areas they were so important."

In correlation with Connecticut

College Democrats, Kelley said four members of SCSU's College Democrats recently went to a conference for the College Democrats of Connecticut, and one was elected to the organization's e-board. Going forward, Kelley said Southern will have a greater representation and stronger voice now that they have a member on the e-board.

"We coordinate with other universities to see what events they are doing," said Kelley. "We go and support them, they come to support us. We share contacts and information. It's a really

great way to bond with the rest of the state on a college level."

Kelley said Southern's community is her favorite part about the campus since so many have shown kindness to her. The opportunities Southern has presented her have helped her grow as a person as well, she said.

"I think the opportunities here are wonderful," said Kelley. "I used to be shy in high school. Southern has really helped me come out of my shell with all the positions I have had."

## Commuters discuss issues with parking on campus

By Dave Fowlin

At Southern, some commuters complain that the reason they are occasionally tardy to their classes is due to the parking not being close enough to the academic quad.

Melahn Graham, a junior business administration major, spoke about his biggest regret since he was enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University.

"My biggest regret was transitioning from a resident

here on campus to now commuting," said Graham. "As a commuter I now have to leave my house an hour before class begins rather than a five-minute walk from my dorm."

While parking in Wintergreen Garage on Wednesday, a student was having a very difficult time locating a park by circling level 2 twice before finding a spot. Shivam, a junior accounting major, had many complaints about the parking.

"The parking at Southern

is terrible," said Patel. "It prevents me from being prompt at times."

Kieron Turnbull, a junior marketing major, gave an analysis on how he would rather commute to school by car than by bus, train or taxi.

Turnbull said, "I can't not rely and depend on a bus, train or taxi if I want to arrive to class on time."

Robert Sheeley, the associate vice president for Capital Budgeting and Facilities Operations at Southern, said there is no parking

problem.

According to Sheeley, out of approximately 10,000 students, there are about 7,500 commuters,

Sheeley said, "students are too comfortable parking in certain spots."

"I'm going to give you my personal opinion now: there is no problem parking on this campus," Sheeley said.

He acknowledges that students should change the culture when it comes to parking on campus.

He used this comparison to show Southern students that at other institutions, the walking distance from the various parking garages to the academic quad is much farther than it is at Southern.

Sheeley used the example of UConn.

"You park about 15 minutes from where you go to classes," said Sheeley. Students are used to having class in close proximity to each other, but as they adjust to college life they realize that is not the case.

Lot eight no longer exists as a parking lot for commuters, because Strong School has relocated to Southern's campus.

Sheeley gave his reaction after partnering with the New Haven Board of Education to resolve this issue.

"This new project is not going to affect parking because the parking is not being used by students," said Sheeley.

The designated lots applied to commuters are lots three, eight and nine as well as the Wintergreen Avenue and West Campus parking garages and level two, three, and four of the Fitch Street parking garage. Commuters may not park in faculty and staff areas.

The breakdown of the total 5,891 spaces here on campus includes: 130 handicap, 841 faculty/staff, 1,415 resident hall, 3,297 students which includes the Wintergreen Garage, 51 administrative, 106 reserved, 21 facilities, and 30 visitors.

Sheeley described Wintergreen Garage as "five football fields on top of each other." He used that metaphor to show how enormous that garage is by holding a maximum of 1,200 cars. Meanwhile, graduate students could park in lot #1, behind the Fitch street garage between 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. and in Lots 5, 12, and 12B between 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

"I've seen campuses with a lot worse commutes than Southern's," said Patel, "but this school still needs to make strides to make things easier on students."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.EDU

Wintergreen parking garage.

# The not-so-secret life of dorm pets

By Victoria Bresnahan

In Jenn Pohl's Brownell Hall dormitory, there is a large 10- to 20-gallon tank filled with nine fish. Pohl, a sophomore special education major, said these fish give her a sense of companionship and she enjoys having something to care for.

"We as a collective take care of them," said Pohl, "but a lot of the responsibilities fall on me since I am the one who takes them home over break."

One of Pohl's roommates, Halley Shambra, a sophomore special education major, said their tank consists of mollies, rainbow tetras and a white tetra. They started acquiring the fish at the beginning of the fall semester and only one has died, Shambra said.

"We had a bunch of betta fish," said Shambra, "but I think they all died [too]."

Shambra said while it was the collective decision of the roommates to take care of the fish, it was primarily Pohl's idea. The tank's white noise helps Shambra focus on her homework as well, she said.

"We take turns feeding it,"



PHOTO | JENN POHL

Shambra and Pohl's fish tank.

said Shambra, "but cleaning it is Jenn's responsibility."

Originally, Pohl said she asked the Brownell hall director and made sure she could keep the fish in her dorm.

"I thought I needed to sign papers and do all that type of stuff," said Pohl. "I was told you have to have roommates sign,

or like a roommate agreement."

Pohl said at other state schools, such as Western Connecticut State University, students can keep in their dorm any pet that can fit in a tank.

"I would love it if Southern had a more flexible pet policy," said Pohl. "Hamsters and stuff are really easy to take care of." However, Pohl said animals

such as dogs or cats would be difficult to keep in a dormitory since they need to be let out and can be loud at times.

According to Southern's "Residence Life Student Guide to On-Campus Living," no other pets besides fish are allowed in dorms such as Brownell.

However, residence life does

allow students in dormitories such as North campus apartments to have aquatic pets — such as fish, frogs, or turtles — in 10-gallon tanks.

Additionally, the document stated students can have service animals stay in their dorms if they provide proper notice through the Disability Resource Center.

"I know that you can have a dog or a cat or something like that on campus, if you have it registered as an emotional companion animal," said Pohl. "I was trying to do that at one point, but I just have not been able to get through the whole process because it takes a little while—especially through the school."

Roommates Emily Lisitano, a sophomore social work major, and Debbi Carr, a sophomore nursing major, said they have two betta fish named "N' Chips" and "Filet." Lisitano said she got the fish through a residence hall event at West Campus about two weeks ago.

"[It is] 100 percent [stress relieving to have an animal]," said Lisitano. "I wish we could have dogs. I want to get a therapy dog. But yeah, I like it."

