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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Database inadvertently shared data with ICE

University police respond by shutting off sharing settings

**By Victoria Bresnahan**  
News Editor  
**and Tamonda Griffiths**  
News Writer

The Southern University Police Department has been linked to inadvertently providing license plate recognition data to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement through a cloud-based online database.

Patrick Dilger, director of Integrated Communications & Marketing, said, in a

telephone interview, the university disabled the sharing function of the database, Vigilant Solutions, once the linkage was discovered.

“The university has never directly shared information with ICE,” stated President Joe Bertolino, in a campus announcement email, “nor are we aware of any instance in which information about members of the campus community has been accessed or used by the federal agency.”

According to a Vigilant Solutions, data sharing

report—created on Nov. 7, 2018—ICE was receiving “detection data” from the university, as well as other police departments such as Fairfield, Trumbull and Norwalk.

According to University Police Chief Joseph Dooley, the department started to utilize Vigilant Solutions’ database in June 2018.

When the department agreed to share information with ICE, Dooley said it was because the agency was bundled in with others, similar to that of a social media mass friend request.

**See ICE Page 2**



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO  
The street sign outside of Southern’s University Police Department.

## Provisional status removed

Status dismissed after eight years

**Tamonda Griffiths**  
News Writer

After eight years, the university is no longer in provisional status from the U.S. Department of Education, according to a campus announcement from President Joe Bertolino.

“Basically, what that means or what it meant, said Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Terricita Sass, “was that Southern would have to go to the U.S. Department of Education for any changes that it wanted to make in any of its academic programs.”

This designation by the DOE, Sass said, meant more oversight on the

university’s processes.

According to Sass, the university was put on provisional status due to continual audit findings and “institutional capability.”

“You need to clean-up your audits, improve your processes,” said Sass, “also what they call institution capability, which is making sure you have systems in place, the right people in place and that the people are well trained.”

An audit finding, Sass said, means, “you’re not doing something right.” One example was not reporting students who were not showing up for class.

Until the third week, attendance is sent to the Registrar’s Office.

**See Status Page 2**

## Women’s studies stitches #MeToo quilt



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO  
The beginnings of the Women’s Studies Program’s construction of the #MeToo quilt.

## Campus community unites for equality although #MeToo quilt

**By Alexandra Scicchitano**  
Online Editor

The SCSU Healing Project #MeToo Quilt was born from the idea of the community coming together to heal from senseless hatred said Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, director and professor of women’s studies.

“This project, in part, is about our vision of making this place so much what we actually want it to be—a social justice institution,” said Lin.

The idea for the quilt started when a flyer displaying allegedly pro-rap and pro-nazi symbols, as well as, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh with the words overlaid, “Kavanaugh did nothing wrong,” was posted on the women’s studies’ office door.

They wanted to respond to it in a positive way, said Professor Emeritus of History and Women’s Studies Virginia Metaxas,

who is one of the three heads of the project.

“So, it started with us making something positive from a negative experience and to do it collectively as a community,” said Metaxas.

Since the #MeToo movement is prevalent in society, Metaxas said they decided to call it the “SCSU Healing Project #MeToo Quilt.”

Alex Girard, a graphic design professor and another head of the project, said they took part in the project because he is interested in collaboration and bringing communities together using art.

“I think it’s a really important project,” said Girard, “I’m honored to be a part of it.”

Students, faculty, staff, clerical workers, maintenance and alumni were invited to partake in making a square for the quilt, said Metaxas.

“In December, we put out a request for people to tell them what we were planning and what we would like to do and we



One of the tiles set to be sewn into the #MeToo quilt.

got a huge response, very fast responses from people, lots and lots of different people from different parts of the community came in and took some squares,” said Metaxas. “It spread like

wildfire.” When they started the project, they asked colleagues for help, Lin said, and were embraced with “open arms.”

**See #MeToo Page 3**

## Video captures in-class argument

Student and teacher exchange profanity

**By Victoria Bresnahan**  
News Editor  
**and Tamonda Griffiths**  
News Writer

In a video obtained by the Southern News, a communication professor and students allegedly engaged in an argument during a Communication 101: Professional Presentations class.

Both a student and the professor used profane language against one another in the video.

The communication professor, Wilfredo Alvarez, is no longer teaching any of his four classes, according to BannerWeb registration services for spring 2019.

One student, who asked to remain anonymous, was in the class during the

incident. She said before the situation escalated, the professor asked a question regarding group presentations and assertiveness.

The professor’s response, the student said, was not well received by her fellow classmates and they asked the professor to move on to another topic of discussion. The student said this was the start of the incident’s escalation.

Response to the incident, which was allegedly reported by several students, was quick, according to the student.

The following class was canceled, and a replacement professor was present thereafter. It was explained Alvarez would not be returning, according to the student.

**See Communication Page 3**

# Lamont proposes taxing textbooks

By Tameda Griffiths  
News Writer

In a recent budget proposal, newly-elected Governor Ned Lamont stated potential plans to stamp college textbooks with Connecticut's 6.35 percent sales tax.

According to an article in the Connecticut Post, Lamont proposed adding sales tax to a menagerie of goods and services in order to boost the state revenue by several million dollars.

Adanti Student Center Director Brad Crerar said he believes the taxation of textbooks will be "a hard one to sell" to the Connecticut legislature for approval.

"Sometimes, what the politicians will do is they'll throw a whole bunch of stuff out there, knowing they won't get everything," said Crerar. "It's really a wait and see."

Crerar said he is opposed to this proposal and hopes it is fought.

"Students can't afford to go to school now as it is, just with tuition alone," said Crerar. "You know, at the rate we're going, you know it's just outpricing everyone for everything."

Southern Connecticut State University Barnes and Noble Bookstore Director Larry Gal said nothing has

been determined in terms of the taxation of textbooks.

Lamont likely proposed the taxation of textbooks because of the mass amount of people who attend colleges, he said. For example, in the fall of 2018, Southern's enrollment headcount was 10,050.

Although 6.35 percent may not seem like much of an increase, Gal said it would be another 6.35 percent students would have to spend on their already expensive college education.

Currently, Gal said the bookstore offers new, used and rental textbooks at reduced pricing. Rental textbooks, he said can reduce the price of most textbooks anywhere from 30 to 50 percent.

The prices set in the bookstore, said Gal, are not designated by the bookstore, but rather the university and the publisher.

According to Gal, a textbook may be priced \$75, however with the standard markup of 25 percent, the publisher will have the book sold at \$100; however, 16 percent of the revenue goes back into the university.

To combat cost, Gal said the bookstore has recently introduced price matching, as well as digital rentals,



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

Inside of Southern Connecticut State University Barnes and Noble bookstore where students buy textbooks.

which allow students to receive access codes through their outlook account.

He said these are some of the lowest cost options currently offered, as well as, one of the fastest growing.

Last November, Gal said he visited some faculty members and found most were unaware of the various textbook options afforded to students.

He said he has recently

been working to introduce a program to the university known as First Day.

First Day, according to Gal, would allow students to purchase a textbook below the market value and access it directly through Blackboard Learn 9.

Student Government Association Vice President of the Board of Academic Experience Brooke Mercaldi said SGA has been advocating for the use of this program on campus to

possibly reduce the burden that the cost of textbooks has had on students.

"Open Education Resources are essentially online, free open license education materials, or like online textbooks," said Mercaldi.

Gal said Open Education Resources do not always offer free textbooks, but they are always at reduced prices in comparison to others.

Mercaldi said when a

student purchases a Open Education Resource they can convert the source material or textbook into any viewable format they so choose.

"Rather than professors choosing really expensive textbooks to be able to use these Open Education Resources," said Mercaldi, "and then cater them specifically to how they want so students don't have to pay for textbooks they hardly use."

## Status

Continued from Page 1

If a student does not attend those classes, the financial aid they are receiving could be discontinued. However, according to Sass, the university was sending this money and information back to the DOE late.

As a result, Sass said the university was subject to hefty fines.

"The highest fine that we received - it was between \$2 and 4 million," said Sass. "That was for multiple years."

Sass said because those recurring fines had to be paid, money that could have gone to students had to be budgeted.

"You can't pay the fine with federal money," said Sass. "You can't pay them back their own money."

In 2016, Sass said she and the former Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ellen Durnin met with faculty, so they understood this major component.

Faculty Senate President Maria Diamantis, said when she took over the senate the collaboration between the faculty, Sass and Durnin had already begun.

"The attendance was crucial," said Diamantis.

The faculty was alerted of the university's designation, however, they were not sure what they could do to help, she said.

In October 2016,

Diamantis said she presented a resolution for attendance reporting, which took effect in January 2017.

According to Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Ilene Crawford it took the university about three years to resolve the status.

In late February 2019, Sass said the university was notified they no longer bared that designation.

She said this means they no longer have to go through the DOE to get approval for new programs. However, there are state and university protocols that must be adhered to.

For a program to be approved, so it can be supported by financial aid it must be filtered through the faculty, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents and the Office of Higher Education for approval.

