



Hijab Day discusses Islamic culture
Page 5



'Red Velvet' premieres at Lyman
Page 8



Gymnasts honored on senior night
Page 9

SOUTHERN NEWS

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MARCH 4, 2020

VOL. 58—ISSUE 6

Dean of Arts and Sciences is selected



PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCT.EDU
The new dean, Bruce Kalk.

By Jessica Guerrucci
Managing Editor

The adjective “interim” has been dropped from his title, and now, Bruce Kalk will get to call himself the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I’m elated,” said Kalk. “I couldn’t be happier.”

As one of the four finalists for the position, Kalk said the fact that he was chosen out of a pool of about 60 applicants made him very humbled and being able to continue in the dean position made him realize the difference he can make.

See Dean Page 3

University prepares for coronavirus

Despite low immediate risk, university advises students to prevent spread of germs

By Jacob Waring
News Editor

On Feb. 26 university leaders gathered to discuss a plan to deal with the coronavirus or as it is now officially known, COVID-19.

According to CNN, there have been 89 confirmed cases of the virus in ten states: California, Massachusetts, Washington state, Arizona, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oregon, Rhode Island, New York and Florida.

In Washington state, two fatalities were also reported.

Although Connecticut has yet to have any confirmed cases of the virus, university leaders have heeded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warning that it is not a matter of if the virus will spread but when.

Medical Director of Student Health Services, Diane Morgenthaler said President Joe Bertolino called some of the people that would be involved if the university needed to

respond to a case of the coronavirus.

“We just wanted to bring all the parties in one setting and the kind of review where things were,” she said.

Bertolino said he assures there have been no confirmed cases at the university, the city of New Haven or the state of Connecticut. He said he thinks it is important for the university to be proactive and have a plan in place to respond to a pandemic or any emergency that may arise.

“We did bring university leaders together this morning, our health professionals, Student affairs professionals, Police department, academic affairs center to review where we are,” said Bertolino.

Later that afternoon on Feb. 26, Bertolino sent a university-wide email informing the Southern community about the status of COVID-19 and what the university is doing thus far.

“I assure you that Southern remains diligent

in monitoring the most up-to-date information. Collaborating with the CSCU System Office and guided by our Emergency Management Plan,” stated the email, “we are prepared to respond quickly and appropriately, should the situation escalate.”

One such response, Bertolino said was he is currently working with the Office of International Education.

“At the moment, we are coordinating the return of some of those students,” said Bertolino, “[and] what the government will require of those students in order for them to return.”

He also said Southern is working very closely with the public health officials in the city and the state. Morgenthaler, according to Bertolino, said she is working closely to monitor the situation by working closely with public health officials as well as her colleagues at other colleges and universities.

See Virus Page 3

President Joe’s Preventive Measures

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

GRAPHIC | SAM FIX

The Center for Disease Control’s advice President Joe Bertolino sent to the campus community in an email.

Black History Month commemorated



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Susan Robeson, Paul Robeson’s granddaughter, who was speaking at the event honoring his grandfather.

By Joseph Vincenzi
Reporter

As a celebration of Black history, the campus commemorated prominent activists and their actions to fight social injustice and advocate for civil rights in a segregated United States.

The event, which occurred in the Michael J. Adanti Student Center Ballroom at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, was a display of many cultural and historical aspects of black culture and civil rights. There were student soloists and a student choir performing traditional African American songs, short scenes from historic plays, and special guest

speakers to talk about civil rights issues.

In the first half of the show, the SCSU choir performed several traditional African American songs onstage, including “Deliver Daniel” and other black gospel songs.

After the choir, a few students acted out a scene from the old play, “Red Velvet,” in which the characters are acting out a play that they are preparing for. “Red Velvet” is significant in that it features a major black role.

Professor Frank Harris III spoke shortly before the second half of the event to introduce guest speaker Susan Robeson, who was to share the life



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Journalism professor Frank Harris III speaking at the event.

of her grandfather Paul Robeson as well as aspects of her own life.

Robeson began with her grandfather’s early years growing up in Princeton, N.J. She recounted Paul’s shaky experiences with McCarthyism, discrimination, and even some unlucky encounters with the FBI.

“The FBI came to the house, and they took everything from the family,” said Robeson, citing the government’s discontent with the anti-segregation messages Paul pushed at the time.

Robeson showed the incredible traction that Paul’s anti-segregation message received as he continued to advocate for better treatment of black

World War II veterans. Robeson detailed a fateful encounter between Paul and President Harry Truman on an incident where four African Americans were lynched.

“The president stood up in front of my grandfather and said, ‘you don’t make policy, so get out,’” said Robeson.

As he was affiliated with the communist party, Paul was targeted by the U.S. government so far as to have his passport revoked. Only in fighting through the Supreme Court did Paul receive his passport years later.

See Robeson Page 2

New departments to move into the library

By Abby Epstein
News Writer

Two departments will become roommates next school year. The Academic Advising Center and Career and Professional Development are moving into the same space in the library.

“This is a new opportunity for us to think in ways of how can we both maximize and utilize space and then how can we be aware that sometimes these conversations are linked and collaborative,” said Director of Career and Development Kelvin E. Rutledge.

All of Career and Professional Development will be moving into the space being built on the first floor of the library.

“There are still plans to use all of this space. There

are just different offices that will now occupy it,” said Rutledge.

The plan is to have First Year Experience faculty, Academic Success Center, and other staff members that have been floating around on the third floor to occupy the offices on the first floor.

The Academic Advising Department is planning on moving the Exploratory ACC branch into Buley Library. This will serve as the central place for major and career exploration.

“We are incredibly excited as this will allow us to provide a meaningful advising experience for students as they explore their options regarding a program of study,” said Director of Academic Advising Harry Twyman.

See Move Page 3



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

View of the construction from the outside of Buley where the departments will move into.

Starbucks to switch out straws for drinkable lids

By Abby Epstein
News Writer

Starbucks secret is out: they are going strawless. The Starbucks located on the first floor of Buley is throwing away their straws and opting for drinkable lids instead.

"We are transitioning to strawless at Starbucks. We are slowly at each location on campus going to move towards that," said marketing manager Alexandra Macuada.

Retail Director Desiree Parker said Starbucks wants to start selling metal straws on campus for

students to buy.

Starbucks at the moment is still using the tops that require straws because they do not want the product to go to waste. By next fall they will be using only the sip cup lids.

"Whatever product we still have at the end of spring semester we are going to donate to other Starbucks that use the lids if they don't have the sip cup lids," said Macuada.

Starbucks is the first place on Southern's campus to go strawless due to it being the easiest place on campus to make the transition.

"Starbucks already has

their own lids, then when we want to start moving it across, we have to research and find our own lids, because at the student center Coca Cola doesn't have the sip lids for their cups," said Macuada.

Chartwells is hoping to move the sip lids across campus at different locations within months of it being at Starbucks. The Food, Service, Advisory Committee meetings and are biweekly on Mondays.

"Derek [Faulkner] — he is in the Office of Sustainability — and he has been trying to get us to make that push [to strawless] and we agree.

We always wanted that push it is just the logistics of getting it there," said Macuada. "We are finally getting that push with Starbucks since it is so easy."

According to For a Strawless Ocean's website, it is estimated that people use over 500 million straws every day in America, and most of those end up in the oceans, polluting the water and killing marine life.

Many students said getting rid of the straws and going to the sip lids will be beneficial.

"I think that it is a good idea," said health care studies major Haley White,

a sophomore. "It's better for the environment."

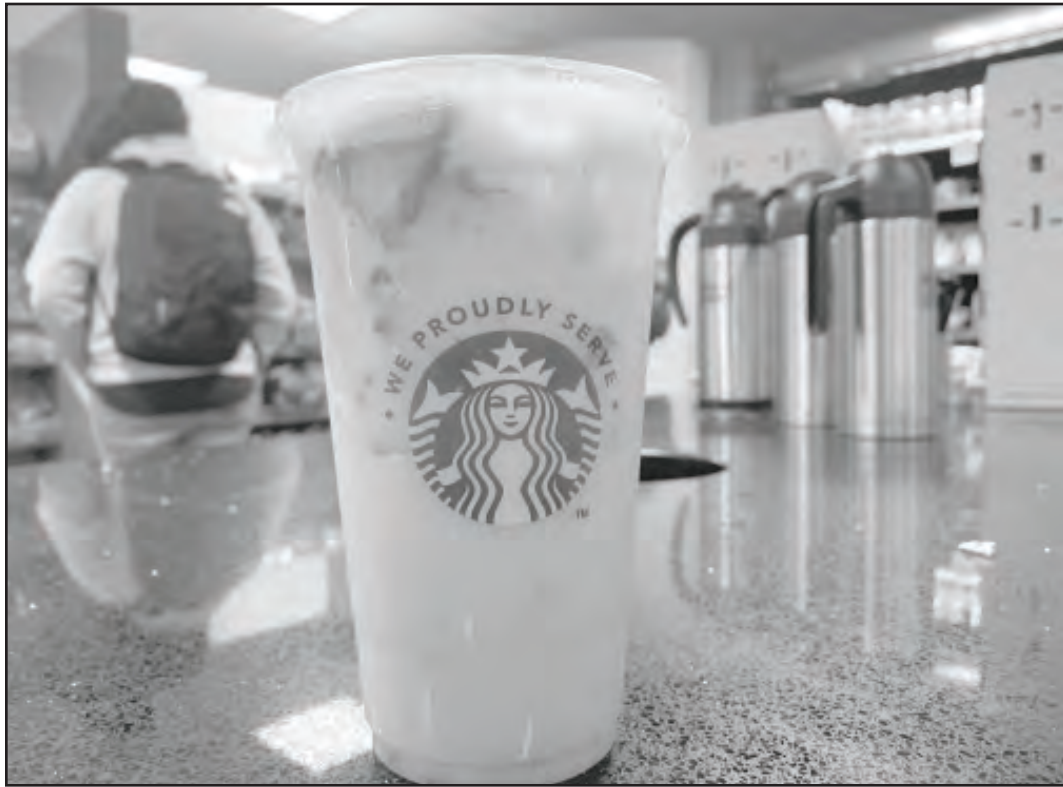
Last week, Starbucks switched their cups to a type that uses less plastic. The employees at Starbucks like the idea of using less plastic but they said the cups have become weaker. When the employees make drinks, the cups fold, making it harder to put the lids on.

There are other environmental strategies on campus other than getting rid of straws. One is that students can bring their own cup to any of these locations to save money on their beverage: Starbucks, Bagel Wagon,

Dunkin and Roberta's.

Southern also uses compost containers and plastic containers made of recycled material in the Student Center. Getting rid of straws in Starbucks is the next phase to becoming more environmentally friendly.

"Straws aren't really safe for our environment," said psychology major, Emily Souza, a freshman, "and I feel like even though it will still be a plastic lid it's still much better for our environment instead of having straws thrown out and getting into our oceans and sometimes killing our animals."