## Students comment on campus police conduct

By Victoria Bresnahan

Recently, Southern student Maggie Yorski called the campus police because an alleged homeless person was possibly panhandling outside her dormitory.

"[The police officers] never even sent out an email; they did not send out anything," said Yorski, a junior tourism, hospitality and event management major. "When I called them they just said, 'Oh, we will look into it.'"

Yorski said she is unsure whether officers showed up or investigated the situation because she was leaving her dormitory. Additionally, Yorski said she feels campus police have a slow response time.

"It is a small campus," said Yorski. "I feel like it would not be too hard people posted around."

According to SCSU's 2016 Clery

Report, a collaboration of data presenting crime statistics from the past year, Southern campus police respond as quickly as possible to any call, whether it is an emergency or not. It states crimes in progress, alarms, injuries via traffic accidents and a need for medical help have a higher priority in response time.

Sometimes, Yorski said she walks back to North by herself late at night and is concerned about her surroundings.

"Even one [blue light] half way between the cemetery and North," said Yorski. "Sometimes I am walking through there, and I hear noises. I'm like, 'let's speed walk now.'"

The 2016 Clery Report stated blue lights are posted in strategic areas around campus to immediately connect people with university police. Officers will be able to pinpoint the exact location of the student based on the call.

Olivia Micca, a junior public health major, said when responding to emergency calls, some police officers do not answer questions well enough.

"They are not respectful," said Micca, "absolutely not."

Micca said both male and female officers should attend sensitivity training, so they can better respond to situations.

"When they respond to a really bad situation sometimes they assume because of the situation it's this person fault," said Micca. "So, they need to go through some sort of training to respond better to these types of [incidents]."

Tori Santamauro, a junior social work major, said cops should be posted in more locations around campus. She said when students need them, she feels they are not always there to help.

"We need more of those [blue lights] on the walkway to North," said

Santamauro.

Santamauro said in addition to sensitivity training, she would like the officers to be at a situation on time.

Dominique Curmele, a junior education major, said as a North Campus resident, police did well in responding to the car break-ins, which occurred during the 2017 fall semester.

"After that happened, the police responded immediately and put cameras up in the parking lots," said Curmele. "So, I thought that was very good."

After her car broke down in the middle of the road last semester, Curmele said campus police responded and were kind to her.

"I think they are very straightforward with it," said Curmele, "and they help whenever it's needed. Or, they try to get you the help that they can do."

## The Zen Den: a place to unwind and unplug

By Michelle Tewksbury

Aromatherapy, massage pads, meditation cushions, yoga mats, salt lamp, coloring books and a place to unwind and unplug from technology. The Zen Den offers Southern students a chance to relax and escape from the outside world.

Students are bombarded, says Assistant Counselor at SCSU Denise Zack. Through the combined efforts of SCSU Counseling Services and the Wellness Center, Southern has its very own Zen Den.

"[It is] a space for students to be able to come on campus, throughout the day, whenever they feel like they need to decompress," Zack said. "Whenever they need a space just to be quiet and be with themselves, and be in a calm space, without any interruptions or loud noises."

According to a 2010 Pew Research Center study, 96 percent of undergraduate college students have a cell phone. The Zen Den offers a place for college students to leave their phones at the door and be with their thoughts.

Students are constantly bombarded by text messages, emails and communications from every different angle.

Zack said, "Technology never shuts off. We forget about how we need to pay attention to what is happening inside of our bodies."

The Zen Den, located in Schwartz Hall in the Wellness Center, has a set of rules that it asks students to respect: no talking, no shoes and no



PHOTO | MICHELLE TEWKSBURY

The Zen Den, located in Schwartz Hall.

technology. Following these rules allow students to "unplug from the world and turn into your body in the present moment," according to Zack.

Bianca Flowers, a Southern graduate student of public health who works in the Wellness Center, says that she has used the Zen Den during her work week.

"If I just need a break from administrative tasks," Flowers said.

She said she finds that the Zen Den makes her comfortable. She said it is

an informal setting compared to the office.

Flowers said that she sometimes takes students into the Den. Students do not have to live in Schwartz Hall to use the facility.

"It is there for students," Flowers said. "Residential students have their own rooms, but if commuter students find that they need a second to be with their thoughts, it is here for them."

Studies have proven that medita-

tion is a healthy reliever of stress. A Harvard study found that "meditation reduces stress, fosters clear thinking and increases our capacity for empathy."

Zack, who teaches a workshop on mindfulness, explains: "There is a ton of research out there about how mindfulness and meditation greatly impacts someone's well being. There are parts of the brain that get activated when we are stress. There are parts of the brain responsible for calming us down and helping us think logically. Mindfulness and meditation actually activate the part of the brain — that is, our executive functioning prefrontal cortex — that allow us to make more rational, skillful and effective decisions."

Jazmynn Jakubczyk, a graduate student of public health who works in the Wellness Center, has never meditated herself but said that she uses the area to take a break. She finds that many students use the Zen Den, and would recommend to other students that they use it too.

These students that use the Zen Den are not alone; according to a 2014 poll by the Pew Research Center, 39 percent of adults say that they meditate at least once a week.

Jakubczyk had some advice for any meditation beginner, she said: "Take a deep breath, close your eyes, picture yourself in your favorite place. As the thoughts start to pop into your head, acknowledge they are there, but keep picturing yourself in that place that you chose."

# Review: Marvel's 'Black Panther' exceeds expectations



Fan art wallpaper of Marvel Comics superhero, the Black Panther.

By Jeff Lamson

"Black Panther" accomplishes excellence through comprehensive and unique world building, characterization, writing and impressively beautiful art design and execution.

All of these elements blend together to create a film that sticks with you.

The nation of Wakanda is not only visually beautiful,

but well established. There is a blend of the ancient and modern that make these two elements feel unexpectedly at home with one another. The modern skyscrapers and technology sit beside agriculture and grass market streets. Not one element feels out of place.

Within the nation, there are five tribes all represented by an animal. These tribes are clearly well thought out and the visual storytelling through costume design and mannerisms make them feel real and characterized. They have their own customs and traditions within Wakanda,

and director, Ryan Coogler respectfully does not make it too obvious for the viewer.