While in the provisional status, Sass said the wait for approval from the DOE could have taken anywhere from six to eight months to a year, in addition to the time it took to gain state approval.

"When [DOE] notify us, only then can we then start admitting students, having students apply," said Sass. "So, for faculty, you may have had a new program that took two years before it could be launched."

The time now "shaved" off for the approval of programs, Sass said, is one major perk of ending the provisional status.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Some of the police cars outside of Southern's University Police Department.

## ICE

Continued from Page 1

The department, Dooley said, became aware it was inadvertently sharing information with ICE, the same day the New Haven Register originally published its story concerning the database. That same evening, he said the department disabled the database's sharing function.

The database, Dooley said, is "about plates, not people." It provides a date, a time, a picture and a location of the car. He said the database has helped the department be more proactive in various incidents of theft, domestic violence or AMBER alerts.

The police department, Dooley said, does not work in a vacuum and instead collaborates with the New Haven and Hamden police departments.

"We're fortunate to have the technology," said Dooley, "and I saw it as a significant - you know, I'm going to call it a tool in our toolbox."

Dooley said he understands the concerns and sensitivities where ICE is involved.

Bertolino stated in the email that the nationwide database was used for gathering data on license-plate surveillance, drug and violent crime investigations, locating stolen vehicles and violations of restraining orders.

In September 2017, Bertolino stated in a campus announcement email, protocols were enacted in the event a federal immigration officer came to the university seeking information or undocumented student.

Jonathon Gonzalez, alumnus and Connecticut Students for a Dream Policy Coordinator, said, in a telephone interview, the university's actions could be allegedly breaking the protocols established to protect undocumented students.

"It's really appalling to think that you could be putting yourself at risk if you [are pursuing] higher education," said Gonzalez.

David McGuire, executive director of the

American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut, stated in an emailed statement, it beneficial is the university has ceased sharing data via the database and affirmed to protecting immigrants' rights.

"The fact that the university seemed surprised to learn its police department was sharing information with ICE, however, is alarming and raises additional concerning questions," stated McGuire. "Does the university's police department understand how Vigilant's technology works? Was information being taken from them without their knowledge? The university should answer these questions, and/or ask Vigilant and ICE as to how they ended up on that list. They have a duty to the university community to find out exactly what was going on."

He stated the university's response highlights why state laws are needed to protect privacy and immigrants' rights.

"Unfortunately, we

were part of a large article to make it seem like we were doing something wrong and that's not what we do, quite frankly we stand for keeping a safe environment," said Dooley.

Co-chair of the SCSU Undocumented Student Support Team, Esteban Garcia, said, "I know we've been very committed in supporting all of the students in the university [and it] has policy of not releasing any information to immigration authorities, so we were very surprised to find out that indirectly we might have been putting, you know information out there."

Garcia said no information was leaked, however, as a precaution, he thought it best the university disabled the sharing capabilities.

Whether or not a student is an undocumented or not, Garcia said the university does not keep track of nor identify those students.

"Even if we were asked to provide a list of undocumented students or immigrants students," said Garcia, "we wouldn't be able to provide that list."



PHOTO | WILL ALIOU

The Wintergreen Building where financial aid is handed.

# Prayer vigil held for New Zealand victims

**By Jessica Guerrucci  
Reporter**

The Muslim Student Association held a vigil to honor the victims lost in the mass shooting and terror attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, last week.

The vigil honored the 50 people who were killed in the Christchurch mosque

shooting in New Zealand on March 15. Several students gathered on Hilton C. Buley Library patio to say a prayer in remembrance of the victims.

Haroon Chaudhry, MSA's president and a business major, said he was happy so many students came out to show their support.

"There was a lot of pressure to see if people were going to come support

the Muslim community or not, and seeing more people actually made me feel more comfortable," said Chaudhry.

Other members of the university, including President Joe Bertolino, and clubs said a few words to share their support, as well.

When Chaudhry heard about the mass shooting, he said he was at a loss for words.

"I was shocked," he said. "I was speechless, I had no words to describe my feelings at the moment. The only thing you could do is sit down and cry about it."

Asma Rahimyar, who handles community outreach for MSA and a political science and philosophy double major, said she was overwhelmed by the amount of support the club received.

Upon hearing about the shooting, Rahimyar said her reaction was multifaceted. Since a young age she's had an expectation that she would not be treated the same way as others are because of her faith.

"When you see the 50 people that passed away and you see their photos, or when you read their stories and you see yourself in those stories, it's very palpable," said Rahimyar. "That fear goes from being something abstract to being something very palpable and very real."



PHOTOS | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Members of MSA leading the community in a prayer vigil outside the library.



Students and people from the community come together at the vigil to pray for the victims of the attack.

Like Rahimyar, Chaudhry said he understands there are always going to be people who are against Islam and there often is nothing he can do about it.

"The only thing we as Muslim people can

do is educate those people, providing them different opportunities to learn about Islam," said Chaudhry.

Uruj Khan, a communication disorders major and MSA member, said it was great to see

Muslim and non-muslim people coming together to support the victims.

"I was pretty shocked," said Khan, "but unfortunately it happens, and all we can do is come together and put hatred aside."

## #MeToo

Continued from Page 1

There are 13 squares across, each eight inches wide and tall, and 14 rows. Each row is a different color making a rainbow, and they will make up stripes that will be sewn together and put on a light blue background.

The squares can highlight anything from Black Lives Matter to Take Back the Night, as long as it is about a social action, said Metaxas.

"[A contributor] doesn't have to be an artist to contribute to this project,"

said Girard.

Metaxas said an ideal place for the finished quilt is in the Engleman Hall rotunda, along the staircase wall going up to the second floor.

"We're going to talk to [President Joe Bertolino] about that," said Metaxas, "but we'd like it to be in a very central location, so that a lot of people can see it."

Eventually, they would also like to have an unveiling event for it, when it is supposed to be done in two to four weeks, said Metaxas.

See more photos of the #MeToo quilt on page 12.

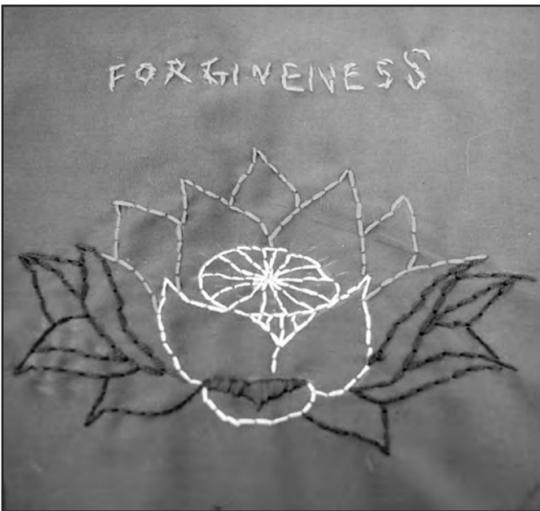


PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A tile that will be sewn into the #MeToo Quilt.

## Communication

Continued from Page 1

Communication professor Victoria Reid, who replaced Alvarez as the instructor for the Communication 101 class said, "It is an honor to teach such a great group of students," and she was happy to be there.

The student said she has lost all respect for Alvarez after the incident.

President Joe Bertolino deferred comment on

the incident via email to Integrated Marketing and Communications Director Patrick Dilger.

Chief Human Resources officer Diane Mazza, Communication Department Chairperson Michael Bay, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Craig Hlavac, and Dilger stated they could not comment on the incident in any way due to it being a "personnel matter."

# New policy established for posthumous degree requests

**By Haljit Basuljevic  
Reporter**

A newly approved policy will allow students who died before completing their degree to be awarded an honorary certificate upon request of their family members.

Math professor and Faculty Senate President Maria Diamantis said it was not until before spring break that the policy had been written, finalized and sent to the president's office for approval.

The proposal includes details on the requirements a student would have if he or she were to receive a certificate for their work, she said.

For the most part, accruing at least 75 percent of the credits needed would

deem the student eligible for a degree certificate. This applies to undergraduates as well as graduates.

If the completed credit percentage falls lower than that standard, then the family will receive a recognition of academic achievement and memoriam, she said.

"We will make the recommendation and the student's family will receive the degree," said Diamantis. "If the student is less than that, then the family receives a certificate recognizing the number of credits completed, et cetera."

The request for the proposal usually comes from a family member or the department within which the student was studying.

She also said making

a request and having it approved is not restricted to any department.

Afterward, a family representative, if they choose this option, can receive the degree at commencement ceremony. If not, then they can opt to receive it at a private ceremony.

Chair of the Academic Policy Committee and philosophy professor David Pettigrew, said after a request is made the proposal is sent through a chain of commands: from dean to family to president and provost.

He said he felt the policy the university had written was unique in relation to the other universities.

"The other thing was that it provides compassion and recognition for the achievement, [it] honors

the students memory, and provides a source of solace for the bereaved family," said Pettigrew. "Those are things I didn't see in other policies. That's what's it's all about."