A student's Pink Drink, which they brought in the Starbucks in Hilton C. Buley Library.



The compostable straws currently offered at the Starbucks located at the Owl Perch Cafe in Buley.

SGA approves new club and addresses campus issues

By Izzy Manzo
Photo Editor

The Student Government Association unanimously voted to approve a rock climbing club and discussed ongoing issues such as food services and community hour during their general body meeting on Feb. 28.

The new club, which would potentially be called the "South Connecticut Climbers", aims to "provide students of Southern with a supportive, welcoming, friendly, and safe community of climbers, and to give students the opportunity to be introduced in the activity or to improve their existing skill set," according to English major Jade Serrano, a junior.

Psychology major Brian Petrucci, a junior, said the current community — which consists of twelve undergraduate students "[who are] a part of this group that we have coordinating when we like to go climbing together" — met at City Climb Gym, which previously helped organize the Yale Climbing Club.

"A bunch of Southern students actually accidentally ran into each other while climbing," he said.

After the unanimous approval of the club, Vice President of Student Experiences Katia Bagwell discussed the ongoing issues of community hour — an hour every Monday,

Wednesday and Friday when classes are not supposed to be held — during her report.

After spending the past few weeks discussing space utilization, the Board of Student Experiences has decided to "switch gears" and focus on rescheduling classes that occur during community hour, according to Bagwell.

"For [our] next steps, we decided that we were going to go through the fall 2019 and spring 2020 courses that fall during community hour and meet with Bob Drobish about how we can fix that," she said.

Bagwell said there have been some difficulties in trying to change some of the courses so they do not take place during community hour due to "special circumstances." However, she mentioned an email allegedly sent out by the Provost to department chairs encouraging them to schedule classes outside of the community hour.

"So, we're gonna try and meet with the Provost to see if we can get any backing on the community hour stance and to turn a strong reminder into something more mandatory," she said.

Representative-at-large Aidan Coleman's committee report also discussed how committees such as Faculty Senate who hold their meetings during that time are being impacted.

"They also struggle with community hour," he said, "because they can't get people to their one o'clock meetings."

During her committee report, representative-at-large Krista Jones discussed issues with food services on campus. She encouraged students to voice their complaints about Connecticut Dining Hall to dining services so they can improve based on student's concerns.

"When people, like, see something with, like, cross-contamination or like, raw food at Conn, they only complain about it, they don't really do anything about it," she said.

Additionally, Conn. Hall will hold focus groups during the month of March to discuss the cross-contamination and gather student opinion in hopes to make improvements.

The committee report also discussed the potential closing of Davis Hall Outtakes, citing the lack of students in the building, as it is not an area where lots of students flow in and out of, aside from ones in major programs and the fact that "things that you can really buy from there are things you can get from a vending machine," according to representative-at-large Kendall Manderville.

However, Student Conduct and Discipline Director Chris Piscitelli said that closing Davis Hall Outtakes is "not something the university would sign off on," and likely would not be something that would happen in the near future.

"The food service can't just do that," he said. "The university would've had to say, 'We're okay with this.'"

Robeson

Continued from Page 1

Susan Robeson called her grandfather a "citizen of the world," and talked about the state of civil rights in the modern world.

"We have those with

authoritarian government today," said Robeson. "We should always be keeping an eye out for signs of when things start to go too far, and ordinary people are heavily affected."

Students said that they were very happy with the direction of the event. Clinical health major Julia Barrows, a graduate student, highlighted the educational value the

event had on students.

"I thought it was very informative," said Barrows. "It's good for everyone to hear from an event like this."

Barrows said Susan Robeson spoke well and that the event would be beneficial in spreading awareness of both black history and the importance of advocating for civil rights.



The University Choir performing at the Paul Robeson Commemoration.



Political science, Krista Jones, freshman performing a solo as part of the choir.

Dean

Continued from Page 1

What separated Kalk from the other candidates is that he was an “inside hire,” since he was interim dean for two-and-a-half years. He said he will not have to do a listening tour, which would require him to meet with every department while getting to know the campus.

“I don’t need to do that because I know those people already,” said Kalk. “That means that I don’t have a learning curve because I’ve been doing the job already.”

Student Government Association Representative-at-Large Brandon Iovene, a sophomore, said he thinks it is a good idea Kalk was hired after already working at the university.

“He’s already been serving as the interim

dean, so he already knows what the issues are happening at Southern and how the office works, how Southern’s curriculum works,” said Iovene. “So, I think that was a smart decision to hire him as permanent dean.”

In an email, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Prezant said out of the pool of applicants, Kalk was the individual who could “best use his insight, attention to detail, and forward thinking to continue to move the college forward.”

What set him apart from the other candidates, Kalk said, was his experience and knowledge of the campus environment.

“There’s a culture at Southern and it’s unique,” said Kalk. “I think being able to appreciate and celebrate that culture and work within that culture to make more

accomplishments for arts and sciences and the university as a whole, I think it’s going to be a little bit easier for me.”

President Joe Bertolino said that Kalk’s experience and understanding of the university will be good for students, faculty and the community.

“I think he’s done a spectacular job and we did have a strong pool of candidates,” said Bertolino. “But there is something to be said for an individual who comes to the table not only with experience, but someone who understands others, who understands the culture, understands our students, understands their needs.”

Despite already being in the position temporarily, Kalk said the process of interviews was necessary in two aspects: legally, because Southern is a public university and secondly because with

outside people comes fresh, innovative ideas.

Now that he is in the position permanently, Kalk said he made several promises during his interviews he will have to keep and is eager to execute. The first of which, he said, would be to focus on cultivating a relationship with the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium. He said Southern is also applying for a grant to get a permanent display there.

“What that does if you think about it,” said Kalk, “it doesn’t just display Southern’s commitment to the sustainability of the Long Island Sound — that’s part of it. It doesn’t just display Southern’s commitment to science education — that’s part of it. It also is a way of marketing Southern in a part of Connecticut where frankly we don’t get that many students.”

Additionally, Kalk said he hopes to launch an arts management program, which has already been proposed to become a minor by as early as fall of 2021, and then possibly could become a major a year or two afterwards.

Kalk said another possibility is pursuing a professional science doctorate, which he said would be “really exciting.”

He also said he discussed in his interview creating an arts and sciences research fund where a quarter of the money would go towards students’ collaborators and faculty research.

“For Giving Day, that’s what our focus is for arts and sciences, and I already have matches for \$10,000 from two visionary donors, so that other people who donate to that arts and sciences research fund will see their gifts doubled,” said Kalk.

Since being at Southern for 27 years, Kalk has gotten to know lots of students, but has not been in a classroom in a few years, so he said thinks it is time for him to get out and interact more.

SGA Rep-at-Large, Benjamin Coombs, a senior, said he got to meet Kalk when he accompanied the Southern’s University Choir and Chamber Choir to Italy this past month.

Coombs said the trip allowed him to get to know Kalk better and that he feels comfortable and happy knowing Kalk got the position.

“Just in the few conversations I had overseas with him, he seems like a very student-centered type of administrator,” said Coombs, “and I think that’s really important for the position of dean at this college.”



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

The sign outside Bruce Kalk’s office with the title “interim” which will be dropped.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Bruce Kalk at his open forum during the hiring process on Jan. 30.

Virus

Continued from Page 1

With spring break almost two weeks away, Bertolino said he has some concerns about where students may be going.

“We will also provide some counseling and advice to students that are headed out on spring break,” said Bertolino, “in terms of where they may have plans to go and what they may want to consider.”

Morgenthaler said she one of the challenges now, is that by the time students get back three weeks from now from spring break, the status of COVID-19 could change significantly.

“My assumption is they’re going to be some of the places where people may have to be required to self-isolate,” said Morgenthaler. “If you did have to isolate for a time upon return. What would that look like for [students] academics, that sort of thing.”

Health Services, Morgenthaler said are considering additional screening services at the center as a precaution

when students return from their break.

She also said the university has been paying close attention to the cleanliness of areas of high traffic volume such as the residence halls, adding that Health Services has been in contact with Facilities Operations to try to be sure that everyone is doing everything possible as a preventative measure for the sake of the community’s safety.

Chief of University Police Joseph Dooley said if they had to implement a plan then the university would be prepared. The campus police, he said in conjunction with the university is monitoring the situation at an international level, nationwide level, statewide level and regional level.

“Providing guidance to international students, providing guidance to our own community, which is done by e-mail,” said Dooley. “If the outbreak seems to increase if it’s a confirmed case, [the student] could be a quarantine initially [at Southern].”

Dooley said that sending people home and just being cognizant of the virus is key. Since the U.S. is currently amid flu

season and COVID-19 has symptoms similar to that of the flu, he said he admits that may create a bit of a complication in properly addressing the virus.

“So really what we’re doing is with an abundance of caution, being prepared on many fronts on the campus,” said Dooley.

Sport management major, Nick May, a sophomore said the email made him feel like the university has not taken any extra steps to keep students safe.

“I didn’t feel like they really like went out of their way to do anything,” said May, “to keep us from any potential outbreaks.”

May said he is concerned about the probability of the virus infiltrating the campus.

“I think it’s very scary because I think when it’s outside of the country, it’s kind of seems far away like an issue that doesn’t affect us,” said May. “But when it starts popping up around the United States, it’s kind of shocking.”

Fitness Manager for the Fitness Center and front desk attendant, Lorenzo Burgos, a senior said he thinks a lot of fear about the virus comes from a

lack of understanding.

“We should be scared, and we should be worried about it and we’re all going to get sick and stuff like that,” said Burgos. “I think it’s a lot of fear only because it’s something that not a lot of us know about.”

Burgos said although the Fitness Center gets a high volume of traffic who leave deposits of sweat behind, staff members make sure to wipe the equipment down thoroughly.

“Every hour or so, we do have pads at the front desk. Attendants have [the pads] says there are certain tasks on it, on that say, well, exactly what time certain pieces of equipment have to be wiped down,” said Burgos. “All cardio equipment, the mat and the stretcher room and all of the machines have to be wiped down.”

Ultimately, Bertolino said the university will take care of its students and its community.

“Our hope is that we won’t have to pull the trigger on any of these plans,” said Bertolino, “but it’s important to have everything in place and to be prepared to act at a moment’s notice.”



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Psychology major, Lorenzo Burgos, senior wiping down a treadmill.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

A sign posted at Norwalk Hospital with advice for handling .

Move

Continued from Page 1

The office spaces currently under construction are causing some problems in the library.

“The biggest impact on the library is the noise right now and the foot traffic from in and out of the workspace because we do not have our stuff for storage,” said head

of Access Services Jamie Aschenbach.

Aschenbach said they are waiting for the construction to finish in order to put up their bookcases and other furniture that has been ordered to help the library organize. Despite the delays and noise, she sees the departments move as a positive thing.