The characters are by far the film's greatest assets. You understand what every character is about thanks to the fantastic writing, and they are all charismatic as can be.

Chadwick Boseman's portrayal of T'Challa could almost be considered wooden, but through the nuance you can tell that it is just another layer to the acting. It is the sternness of being raised to be a regent with responsibility. Performances from Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger, Lupita Nyong'o as Nakia and Dani Gurira as Okoye are also fantastic.

Killmonger's motivations were easily understood and it is a disservice to call him a villain rather than an antagonist. Nakia, Okoye and Letitia Wright's Shuri are all fantastic representations of strong characters with strong convictions and interesting motivations. Danai Gurira's Okoye in particular was a high point in a series of high points for the film.

The uniqueness of each individual character and how strongly developed they were as characters was not only impressive, but captivating. Each of T'Challa's allies are just as interesting as he is and the cast did a fantastic job of bringing them to life.

The story of "Black Panther" follows T'Challa back to Wakanda after the death of his father in "Captain America: Civil War." While "Black Panther" sits deep in Phase Three of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the film stands alone as a fantastic example of what a superhero movie can be.

It is not necessary to watch the previous Marvel films to enjoy or understand "Black Panther." It is independent of them and better than most, if not all of them. It is a film that will be hard to follow for Marvel and Hollywood.

The crew really pulled it off with "Black Panther." It is as important as any other superhero movie and is so much more than that moniker.

My one, yes just one, complaint with the film is a painful, cringeworthy meme reference from T'Challa's sister, Shuri. Other than that, you would be doing yourself a favor to see it.

I would take another "Black Panther" film over the next two years of other Marvel movies. The world of this movie is fantastic and it is a pleasure to spend time with these characters in this world.

## Meet and greet with Liverpool John Moores students



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Charles Baraw, an English professor, speaking with students from Liverpool John Moores University.

By Jeff Lamson

To prepare students for the upcoming SCSU Research & Creativity Conference in April, study abroad options and internships, Southern's English department teamed up with the Office of International Education for the first Experiential Learning Workshop.

This workshop was the first in a series of three to four this semester to get students thinking about opportunities for experiential learning. Charles Baraw teamed up members of his own department and Ina Marshall and Jazmin Sharif of the OIE to get students to start considering these upcoming opportunities.

"So, it's really about doing learning that builds on the classroom and extends beyond the classroom," Baraw said.

This event in part was to encourage students to present at 4th Annual Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference on April 14. The abstract for such a

presentation is due March 2 and should be between 200 and 250 words, Baraw said.

"The basic idea," he said, "is helping students recognize that they're doing things that are interesting and worth sharing with other people all the time."

The presentation can cover anything that the student has done and can be presented in a variety of ways. One student at the workshop discussed how she had done a PowerPoint presentation on how Frankenstein has changed in pop culture over time.

Another student presented a paper on the controversy of teaching "Huckleberry Finn" and the use of the n-word in the classroom, Baraw said.

"And, we wanna create a culture in which as many people as possible imagine themselves doing that," Baraw said.

Internships were touched on briefly at the workshop, but the other main focus was options for studying abroad. Marshall of the OIE went over the options and steps towards studying abroad. She provided the



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Students learning about study abroad opportunities.

deadlines of March 15 and Oct. 15 for the spring and fall semesters, respectively.

The English common room then discussed the options and accessibility of study abroad options. Students mentioned interest in France, Italy and Europe in general. Southern staff asked their own questions about language barriers and cost. Marshall encouraged a willingness to learn the native language.

Most agreed that studying abroad was much more affordable than traveling after school and encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunity. The fears of traveling and leaving things behind like a job were also discussed.

"Whatever your reason you have in your head that says, 'I'm not going to study abroad,' rethink it," said one faculty member.

Students shared their own experience abroad, specifically about Liverpool John Moore University and the city of Liverpool.

One student said that she had class only

three days a week and used the rest to enjoy the city and travel. The classes, she said were laid back and she was able to pace her work well.

Of the city of Liverpool, she said that there was a good shopping district, restaurants, museums, architecture and culture in general. She had used Liverpool Lime Street Station as a hub, a way to travel to Scotland three times over the course of her semester abroad. While the train ride was about four hours, she said that it was easy and cost effective.

Three students from Liverpool John Moores University were also in attendance to participate in a meet and greet portion of the workshop.

Baraw says that this is all in an effort to start building a culture of participation and showing that their work was worth-while.

"I see all this promising, interesting activity that people are doing, but we don't have the time to stop and say, 'This is important,'" Baraw said, "let's do something more important with it."

# Students explore the power of spoken word



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Kevin Redline (left) and Kessiah-Ali Powell-Keyton (right) engaged in a poetry reading in Chase Hall.

**By August Pelliccio**

Students sat and listened to poetry written for the values of social justice and equality before sharing their personal ties to the art with Kevin Redline, a Chase Hall resident advisor.

Redline lead a few students in conversation after the first of many short poems were shared on the Chase Hall common room's television on Feb. 15. During that time, it was revealed that although several students who attended over the course of the night had an interest in poetry, one student actually had an interesting family connection.

"I'm related to John Greenleaf Whittier," said freshman Jake Trautner.

The famous 19th century poet can be traced several generations up his family tree, according to Trautner.

Psychology major Kessiah-Ali Powell-Keyton said she enjoys writing poetry as a hobby. Among other forms of art she said she dabbles in, Powell-Keyton would like to incorporate poetry into her future profession.

"I want to be a childhood psychologist," said Powell-

Keyton.

She said poetry is a great way to express emotion and she will encourage the art form with future patients. For now, Powell-Keyton said she will continue to write in her free time.

She and the other students shared the night of poetry with pizza, soda and Redline, their host.

Redline coordinated the event as part of his program as resident advisor; he explained that each RA is encouraged to hold at least three events during a semester. One of Redline's events must be centered on health professionals, per his living and learning community specification, but this was one of the educational events.

Redline is part of the Bookmarks English Club and said there is currently no organization focused on poetry on campus. For that reason, he wanted to create an environment where students can share some of their favorite work available online.