Because of the low number of untimely deaths amongst students, Diamantis said there was no necessity to rush for the policy to be written and processed.

However, Diamantis took initiative in the beginning of the year to take an in-depth look at how the policy can be structured.

"Sure enough, it's just happened that this semester we did have a request of a student who passed," said Diamantis, who has not received full disclosure of the details involving the student.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Faculty Senate President Maria Diamantis at her desk.

## Two sides to once per week classes

Worth taking, beneficial to time management

By Jessica Guerrucci  
Reporter

In the past if you would have asked me to sit in for two and a half, I would have laughed in your face - until I found myself in that exact situation, and I might do it all over again.

Most people would say they would never take a class once a week because they have the attention span of a goldfish and focusing for just 20 minutes seems like an impossible task for the average college student. Time flew by when I took my first once a week class.

Time goes by even quicker when it is a subject you can appreciate and engage in. As a journalism major, my first once a week class was public relations, and I will admit that at first I dreaded it, but once I started actively participating, it ended up being one of my favorite classes.

Contrary to what many students think, once a week and sometimes hybrid classes are a great way to save time. In some cases, it means fewer trips students to make

to campus, which is a beneficial commute. It also makes it much easier to fit more classes into schedule and I had more room to create a schedule that worked for me.

A great thing about hybrid classes, is that you can do the online work for the most part on your own time. Especially if you are a busy person like myself. It is less stressful knowing you that I can get to the work when it is more convenient instead of having to complete an assignment on the same day that I have tests and a million other assignments due.

Typically, when a class meets only once a week, it can be expected that there will be more homework, but that also means you have a week to do it. I often found that if I completed within a day or two after it was assigned, I did not have to worry about that class for the rest of the week, and you could use the time to focus on classes. Many people will put it off to the last minute, but it is only stressful if you make it stressful.

Of course, during the

winter some students may be concerned that due to snow days they will fall behind, but I never found myself struggling to keep up. A good professor is prepared for and will likely adjust the schedule to accommodate snow days. Also, the great thing about hybrid classes is that they are already half online, so students can just log onto Blackboard and do their work from there.

I have a hybrid class this semester and even if there were weeks that we did not meet due to weather conditions there was an understanding amongst the class of what needed to be completed. If there is not, the professor will typically send out an email letting students know what is going on, so there is no need to worry about missing work or getting lost.

Once a week classes may not be for everyone, but I would not count them out when making a schedule. They might be a little bit long and sometimes you might want to fall asleep, but what could be better than only having to go to class once a week?

Not worth it, hassle for commuters

By Jacob Waring  
Opinion & Features Editor

I am not a fan of courses that only meet once a week. These nearly three-hour long classes seem like a good idea in practice. It is conceptually an unrealistic concept in my own eyes.

Regardless the reason, a cancellation of a class that occurs only once a week can be catastrophic for any student.

I am taking a class this semester that occurs just once a week. Already I had two classes canceled due to snowstorms. Some of the course content had to be cut or rushed through which seems like a waste of my tuition money.

Yes, snowstorms are a common occurrence during the winter season. Nor'easters have pounded the state from November and March. Thus, there is plenty of time for mother nature to wreak havoc, which forced class cancellations.

I recall one year where every week classes were canceled on Mondays nearly for six to eight weeks in a row where it felt like it was a weekly headache. Thankfully, I was not taking a class that only took place once a

week during that period. As those who did, had their education suffered.

Classes designed for to meet twice a week were scrambling to make up for lost time, and professors had to adjust accordingly. My acquaintances who had taken courses that only took place once a week had complained how they felt like they were not either getting their money's worth or the education they deserved. It was a mess that year.

Putting aside weather, I also believe nearly three-hour class sessions is not efficient to really educate students. Yes, students have ample time to get assignments done, but a week will go by without reinforcement of material or a review from the previous class. This becomes painfully obvious when class gets canceled.

For classes that meet more often typically, I am sure there are exceptions and one can spread out the work more. If you are only meeting with the class once a week, then the assignments will either be longer, more time consuming or both. Perhaps, this is not a problem if it is the only course you are taking or you are a part time student. A full-time student

who also works could potentially struggle with that.

I understand not wanting to take a class that is longer and only occurs once every week. Students who work fulltime and have a family to care for would absolutely take any opportunity to take a class of that style.

Yet at the end of the day, these classes cause more issues than solve. Plus, life gets in the way at times and you may need to miss a class. You will feel the impact when it is not twice a week, where playing catch-up is easier to do.

Just because something is convenient does not mean that it is good. If you are a student parent then you will likely miss classes because it is either your child or the class. Your kid will win out every time. Work calls you in and your existence is determined by every paycheck then work will likely win out. Life will find a way which will lead you navigating the obstacle course that is playing catch-up.

Ultimately, it comes down to one's personally preference but I think if colleges were to do away with those kinds of classes then everyone may be better off. With past classes, I think I would be.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Students in an international relations course that meets once a week.

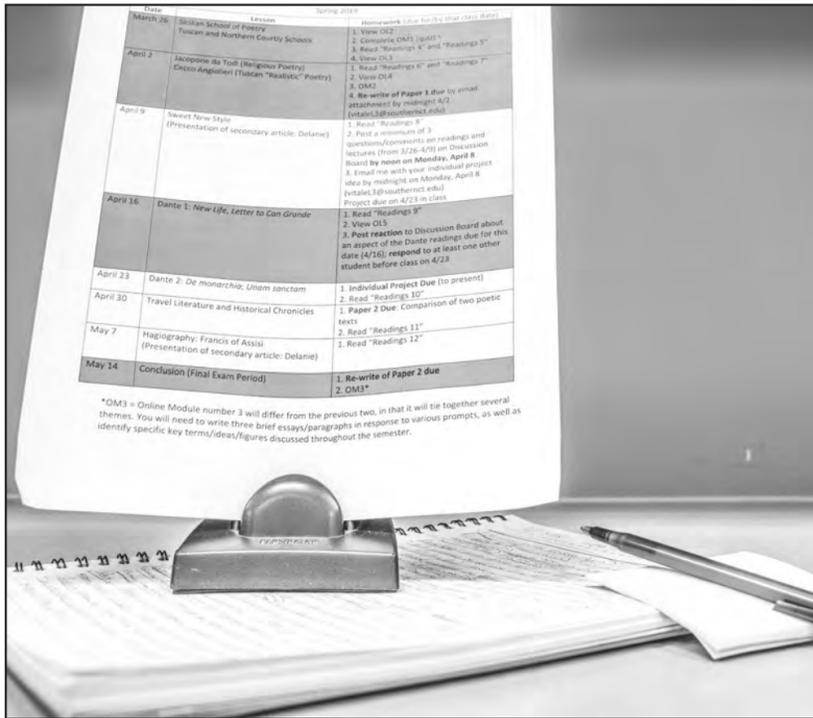


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | KEVIN CROMPTON

Syllabus and notes from LIT 488, a course that meets once a week.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Looking back: Spring of 1998



### Students confess to fire alarm pranks

Four students were placed on interim suspension for their involvement with pulling fire alarms in residence halls. After two campus organizations contributed \$2,500 to the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the people responsible, two female students confessed to Richard Farriselli, acting Dean of Student Affairs. The two students then named two other female students, who would not admit if they were involved. Farriselli said, "It looks like it was some kind of game they played between the residence halls. When we talked, they didn't seem to understand the ramifications and danger they put people in."

#### February

- Senior defender Mike Petke was drafted eighth overall in the Major League Soccer draft by the New York/New Jersey MetroStars. Junior defender Chris Houser was drafted in the second round by the Tampa Bay Mutiny.
- Due to an agreement made with Comcast cable, Southern was able to purchase cable service at a rate that reduced the amount of money students spent on monthly bills. Residence Life arranged for cable television and other technological upgrades to be installed in residence halls in the summer.
- Candles, either for decoration or burning, were banned from all residence halls. Black lights, halogen lamps, incense, and incense holders were also banned.

#### March

- Students attended an open forum with architects to discuss the structure and design of a new student center.
- Thrower Dan Bourque set an NCAA DII meet record with a throw of 66'3.75 inches to win a national title.

#### April

- Southern police discovered water on the floor of a machine room in Jennings Hall. Bob Sheeley, director of facilities and operations, said the ventilation systems caused two leaks. The water left "several inches" of accumulation on the floor, and more water seeped into the sub floor that contained wires for the telecommunications system. No computers were damaged, but a terminal got wet.
- The Environmental Futurists worked with 10 students to clean up Beaver Pond. The goal was to make the pond for the animals that lived there.

#### May

- Keri McDermott ends her softball career as the program's all-time leader in batting average, hits, doubles, homers, RBIs, runs scored, and walks.

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

# Southern hosts History Conference

By Jacob Waring  
Opinion & Features Editor

Ancient burial grounds, militias in America and labor unions, all were some of the topics presented by students from the four Connecticut State Universities.

The 2019 CSU Making History Conference took place on Friday, Mar. 22. Students presented topics that they have researched. This was Southern's second time hosting the conference.