“I’m hoping there is more [foot traffic] because students deserve to have good advising and we are really doing it for the

students, so I am hoping we increase the foot traffic,” said Aschenbach.

Construction is projected to be finished before the end of the spring semester allowing the departments to start moving in before next school year.

“When some of our staff move into Buley, we will be vacating our space in Wintergreen,” said Twyman. “This means that the main advising office will no longer reside in Wintergreen.”

Twyman said they will be sure to send out a campus-wide announcement with updates once the move happens.

Career and Professional Development are hoping to be able to move in by May 1 if construction goes as planned.

“Construction should be done in April and people should be moved in before the end of the semester,” said Aschenbach.

The Academic Advising

Center and the Career and Professional Development department said they are excited to share the space together.

“Sometimes we have our first- and second-year students, some of their major exploration relates to career exploration versus some of our third and fourth year, some of their academic advising questions are really career dependent,” said Rutledge. “Being mindful of those conversations will allow

us to be in proximity to each other.”

The university is looking to take advantage of as much space as they can. When the space in Buley was found, they saw it as a great opportunity and the Academic Advising Center liked the space, too.

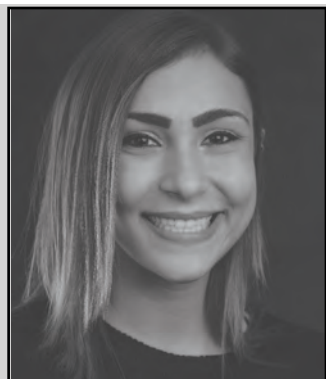
“Buley is also a great space for this office,” said Twyman, “because it provides a more centralized and accessible resources for our students.”

OPINIONS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

MARCH 4, 2020

PAGE 4



These are the opinions of the The Southern News Editorial Staff

The university addresses the coronavirus risk

Column by Jessica Guerrucci
Managing Editor

“Coronavirus,” the word is stuck in all of our minds, consuming headlines. Since the global risk of spreading and impact has gone from “high” to “very high,” the university has begun to prepare.

President Joe Bertolino

said in his letter to the community last week that “immediate risk to the American public and to our students and employees is believed to be low at this time,” which I think was exactly what everyone wanted to hear.

With over 60 cases confirmed in the U.S., although there are none in Connecticut, universities naturally have begun to

take action. In our case we created a website with information and health tips, which in reality is all that can be done.

Part of the responsibility will fall on students.

The part where this becomes a bigger university matter is that there are two students in Italy that may need to return as 650 cases have been confirmed

there according to ABC News, and other study abroad trips have been suspended.

Without even being a huge threat to campus, the virus is impacting everyone’s lives and it looks like it is not slowing down just yet.

According to a Hartford Courant article, Dr. Michael Ivy, deputy chief medical officer of Yale

New Haven Health system said, “There will become a community transmission of coronavirus within the state of Connecticut. That’s just the reality of it, and we would be very unwise not to prepare.”

That is all we can do though, in our own lives and here on campus: just be prepared and take precautionary measures in the little ways we can.

Connecticut Ridicule Law should be rewritten, not repealed

By Jackson Volenec
Reporter

There is a lot of discussion centering around Connecticut’s “Racial Ridicule” Law, which prevents people from advertising hate speech against any different class of person, whether that be race, gender, religion, etc. People are debating whether or not it should be repealed, as some people are arguing the law is unconstitutional and impedes the First Amendment.

“At a time when hate and bias incidents are on the rise, it is crucial that the state not remove these types of prohibitions

that deter or punish this unacceptable behavior,” said the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities in opposition to the repeal. Those who support it say that the speech the ridicule law is preventing is harmful and worthless and has no place in public conversation whatsoever.

While it is true that hate speech is extremely damaging and harmful to our society, that does not mean it is a good idea to put laws in place that explicitly restrict the people’s ability to say what they want to say based off of the subject matter automatically. The First Amendment does not define any hate speech

that is distinguished from everything else, and allows for people to combat ugly, negative speech with positive speech they do like, which will inevitably wash out the hateful speech and prevail over it.

This law states that the person has to be “advertising” their hate speech, which I think is a weird way to describe the action. If they meant explicitly advertising, that would be one thing, but this law has been applied to many situations that had nothing to do with advertising at all. I think this part of the bill could potentially get rewritten so it better describes what kind of speech it is preventing, rather than the

presentation of the speech itself.

While bigotry and intolerance of other ethnic groups has unfortunately been a subject that we have arguably moved backwards on in some ways, outright banning the harmful speech that bigots use will not stop the intolerance towards them. In fact, I think it will only make the situation worse, as the bigots will now be resentful towards the government for censoring their point of view, no matter how disgusting it may be. I think allowing ugly, hateful speech out there in the world and making an example of it is a far more effective way to combat it.

In order for real social progress to be made, we need to make people hyper-aware of intolerances and hateful campaigns that some launch against other groups of people. We need to confront those who are the cause of the problem and shut them down, using our First Amendment right to combat their bad speech with our good speech.

Proper education is extremely necessary for our society to operate like this effectively, however. Everyone needs to be highly educated about these social issues so they are aware of how damaging they are and what they can do to fight it. Making sure the general

public is informed about things like this will also prevent people from getting sucked into the toxic mindset of a bigot.

Once the First Amendment begins to get compromised by laws stating that certain things can and cannot be said, you are opening a door down a path that is not in favor of the citizen’s individual power to express themselves freely, but an authoritarian structure that allows for the government to decide what is okay speech to say and what is not. It is up to the people to decide what is acceptable speech, and they do so by defeating hateful speech with their activism.

Mild winter weather leads to no snow or school cancellations

By Alexandra Scicchitano
Opinions & Features Editor

Another day, more confused weather. Each day the weather seems to get more and more inconsistent. Last week it was sunny, warm, basically spring. But now this week, it is cold and bitter.

The winter has been noticeably mild. Barely any snow of any kind has touched our Nor’Eastern lawns, schools and building. It is almost eerie the lack of snow we’ve had this winter. All the salt and new shovels bought seem to be for naught. They’ve had minimal use this winter.

It makes me kind of sad.

I was looking forward to missing school during snowdays snuggling in bed under the covers instead of going to class. We have had two big snowstorms since I have been in New Haven for school and I was looking forward to more of them.

While I know it is a waste of money to miss class, how can one not take the opportunity and get a break for a day or so? I am also a senior in my last semester. I wanted to miss out on a few classes and try to get through to graduation smoothly. It looks like that will not happen, but a girl can dream.

As someone who has lived in Connecticut my

whole life, it has been quite a while since we have had such a mild and slow winter. All we have had for the past three months is rain. Constant rain, all the time. I would prefer snow over it, simply because then you will not get drenched. It just feels so much better to be walking in snow rather than rain.

Although I know a lot of people will disagree, I feel cheated out of my winter. Where are the snow piles a tall as me? Or the early morning alerts of classes being cancelled? How about the constant fear of tripping and getting hurt? It’s all a part of the Nor’Eastern winter, we’re missing out on it.



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Outside of the Adanti Student Center in the Academic Quad on campus.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

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Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students.

Corrections

In the Feb. 26 edition Danny Starvaggi was incorrectly referenced in “Pronoun email signatures utilized to encourage inclusivity” and “Black History Month trivia informs students,” they prefer “they, them, their” pronouns. Additionally, it was incorrectly stated that food was central to the trivia event.

FEATURES

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MARCH 4, 2020

PAGE 5

Hijab Day lets students experience Islamic culture

By Joseph Vincenzi
Reporter

Breaking down stereotypes about why Muslim women choose to wear a hijab or other headscarves is the reason why Hijab Day was hosted on campus, said Rachael Schaffer.

The event was sponsored by the Muslim Student Association.

"I think if you see someone wearing a hijab it could look very different," said Schaffer, the vice president of the MSA.

The event started in the Adanti Student Center plaza, where students could receive a hijab from MSA's table from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The hijabs were spread over a table and each one contained a different design or theme. Students were welcome to try on a hijab for a while or even take one with them.

After the initial event, the group moved to ASC 301 where there was traditional Halal dinner prepared. Public health major Muna Mah, a junior, explained

that "Halal" food means it is slaughtered in a specific way so that the animals being used in the dish do not feel any pain in the process.

The presentation defined the hijab as a "barrier" in the Muslim religion to ensure that women remain modest at all times. Mah claimed that the head covering is an act of religious piety. This directly contradicts the popular belief that women are forced to wear a hijab, which Mah said is simply not the case.

"People look at me for who I am with a hijab, not just because of what I wear," said Mah. She said regular clothes cause people to preemptively judge their peers. The hijab avoids this premature judgement by concealing all body parts except the eyes and hands.

Mah then displayed various religions that instruct women to wear certain headaddresses, including Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. She said



PHOTO | JOSEPH VINCENZI

Rachael Schaffur (left), Muna Mah and Moor Rahim all members of the Muslim Student Association that hosted Hijab Day.

religious headscarves were not exclusive to Islam.

MSA board members talked about personal experiences while wearing the hijab and other headaddresses. Psychology major Moor Rahim, a senior, shared an instance where she received verbal abuse from a stranger while she was walking

alone at night.

Rahim said she believes that the cautious and sometimes aggressive behavior towards hijab-bearing women is not limited to a few individuals.

"My experience is that people are more wary of the hijab," said Rahim.

Through the Hijab Day event, Rahim said

she hopes that a positive outcome is for more people to be comfortable approaching women wearing a hijab and for them to understand why women wear it in the first place.

"We want to wear it because it's where we find success in a religion," said Rahim.

Special education comprehension major Jennifer Pohl, a senior, said she gained much more respect for hijab wearers after learning of the commitment a woman would make to cover herself.