"A lot of people now get their poetry from Facebook," said Redline, "or Youtube."

All of the works shared on Feb. 15 were videos of the readings themselves, or videos created to visualize each

poem. Two poems were from, the Youtube channel Prince Ea and many were from Button Poetry.

One Button Poetry video, "To the Boys Who May One Day Date My Daughter," read by Jesse Parent, elicited quite a reaction. Students laughed and smiled at this reading, and it even provoked a small applause at its close.

Another poem shared, "When Love Arrives," was spoken by a team: Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye.

"A lot of spoken word can be broken up between two people," said Redline. "It's a lot more powerful with the different perspectives."

Redline said this is common practice for spoken word poetry and that Kay and Kaye are not related outside of their spoken word partnership.

Students came and went during the event. Redline invited each new face he saw into the community area to share with other students their favorite poems. The room was not full, which, according to Redline, was because of the event's postponement from the week prior. Still, students in the room smiled and laughed, engaged and shared their love of poetry.

## Are you interested in working got a student media organization?

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- Operations Manager

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For further Information regarding job descriptions, interview dates ect. contact the designated media organization. All general questions can be directed to [SCSU.Southern.news@gmail.com](mailto:SCSU.Southern.news@gmail.com)

## Students get serenaded on Valentine's Day



PHOTOS | JEFF LAMSON

NOTEorious serenading students in West Campus and the Adanti Student Center.

By Jeff Lamson

To celebrate Valentine's Day, Southern's a cappella club, NOTEorious, serenaded students and staff on campus with a selection of love and friendship songs last Tuesday Feb. 13 and Wednesday Feb. 14.

NOTEorious was hired by approximately 16 timeslots to sing to friends or significant others. The club sang in various locations all the way from Pelz Gym to West Campus Residence Complex and everywhere in between. Two of these songs were bought by Aaron Tejada and his significant other, Halley Shambra.

"I loved it," said Tejada. "It was definitely new – something [I] had never experienced and really cute for Valentine's Day."

Shambra, a sophomore special education major and one of two public relations officers for NOTEorious, surprised Tejada while he was doing homework in the

SCSU TV office. Shambra had her own surprise when the first song of Tuesday was for her. She said that she and the club had started singing to no one in the Adanti Student Center when everyone started making eye-contact with her.

"Am I singing my part wrong?" Shambra said she had asked herself. "Am I off?"

She then saw Tejada standing with flowers and a box of chocolate. Both Shambra and Tejada said that giving and receiving were a bit awkward, but they had really enjoyed it. They said that this was because how much of a different and memorable kind of gift the serenading was.

Senior public health major Tom O'Sullivan had to record the performance of his song for his girlfriend, who could not be present, and put it on a Snapchat video. O'Sullivan also said that he liked how different this was for Valentine's Day.

"This is not just a greeting card," O'Sul-

livan said. "This is something that people have to come and participate in."

Emily Velidow, president of NOTEorious, filed for the creation of the group in the spring of her freshman year. The psychology major is now a junior and fall 2017 marked the first year of NOTEorious as an official group of which she has led for its entire history.

Velidow also said that part of this event's appeal is the difference from other Valentine's Day gift giving.

"I think it's a little more personal," said Velidow, "because I mean you think about it, like 20 people worked on songs for you."

According to Velidow, the most difficult part of this event was making sure that they were ready in such a short amount of time to prepare. She said that they were lucky enough to have a big, talented group. The new people picked up on the material really well and, "they really surprised us," said Velidow.

The executive board was another big reason for NOTEorious' success, Velidow said. Vice President Trystan Brunet helped create the arrangements and teaching them to the group. She said that she had help from the secretary Jerica Olson with a lot of the appointments and organizing for events such as this.

"They have really been my rock through this year because it's been such a busy year," said Velidow.

Serenading Southern was part of NOTEorious' efforts to get their name out as a group and to establish traditions that they can pass down to future members. Velidow said that she does this out of fun and passion. Velidow said that the goal for this event is straightforward.

"It's just as simple as: I hope it made them feel good," she said, "and I hope it made them enjoy their Valentine's Day."

## Southern concertgoers see Less Than Jake at music hall



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

Less Than Jake live in downtown New Haven.

By Tyler Korponai

Cars rolled through a slushy-wintery mix out front of College Street Music Hall. Despite the weather and accumulating snow, music fans filed

into the live music hub and began settling in for the evening.

Among the hundreds of other concert goers, a group of Southern students found themselves excited to see some of their favorite acts perform.

"This is kind of how I blow off steam," said psychology major Julie Gagliardi. "I'm going to run around and do some dancing, scream a little bit, and I'm excited."

Asked about what was most exciting, Gagliardi responded by saying that she was here to see her favorite band live, Less Than Jake, who co-headlined the event with Four Year Strong.

She shared a story about how she started listening to Less Than Jake several years ago.

Gagliardi said, "My brother and I discovered one of their songs in the Digimon movie, and that was a game changer for me musically."

Rotating to a different Southern student, English major Dan Emmans explained the various roles he had at College Street Music Hall, sometimes as a concert goer and sometimes as an employee.

"This is my first show here since I stopped working here," said Emmans. "I came to shows here before I started working here though, so I have been coming here since college started. Whether I was working or in the crowd, it's just a great place to be."

Emmans said he was most excited to see Four Year Strong, whose live sets he described as one of the best to move around at.

"It's awesome," said Emmans referring to the groups return to playing live shows. "This is my third time seeing them in the last six months or so and it's really been awesome because they play such a

high energy set and they draw such good crowds."

Having experienced a lot at College Street Music Hall, Emmans reflected upon the many artists who he watched play the venue.

"On paper, this announcement was the one I was most excited for," said Emmans. "I saw Patton Oswalt and John Mulaney here. Those are two of my favorite comedians. I saw Frank Turner. He's a really cool song-writer from the UK. When I worked, I got turned on to a lot of new music, and I just love it. It's a really good venue."

Nursing major Carlos Barranco felt excited to these bands play. However, Barranco shared an overall opinion that broadening one's cultural horizons was only to their benefit.