One of the first panels of the conference was, "Uncovering Their History: African, African American, and Native American Burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground, 1640 - 1815" presented by graduate students from Central Connecticut State University.

Chelsea Echevarria, CCSU graduate student, role in the project was basic research. The focus of her research was the burial ground itself. They did not excavate the burial ground itself, which meant they had to research by going through town, church,

and other records to try to find out who were buried. She explained that the boundaries changed and said those buried had possible be under buildings.

She said she did some disturbing findings in her research, which is still ongoing.

"In the late 80's or so, they were building a parking lot, and they actual unearth human remains that were buried in the burial grounds. It was disturbing because I couldn't find any records of what happened them. I don't know where they went. They were probably reinter but I don't know where. To me, it spoke to a disturbing trend of this particular place not being respected."

Gabriel Benjamin, CCSU graduate student created the ancestry.com family trees for this project as a way for possible descendants to trace their ancestors and to give names to the unidentified remains. Stephen Arel, CCSU graduate student, helped develop and design the website for the project.

The website, they say t



PHOTO | JACOB WARING  
CCSU graduate students Chelsea Echevarria (left), Gabriel Benjamin and Stephen Arel researched Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground.

is still in progress.

Christine M. Petto, department chairperson who helped run and organized the conference this year. She said that the convention is an ideal environment for students to hone their presentation skills in the presence of their peers. Students learn that this is something that historians do. That historians do not just work in the archives and write their works.

"We actually have to go somewhere to present it our peers or to different audiences who may not be our peers. We have to learn how to present our ideas when we speak because it a lot different to present speaking then to read."

Ryan Plourde, senior, special education collaborative and history major, was one of Southern's own students who participated in the

conference. He presented his research about the labor history, more specially a group called "Industrial Workers of the World".

"I talked about their early history from 1905, and I covered some of the first strikes that they participated in and union organizing. I was looking at their effectiveness from 1905 to 1913" said Plourde.

See Conference, page 6

## A rising Starbird takes flight

By Ben Curry  
Contributor

Gun shots. Car accidents. Overdoses. Midterms. These are just a few things Arron Starbird, an emergency medical technician (EMT) and full time Southern student, must deal with on a daily basis.

"It can get pretty crazy at times, depending on the day and what types of calls we have to respond to," Starbird said when asked about life as an EMT on a New Haven ambulance. American Medical Response's New Haven Department estimates that it transports over 300 patients per day.

On top of working, Starbird is a full-time biology major with plans to switch into the nursing program at Southern in order to further his experience in patient care.

Starbird said he got his EMT certification at age 20 because it seemed interesting, and he soon fell in love with the high energy and ever-changing world of emergency medicine.

"It's different every day. Sometimes the city can be pretty calm and other days you don't even have time to eat before being sent out to the next 911 call," Starbird said. "But nothing is crazier than an overnight shift in the summertime."

Shifts usually run late due to the high volume of calls, resulting in a schedule conflict for Starbird. Sometimes he ends up being late for class after getting out of work over an hour past his scheduled clock-out time.

Starbird, as well as other EMTs and paramedics who are working their way through school, often bring their notes to work with them to try and squeeze in a study session in the small amounts of downtime they might get throughout the shift.

"It adds even more stress on test days than I already have," Starbird said.

The hardest part of the job for most EMTs and paramedics is moving on from an emotionally tough call. Officials report that, on average, someone working in emergency medicine is ten times more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder than the average U.S. citizen.

Having to go to class immediately

after a hard shift can be damaging to those working in high stress jobs. Being able to compartmentalize the events of the shift and then having to focus on a lecture can be a challenge, but the 23-year-old from Waterbury still manages to keep his grades up and hopes to make the Dean's List this semester.

"It can be tough sometimes, you know, seeing someone seriously hurt or even die," Starbird said. "We do our best, but it happens sometimes, and sometimes we don't have a lot of time to process it before we have to go to another emergency."

Or in Starbird's case, heading back to Southern for another lecture.



PHOTO | BEN CURRY  
Arron Starbird lives a dual life as a student and EMT, who attends lectures or at an emergencies.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC  
Some of the cruelty-free products that are displayed.

## Humane Society tells students to think in favor of cruelty-free options

By Haljit Basuljevic  
Reporter

Deodorant, lotion and shampoo were positioned across the table as a poster portrayed the contrast between products that are and are not cruelty-free. The goal being for students to think twice about the products they are using and the consequences of doing so.

This goal is stated according to Luke McDermott Grandpre and President Shawn Odei-Ntiri of Southern's Humane Society, as they hosted a table advocating the use of cruelty-free products in the Engleman Rotunda on Friday, March 22.

Grandpre, a senior psychology major, said that one of the interesting findings he came across about cruelty-free products that was in the U.S., save California, have no laws prohibiting the use of animal testing for products. This is a far cry from the EU's stringent regulations, which are emphasized by a bunny that is stamped upon the products.

Organic brands that

students might recognize included Trader Joe's and Alba, while non-organic products on the other end included Arm & Hammer and Tide.

Odei-Ntiri, a sophomore, physics major, said that the price difference for cruelty-free products usually amounts to a dollar or two. McDermott also said that such companies, as well as the trend for alternative products in general, are gaining more mainstream recognition. He said that most of the items found at the table can also be bought at big name stores like Stop & Shop and Target.

McDermott said this has become part of an increasing trend towards healthier living and becoming eco-friendly.

"It's not really a topic of discussion a lot," said Odei-Ntiri, "making sure that you're conscious and aware of things that do go in the industry. That whole underlying topic is not really discussed at the university."

See Cruelty-free, page 6

# Humans of SCSU: Bringing the beat to campus

By Jessica Guerrucci  
Reporter

Rose Mwambayi, a junior, a management and psychology major, is sharing her passion for dancing with the world.

Mwambayi transferred to Southern for her second year of college from American International College in Massachusetts. Since arriving at Southern, she has been a jumper on the track team and is currently dance coordinator of the African Student Association.

Outside of her life at Southern, Mwambayi said she is a public figure on Instagram, where she posts videos of her dancing. She now has nearly 70,000 followers, which she mostly gained after one of her videos went viral in March 2018.

"I upload Afrobeat dance, I upload advice, mostly my videos are just expressing happiness through dancing and just getting people in the mood," said Mwambayi.

She said she was able to gain so many followers because her viewers like her smile and the vibes that she puts out when she's in

front of the camera.

Despite the amount of work that goes into each video, she said she does most of it herself with occasional help from her friends.

"It's a lot because the amount of takes you have to do," said Mwambayi. "Gladly, I do it all on my iPhone and then I just upload it to my MacBook and I just put music over it."

Mwambayi said she stopped competing in track to pursue her passion for dancing and to brand herself on Instagram instead. She said she is not necessarily a better dancer than a jumper, but in the future she sees dancing playing a bigger role in her life.

"I had a passion for track, I loved track, I loved jumping. I was a jumper, but it was like, 'What was going to benefit me more in the future?' I know I was doing good with jumping in track, but I wasn't at the level that would take me to the Olympics or anything like that," said Mwambayi.

Once she graduates, Mwambayi said she wants to use her degree in management to help pursue her dancing career. She said she hopes to be

known as "yourfavafrican," which is also the name of her Instagram account.

"In the future I hope to open dance studios, I hope to be a big dance coordinator. I hope to coordinate backstage dancers for people, start my own management company for dancing, and just become a public figure," said Mwambayi.

As dance coordinator for the African Student Association, Mwambayi said she gets to show Afrobeat to the world. She said they perform at several schools across Connecticut including Yale, University of Connecticut, and Western Connecticut State University.

Using her skills that she learned as coordinator, Mwambayi said she is going on tour to teach dance classes. She said she will be going to Maryland, New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, and Philadelphia.

"It's my first dance class, it's my first tour, so it's kind of nerve-racking, but at the same time I know I'm very good at dance," said Mwambayi. "I know since I do teach here at Southern, I think I'll be fine teaching a big group of people."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Management and psychology major Rose Mwambayi, a junior.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Jamie Kellym speaking during the Art of Skilled Oral History Making panel.

## Conference

Continued from Page 5

This was History 485, which is the seminar for history, project. For the class he wrote a 20 page paper on his topic. He took that project, the feedback from that class to present at the convention.

Jacqueline Isabella, history department secretary, aided Petto in organizing the room for the presentations, made the program, and coordinated with other universities, for a bulk of the presentations.

She said that the topics

that the students presented or discussed were topics of their choosing.

"[Presented topics] comes straight from the students. We don't really turn down any topics unless they were inappropriate. Every topic that we received, were turned into a panel."

Another panel discussion was "Political, Economic and Labor History Projects" where students presented their research thus far for capstone projects. History Professor Siobhan Carter-David, who chaired

the panel, gave students feedback on research about what they could do next and resources available.

Jason Smith who teaches history at Southern, attended the panel and gave advice to students in regards to narrowing the focus to one central aspect of their topics, since they have a finite time in researching before the deadline.