See Hijab Day Page 6

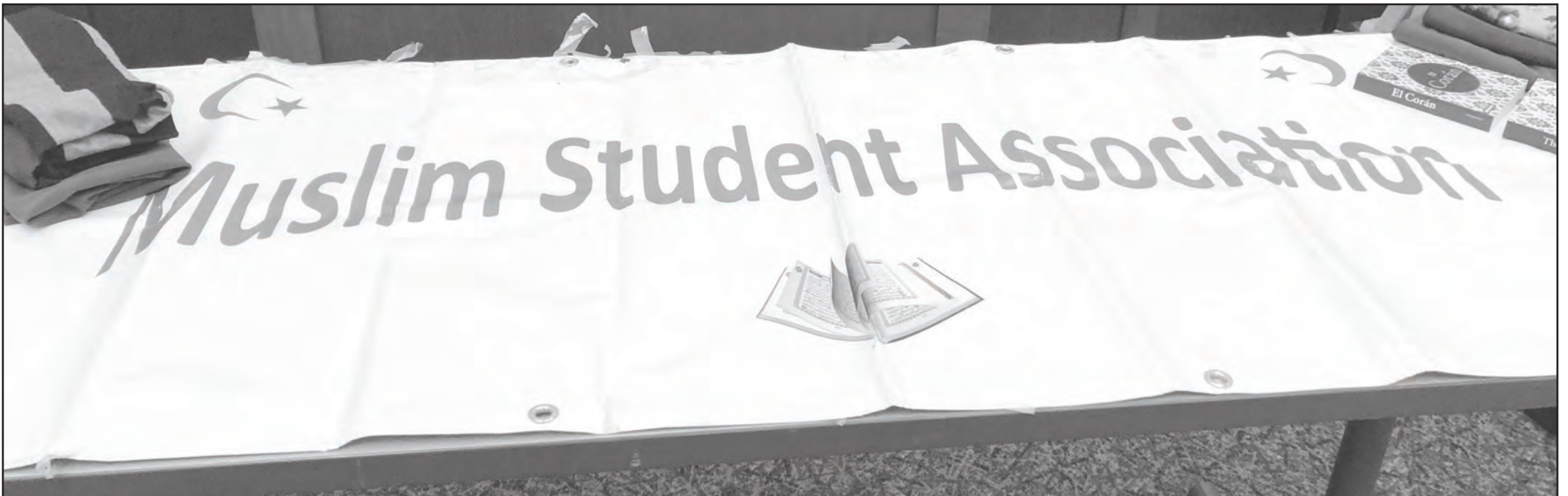


PHOTO | JOSEPH VINCENZI

The Muslim Student Association banner on the table at the Hijab Day event for students to see the organization that was hosting the event.

Hidden Kolors, Black History Month and the 'Divine Nine'

By Sofia Rositani
Reporter

To celebrate Black History Month the Multi-Cultural Center and the "Divine Nine" put on an annual event called Hidden Kolors. The event had a keynote speaker, Siobhan Carter - David, a history professor at Southern, and a FACE performance.

The Divine Nine is a collection of historically black universities and fraternities, including Zeta Phi Beta and Beta Sigma. They come together each year to put on the event with the multicultural center.

Black History Month is in the month of February, and it is celebrated at Southern through many different events at

Southern. This is a month to celebrate the culture, artistry, and people who fought for equal rights in this country during this month.

"Hidden Kolors is an event that basically showcases black culture and it was created about two years ago by a member of Southern's community, Myles Page. He is also hosting

tonight," said Katia Bagwell, president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, "and it basically just showcases black culture, and within that we showcase the Divine Nine Greek organizations, which are the historic black organizations."

Before it started, the attendees could look at different African American items used in

everyday life from the past. They could also talk to the many different sororities and fraternities who put on the event.

"You got a little bit of history, culture because there is dancing, there is music, there is entertainment, and the educational piece is learning about the organizations," said Dian Albert-Brown, coordinator of multicultural affairs, "and folks who have come before us who are a part of the Greek organizations as well."

Hidden Kolors began with a "Moment of Silence of the Injustice in America." The presentation showed the problems that African Americans faced and still face in America. The presentation ended with a moment of silence for those who the community has lost due to hate crimes.

After the presentation, Carter-David spoke about

her time being a part of a Black Letter Greek organization.

"At exactly this time 20 years ago, I was sitting with a few friends and over 100 other eager black women at rush vying for a spot in the Spring 2009 Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. Alpha Delta chapter at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md.," she said. "That rush event did not produce a lot, but the next rush did. And at the end of the year I would cross into Alpha Kappa Alpha with 30 other beautiful women, my life sisters who I grew to love and respect very dearly."

She also shared her life story and details about the Divine Nine. She said if students ever decided to join these organizations, they would be doing a lot for the community and achieving more than they could think of.

See Kolors Page 6



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Members participating in the Hidden Kolors events that was hosted by the Multi-Cultural Center.

‘The Hate U Give’ talks about modern-day issues

By Sofia Rositani
Reporter

For the month of February, Chase’s Hall Council put on different movies to mark Black History Month, including “Get Out,” a horror film; “Selma,” a historical drama; and the final film to end the month was “The Hate U Give,” a drama. “The Hate U Give” is a film about Starr Carter, who lives two lives, one in a poor neighborhood where the majority of the population are people of color and the other in a wealthy prep school of primarily white students. She witnessed police brutality happen to her friend, who was shot and

killed by an officer. This film shows the pressure Carter goes through with backlash from both communities in the aftermath of her friend’s murder.

“We picked that last because it’s a more modern-day issue and it still goes back to black history and struggles that people of color still endure,” said Kellyann McPhoy, public relations of the Chase Hall council.

McPhoy also said the movie is very powerful, and that it is a problem that is still happening today. This film has elements in it for anyone no matter race, gender, and sexuality and also raises awareness. “I think that this film



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

(Top) Jamil Harp, Senior RA at Chase Hall, Secretary Michelle Barnes (left), Public relations Manager Kellyann McPhoy, Vice President Malik Atkinson-Woodward at ‘The Hate U Give’ event.

brings awareness to police brutality that is sometimes kept in the dark and it shows how people truly feel when they’re targeted

by police, by somebody who is supposed to protect you, but you are being targeted by that person,” McPhoy said.

Health studies major, Danielle Alves, a freshman said, “I think it can inspire them to stand up for what they believe in, stand up against things that are wrong.”

Though Alves has never seen the film, she said she thinks it can help show that this happens in the world, and that it can happen to anyone, no matter their age.

“This new Hall Council had decided to put on a series of events in celebration of Black History Month to not only educate our community more on different topics,” said senior resident adviser of Chase Hall, Jamil Harp, “but also to embrace the culture and kind of build community

throughout the dorms.”

“Having those conversations around social justice issues [and] also educating and uplifting the community, especially for our residents of color which is something really cool that they have done,” he said.

Education major Unique Parks, a freshman, said the movie gives an insight of what can happen to someone and that it raises awareness, especially for those who may not know that this is happening. Parks also said that this film can inspire others.

“I think,” she said, “that it shows no matter how old you are, what race you are, anything, we all have a voice, and every voice matters.”

Women become more involved in STEM majors on campus

By Mia Bonadies
Contributor
Sam Tapper
Sports Writer
Essence Boyd
Contributor
Joe Bulwidias
Contributor

In the computer science department at Southern sits a pair of blue and white knee-high converse sneakers, that are painted with a bar graph that indicates the growth of female students that enter the field.

As the population of women in computer science grows, the bar graph rises, adding fresh paint to the sneakers. The updating process of the sneakers falls in the hands of Chairperson Lisa Lancor and STEM Innovation and Leadership Director Winnie Yu.

“They’ve been everywhere and they tell the story,” said Lancor. “People stop us and ask ‘what are those?’ and it just lets us talk about the lack of women in tech.”

The idea of creating the “boots,” as Lancor and Yu call them, was thought of while the two were at the National Center for Women Information Technology Conference after becoming leaders.

“We were told to come in a pair of sneakers because pacesetters in a marathon set the pace for others to follow,” Lancor said. “We couldn’t have a regular

sneaker for we found our boots.”

According to the National Center for Women and Information Technology, since 2015, the computer science department has since seen a 75 percent increase in female students enrolled in the department.

Although the boots represent the growth of women deciding to join computer science at Southern, women still account for less than half of the population graduating from secondary schools at 35.5 percent, according to a 2016 Catalyst study, a study created to highlight the gender gap in each individual STEM field.

“[Women] are 50 percent of the population and there should be an equal amount of women and men in every field not just [computer-science],” said Colleen Bielitz associate vice president for Strategic Initiatives and Outreach. “It is frustrating that there are still so few women in computer science when we need their voices to be heard. The obstacles are always the same. We need society to change its views of what it considers roles for a man and a woman. There are no such boundaries, only the ones we make up.”

As the number of women in the field continues to grow, they still account for less than half of the field’s employees and according to The Bureau of Labor

Statistics, “computer science research jobs will grow 19 percent by 2026. Yet, women only earn 18 percent of computer science bachelor’s degrees in the United States. Despite the high job demand, computer science remains a male dominated field in the United States.”

On Nov. 12, the Computer Science Department and the Computer Science Club hosted a presentation outlining women in the tech field. Computer science professor Amal Abdel-Raouf gave a speech detailing the role women have in the field, while also stressing how they still are a minority.

“In the Computer Science Department, we started our efforts [to boost female enrollment and involvement] in 2016,” Abdel-Raouf said. “And we actually aim to increase the number of female participants in our department and in computing in general.”

Though the presentation was centered around women and the hope to bring more into the field, male students and faculty showed up in support of their female colleagues and classmates.

“First of all, I want to say that all women in computer science – I know it’s a challenge for them,” said computer science major Aryan Bisht, a sophomore. “They are such a minority in the whole STEM field, so I just wanted to come and

support the cause. I came to support all the speakers.”

Class of 2010 computer science graduate Chalise Grogan said she was the only woman on the team at any of the jobs in the tech field when she first started after graduation. Grogan currently works for 23 and Me in Silicon Valley, Calif. Now half the engineering team is made up of women, she said. Based on her experience, she said she believes that psychology has a lot to do with why women feel threatened in a male-dominated field.

“Stereotype threat is a concern that you are going to accidentally reinforce a negative stereotype. It is like saying women are not good at math or they are not good engineers,” Grogan said. “Another is imposter syndrome, which is when someone believes they don’t belong and they feel they aren’t as good as their counterparts. And I think that has definitely plagued me for a long time in my career. I am always trying to make sure no one puts me in a box.”

Although the field is still considered to be male-dominated, men themselves have observed the lack of female representation. It is said that it’s due to women not wanting to go against the grain.

“Well, as a male in a male-dominated profession,” said Omar Abid, Computer Science Technical Support Analyst,

“I believe that for a long time the computer science and STEM in general were viewed as the ‘boys club’ and it turned many women off from the field because they did not want to stand out; but as many women begin to enter the field I believe that stigma is slowly beginning to dissipate.”

One woman who has stepped into a leadership role in the field on Southern’s campus is senior and Computer Science Club president Elizabeth Endri, who despite the intimidation is continuing to pursue a career in STEM.

“I joined the field because of my interest in technology,” Endri said. “It is a little intimidating being one of the only girls in a department so heavily male-dominated but you learn to work with everyone and get things done.”

According to National Public Radio, the decline of women in the computer science field began in 1984 due to the progression of personal computers in homes as games they promoted were targeted primarily towards males and the stigma for many years to come became that computers were made for men.

“We definitely want to reach elementary schools, middle schools,” Endri said. “That’s when I think kids are first exposed to ‘boy toys’ [and] ‘girl toys’

and kind of get rid of those gender-specific roles and choices or styles.”

As the stigma of gender-specific roles continued, women found themselves having to catch up in a race they entered years too late.

“My biggest obstacle since starting with computer science was having to learn as much as I could in the span of four years,” said computer science major Tiffanie Edwards, a senior. “Prior to coming to Southern as a freshman, I had no technical background of any kind. Everything I learned about computer science has been largely taught through this school and I was always a little unsure of whether I was at a disadvantage compared to other students who started off earlier in their life.”