Barranco said, "I feel like everything out there is diverse. You might as well diversify your taste in music. Like, I can be bumping to Kendrick Lamar on the way here, but I'm here to watch Four Year Strong. There's nothing wrong with that."

With the opening acts Bearings and Direct Hit finished, the crowd waited for the first headliner, Four Year Strong, to take the stage. In between the sets, the crowd murmured with buzz and in particular excited yips from education major Kelsey Kuziak.

Asked if being at a concert was freeing experience, Kuziak said, "Yes, one hundred percent. Like the noise. I would never just walk around campus doing that. It is very freeing."

## Duel swim championships

By Matt Gad

2018 marks first time in Southern history that both men and women's swim teams won the NE-10 championship

SCSU swimming and diving has 25 titles: 13 for the men and 12 for the women. And for the first time in five years, the entire program is on top of the conference.

"I thought, with the men, we had the potential to be a great program but it takes time to develop," head coach Tim Quill said. "I'd have to say by December we thought the men's program was good enough to win the conference. We didn't know we were gonna win the women's meet until the last day; it was a tie score after the first night, it was a 10-point deficit for us after the second night and then the third night we had a four and a half-point lead and then we won the meet by 40."

This was the second consecutive year that the women finished first in the NE-10 Championships. Last season they swam past Assumption College by just 10 points in a contest that was held at home, inside Hutchinson Natatorium, at Moore Field House.

"The last four years have been such an amazing experience," senior Aubrey Bailey said. "We've had so many highs and lows and to come out on top for both teams is just icing on the cake for our senior class. We always said that we wanted to win together and now we finally did."

Once again this year, the Owls came in front



Women's swimming and diving team after winning the 2018 NE-10 Championship.

of Assumption as Bentley, Pace and Le Moyné rounded out the top five. Senior Katherine Crochet led the 100 meter freestyle, finishing at 51.59. Junior Lilly Martin was fourth in the 200-meter breaststroke, racing 2:25.03, and Bailey was second in the 200-meter butterfly at 2:07.68.

"I don't think it's actually hit me that both the men's and women's teams came out as champions," Bailey said. "So much hard work, blood, sweat and tears have gone into winning these past two championships and winning together makes it all worth it. I'm so glad my swimming career got to end like this."

In 2017, the men finished as runner-ups in the NE10 Championships, however, this year, 954 points took them into first over a top five that also included Bentley, Le Moyné, Pace and Adelphi. Junior Tyler Prescott finished first in the 200-meter backstroke and junior Tyler Vander Vos won the 100-meter freestyle.

Quill said that, even when last year's men's team did not win the conference, they shared in the triumph for the women. And he has said that he has seen the same level of sportsmanship and team chemistry on the other side when the men have won and the women have not.

"We're all in it together even though it's men's swimming and diving and women's swimming and diving. We train together, travel together, compete together; it really is one program," he said. "So when one loses, they understand how that side of the team is feeling at that point and when one wins they feel that sense of accomplishment, too."

Moving forward, the program has Tyler Vander Vos in the 200-free style, Leo LaPorte in the 200 butterfly and Tyler Prescott in the 200-backstroke who, based on their performances, have a good chance of qualifying for nationals, according to Quill.



Senior Katherine Crochet during a race this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY | PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Philadelphia Eagles offensive line coach Jeff Stoutland talking to a player on the sideline.

## Former Owl wins Super Bowl

By Matt Gad

Former Southern football player and coach Jeff Stoutland, the offensive line coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, was part of their 41-33 Super Bowl defeat of the New England Patriots.

"[The Super Bowl] is the greatest game a coach or player can play in," Stoutland said. "And to come away victorious is the most amazing feeling ever. From the beginning of my coaching career at Southern I've always prepared to the best of my ability, regardless of the game."

Stoutland is the eighth former Owl to coach in the National Football League, and one of two currently active in the league. Tim Holt is the assistant offensive line coach for the Raiders and he has also had coaching stops with the Bears and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Current Owls' head football coach Tom Godek was in his freshman and sophomore seasons when Stoutland, who had just graduated, was the inside linebackers coach for the team in 1984 and 1985. And after serving as a graduate assistant at Syracuse, Stoutland came back to serve as the team's offensive coordinator for four seasons under former head coach Rick Cavanaugh.

"All the guys that went on [to the NFL] haven't forgotten their roots," Godek said. "Jeff maintained contact through the years, even with him at larger programs. Sometimes we'd see each other at recruiting events and he'd always reach out and say hello and how's everything at Southern. It just says a lot about the quality of people who've come through here."

After serving under Cavanaugh, Stoutland went on to coach the offensive line at Cornell and then he did the same back at Syracuse.

SEE STOUTLAND PAGE 10



Senior guard Page Decker during a home game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

## Women's basketball secures first place on Senior Night

By John Delfino

Senior Night began with a standing ovation honoring the five seniors of the Southern Women's Basketball program. The 2018 senior class includes Chloe Brinton, Paige Decker, Abby Hurlbert, Murphy Murad and Chandler Williams. The Owls were triumphant over the Adelphi Panthers Wednesday evening at Moore Field House with a final score of 63-60.

Southern had to fight its way to victory straight from the tip-off. After an even first quarter at 16-16, Adelphi came out strong with a 24-point

second quarter and capped it off when the Panthers Fallyn Stephens, who had nine points on the night, hit a deep 3-point shot to beat the halftime buzzer.

"It's now or never," said Head Coach Kate Lynch to her team at halftime. "We're fighting for playoff spots, home games in the playoffs, and to win the regular season."

The Owls came out firing in the third quarter shooting 41 percent from the field and never looked back after taking a 50-45 lead due to a 17-5 run.

The Panthers put together a comeback attempt but were stopped short by a strong Owls defensive effort.

"They stepped up big time, I thought in the second half our seniors really led us," said Lynch.

Senior Abby Hurlbert scored 11 points in her final regular season game as an Owl.

"We really buckled down defensively after the second, we gave up a lot of points," said Hurlbert. "I'm very excited, it was a great win."