Jamie Kelly, a political science and history major, a senior who participated in the conference. The panel she participated in was about oral history, how it works and what is important about it. Kelly also attended two panels as an audience member and thought they were, "extremely informational and really awesome."

## Cruelty-free

Continued from Page 5

In displaying these items for the first time, McDermott and Odei Ntiri are optimistic in getting students to think about the potential consequences of the products they are using. They said this and other fundraisers they have run have been part of a continuous effort to inform the community about the foods they eat and the

products they consume so that students will become more receptive to these issues. Odei Ntiri also said that with each event, students have followed up with questions regarding the industry, such as those about animal testing and nutrition, that lead to a further understanding.

They said that a minor obstacle in spreading the word has been trying to gain attention from the community when other

events are going on.

During the event, more than half a dozen passerbys, including professors, stopped to inquire about the contents on the table.

"I find that most things like when it comes to the soap, shampoos. They seem to be a bit softer, especially on your skin," said Soriano Dyajia, studio art major and sophomore, when asked about what she saw in quality difference.

"It was really eye-opening about a lot of other things I had not found out about yet," Dyajia said. "Like a whole lightbulb in your head."

# Get Involved

Paid SCSU Media Positions  
Available for 2019-20

- ★ *Crescent magazine*  
crescentmagazine.org
- ★ *Folio*  
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- ★ *SCSU-TV*  
scsutv@owls.southernct.edu
- ★ *Southern News*  
scsu.southern.news@gmail.com
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All full-time students with  
at least a 2.0 GPA are  
eligible.

Applications are due  
**April 5th, 2019**

to Jeff Mock

mockj1@southernct.edu

Contact the above-listed organizations for more info.

# SAGE presents documentary that lends a voice to queer women

By Haljit Basuljevic  
Reporter

In *The Same Difference*, lesbians not only have to worry about feeling outcasted because of the heteronormative standards they break, but they also face scorn from fellow members within their own community.

The film centers on the conflicts black lesbian women will have with one another based on a set of "rules" of normalcy they are expected to follow. We are introduced to Jordan who, due to her partner's infertility, overwhelmed by the idea of adopting, decides to get pregnant herself. Problem is that there

has been hate circulating around about her dressing in baggy jeans and retro jerseys.

[Because of her masculinity,] she is forced to confront an online hater who is appalled that she would do something that is considered feminine.

The film features similar interviews like this with celebrity figures like Felicia "Snoop" Ferguson, AZMarie Livingston, and comedian Lea DeLaria. The terminology of who is considered a "butch", "stud" and "femme" give the lesbian community a clear designation of how the rules are enforced. As the documentary makes clear, a femme is supposed to date a stud, and stud a femme.

Any deviation is an invitation to be exiled and ridiculed.

"We have to use these boxes and use these labels to describe ourselves to other people," said Executive Director of the New Haven Pride Center Patrick Dunn, "but the problem is that we create these prisons for ourselves. Like if you don't fit perfectly into this box, then the community doesn't know what to do with you."

Dunn said that he felt that the film does an excellent job of lending a voice to queer women. He said that there is a lack of productive dialogue for queer women who feel that their stories need to be heard and exchanged.

"Queer women aren't necessarily included in women's studies and...there's a whole section of queer women that feel isolated and alone and don't feel like they have spaces that are safe for them to gather and come together," said Dunn.

"We're still women. It's just clothes. Lesbians still want kids, so what do you do?" said artist Versatile Poeti, who spoke along with rapper Anne Gogh about the oppressive factors that come from conformity.

They said that to simply be yourself has the consequence of being atomized and judged for that one particular characteristic. Even the thought of being a bisexual, the documentary depicted, can spark stigma from peers who feel it as an act of betrayal.

"You have to be aware of that who you are can offend someone. And some people might hurt you," said Poeti.

"We're kind of hitting a large swathe of different identities and issues within the LGBT community," said SAGE Coordinator Jenna Retort,



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

A picture of *The Same Difference*, the film played on last Wednesday in Engleman Hall.

"looking at the history, looking at a bunch of different aspects of the community."

Retort said that part of SAGE's goal is to enlighten students about LGBT+ community as well as establish a sense of solidarity here on campus.

Retort also said that it is enriching to see those who attend the film screenings or events to share the experiences or be reminded of the fact that someone they know is currently dealing with this type of marginalization. She said this helps spark a dialogue that delves deeper into how the LGBT+ community are perceived.

She added that it has always been a significant challenge in getting the information out because of Southern's many events. To help aid this, she said she has been using social media

more as well as other ways of advertising.

After the film, the audience gave a resounding applause. Many viewers agreed with the speakers that exposing more content like this can help dispel the ignorance heterosexual people have in their judgement of queer individuals. They felt that they had not needed to fulfill societal expectations in order to feel comfortable and that they had done that on their own.

Dunn explained that he and the SAGE Center originally intended to premiere "Paris is Burning," but due to schedule delays, the film has been pushed back.

The following Wednesday SAGE is to present the documentary *Kiki* as a part of Southern's 64 Days of Non-Violence.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Anne Gogh (left to right), Patrick Dunn, Jenna Retort, and Versatile Poeti at the screening event last Wednesday.

# Students respond to television stars involved in college bribing scandal

By J'Mari Hughes  
Reporter

When the term 'Aunt Becky' was trending number one on Twitter recently, social media was not reminiscing about her and Jesse's iconic 1991 wedding or getting a sneak peek into what the character would be doing in the next season of "Fuller House." Instead, actress Lori Loughlin was being charged alongside *Desperate Housewives* star Felicity Huffman, as well as dozens of others, for a nationwide college admission scandal.

"It's kinda sickening and sad because there's people that actually apply to this schools with outstanding school records," said Jeshanah Berkeley, a junior, communications major. "There are kids who work really hard from day one

to get into a school that requires things that they wanna succeed in life for and it's sad because half the time those kids won't get it them."

Loughlin's ties with Full House and the Hallmark Channel have been cut ever since she and her husband were accused of paying \$500,000 in bribes for their daughters to be recruited into the University of Southern California's rowing team, despite the two having only one experience with the sport, according to *Us Weekly*.

"I understand completely. I would do the same thing," Berkeley said about Loughlin's separation from the show. "It's not only disrespectful and illegal but it's just sickening that they used their money and their names to get their child into school, especially

when they have no interest in it at all."

Loughlin's daughter, Olivia Jade, is a viral YouTube blogger who said she was only looking forward to parties and games in college in a YouTube video.

"If the only thing you're in college for is to party and do anything besides learn then why are you there in the first place?" said Craig King, a junior and computer science major. "It just feels like a waste of time and a waste of money at the end of the day."

King said he feels it is unfair for celebrities to use their fame to get their children a college education. He said, those who worked hard in order to get acceptance into college should not be turned down because other parents bribed their way.

"Say somebody worked really hard to get in, got near perfect scores, and worked day and night to get there," he said. "For them not to get accepted, that really puts a wrong siding of how it's supposed to be because you're basically saying that bribing is the only way for you to succeed."

Junior and philosophy major Justin Cross, said celebrities are already at an advantage when it comes to getting their children through school since their names bring promotion to the campus. Despite his opposition to Loughlin and Huffman's misconduct, which he called unfair, he said he does not think Loughlin should be removed from the TV shows she stars in.

"It's not like she killed somebody, she just sent her kids to college," Cross said,

"so I believe that she could be on [Fuller House] but like not get paid for it. You could forgive her."

Twitter users used Loughlin's role on "Fuller House" and the Netflix spin-off "Fuller House" to create a series of memes stating captions such as, "Uncle Jesse didn't deserve her" and "We're on our way to bail out Aunt Becky" which pictured the Tanners ride down the Golden Gate Bridge during the show's theme song.

"There was a video of the Full House intro and I remember it was just jail bars that slid and she went into a jail suit," said Emily Alves, a freshman special education major.

Alves said Loughlin's departure from the show was justified and that students should get accepted into school for working hard.

"When you're in the spotlight like that people look up to you and if you set the wrong example people are gonna start following you," Alves said, "and so she definitely needs to be reprimanded for what she did and it's a good punishment that she's not making any money."

Berkeley said students should get into schools that benefit what they want to do in life, rather than just for a degree.

Having watched Olivia Jade on YouTube in the past, Berkeley said she noticed the Internet star had been cut from *Sephora*, and she hopes Loughlin's husband loses his branding as well.

"I'm still gonna watch Full House," she said. "I still love Aunt Becky as a character, but it has changed my perspective of [Loughlin] and her family as well."



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Special education major, Emily Alves, a freshman, at the student center.



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Computer Science major Craig King, junior, at the student center on Thursday.

## Contemporary jazz group nearly fills Lyman Center

**By Jessica Guerrucci Reporter**

As a part of Southern's Spring Jazz Series, The Rippingtons, featuring Russ Freeman, played at the Lyman Center on Saturday night.

As part of a four-part jazz series, The Rippingtons were the first to perform on March 23. The Rippingtons, a contemporary jazz group formed by Freeman, attracted a crowd that nearly filled the Lyman Center.