Although women have strayed from the field in the past, according to Endri, this is no longer the case.

“There are definitely more women staying in the field because the tech community is becoming more inclusive,” said Endri. “Everybody helps each other out.”

According to Lancor, having women on the team adds to the diversity of the staff and to the quality of the software produced.

“Software is built better when the team is more diverse,” Lancor said, “and this is what companies want.”

Kolors

Continued from Page 5

Psychology major, Jane Johnson, a freshman, said the reason she came out to the event was because “as an African American student it’s very empowering to celebrate

not only African American culture but, Caribbean cultures and others across the world.”

“It’s going to be a very eye-opening experience,” she said, “to learn about cultures that are not only across the world but also on this campus.”

Brown-Albert, who said Black History Month

is every day for her, said she thinks in February, people should take an extra opportunity to celebrate and appreciate people who came before.

“It is even more meaningful,” she said, “because I appreciate who I am and take value in everybody else who came before us.”



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Hidden Kolors in the Adanti Student Color ballroom.

Hijab Day

Continued from Page 5

“It was super eye-opening,” said Pohl. “I never realized how much commitment there was to keep a hijab on.”

Pohl said although she is not Muslim herself, she has always wanted to wear a hijab to view the world from a Muslim woman’s shoes and that this event was “super cool” in allowing her to

see that perspective.

Computer science major Zaha Naeem, a senior, expressed his content with the representation of Muslim women and the hijab in the presentation.

“It was great seeing a woman representing the hijab for the first time,” said Naeem, who himself is a Muslim.

He said he believes the experience will be beneficial to non-Muslim students to educate them

on Islamic culture. He also said he learned a great deal about other religions and cultures during the presentation as well.

Rahim said people should break out of their comfort zones and try to connect with people from all different cultures and religions, regardless of any existing stereotypes.

“Sometimes,” she said, “what stops us from talking to other people is ourselves.”



PHOTO | JOSEPH VINCENZI

Tradition Halel food at the Hijab Day event on Feb. 24.

Alumnus Clifford Chieffo donates artwork to Buley

By Sofia Rositani
Reporter

Alumnus Clifford Chieffo donated his artwork to the university, and it is up in Hilton C. Buley Library's Art Gallery until April 2.

The gallery offers very vibrant surroundings of the paintings that Chieffo painted. Many students who walked into the gallery stared at many of the paintings in awe due to the detailing of the paintings.

The gallery, titled "Paintings and Works on Paper by Clifford Chieffo," features not only paintings, but also one work of newspaper clippings put

together creating an image of Martin Luther King Jr. According to gallery director, Cort Sierpinski, Chieffo and his wife Patricia graduated from Southern in the 1950s, and after he graduated, he created the art department at Georgetown University. He also said Chieffo's wife worked at the Smithsonian museums in Washington, DC and the two donated money for scholarships to the university.

The art in the gallery has a meaning behind it.

"I think it's all very personal. It's about relationships that he has with society in general," Sierpinski said. "You will notice from the titles there is paintings of him in his studio and references

his wife so I think the thought process is his own personal relationships, and as well his relationship with society."

For Sierpinski, as a gallery director he must sit and speak with the art department and gallery committee to go over what will go up each year. There is a back area of the gallery where there are many different pieces: African art, pre-Columbian art, contemporary paintings, historical work dating back to the 1500s and works on paper. They must make sure everything is preserved. They also bring in outside shows, and at the end of the academic year graduating studio art majors works are shown as a group.

According to The Hoya, the largest online student newspaper source, Chieffo has works up in many different places of high status such as the Library of Congress, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the National Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian, the White House, and the Berkshire Museum. Chieffo worked on "The Exorcist," a horror movie from 1973, and he taught Patrick Ewing, a Hall of Fame basketball player, how to paint.

"Chieffo and his students took part in the protests to argue that there needed to be more accessibility to course enrollment, as well as spaces for artistic expression on campus and

recognition for the arts community" The Hoya stated. "He and his students held signs reading, 'Equal Rights for the Arts.'"

According to The Georgetown University website, not only did Chieffo do that but the Reflection Garden, made for those who lost their lives to Sandy Hook, on campus was also created by him.

The website also said, "On May 4, 2018, Professor Emeritus Cliff Chieffo cut the ribbon to dedicate a new Reflection Garden at Southern Connecticut State University. The garden honors four educators and graduates of SCSU who lost their lives in the 2012 Sandy Hook tragedy."

Further preparation

was required to get the paintings in the gallery and on display.

"A lot of the paintings have been in storage for decades so some of them needed to be cleaned," Sierpinski said. "Some of them needed frames repaired and replaced so all of that takes a lot of time so that is assuming if the artwork is ready to hang sometimes it isn't and it does need repairs."

Sierpinski also said it depends on if it is an outside artist and what their expectations are. For example, last semester, when "The Caged Bird Sings" was on display, the artist had certain desires for what she wanted in the show and how it was shown.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Chieffo's painting "Self-portrait of Artist and His Wife Pat" in the Art Gallery.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Chieffo's painting "The Circle of the Condemned" in the Art Gallery at Buley.

Ashe's EP is the perfect complement to 'P.S. I Still Love You'

By Jessica Guerrucci
Managing Editor

For those who turned on their televisions to watch "P.S. I Still Love You," they left with their heart-strings pulled and a belief in love again — but what this movie also gave us was Ashe's "Moral of the Story."

After being released in April of 2019, the musical masterpiece that is Ashe's EP "Moral of the Story: Chapter One," went somewhat unnoticed, that was until "P.S. I Still Love You," of course.

When I heard the soft ballad that is "Moral of the Story" and the piano creep in during the scene after Lara Jean has broken up with Peter Kavinsky, I knew the fate of this song had just taken a shift — and it was going to be big.

Now climbing its way into Spotify's United States Top 50, reaching as many as one million streams in one day and taking its place as the number one trending search on Apple Music in less than two weeks after the movie was released, it is fair to say this song is a hit.

The song additionally made its debut on ALT 98.7, which was Ashe's first appearance on the radio. As the song gathered the national attention it deserved, it has been amazing to watch her success grow so rapidly.

The song, which tells the story of Ashe's divorce, is truly beautiful. The lyrics themselves move us through a story and the lessons she has learned from being in love — and falling out of it.

Ashe, who described to online music publication, Earmilk, as "the song

that started it all," tells the story of how despite making mistakes in love or in life. Those mistakes help shape who you are. She repeats throughout the song, "Some mistakes get made, that's alright, that's okay," and it serves as a reassuring reminder to us all.

The most breathtaking part of the song is perhaps the bridge which leads in with the somewhat cliché but truthful line, "It is better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all," as she leads into the chorus one final time.

Though only "Moral of the Story" gained national attention, listening to four songs on the album in its entirety in a journey in itself. All the way through "Figured Out," "Bachelorette," "S---y Places, Pretty Faces" and finally to "Moral of the Story," we grow with Ashe and understand a piece of her life.

The raw honesty and depiction of love is what makes this album and song spectacular. The song itself is what made the breakup scene in "P.S. I Still Love You" so powerful. It is one of those

songs that has the kind of message that grabs people and pulls them in.

Ashe who already released "Moral of the Story: Chapter 2" in August of 2019, takes on the same ideas of lessons learned and how to grow from them and said she was holed up in her studio until 2020, but I am excited to see what comes next for her and how she grows.

Ashe and "Moral of the Story," were already something special. "P.S. I Still Love You" just gave it the platform to become something great.

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‘Red Velvet’ tackles 19th century racism in theater

By Jacob Waring
News Editor

“Red Velvet” is a play that focuses on the life of Ira Aldridge, a 19th century African American actor who sent shockwaves through the theatre establishment of the time. Aldridge endures the stigmas and vitriol a black man would face in the 1800’s.

The play, presented by the Department of Theatre and the Crescent Players had its opening night on Feb. 28.

Red Velvet is an intense play due to the subject matters it tackles. The thespians showcased exceptional emotional range in accordance to their characters.

Theater major Kat Duffner, a sophomore, played Ellen Tree. She said the most difficult part was learning the ins and outs of her character, how she thinks, how she

functions and pairing that with the fact her character lived in 1833.

“It’s a very different time for women and for actors and for people in general,” said Duffner, “so, pairing that with all the intricacies of her character is very challenging, but a lot of fun.”

For communications major, Gary Robinson Jr., a freshman, who played the younger version of Ira Aldridge, said that performing on the stage and getting prepped for a performance is not much contrast compared to his time on the SCSU football team.

“Besides the physical part. When you come when you come into the game, you’re nervous as well because you get butterflies because you care so much,” he said, “Same thing with acting, you practice for months and months and months with football practice,

it helped me with this work.”

The costumes brought authenticity to the performances. The only critique would be that the costumes had a newness to them rather than articles of clothing that been worn over time. The hairstyles were ones associated with the 1800s time period.

Duffner wore a Victorian era dress that added to her own acting while also limiting her in unexpected ways.

“[The dress] helps with the posture and the physicality of the character,” said Duffner, “It also makes it harder to breathe and it makes it harder to use all of the movement that we use.”

Various members of the cast spoke in accents. Michael Hinton was the Voice/Dialect Coach who helped each thespian perfect their accents.

“The dialect coach, really, really helped me

refine it and find the breadth where my accent was lacking,” said Duffner, “That I could have a more accurate representation of his character.”

The props matched the 1800’s aesthetics and help elevate the performance to another level. The props for newspaper broadsheets from that period. The set design was simplistic at times but that helped zero in on the performers’ individual performances.

The stage ability to turn around on itself aided in transitioning from different time periods or different locations. It is always an impressive feat of engineering when a stage allows a smooth transition with minimal prop movement that could be distracting.

The blocking was utilized well. The way certain actions was done in front of

the audience allowed specific movements to be enhance the plot.

Certain examples such as deliberately turning to allow the emotion to flow over the audience or subtle hand movements added nuance to characters’ personalities.

The director of Red Velvet, Benjamin Curns, said that his attitude in regard to tackling the source material’s racism, history, art and style was acknowledging that it is ugly and nasty all round.

“I think those nasty and ugly things that are said in the show are necessary for the story, because I think to sugarcoat it or take those things out, I think is even more dangerous,” said Curns, “because you wind up then sort of suggesting to an audience that the past wasn’t as bad as some might say.”

Robinson Jr. said that tackling such subject matter was challenging

but his approach was to just tackle the subjects head on.

“I think it was something I just took on head on because something I knew about I knew the struggle myself,” said Robinson Jr.

Many in attendance had high praise for the performance and for the cast.

Media studies major, Emmanuel Asante, a sophomore, said, “I thought the play was very amazing,” Asante said. “Phenomenal acting. It was entertaining and it was heartfelt.”

Business Management major, Francisco Cortez, a junior said that the performance was amazing, that the cast gave it their all and the emotions on display were incredible.