Senior point guard Murphy Murad recorded a career-high in rebounds with seven and tied a season-high in points with 16. She scored five out of Southern's final six points in the last minute of the contest to help secure the victory.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

## Team LeBron victorious in 2018 All-Star game

By Matt Gad

This year's All-Star Game was newly revitalized, forgoing the classic East vs. West format and going with two teams, each with a league captain free to draft their respective roster. LeBron James got a team and Stephen Curry got a team. And they drafted their players. But alas, the draft wasn't televised, as many had hoped. Perhaps next year that will add to the excitement.

So each NBA champion drew up their rosters and hoped it

would be good enough to shine in Los Angeles. And for 2018, both captains picked charities where money would be donated; more if they won but still a donation if they came up on the losing end, making the game's competitive spirit return from years past.

And I will remind you that one team almost broke the 200-point mark last year so even though this game is touted as the "ultimate pickup game," last year was nuts. The league was in hopes to put some more defense on display for the world to see from its NBA All-Stars.

So, without further ado, let's recap the action. But we have to start with what happened before the opening-tip: an entertainment awards show-like opening act from celebrity emcee Kevin Hart, comedian Rob Riggle, actor Adam Devine and other selected company (including a medley of mascots and Laker and Clipper cheerleaders). And that lasted, well, way too long.

And it gets better (well, worse). For the Star Spangled Banner, Fergie decided to give it her own stylings. She put her vocals on display and made runs with her

voice when it was just simply inappropriate to do so. She overdid the national anthem right after "Oh, Canada" was performed in a normal fashion.

Anyway, onto the game, because it was good. Team LeBron bested Team Steph, 148-145. And yeah, I was cheering for overtime. Could you imagine? The last possession of the night was fitting.

Team Steph wasn't able to get off a potential game-tying 3-point shot. Defense won out.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

## Brantley, Luckett Jr. honored with Senior Night win



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Seniors Benard Brantley and Jerry Luckett Jr. joined by family and teammates pose for photo during senior night honors.

By Kevin Crompton

Seniors Bernard Brantley and Jerry Luckett Jr. were joined at half court by family and teammates for Senior Night prior to tip off of the Owls' last regular season home game.

The two seniors on the SCSU men's basketball team were given framed photographs of themselves in action at Moore Field House and a bouquet of flowers to honor the conclusion of their college basketball careers. Brantley met his family at half court for the honors while Jerry Luckett Jr. was met by the entire Owls roster as his parents were unable to attend the event.

Head Coach Scott Burrell talked about the impact the two seniors have on the team, post-game:

"They're both leaders. Sometimes [Brantley] starts, sometimes he comes off the bench but he has the same mindset. He's going to play tough D, make plays for our team, and distribute the ball. He's selfless, he comes in everyday, plays with passion and he's just a competitor. Jerry, he's a tough threat inside and out. Athletic, bouncy, skilled player. Those will be two tough guys we got to find to take their place."

Brantley who had a career high 11 rebounds to lead the team on the night said he just tried to play his best basketball.

"It was definitely an emotional night for myself, I put a lot of hours in for this program and I just wanted to come out and play my best game for my teammates, and also for myself. It's a big accomplishment to become a senior and to get where I came."

Luckett Jr. agreed with the senior guard's comments on emotions and dedication.

"Yeah, it was definitely emotional for me too," said Luckett Jr. "Like [Brantley] said we put a lot of hours into the program and it seems like it goes by so quick. You try to enjoy every moment that you can and it's just been great with this team this year how they treated us and how they always had our backs.

It's just been a great experience."

Both players said they have plans to continue their involvement with basketball post-graduation whether it be coaching or playing.

"Definitely coaching. I think my basketball playing years are numbered," said Brantley with laughter.

Luckett Jr, however, aspires to play overseas in the future.

"I plan on playing basketball as long as I can after the season," said Luckett Jr., "try to see what opportunities are there and what is available for me, and go hard and try to go get it."

The 11-point victory over Adelphi University - final score 79-68 - advanced Southern to

15-10 on the season. Luckett Jr. scored the first basket of the game and was one of four Owls to reach double digits with 12 points on Wednesday Feb. 14. Junior Isaiah McLeod led all scorers with 25 points and Brantley's career high 11 rebounds led all players on the night.

A 60-67 loss to Pace University on Saturday concluded Southern's regular season however with the NE-10 tournament looming ahead, Luckett Jr., Brantley, and the rest of the Owls will look to finish the year off strong with a championship victory. The tournament will begin on Feb. 23. Game times and opponents are still to be determined.

## Stoutland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO COURTESY | PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Jeff Stoutland talking to the Eagles offensive line on the sideline last season.



PHOTO COURTESY | PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Jeff Stoutland wearing headset on sideline during a game last season.

Later on he would spend time as the interim head coach of the Miami Hurricanes and the offensive line coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide. In 2013, he was hired by the Eagles.

"I am very proud to have graduated from Southern and it's because of guys like Kevin Gilbride, Paul Pasqualoni and George DeLeone that truly influenced my life and made me realize that coaching was, without a doubt, what I wanted to do," Stoutland said.

Gilbride was a long-time offensive coordinator and two-time Super

Bowl champion with the New York Giants and Pasqualoni and DeLeone were Southern coaches, and former student-athletes, as well.

Before Super Bowl LII, the Southern coaching staff was placed on a conference call with Stoutland, arranged by former North Haven High School educator Carolyn Vanacore, who was also a director of Southern's now-defunct health, physical education, recreation and safety division, now referred to as exercise science.

"It was great," Godek said. "We just

wanted to wish him luck and let him know that we were thinking about him and that everyone did the best of their ability for the Eagles."

Stoutland described Vanacore as "a surrogate mother" to him. He graduated from Southern in 1984 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in physical education, where she was a professor.

This June, Stoutland will be inducted into the Southern Hall of Fame, alongside Cavanaugh, Raymond Ciarleglio, a former baseball and

football student-athlete, Dr. Lawrence Fitzgerald, Jerry Katona, women's basketball head coach Kate Lynch, also a 2007 graduate and national champion that same year, Dr. Dora Metrelis and Dawn Stanton-Holmes.