"I started the band in LA in 1986 and came up with the name as I was watching some friends perform onstage. I said, 'We'll call ourselves the Rippingtons,'" said Freeman, in an interview

conducted through email. Throughout the years the band has had several changing members, Freeman said rotating musicians was done intentionally.

"It was built into the DNA of the band to have a revolving personnel, and it has proven to increase our creativity," said Freeman. "What I did not foresee was that we would develop into a longtime core."

New Haven was the second stop on the band's tour, after they released their new album "Open Road," on March 22. Freeman, a guitarist, performed alongside Dave Karasony, the drummer, Brandon Fields, the saxophonist, who is also a founding

member, Ricco Belled, the bassist, and Bill Heller, the keyboardist. They played several songs from their new album, as well as some of their older, well known songs.

Courtney Parent, a student at Central Connecticut State University, said she was happy to hear her favorite song being played, "Carnival."

"My dad actually got me into them when I was really young," said Parent. "I used to go to jazz concerts with him all the time and then latched on to these guys. It's been great to see them actually in person."

Parent, who attended the concert with her mother and father, said she was glad she got to

hear some of their newer music because she is not someone who keeps up with their newly released songs, but she said liked every new song that she heard.

Debbie and Alain St. Thomas, who came from Branford to attend the concert, and are both fans of The Rippingtons, said the performance was fantastic.

"It was more than we could've expected. I think the venue is great, nice size, we signed up a little late and we wound up with bad seats, but the sound was terrific and the proximity to the stage was great," said Alain St. Thomas.

Debbie St. Thomas said she was disappointed that the band did not play

"Cougars and Gigolos," but despite that still she liked all the other songs that were played.

"I loved 'Luca.' It was very pretty, I didn't catch all the titles, but I think we're going to go buy the album," said Debbie St. Thomas.

The Rippingtons ended the concert by playing Jimmy Hendrix and invited the whole crowd to get up and dance and sing along with them. Alain St. Thomas, who is a big fan of Hendrix, said the while the ending was much appreciated, the finale was an unexpected one.

"This is the first concert we've been to of theirs, so I don't know how they normally end, but that was unexpected

and great," said Alain St. Thomas.

Myra Beavers, from West Haven, said she and her husband come to the Lyman Center all the time to see different performances each season, and they brought a ticket for every concert in the jazz series.

Beavers said while there was not one specific song that stood out to her, but the general sound of the band stuck out to her the most.

"I thought the show was fantastic. My husband, who is a big Rippingtons fan, always plays the music at home," said Beavers. "So, hearing them here made me feel right at home. Calm, relaxed, smooth, and cool."



PHOTO | WILL ALJOU

Keyboardist Bill Heller and saxophonist Brandon Fields performing together at the Lyman Center on Saturday.



PHOTO | WILL ALJOU

Drummer Dave Karasony and guitarist Russ Freeman performing at Lyman Center on Saturday.

## Music department student ensembles rock the house



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Princess Brown (left) and Holly Izzo singing with the Blues Ensemble at the event.



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

The Latin Jazz Ensemble performing last Wednesday in the Charles Garner Recital Hall at Engleman Hall.

**By J'Mari Hughes Reporter**

Southern's Music Department hosted its annual jazz ensemble performance in the Charles Garner Recital Hall of Engleman Hall. Members wore all black and were divided into jazz standards, blues and Latin jazz ensembles.

"It gives us an opportunity to show our talents and show people what we've been studying throughout the semester," said senior and music major Holly Izzo. "It's fun that we get to meet great people and we get to make experiences playing music live and with others."

Izzo said on certain days, she feels scared and shaky, but during that performance she had a good time and did not feel nervous at all.

"Once you get on stage and actually have a chance to perform you see how hard everybody really worked," said Princess Brown, a sophomore. "We all put effort in and see how beautiful it ends up becoming."

Brown, a music major, sang solo, as well as

alongside Izzo to songs like "My Handy Man" by Andy Razaf and Eunice Blake, and "I'm Shakin'" by Little Willie John.

"I love that I get to sing all the time," Brown said. "I love the energy; I love how everyone's so supportive towards each other all the time."

Izzo said the bands have been rehearsing since the start of the semester. One vocalist, Gleeson Edwards, gained recognition for filling in for an absentee and learning a song in only one rehearsal.

Izzo said that while preparing for the shows the bands gathered in their classes that meet twice a week and ran through their music two to three times. Rehearsal, she said, is her favorite part.

"We have so much fun; we always joke around with each other," said Izzo. "We're always having a good time and just jamming out. It's so fun."

Rafael Ramos, a senior, who has been playing at music concerts since his freshman year, said to prepare for concerts they listen to each song slowly before going through

them to determine how exactly the song should be played. He said the feeling before performing is nerve-wracking, but once he starts playing the anxiety goes away.

"You just feel natural up there," he said. "At first you're super anxious but after you start it's like, 'This is what I do.'"

Instruments included, but were not limited to, guitar, bass, saxophone and the unique and rare contrabass flute—which stood nearly as tall as Lincy Valeta, a high school student who plays the rare instrument with Southern's Latin Jazz Ensemble.

"We're really trying to be a music community," said Will Cleary, director of Latin jazz. "I hope [people] see that this is an opportunity not only for people outside of Southern, but for students of Southern."

Cleary said he hopes to expand the musical genres featured at the music department's concerts. Latin jazz is played every semester, but he said he would like to try New Orleans funk, R&B, and hip-hop. One song the ensemble played

was "Mamacita" by Joe Henderson, which Cleary said was originally a blues progression, but was played in an Afro-Cuban style.

"It's like a fusion of fusions," Cleary said. "It's really complex and we're looking at the different cultural aspects."

Brown said she enjoys jazz music, but blues is her favorite because of its history, beat, and soulfulness. When she gets on stage, she said she feels like she is where she needs to be.

"It's just a beautiful, overwhelming feeling. I'm enjoying myself and really having fun," she said.

"As a band, we're all at different levels as artists, but it's nice how we can really come together and be dedicated to doing good and growing as performers."

Cleary said the band students are passionate, fun to work with and dedicated to their work.

"I've met really talented players that almost seem like they're tired of music," he said. "They absorb so much and very quickly and seem very sincere about putting everything into it."

## Softball wins at home

### Owls split a double-header against Assumption during home opener weekend



First basemen Jayden Delaporta, a sophomore, bats in the home opener against Assumption College on Sunday.

By Sam Tapper  
Contributor

Despite a slow start to their season, the Owls' spirits remain high after the softball team split a double-header against the Greyhounds of Assumption College.

Sophomore pitcher Jazmyn Martinez started game one for the Owls, but quickly found herself in a jam, surrendering four runs in the top of the first inning off walks, stolen bases and some big hits from Assumption's Kayla Peabody and McKenzie Richards.

The Owls did not seem fazed by the early deficit, as their offense immediately got going in the bottom of the first. Freshman left fielder Ivy Geloso put the Owls on the board with an RBI double, followed by a sacrifice fly from junior shortstop Julia Lener and later, an RBI double, that brought in tow runs, from sophomore center fielder Cailey Botteon to tie it at four after one inning.

"My team did a really good job getting runners in, in scoring position," said Lener. "Having clutch hits and I just think that's what we need to work on and keep pushing forward with."

The Greyhounds quickly struck back in the top of the second, making the score 6-4, but the Owls answered by tying the score at six in the third-inning.

The score remained tied at six until the Greyhounds took a one run lead in the sixth

inning and blew the game open in the seventh, capped by a two-run homerun by Victoria Petrie. The Owls fell in game one, 13-6.

Despite trailing in the top of the first inning again in game two, after another three-run homerun by the Greyhounds, the Owls' game two starting pitcher, senior Delany Turner, shut down the Greyhounds in the following innings.

"I kept the ball low, I was throwing a lot of drops and screws, some curveballs here and there," Turner said. "Just kind of keeping them off their toes, they didn't know where the ball was going to go."

Turner pitched five and one third innings, not surrendering any runs after the three in the first. Her stellar pitching was backed by great play behind her, particularly from Botteon in center field.

"Defense was on fire," Botteon said. "I just feel like we all worked very well together today and that's why we came out on top."

Botteon was able to contribute offensively as well, as she tallied two hits and three RBIs in game two. Freshman catcher Jacqueline Dumont also had two hits and three RBIs while freshman infielder Alexa Bacoulis contributed three RBIs on three hits.

The Owls offense exploded in game two, leading to a 12-4 victory that ended in a mercy-rule in the bottom of the sixth, improving their record to 2-14.

See Softball Page 10



Southern runners compete at the NE10 Championships meet earlier this season.

## Four athletes sent to Nationals

### Onakpoma and Patterson collect All-American honors for Track and Field

By Matt Gad  
Sports Writer

The men's and women's track and field squads sent four student-athletes to Division II Nationals earlier this month: jumper Oghenefejiro Onakpoma, miler Terrell Patterson, vaulter Milan Spisek and sprinter Begotty Laroche, with both Onakpoma and Patterson claiming All-American honors.