“It was really amazing,” said Cortez, “They gave you the all. It sounded like they really from [the 1800’s].”



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Actors Gary Robinson Jr. and Molly Flanagan performing in ‘Red Velvet’ last Friday in Lyman.



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Actors Gary Robinson Jr. and Christian Gunzenhauser performing in ‘Red Velvet’ on Feb. 28 in Lyman.

Folio reading gives a platform to art, poetry and short stories

By Sofia Rositani
Reporter

There was poetry, short stories and an open mic at the Folio Reading on Thursday, Feb. 27. The event highlights Folios first reading of the semester.

According to President of Folio Natalie Rogers, Folio started back in the 1920s at Southern. The magazine was formerly an outlet for men who returned from World War I in 1918 to talk about their trauma from the war.

Today it is now an undergraduate run art

and literary magazine on Southern’s campus that features the works of undergraduates in it. There can be work such as poetry, art and short stories. The magazine comes out once a year.

During the event, one student read their pieces to those who attended. After the guest speakers read their works there was a break and then an open mic for those who wanted to read their own work.

“This is the first event of the semester. It’s just a standard reading of featured artists doing poetry and fiction,” Rogers said, “and then we always

just open it up to open mic at the end of the night where anyone can share their work.”

The event’s three featured artists were Genevieve Jaser, Steff Sirois and Katie Doyle.

Jaser said she has been writing poetry since sixth grade and has done a poetry reading for Folio before, read three of her poems. One of them was called “Wet Wings.” It told about an acquaintance from high school who tried to kill herself last month.

Jaser said she realized the cliché in which people say her friend “seemed like

she would never do that,” or wondered how it could have happened, which led her to write the piece.

“Like it slips through peoples fingers and it slipped through the girl’s fingers,” she said, “and I felt so sad and so confused I put her in the terms of the moth and I wrote a poem basically addressing her as the moth and saying find your peace.”

Jaser said she writes most of her work while she is emotional, because while writing she believes that “a lot of emotion can be channeled into less emotional things.” She said that it feels really

good to go up and read one of her poems because it is something that she is proud of, and reading it out loud to people makes it easier for her to read out loud in front of attendees.

Doyle was a featured reader for Folio during the event. Some of the poems she wrote were called “Backseat,” “Tarot Table” and “Life on the Lake.”

“I love that everyone has a lot of different ideas, and they make the events really fun, and I love to hear peoples work,” she said.

English major, Sophia Aneto, a junior said she has been coming

to Folio readings since her freshman year at Southern. She said she enjoys coming to these readings because she likes to support Folio and the English department, and she likes to see what people have written and see the art that was done.

“[Eighth grade was] when I started writing poems, and stuff, terrible awful poems but hey it was a start,” she said. “I have been interested in creative writing since then, I came to school to pursue an English major, and then I found out there is a creative writing reading, ‘Oh God I got to be there.’”



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

English major Genevieve Jaser, junior, reading her poem at the Folio event.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Vice President of Bookmarks English Club Sophia Oneto reading at the Folio event.

Track and field wins another title

Team wins four NE10 Championships in four consecutive years, prepares for upcoming NCAA trials

By Mike Neville
Contributor

Domination is one of the many words that comes to mind when describing the success that Southern's track head coach John Wallin has had over his ten years at the university.

Fresh off his fourth consecutive NE10 championship, Wallin said the goal from the start of the season was to be champions.

"Winning is on our mind every year, everyone performed well, we elevated ourselves pretty high and, in the end," said Wallin, "it wasn't even close."

A big part of Southern's track season was Ruvens Exantus, a senior who competes in a variety of events such as hurdles and the long jump and who is no stranger to success at Southern, being a part of all of the last four championship seasons.

Setting the bar early in the season despite setbacks he faced was on Exantus's mind, who said he wanted to go out a winner considering in his last year.

"I had high expectations this season," said Exantus. "Earlier in the season, hamstring injuries became a setback for me, but I felt better towards the end which was the most

important part."

Going into the championships, which took place on Feb. 20 and 21, Exantus said his mentality was to stay locked in and get the job done.

At the Championships, Exantus and his team did get the job done, as he claimed first place in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.09, an NCAA provisional mark and a personal-best.

The Owls dominated the two-day competition, which took place in Roxbury, Mass, especially in the 400 meter dash, where they took home the top four spots.

Justin Kelly, a senior, earned first place with a time of 48.71, Nigel Green, a junior, came in second with a time of 48.74, and Sachin Manning, a senior, and Jordan Lembo-Frey, a junior, came in third and fourth with respective times of 49.44 and 49.45.

Philip Quaye, a senior, finished in first for both the heptathlon and the pole vault, while Daniel Brown, a junior, earned a gold medal in both the 60-meter hurdles and 1,000-meter run.

Being a senior, Exantus is one of the many key members of the track team that will be leaving due to graduation, a hurdle Wallin must go over.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The men's track and field team posing in NE10 Champion attire on Feb. 21 in the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, Mass.

"We're going to need a big push out of our sophomore and junior athletes moving forward," said Wallin. "They're the guys and girls we need to focus on."

Kiah Strickland is another senior that will be departing at seasons end. This year she had the opportunity to compete alongside her

brothers Derek and Nikolas Strickland, who are a freshman and junior.

"This is my first time going to school with both of them at the same time," said Strickland. "so it was amazing seeing them form into their true selves and being in their element."

Nikolas, is someone

who Wallin said he could see stepping up next year, although younger brother Derek, along with the other younger athletes may need some time.

"I don't see freshmen stepping up yet, they will need time to mature. Sophomores and seniors are our focus," said Wallin.

Looking ahead to the NCAA DII Championships, which will play out on March 13 and 14, Wallin said grooming his athletes so they reach their potential is the key to being successful in the meet.

See Champs Page 11

Five gymnasts honored on Senior Day, claim third place

By Sam Tapper
Sports Writer

Despite a year filled with emotion and uncertainty, Saturday afternoon at Moore Field House served as a celebration for the Owls' gymnastics team, as they honored their five seniors in their last home meet on senior day.

The Owls hosted a quintuple meet, as they welcomed in West Chester University, Brown University, the University of Bridgeport and Rhode Island College for their final home meet.

To finish the day, the Owls finished in a tie with Brown for third place in the meet with a score of 192.400, while Bridgeport won the day with a score of 194.800 followed by West Chester in second with

193.125. Rhode Island, the only team competing not in the ECAC, finished in fifth with a score of 181.525.

"I think we did great as a team," said Keylea Brothers, a senior. "We had some bumps in the road, but we got over them fast and we moved on and we picked it back up and hit well."

For the Owls, two program records were set on the afternoon, both by Hannah Stahlbrodt, a sophomore. Stahlbrodt first scored a 9.875 on the uneven bars and followed it up with a score of 39.075 in all-around competition, shattering the program's previous marks.

The Owls began the day on a break. With there being five teams present for four events, they sat out the first round of events. From there, the Owls began on the vault, where

Stahlbrodt's score of 9.650 placed seventh out of the 30 participants. Following the vault, the Owls moved on to the uneven parallel bars, then to the balance beam before finishing the day on the floor, where Stahlbrodt led the Owls with a score of 9.825, followed by Jordan Peloquin, a junior, with a 9.775 and Alexandra Lesperance, a senior, scoring a 9.725.

"I think I did a really good job," Lesperance said. "Floor was amazing, the vault I could've cleaned up a little, and the bars I hit it, so I'm glad about that."

For the senior day festivities, emotions were running high. As the Owls came out during their pre-meet introductions, the ceremony began.

See Gymnasts Page 11



PHOTO | HUNTER O. LYLE

Attacker Hailey Gordon, junior, rushing to scoop the ball during the team's home win against Post University on Feb. 29.

Women's lacrosse loses to Purple Knights, beat Eagles

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

Looking to continue the team's early success, the women's lacrosse team faced off against out-of-conference opponent Bridgeport University, which ended in a battle of attrition with the Purple Knights toppling the Owls 11-10.

In the teams home opener, Southern blew out Dominican College 22-4, tying the programs second-highest scoring performance ever — first ever at home. Head coach Kevin Siedlecki said while the win gave the team a boost in confidence, they knew it would be a new level of competition with the Purple Knights.

"I mean, you really have to throw [the previous game] away. You know,

they're very different teams," said Siedlecki. "Bridgeport is a team that we knew would give us a good game. Dominican we kind of knew we would out match them a little bit, so going into that one it was lets polish up what we were doing, lets clean things up a little bit, and going into this one we had to execute, we had to get things done and play our game against a team that would challenge us."

Both teams were 1-0 coming in and seemed to focus on offense early in the game. Attacker Karlie Rowe, a sophomore opened the game in just the fourth minute with a score off a free position shot.

Eight minutes later, Bridgeport responded off the same situation. Four minutes after that, Southern once again scored off yet

another free position shot, which was then answered by Bridgeport minutes later. Such was the game that quickly became a back-and-forth battle of scoring.

"[Bridgeport] was pretty even with us on the playing field," said Rowe, "so every time they got a goal we had to respond. We couldn't let ourselves get down."

This tic-for-tac trend continued all the way through the first half, with the Purple Knights eventually taking a two-goal lead with a score with 18 seconds left in the first period of play.

Southern's frequent shooting — 19 shots with 16 on goal to Bridgeport's 12 and 10 — is something Siedlecki said is a major game plan, granting them more opportunities.

See Lacrosse Page 11

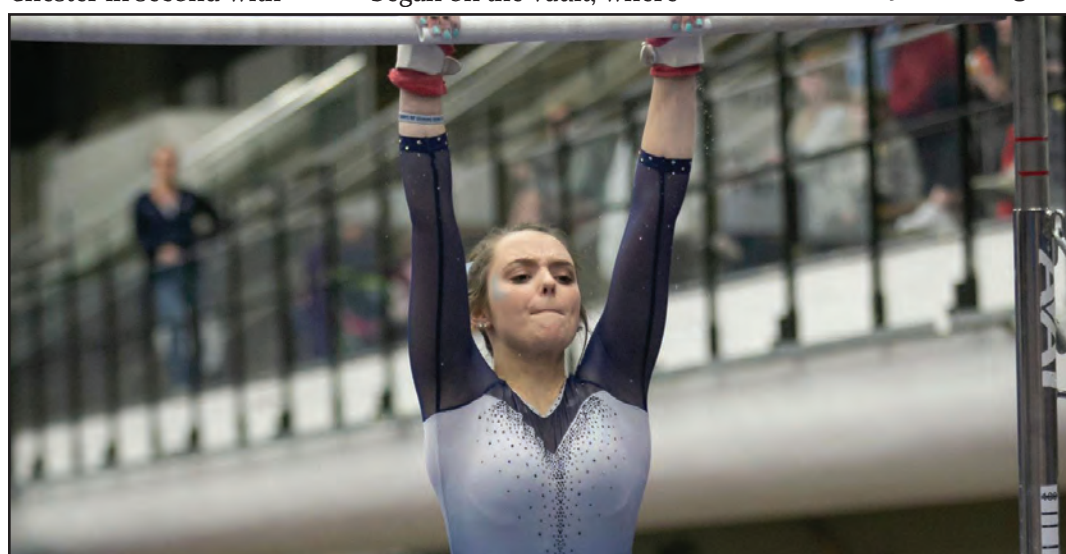


PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Hannah Stahlbrodt, sophomore, on the uneven bars at a home meet earlier this season.