"I'm very honored and proud to be recognized by my alma mater," he said. "This would never be possible without great coaches, teammates and the support staff I had available to me as a student-athlete and as a coach."

# Laura Ingraham of Fox News attacks NBA stars LeBron, Durant

By Kevin Crompton

Last week conservative Fox News show host, Laura Ingraham, publicly insulted NBA stars LeBron James and Kevin Durant. Ingraham called James' commentary from the recent Rolling with the Champion interview, "barely intelligible" and "ungrammatical" and shamed Durant for using the word "ran" instead of "run." Ingraham also said that there is a lesson for kids to learn from James.

"This is what happens when you attempt to leave high school a year early to join the NBA," said Ingraham. "Keep the political commentary to your-

self or as someone once said, shut up and dribble."

During the NBA All-Star weekend media day on Saturday Feb. 17, James answered questions from the press about Ingraham's remarks.

"I wish she would have done a little more fact checking because I did finish high school and didn't leave early," James said. "I graduated high school."

James also said he will not shut up and dribble as Ingraham suggested.

"I mean too much to society, I mean too much to the youth, I mean too much to so many kids who feel like they don't have a way out and need someone

to help lead them out of the situation they're in," said James.

Athletes speaking out about politics and for social justice is nothing new, yet seemingly every time one does there are reactions to follow.

"We are more than just athletes. We are more than just 'shut up and dribble,'" said James during an interview with Mina Kimes. "If that was the case then Muhammad Ali would have just shut up and boxed. If that was the case, then Bill Russell would have just shut up and dribbled the ball. If that was the case, Jackie Robinson would have just shut up and slid into home base. No, we're such more than that. I'm much bigger

than just dribbling a basketball."

According to Business Insider, The LeBron James Family Foundation, created by James, has pledged to send more than 1,100 students to college on full scholarships totaling more than \$41 million. Every day James inspires young children. He uses his platform to give a voice to those who do not have one by speaking out on social issues, and is looked up to as a role model for boys and girls of all races across the globe.

What has Laura Ingraham done to make the world a better place?



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

## Women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Senior Murphy Murad passing the ball up court during a game this season.

"It wasn't about my final five points in that last minute," said Murad. "I don't really feel like I did much, the team really pushed that out together and I'm just so excited to get to share this with my teammates."

Senior Paige Decker had a season-high 10 points and tied a season-high in rebounds with six.

The Owls improved to 19-8 (13-6 NE-10) and secure a first-round bye and home court advantage throughout the NE-10 quarterfinals with a come from behind victory as the Panthers fall to 12-15 (8-11 NE-10).

The NE-10 tournament will begin on Feb. 25 for the women. All future games will be played at Moore Field House with times still to be determined.

## Baseball chemistry, depth to fuel 2018 season



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Southern baseball team in the dugout during a game last season.

By Matt Gad

Last season, the baseball team went 27-16-1 but lost two out of their final three regular-season games and their three post-season games, one in the NE10 Tournament and the other two in NCAA Regionals.

"As a team we need to work on finishing the season," senior co-captain Jim Palmer, a shortstop, said. "Last year we were in first place, had the number one seed to host the tournament here and we kind of fell off. We went to the regional flat, lost two games there. We need to have a strong start and then finish the season strong."

In that NE-10 Tournament game at The Ballpark, Southern fell, 5-2, to Pace. After allowing the Setters to get three runs in the first five innings, Griffin Garabedian hit an RBI single to score Nolan Cloutier in the bottom half and then Ryan Kaplan scored Cloutier in the seventh. However, Pace would tack to more on for the final. Their starter, Ryan Aquino, went a complete game, allowing seven hits, two runs and two walks while striking out nine. They went on to lose their next two games, since the conference tournament opener wasn't double-elimination, 14-1 to Franklin

Pierce and then, in the championship game, 6-2 to the University of New Haven.

"All over we're deeper than we've ever been," head coach Tim Shea said, who is entering his 16th season. "There's a lot of depth on this year's team and the chemistry's been great. We're just trying to get as much time outside on the turf as we can before we head down to start the season."

With the frequent snow and cold temperatures, they have mixed their practices between the field and the far end of the Moore Field House gymnasium. They will head for warmer weather as they open their season Friday in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the start of four straight games to open play before returning home for a series with Bridgeport beginning March 2.

"We're really excited; I know the guys are excited to start playing some other guys. We just gotta stay healthy, throw strikes, trust our defense," Shea said. This year's team will be without recent graduates who made key contributions last season, such as Greg Zullo, Kyle Hart, Cole Bryant and Ryan Kaplan. However, they have brought on seven freshmen, a graduate transfer and some other contributors who transferred in. Hopefully other guys can step up, like

[Nick] Lamberti, who had a great year last year, [Griffin] Garabedian who hit over .300, Palmer who was all-conference, Mike DeMartino who was all-conference, and Criscolo who had a great year. I'm hoping those guys can really step up, maintain and get better," Shea said. "We have the guys back from last year but we also have a good freshmen class in, we have [graduate transfer] Sam Nepiarsky from UConn who moves right into the rotation; there's playing time to be had out there and that's one good thing about having depth - it forces everyone to work harder."

Garabedian, the team's other co-captain, an outfielder, said he is looking forward to keeping the same mentality of playing hard every day and just staying positive.

"You can't get down. When we're down we try to keep pushing forward," he said. "Towards the end last year I think a lot of our guys were feeling it; the games, all the practices - we had a couple guys who had injuries throughout their careers. Now it seems like everyone's healthy and if we stay healthy we'll be really good."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Sophomore pitcher Brendan Ebert during a game last season.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Senior captain Griffin Garabedian (left) congratulating freshman Henry Santiago (right) during a game last season.