"Every time you take a kid to the national meet you are trying to give them the opportunity to score and to become an All-American," head coach John Wallin said.

Onakpoma, a junior who made it to Nationals the previous year, finished in sixth in the championship stage of the triple jump with a 15.42-meter attempt after placing 13th last indoor season.

Patterson, a sophomore and first time

Nationals competitor, finished sixth in the mile with a time of 4:13.01.

"As a coaching staff, we were all pretty excited about having two [All-Americans athletes]. We are used to getting more, like maybe five years ago, but we have to look at how competitive it is now versus how competitive it was back then," Wallin said. "We were very excited with how everybody performed but we need to see how we can make improvements on sixth-place finishes."

Spisek needed to vault over 17 feet to be able to score in the National meet but kept his composure and became more and more comfortable with each vault, Wallin said.

Laroche ran her second fastest time all season and was able to maintain her abilities and skills even though she was under the weather the weekend of competition, said Wallin.

See Nationals Page 11

## Baseball drops double header

### During home-opening weekend, Owls lose two consecutive



Pitcher Nate Carney, a junior, pitches at an away game against Bridgeport University earlier this season.

By Matt Gad  
Sports Writer

The Owls were swept Saturday in a home-opening doubleheader to Franklin Pierce in two 11-inning affairs, falling to 9-11 on the season so far.

In the first game, freshman Brandon White threw seven innings of three-hit, eight-strikeout pitches but the offense only mustered two runs in a 5-2 extra-inning defeat. In the second the pitching was strong as well, with senior transfer Ronnie Rossomando tossing near similar numbers, with eight strikeouts of his own, over seven and a third.

"I thought our pitchers pitched really well today," coach Tim Shea said. "We just have to play better; we scored five runs in our last 31 innings."

After going down 2-0 in game one, senior shortstop Jim Palmer dumped a single into right to plate junior outfielder Nolan Cloutier. The game stayed at 2-1 until the bottom of the ninth when junior third baseman Connor Redahan came around to score.

"Coach keeps talking to us about our approaches and hunting fastballs. I tried to lay off the off-speed stuff but I thought I swung pretty well today," Redahan said.

He came away with a run and a hit in the first game and finished with a hit and an RBI in game two, while Palmer was 3-for-4 to start the afternoon.

"We need to play a complete game," Shea said. "We have had good pitching; we just are not hitting like we would like to."

See Baseball Page 11

## Loop-hole lets older athletes compete



By Matt Gad  
Sports Writer

International student-athletes are coming to the United States to compete in NCAA Division II athletics and are being granted full four-year eligibility.

These are top-notch amateur athletes who spend a few years playing professionally, or semi-professionally, and then they come here for four years of college and competition. Well, they are not here for the education, just the four years of NCAA eligibility.

At last month's national championships for men's and women's indoor track and field and men's and women's swimming and diving, 20-year-olds were competing with opposing talent almost a full decade older than them, something both head track and field coach John Wallin and head swimming and diving coach Tim Quill find insane and unfair.

"The top two or three in every event is going to be a foreign athlete," Wallin said. "At least that is what it seems like now."

While Wallin said there seems to be more foreign student-athletes in the swimming and diving sector, he also said scholarships and other financial incentives may contribute to these programs bringing athletes like these on board.

The athletic department at Southern is unable to provide programs since the public school money needs to be divided up with a handful of schools, whereas other parts of the country may have less public schools in the area or get loaded with private colleges and universities and are able to form a completely be a dominating force.

This issue seems unfair since they are competing with much younger, and typically unexperienced talent. Quill said there are rules currently in place that simply allow this in Division II athletics.

"It is sad," he said. "There are certain rules you apply to -- 10 semesters, five years to complete four years of eligibility...but it is unfair and it is apples and oranges to put a 27-year-old up against our 20-year-olds."

Quill said when he was at the championship meet, he was with a lot of people who do not see a problem with the rules that are in place, but he maintains the belief that the entire practice of these rule is simply ridiculous.

It is just as simple as you are reading it to be: these are unfair matchups. Division II needs to get a committee together to study this issue. It is unfair to so many, especially the athletes in their proper age and class brackets who are getting their opportunities at top places, championships and All-American honors taken away by those who are older and only just came across the world to begin their NCAA careers.

# LaPorte claims fifth at Nationals

By Matt Gad  
Sports Writer

Junior Leo LaPorte, competing in Division II nationals for the second year in a row, finished fifth in the championship heat of the 200-meter butterfly with a personal-best time of one minute, 46 seconds and 72 milliseconds.

"I wanted to finish higher and go faster [than last year]," LaPorte said. "I also wanted to become an All-American in the 100-meter butterfly but that did not happen."

LaPorte swam to a 26th place finish in the 100-fly trials and failed to qualify for the final heat. Last year at nationals, he was also fifth in the 200-fly finals with a time of one minute, 47 seconds and 21 milliseconds.

"He is one of only a few kids on the team that have the physical ability to make a national qualifying standard. He shows that he belongs," coach Tim Quill said. "It was his lifetime-best by a full second and to do it at the meet is a good thing; you can obviously swim a fast time any time in the season but to do it at the big meet is where it matters."

In a somewhat down season for both the men's and women's programs,

which typically consistently compete for conference championships, LaPorte was one of multiple of individuals to come away with a really solid personal season.

"It is great to see him achieve his goals," senior Drew Dantino said. "Swimming is really individualistic in the fact that it is an individual sport as well as a team sport, and although we did not achieve the goal we wanted as a team, I still think everyone did their part and what they could have done."

The team also tried to get Avery Fornaciari and Max Prado in the meet, but they were unable to qualify after competing at the Last Chance Meet, hosted by New York University.

"Max swam his lifetime best by a full second but he had to swim another second faster," Quill said. "But those are like quantum drops; if you think realistically you cannot be saying he is going to drop another two seconds."

He also said that Fornaciari needed to swim a half-second faster and it "could have happened, but it did not."

"You are actually lucky to have someone swim faster two weeks later," Quill said. "At the conference meet there's thousands of people going crazy but at the Last Chance

Meet there's nobody there -- maybe a half dozen parents in the stands -- because of the nature of that type of meet."

The Last Chance Meet is where teams send members of their respective squads if they have not quite made the qualifying benchmark for the national meet but still think it is attainable to have them swim in one more meet and see if they can reach the desirable marks for Nationals.

It is also a meet Quill is considering hosting on campus at some point, which would mean he could throw in members of his own men's and women's teams to compete for fun in a post-NE10 Championship setting.

"We are thinking about doing it here for the future," Quill said. "It is actually a pretty cool idea."

Next year, LaPorte will be a senior and will also be try to qualify for his third consecutive Division II National Championship in a row, something that seems like an unprecedented opportunity for a lot of collegiate swimmers and divers.

"I get used to the feeling around me, the tension and how fast the kids are," LaPorte said. "This year I felt more comfortable; it was definitely different than last year."



Leo Laporte, a junior, at the NE10 Championships on Feb. 7 to Feb. 10.



Leo Laporte, a junior, competes in the butterfly event at the Nationals meet earlier this month.

## Softball

Continued from Page 9

"I think we broke our little losing game streak," Botteon added. "I feel like everyone's hopes are looking up and everyone's going to continue to play really hard for the rest of the season."

Botteon's outlook on the team, seems to be mutual, at least in the eyes of their head coach, Jill Rispoli, who was proud of how her team came to play despite their 1-13 record looming over their heads.

"The energy was fantastic from top to bottom," said Rispoli. "I even think in game one we did a good job of keeping the energy up throughout all seven innings, which was nice to see and encouraging and all that stuff, because it's been a little bit of a rocky road up until now. I really think the girls did a good job of keeping the energy up."

The Owls, with the majority of their season on the horizon, still have work to do in practice moving forward, and as to what they need to improve on, Rispoli's answer was quick and clear.

"Clean defense," she said. "Clean defense every day, that's the goal. And then the pitchers pounding the strike zone and then our offense continuing to be aggressive in the same way that they were today."



Outfielder Cailey Botteon, a sophomore, and infielder Liz DeRosa, a freshman, exchange signals during a home game on Sunday.



Pitcher Delany Turner, a senior, makes contact during the teams home opening weekend.



Outfielder Cailey Botteon, a sophomore sprints for first base against Assumption College on Sunday.

# Life after lacrosse: Cozzolino stays involved

By Matt Gad  
Sports Writer

In her fourth and final season with the Owls, senior attacker Samantha Cozzolino is balancing team success and progressing towards life after lacrosse.

While the team is off to a somewhat shaky start, dropping seven games in row, Cozzolino says the team's chemistry and optimism helps to power through the early struggles.

"Honestly, we're just all really, really close. I've been on teams all my life and this is the closest team I've ever been on," said Cozzolino. "We really kind of just pump each other up and we really work hard in practice. We're getting there. We're building."

In the first game of the season, a week and a half after having an emergency surgery, Cozzolino scored her 100th career goal as an Owl.