Husky starlet comes back to the state

Column by Sam Tapper
Sports Writer

Ever since Geno Auriemma took over as head women's basketball coach at UConn in 1985, the program has seen countless superstars come and go. From Rebecca Lobo to Maya Moore, they all live in the state's sports history books.

Included in that bunch is sharpshooter and current WNBA forward Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, who, after playing the first five years of her professional career with the Seattle Storm, is now coming back to the state she once called home after being traded to the Connecticut Sun.

Mosqueda-Lewis made her mark as a Husky through all four of her years at UConn. Despite coming off the bench as a freshman, she led the 2012 Huskies in scoring and was named the Big East Freshman of the Year, Sixth Man of the Year and was the MVP of the 2012 Big East Tournament, the second freshman in program history to do so.

Following her success as a freshman, "KML" upped her game to yet another level. She jumped into the starting lineup and scored 17.6 points per game to lead her squad again, ultimately leading them to the 2013 national championship while also being the nation's best shooter from deep, shooting nearly 50 percent from three. Limited to 26 games as a junior due to injury, Mosqueda-Lewis again played a key role in securing back-to-back national titles.

In her senior year at UConn, Mosqueda-Lewis past fellow Husky-great Maya Moore as the program's all-time leader in threes. She helped lead the Huskies to their third straight national championship and became the NCAA women's basketball all-time leader in three-pointers made with 398.

Mosqueda-Lewis was drafted with the third overall pick in the 2015 WNBA Draft by Seattle, where her career was nothing like college, as she never averaged more than 5.8 points per game and only found herself in Seattle's starting lineup nine times over the five-year stretch.

Despite her not putting up numbers like she did at UConn, she was a key contributor on the 2018 Storm team that won the WNBA championship. Now, she finds herself back in the Nutmeg State, a new beginning with old fans, she looks to her career.

Driven by family, Bennett buys into opportunity

By Sam Tapper
Sports Writer

Life has not always been easy for Owls' men's basketball player Lyron Bennett. Now an Owl, Bennett is not only embracing every bit of the opportunity he has been given, but living his dream too.

Growing up in Boston, Mass., there was a lot of activity Bennett could have gotten himself into. Instead, he credits his family for keeping him in line off the court and keeping him motivated on the court.

"Number one is definitely my family. I need to thank my mom, my sister, my brothers and my father," said Bennett, who is now a starting freshman guard for Southern. "They've always been there for me. Coming up in basketball, I wasn't 'the guy,' I wasn't the go-to guy coaches would look at, sometimes I'd even be riding the bench. But my [dad], my brother, they were always my worst critics, telling me to, 'Stay with it.'"

Despite the work and effort his family members put in with him, the struggles of the world also played a factor in Bennett's life. In 2010 when he was just a young kid, Bennett's brother died tragically in the killings of the Mattapan Massacre.

"I'm definitely doing this for my older brother," said Bennett. "Boston's definitely a tough city to live in. There's a lot of violence going on out there, so you've just got to surround yourself with the right people."

With his brother in his heart, Bennett continued to pursue basketball with a passion. According to Bennett, basketball started for him in "third or fourth grade" when he began playing MABC AAU ball under coach Larry Merritt, a figure Bennett says played a crucial role in his

growth as a player.

After years of working with Merritt and all the other coaches Bennett has much gratitude for, he ultimately found himself attending a charter school in Boston. Bennett attended his first two years there, but after realizing he would need to play at a more sports-prominent high school to get to the next level, he ended up transferring to Tech Boston Academy. It was here Bennett grew into the 6'0, 180-pound point guard he is today.

"I transferred [to Tech Boston] with my uncle, he's the head coach over there," said Bennett. "His name is Johnny Williams, he's definitely a big reason for where I'm at today. Even the assistant coaches — they all had my back."

While playing for the Bears, Bennett saw the success he had worked so hard for when he was younger. He was named the Comcast Tournament MVP and named the Cities MVP during his senior year, an award given to the most valuable player of a tournament with the top teams in the City of Boston.

Though Bennett saw success while at Tech Boston Academy, both the success and the game itself were almost taken away from him when he was 17 years old.

"Before I transferred, I got stabbed in my [left] hand. It took my junior season away," Bennett said. "Just violence in the city or whatever but, [my coaches] helped me through that whole process, kept me in the gym all the time, just helped me get my head back on straight. It was crazy."

Given every excuse to quit, Bennett persevered. After the incident, Bennett was able to get the year he lost back. As his high school career went on, so began the

recruitment process.

While Bennett was also playing AAU, Southern's head coach Scott Burrell and his assistant coach Mark Fogel traveled up I-95 to see Bennett in person.

Impressed with what they saw, Burrell invited Bennett to come to New Haven for a campus visit. It was during this visit that Bennett experienced one of the "top three" coolest experiences of his life — a phone conversation with none other than Ray Allen, a friend of Burrell's.

"When I was in the office with Scott Burrell, he let me talk to Ray Allen on the phone for 30 minutes," Bennett said. "My favorite player is LeBron James and [Allen] was telling me why Jordan was better than LeBron — I still think LeBron is better — but he was just explaining to me and breaking it down why Jordan was better — it was a good conversation."

Though talking with Allen was an added bonus, Bennett credits Burrell as the biggest reason he came here. Not because of Burrell's NBA history — which Bennett said he did not know about until after he came here — but of his

"I'm definitely doing this for my older brother,"
— Lyron Bennett on his motivation

interest in Bennett beyond basketball.

"With the kind of coach that Scott Burrell is, he wasn't just asking me about basketball, he asked me about what I want to do with my life," said Bennett. "Not many people ask that. It really showed to me that it's not just about basketball with him. He wants to see me grow as a man and wants me to be successful, so that's why I definitely came here."

In the eyes of Burrell, the fit was seemingly perfect. His Owls were coming off a season where their point guard and former NE10 Conference standout, Isaiah McLeod, also from the Boston area, finished his four-year career and went on to graduate. In search of a point guard, Burrell looked to a place he had success before and came away with his man.

"Number one he's tough, he competes every day,



Guard Lyron Bennett, freshman, running the fastbreak during a home game against Saint Rose on Feb. 22.

he wants to get better and he wants to learn," Burrell said. "He's never satisfied with himself or with his teammates. He wants everybody to grow, and he has through the whole year."

Bennett's growth throughout his freshman year has been evident. Bennett made his collegiate debut against Post University in November, where he found himself as a member of Burrell's starting lineup. In his first college season, Bennett finished with a stat line of 10.8 points, 5.4 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.1 steals per game, putting his name in the conversation for NE10 Rookie of the Year.

"It's funny, because in high school, [a point guard] is something I always wanted to be, I've always wanted to facilitate first," said Bennett. "In high school I just had to score. But when I came here, I needed to be a true point guard, and that was one of the best things I ever heard because this is what I've wanted to be for a while."

With Bennett excelling already as a freshman, and with tremendous upside for his next three years, Burrell knows that quality, dominant guard play will lead him over the next few years just as it had over the past four with McLeod. And building all-around good guards is something that Burrell said is a must for his program.

"You need good guards to win games," said Burrell. "Good guards, they control the ball the majority of the game. You need good guards that can think the game, that can play the game, can score and play good D."

Bennett's emergence and overall presence has

been conducive to his teammates on the court as well. With Bennett's ability to run the offense and direct traffic each possession, as a freshman, no less, he is able to create space for shot makers like guard Isaiah Boissard, a junior, guard C.J. Seaforth, a junior, and forward Greg Jones, a junior.

"He's definitely a good player when he attacks downhill, and then when they press up on him, he can go right by him or pull up," said Seaforth. "He finds me a lot, he tells me just, 'Be ready.' When he drives, he's going to draw everyone in then he can dish it out to me."

This season, Bennett has shown that he is only getting better with each game that passes. His confidence, he said, is sky high compared to where it was against Post in the opener. One thing that can be heard, especially after a dominant game from him, is his teammates chanting his nickname, "L-Boogie," which is a name Bennett holds close to his heart.

"[Bennett's brother's] name was Levaughn, and my name's Lyron, he's the real 'L-Boogies,'" Bennett said. "Since he passed, I took his name to carry on his legacy. That's my guy, that was definitely my guy."

As Bennett moves forward with success and continues to perfect his game, he leads the Owls into the future. However, he does not forget his past. Whether it was where he grew up or what he has endured, when he takes the court, he leaves it all on the court, doing everything for his brother.

"He was a great big brother to me," Bennett said. "I feel like he's proud of me whenever I have a good game. So, I'm just trying to keep doing my thing and having great games for him."

Gymnasts

Continued from Page 9

In addition to Lesperance and Brothers, Jackie Kutcher, Jenna Zakala and Bella Antonangeli were honored.

As each senior was announced, a bouquet of flowers was presented by each of their families, serving as a gift of celebration of the four-year career

they draw closer each day to completing. In addition to the flowers, individual video tributes played on the new Moore Field House jumbotron, showing pictures of the seniors with their teammates, old videos of them competing and special messages from their underclassmen teammates.

"Honestly, I feel like I just keep thinking about the fact that it's the last time we're going to be performing in front of our own crowd,"

said Kutcher. "I think more than anything, I just wanted to go out there and hit for my team, I wanted the energy to stay high, and I just wanted a positive day."

After the video tributes and flowers from family, each athlete took a photo with their family, the coaching staff and athletic director Jay Moran. After all five seniors were announced and honored, all five and their families came back together one

final time to take one large photo, demonstrating the camaraderie this year's class has with one another.

"It was awesome [to be honored with them]," said Zakala. "I joined their group — I'm graduating early — so, they really welcomed me with open arms, and I wouldn't trade them for anything."

Though senior day is now in the past, the season for the Owls is not over. From here on out, the Owls will

take their talents on the road for a quadruple meet at Rutgers with Caldwell and West Chester on March 6, followed by a meet at Towson University on March 15 before the ECAC meets, regionals and then nationals.

"[It was] super emotional," Antonangeli said. "I just feel like the way the seniors performed was amazing and I'm glad we ended the way we did, and we still have more to come."



Guard Lyron Bennett, freshman, during a game against the College of Saint Rose on Feb. 22.

GRAPHIC | HUNTER O. LYLE

Athletes juggle academics and athletics

By Sam Tapper
Sports Writer

It is commonly said at colleges and universities across the country that student-athletes are students first, yet their athletics are so closely documented and almost no attention is paid to their efforts day-in and day-out in the classroom.