# Men's basketball vs. Adelphi University



Junior Isaiah McLeod prepares for free throw during last Wednesday's game vs. Adelphi.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Junior Isaiah McLeod utilizing screen from teammate Luke Beesley.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Freshman Ulyen Coleman releasing jumpshot over Adelphi defender.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



Freshman Ulyen Coleman closing out on a 3-point shot from Adelphi.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

## Northeast-10 final regular season standings

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISION</b>						
SAINT ANSELM	20	14-6	0.700	26	19-7	0.731
MERRIMACK	20	13-7	0.650	27	17-10	0.630
STONEHILL	20	12-8	0.600	26	16-10	0.615
BENTLEY	20	11-9	0.550	25	14-11	0.560
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	20	10-10	0.500	25	14-11	0.560
FRANKLIN PIERCE	20	9-11	0.450	25	14-11	0.560
SAINT MICHAEL'S	20	4-16	0.200	25	7-18	0.280
ASSUMPTION	20	3-17	0.150	26	7-19	0.269
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISION</b>						
LE MOYNE	19	18-1	0.947	26	21-5	0.808
SAINT ROSE	19	14-5	0.737	27	19-8	0.704
NEW HAVEN	19	12-7	0.632	25	16-9	0.640
SO. CONNECTICUT	20	11-9	0.550	26	15-11	0.577
AMERICAN INT'L	19	6-13	0.316	27	11-16	0.407
ADELPHI	19	6-13	0.316	27	10-17	0.370
PACE	19	4-15	0.211	27	8-19	0.296

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISION</b>						
STONEHILL	20	19-1	0.950	25	23-2	0.920
BENTLEY	20	17-3	0.850	26	23-3	0.885
SAINT ANSELM	20	13-7	0.650	27	17-10	0.630
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	20	12-8	0.600	26	16-10	0.615
MERRIMACK	20	10-10	0.500	25	14-11	0.560
ASSUMPTION	20	6-14	0.300	25	9-16	0.360
SAINT MICHAEL'S	20	5-15	0.250	25	8-17	0.320
FRANKLIN PIERCE	20	1-19	0.050	25	4-21	0.160
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISION</b>						
SO. CONNECTICUT	20	14-6	0.700	28	20-8	0.714
LE MOYNE	19	11-8	0.579	25	15-10	0.600
PACE	19	11-8	0.579	27	15-12	0.556
ADELPHI	19	8-11	0.421	27	12-15	0.444
NEW HAVEN	19	7-12	0.368	25	12-13	0.480
SAINT ROSE	19	7-12	0.368	25	9-16	0.360
AMERICAN INT'L	19	6-13	0.316	27	12-15	0.444

## Another preventable school shooting



PHOTO | FORMULANONE

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

By Mary Rudzis

No one needs an assault rifle. No one.

Nikolas Cruz, who killed 17 people last Wednesday in Parkland, Florida did not need one; Adam Lanza, who killed 26 people in Newtown in 2012 did not need one; Chris Harper-Mercer, who killed 10 people in Roseburg, Oregon in 2015 did not need one.

Too many lives have been lost as a result of access to assault rifles. Unfortunately, if the murder of schoolchildren was not enough to light a fire under the government to reform gun laws, not much else will be.

Cruz, who is 19 years old, who is unable to legally purchase alcohol, purchased the firearm he used to kill 17 people with legally. An 18 year old can purchase an assault rifle; the age to legally purchase a handgun is 21.

Before he killed 17 people at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Cruz made posts on social media and in a private Instagram group chat about how he hated "jews, n-----, immigrants."

Cruz was expelled from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and the FBI received a tip on Jan. 5, 2018 that a "Nikolas Cruz" was dangerous.

The tip was reported to the FBI's Public Access Line and "provided information about Cruz's gun

ownership, desire to kill people, erratic behavior, and disturbing social media posts, as well as the potential of him conducting a school shooting," according to the FBI statement.

The FBI admitted that they failed to follow protocol following this tip, which was the second regarding Nikolas Cruz in just over three months.



nikolas annihilator

PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

**Nikolas Cruz's Instagram biography.**

Law enforcement said that Cruz purchased at least five guns in the past year as well as body armor. He was a hateful person with the ability to legally carry out a massacre against innocent people.

And this is not an isolated case. These mass shootings are not few and far between.

Why, as a student, should I fear for my safety at school? Why should parents be worried that their children are going to be shot while at school? Why are teachers expected to act as human shields in the event of such a tragedy, and are they even trained properly to act accordingly?

It is terrible to have to think about what I would do if someone with a gun entered a building on campus, but that is reality.

In my four years at Southern I have rarely seen police officers on the academic side of campus, let alone in Engleman or Morrill. Even though I have never felt as though I was in danger, it is nearly impossible to not think about when yet another school shooting happens.

The fact that students and teachers are not safe in school is troubling; this is where we send our children, where those who set out to educate them go to do their jobs.

Enough is enough. There is no tangible way to solve this problem other than stricter gun laws. While it is easy to look at Connecticut's leaders and know that they are pushing for change, it is not enough to sit idly by just because the state we reside in is more progressive. This is a national issue.

More than 400 people have been shot in over 200 school shootings, the New York Times reported. Of those 438 victims, 138 were killed. Not only are stricter gun laws and legislation needed on the govern-

ment's end, but on adult gun owners' ends as well.

The Pew Research Center put out a survey that concluded that 54 percent of gun owners with children under 18 living at home say that they keep all of their guns locked away.

That is 46 percent of those households do not keep deadly firearms secure and away from their underage kids. That is deeply concerning.

Right now is the time to discuss gun control, firearm safety and what the United States can do to prevent another school shooting. If something does not change soon, these acts of violence will continue.

It is already too late; there are already too many lives lost and tears shed. That is why the need for change and reform is becoming increasingly more urgent. We cannot continue to do nothing and watch children be murdered.

Thirty-two percent of households in the U.S. have guns; if that many Americans are going to legally own guns, there should be nationwide laws that make it more difficult to purchase and use a firearm, and soon. The statewide laws that are strict and preventative must be spread further; background checks need to be more in depth; there are legislators to be called and emails to be sent; there are steps that both individuals and groups can take. However, this all needs to happen now. Otherwise, we are sitting ducks.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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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

## Lighting the way to fire safety

Photos: Palmer Piana



Firetruck parked in North parking lot.



The fire at its peak as the firefighters go to put it out.



Model dorm moments after being lit.



Firefighters waiting for the smoke to clear.



Tim Lunn, Hamden deputy fire marshal (right), supervising the event.



Aftermath of the destruction.