"It was [a good feeling]. I actually recently got my gallbladder out. It was an emergency, last minute thing, so I was really nervous that I wasn't going to play for the first few weeks," said Cozzolino. "I ended up making it, and my first goal was my 100th goal, so that was pretty cool for our first home game. It was really exciting for me."

Long before achieving her landmark accolade in her first game of this season, Samantha Cozzolino was a Hamden High School student who first picked up a lacrosse stick during her freshman year due to a friend's suggestion.

"My best friend played [lacrosse] and she just was like, 'Do you want to try it?' and I was like, 'Sure,'" said Cozzolino. "It was just a freshman team in high school and then I ended up getting moved up to JV at the end of it. I had one coach who really

pushed me...she really made me want to play lacrosse."

Senior goal keeper Alexandra Takacs, who has played alongside Cozzolino for the past four years, said that Cozzolino has made sure the team is close and plays together throughout the entire season.

"She really emphasizes that team aspect and doing things as a team. We have no individuals who outshine anyone else. Everything is a team thing," said Takacs. "Even though she is one of our lead scorers, and has been since her freshman year, you wouldn't be able to tell from how you see her out on the field."

New head coach Kevin Siedlecki said that while he has only seen her play this season, he sees her as a mature leader who helps motivate and inspire the team.

"She's just a kid who understands the big picture," said Siedlecki. "We're a team who

hasn't been a very successful team. If the whole team was as talented as Sam, we'd be much more competitive. She doesn't hold that against anybody. She's very supportive, she wants everyone to be successful."

While Cozzolino— who just reached 120 career goals in a 18-5 win against Post University— plans to graduate this spring with an undergraduate Communication Disorders degree, she said that she plans on furthering her education as well as her role in lacrosse.

"I'm going to go to grad school, probably Loyola in Maryland, and become a speech pathologist," said Cozzolino. "I do plan on either helping out lacrosse some way. Saint Rose is starting up a program next year in New York, and I also applied there. So, if I get in, I'd want to be a volunteer coach or an assistant coach. I'm going to stay involved."

# With seniors out, young players able to improve



By Hunter O. Lyle  
Sports Editor

Earlier this month, the men's basketball team's playoff run was cut short, losing in the NE10 Conference Semifinals to rival UNH. With the team losing four key seniors— guards Joey Wallace, Isaiah McLeod, Kealan Ives and forward Luke Beesley— there is speculation on what next year's lineup may look like. This is what I think the starting five should be:

**Point Guard:**  
The top option to lead the team's offense would most likely be sophomore C.J. Ives, who put up 14 points, three rebounds, and two assists a game. He also scored 37 points in the opening home game victory against Stonehill College in the first round of the playoffs. Seaforth is quick, he's a natural scorer, and he has two more years ahead of him at Southern to develop his game as well as his leadership.

**Shooting Guard:**  
With Seaforth moving up to the point, it leaves another spot open. I believe that the team should utilize two young players whom we haven't seen much from this past season at this position. Freshmen Michael Mozzicato and William Antrum, could use their remaining three years to work on their game while providing the team with shooting and an effort to grab boards.

**Small Forward:**  
Ulyen Coleman, who claimed the title of NE10 ROTY his freshman year, fell to an injury this year and was ruled out for the season. While he was unable to play the last few games this season, he still managed to average 14 points a game and four rebounds. Once he recovers, he would instantly benefit the team.

**Power Forward:**  
The 6'6" 250-pound frame of Issac Grant, a junior first-year player, would not only contribute to the team's rebounding effort, but he could also use his height to intimidate opponents in the paint. With Beesley leaving and the current power forward possibly moving to center, this upcoming season could be Grant's chance to step up.

**Center:**  
As previously stated, senior center Beesley has played his last game, which leaves a spot in the paint open for junior Taurus Adams II, who averaged five points and almost four boards a game. Adam's low-post defense and offense could boost the team during shooting slumps.

Of course, I am not the coach, and multiple players can play different positions. While the Owls will lose a lot of talent, the team still has many younger players that can develop further and help the team for years to come.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Attacker Samantha Cozzolino, a senior, drives to the goal in the overtime win against Saint Michael's College on Sunday.

## Nationals

Continued from Page 9

"The atmosphere brings a lot of excitement," Onakpoma said. "There were a lot of similar faces and we were all jumping together. You can not forget it is nationals, of course, but I just went in there knowing I was going to leave with a title."

He said he felt much more comfortable approaching the meet and competing in it this year due to his prior experiences.

However, Patterson, coming off a strong cross country season where he helped his team reach the national championships, was at indoor nationals for the first time ever.

"Cross Country was a big season for us with getting a conference title and going to the national meet, so I just tried to take that momentum to this meet," Patterson said. "It was a little nerve-racking, but the goal every time is to place as high as we can."

To reach the finals for the mile, Patterson ran 4:10.35 and finished in sixth place out

of a field of 16 runners. In his championship race, he was just one-tenth of a second behind the race's fifth man in his sixth-place performance.

"We do not like to treat the national meet any differently," Patterson said. "And going into any race you want to be up front when it matters, so in no way was I just running to be there. The goal was to make the final, and when I made the final the goal was to get onto the podium."

Onakpoma said last year he was so close to gaining All-American status, so this year he came in with something to prove.

"This indoor season I came in with a chip on my shoulder and I had that mindset going in; it felt like just another meet to me," he said.

Now that the indoor season has wrapped up, everyone has gone straight into training for the outdoor campaign. The men's and women's teams are set to open the season at the beginning of next month as well as April 11th and 12th, when they will host the Northeast Combined Events Challenge in the Moore Field House.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Oghenefejiro Onakpoma, a junior, competes in the long jump at a home meet earlier this season on Sunday.

## Baseball

Continued from Page 9

At the beginning of the season, while the team played out-of-state, the Owls' offense was electric at the plate. They scored 16 runs Feb. 16 against Florida National, 15 against Molloy Feb. 23 and completely demolished Caldwell, 22-2, March 14.

However, since getting back from the Florida road trip, the team is 0-3 with two losses and a 1-0 losing performance at Bridgeport March 20, where junior starter Nate Carney dazzled for six innings and only gave up two hits and two walks over four strikeouts. He was charged

with an earned run when Bridgeport's Patrick Palmer had an RBI single in the fifth.

Shea said the team just needs to win the divisional games. They have Adelphi on March 27, a team that's already eclipsed more than ten wins, and then a double header against Saint Rose on March 30.

"We either hit well and do not pitch or we pitch well and we do not hit but we have a great bunch of guys and just need to keep plugging along," Rossomando said. "It is going to turn around for us really soon."

The back half of the doubleheader with the Hawks featured Franklin Pierce's Anthony Matarazzo matching

Rossomando with eight strikeouts, over his respective six innings of work, and the Owls were the first team to score when Cloutier had an RBI single in the fourth.

The game was then more of a back-and-forth contest until Redahan forced extra innings off a base hit in the ninth, scoring Palmer, before defensive miscues gave the Hawks a 6-3 victory.

"We need to start hitting in the right time and in the right place and come up with those clutch hits," Redahan said. "We need to do that in order to win games like these because, especially in these conference games, we need to come up clutch."



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Outfielder Nick Lamberti, a red-shirt senior, at bat during a game earlier this season.

# PHOTO

## Quilt stitched as support system

By August Pelliccio  
Photo Editor

The SCSU #MeToo quilt is a “healing project” made by students and in part headed by women’s studies faculty and staff. The quilt will make its debut some time in April.

Alex Girard, an assistant professor of graphic design is one of the faculty members spearheading the project. Girard said in addition to students helping to create the quilt, he hopes the quilt will elicit a visceral reaction to some students just as they walk by.

“It’s one of those reactions that can’t be measured,” said Girard, “because someone may be struggling with these things off campus and just be walking to class and see this quilt and just have a moment where they feel that support and to me, that makes the project a success.”

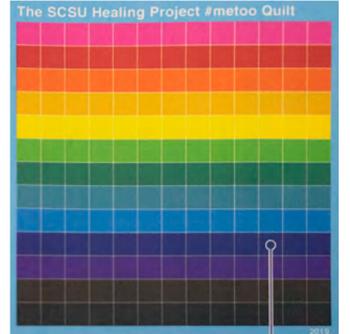
According to the movement’s official website, #MeToo focuses on helping individuals who struggle to find entry points for healing and disrupting those who enable sexual violence.

Girard said faculty members helping with

the project will be constructing quilt tiles of their own after student submissions are complete. Girard said he will be making tiles in colors that were unpopular choices for students, to fill the correct amount of space.

To the right is a diagram of the quilt’s layout as planned. Each will be organized into a gradient, top to bottom.

The collection of photos below highlights some of the colorful and intricate tiles that have been made for the quilt thus far.



**See Women’s Studies stitches #MeToo quilt page 1**



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO



Individual tiles already submitted by students to the SCSU Healing Project #MeToo quilt, laid out to demonstrate their positions for final assembly in early April.