When the lights on the field or on the court are turned off, student-athletes revert back to their role as students, going to class each day and working the rigorous academic grind thousands of other students do each day—only, for the athletes, it is crucial that they are on top of everything they are assigned.

“It’s really about time management,” said men’s basketball forward Greg Jones, a junior. “With basketball, it’s definitely a lot harder than just going to class and being a regular student, but all my life I’ve just been more into books than ball so that helps me now.”

Jones is an athlete who is very outgoing when demonstrating his commitment in the classroom. Aside from being praised by his coaches for being a good student, Jones consistently says that for him, it is “Straight A season,” embracing his role as a student-athlete and being more than just a basketball player.

“As student-athletes,

we’ve got two jobs: books, then your ball,” Jones said. “If it’s got to get done, it’s got to get done.”

Though not all athletes are as emphatic about their work in the classroom as Jones is, understanding priorities is something athletes of any sport need to adjust to in order to maintain success, as success in a sport cannot come without quality production in class.

For Owls’ softball infielder Sara Buscetto, a senior, the adjustment she was forced to make with balancing academics and sports coming out of high school was a serious one, as she had to account for travel and long road trips, something not many athletes have in high school.

“It’s a lot, when I first got here, I really didn’t realize how much exactly it was going to be,” Buscetto said. “But it’s a big commitment and it’s not easy. We have away games and we’re on the bus for a couple hours, and we’re doing homework on our laptops off the bus Wi-Fi. So, it was challenging but you do get used to it and I think the Athletic Department and just Southern in general do a great job of trying to accommodate us.”

Though the 16-week grind of a college semester does not let up until it is over, Buscetto said that eventually it became less of an adjustment

to balance school with softball at this level and it became more of a routine.

“I don’t really think that I noticed when it became routine. I think I kind of just eased my way into it,” Buscetto said. “But I would say my junior year [I got used to it]. Freshman and sophomore year were tough. I wasn’t even in my major classes until last year, but by that point I learned how to handle everything and my time management skills got better.”

One of the things other students may not realize is that student-athletes are forced to sometimes miss class. Though their class schedule is built around the training and practice regiment and home games are in the evenings on weekdays, athletes do have to miss class due to travel, as Buscetto said. In the NE10, Southern is just one of two schools located in Connecticut, three if you count Post University, which is only an affiliate in select sports.

Based on the layout and geography of the conference, every road game is a multi-hour road trip during the day.

Because of this, student-athletes must coordinate with their professors, so they are not penalized for absences while also figuring out other avenues of learning the material while not in class.

Though this can be tough, for the most part,



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Infielder Sarah Buscetto, senior, leading off second base during a game against Pace last season.

athletes at Southern find that professors are helpful through that process.

“Usually in my freshman and sophomore years I had teachers who didn’t really understand the baseball — or any sport — schedule,” said baseball catcher Mike DiMartino, a senior. “They didn’t really mind. They adapted pretty quickly to it. If I had to miss a class or if I really needed extra time to get homework in, they would be very understanding about it.”

The experience can vary slightly, as winter sports like basketball take up a lot of winter break

whereas baseball and softball occupy almost the entirety of the spring semester. Though no two athletes will have the same exact experience, the advice for all collegiate student athletes from women’s basketball guard Alexa Kellner is, “Do not procrastinate.”

“It’s really finding that gap of time to be able to do work. You’ve kind of got to make it for yourself,” Kellner, a freshman, said. “You’ve got to get into a routine. If practice ends at this time and I have class at this time, this is the time I really need to make sure I get all my work done.”

Champs

Continued from Page 9

“Athletes we think have a chance to compete in the National Championships did not compete in NE10, so they are in full preparation mode ahead of the meet,” said Wallin.

For Kiah Strickland, the final chapter is being written on her time with Southern, a part of her life she has fond memories of. “I could not have picked a more perfect school to go to,” said Strickland. “Southern has become home and I have gone farther in both academics and athletics during my time here.”

Kiah Strickland is also no stranger to success, as she was a NE10 Champion in the javelin and an All-

Region selection in the javelin and the pentathlon. This season in the NE10, she placed fourth in the shot put with a throw of personal-best throw 13.10 meters.

While the women’s side of track and field did not finish as champions like the men, they finished in fifth.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the team of Natalee Seipio, Cori Richardson, Toni Joseph and Arreyiyona Jones, all of which are freshman, took home the silver with a time of 3:56:03, the fastest time from a Southern team since 2017-2018 season.

Regarding athletes like Exantus, it is not quite over, the NCAA Championship is another chance to reach the paramount of the mountain, something he

amounted to in his junior season as well.

“I intend to become an All-American at the NCAA’s,” said Exantus. “It’s been a dream of mine since freshman year and I am confident this year I can achieve it.”

In terms of personal goals, besides becoming an All-American, Exantus said that he has not yet achieved his own goals and that they will come to light during the NCAA’s, whatever they may be.

With the season coming to a close at the end of the spring semester, and with Southern’s team looking very different, Wallin said that next year will have its own set of challenges.

“Every year is different, athletes come, and they go,” said Wallin. “We will see what next year holds in the fall of 2020.”



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Emily Moran (left), freshman, Emma Cayward, sophomore, Elizabeth Gray, sophomore, and Ashley Cummings, junior, posing with their bronze medals.



PHOTO | HUNTER O. LYLE

Defender Kendall Simmons, senior, cradling the ball while rushing up field during the home win against Post University on Feb. 22..

Lacrosse

Continued from Page 9

“In a game like that it could have gone either way with a couple different bounces. I mean just two of the [many] shots that we missed going in,” said Siedlecki. “That won’t always be the case. The law of averages, statistics will average out and we’ll win a couple games.”

Playing from behind, the Owls came out of the halftime with new energy. Even though the Purple Knights scored early in the half, the Owls went on a 3-1 run to tie the game at seven with just under 24 minutes left to play. After the initial scoring boost, the game once again turned into a battle, with both teams scoring within minutes of each other.

Bridgeport would score, gaining a two goal lead, and then Southern would cut it down time and time again, however Southern would not tie the score

again. With time running out, attacker Morgan Chase, a senior, would cut the game to one, which would result in a final score of 11-10.

“I’m not at all disappointed with the effort. You know, obviously you want to come out on the right side of it, you want to win the game,” said Siedlecki, “but we fought really hard against a good team. We hit the goalie so many times, but we just didn’t finish our shots. We dominated everything else about the game, and if we just finished two more shots, we just had to finish. It will come.”

At the end of regulation, seven Owls made it into the scoring column. Rowe along with fellow attacker Bayleigh Tackas, a sophomore, and defender Mia Pulisciano, a sophomore, ended with two goals. Chase, attacker Hailey Gordon, a junior, midfielders Steph Seymour, another junior, and Kelly Jagodzinski, a sophomore, all grabbed one goal each.

Reflecting on the team’s effort, Siedlecki said he is confident wins will come as long as they continue the hard work shown against Bridgeport.

“We don’t get any days off really. We have to play games like this or better opponents basically every day,” said Siedlecki. “It’s tough but that’s where you want to be. At the end of the day, you want to be playing great lacrosse games every day, and it’s way more fun than winning or losing by 20.”

Evidentially, Siedlecki was correct, as the team came out on Saturday and beat Post University 18-7. In that game, Rowe, Tackas and Seymour all scored four times each. Gordon earned a hat-trick, Pulisciano scored twice and Jagodzinski scored once.

Tackas also had five assists on the day, tying the program’s single-game record previously set in 2015. She also tied the record for second most points — goals and assists — with nine against Post University.



Playoffs cut short in loss at Stonehill

Column by Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

After four months of excitement, which featured comebacks, buzzer beater and youthful highlights, the men’s basketball team’s 86-71 playoff loss to Stonehill College on Sunday means only one thing: there will be no more basketball on campus.

After making the playoffs, claiming the third seed in the Southwest Division and earning a by-week through the first round, the Owls faced the Skyhawks, a budding rivalry that has typically favored Southern throughout the past two years.

To grip the magnitude of this matchup, there needs to be an understanding of the past. Firstly, last season the Owls were once again pitted against the Skyhawks in the first round of the NE10 playoffs as the No. 4 seed. In that game, the Owls were able to claim victory and a ticket to the next round with a 80-75 victory lead by then senior guard Kealen Ives who dropped 37 — the Owls then advanced to the semifinals, eventually losing to Elm City rival UNH.

This season, Southern lost in the only regular season matchup against Stonehill 67-59 and faced them again in the playoffs on Sunday.

While Stonehill was able to run up the score in the first half, leading by 19 points with on full half left to go, Southern was able to turn on the jets, and work their way back into the game, eventually cutting the deficit to just five points in crunch time.

The main reason for the loss which ended the Owl’s season was the missed opportunities at the free-throw line — Southern only connected on seven of the team’s 17 chances (41 percent). This was a very odd showing for a team which, throughout their 27 games, shot 76 percent from the line.

In the loss to Stonehill on Sunday, five Owls scored in double digits, yet none cracked 20. Forward Taurus Adams II, the teams only senior, finished with a team-high 16 points and eight rebound along with two blocks and a steal. The promising true freshman guard Lyron Bennett tallied 13 points and two steals while redshirt junior guard Isaiah Boissard also scored 13 and junior forward Greg Jones had 12 points and five rebounds.

While the fight for New Haven between the UNH and Southern definitely garners the most publicity when it comes to rivalries, the Skyhawks-Owls matchup may be one to circle on the calendar. So far, the score is 1-1.

PHOTO

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MARCH 4, 2020

PAGE 12

'Red Velvet' premieres at Lyman Center



Liam Welsh (left) and Kat Duffner performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet' on Feb. 27.

By Izzy Manzo
Photo Editor

This week, the Southern News reported on the Crescent Players and department of theater's premiere of 'Red Velvet,' which was on Friday, Feb. 28.

"Red Velvet" takes place during the year 1833 and chronicles actor Ira Aldridge's time in London's Theatre Royal as the first black actor to play Othello in Shakespeare's play of the

same name.

The play stars communication major Gary Robinson Jr., a freshman, as 'young' Aldridge, and world languages major Malcolm Davis, a senior, as 'old' Aldridge.

Showings will run from Thursday, March 5, to Saturday, March 7 in the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts.

See Page 8 in the Arts & Entertainment section for more about Red Velvet.



Gary Robinson Jr. (left) and Margaret Flanagan performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'



Leah Herde (left), Ryleigh Rivas, and Malcolm Davis performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'



Keegan Smith (left), E'Von Davis, and Matthew Lopes performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'



Robinson (left) and Duffner performing a scene during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'



Lopes performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'



Christian Gunzenhauser (left), Davis, Duffner, and Davis performing.



Duffner performing during the dress rehearsal of 'Red Velvet.'

PHOTOS | IZZY MANZO