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# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

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## Defending the Amazon Frontlines

**By Melanie Burgos  
Contributor**

The Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest also known as “El Oriente”, is known as one of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world occupying more than 300 species of mammals, 800 species of fish, and 350 species of reptiles according to Encyclopedia Britannica. The Amazon rainforest is approximately 135,600km<sup>2</sup> and takes up roughly one-third of the

Ecuadorian land.

Efforts made to preserve this diverse ecosystem and that’s where The Amazon Frontline Project comes in, composed of human rights lawyers, environmental activists, forestry specialists, environmental health scientists, filmmakers, journalists, anthropologists, and farmers in the Amazon Frontline Project. Chemistry Professor James Kearns plays an important role in the preservation and research of the Ama-

zon Rainforest.

Kearns began his educational career as a Biochemistry major at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, he graduated in 1997 and worked as an engineer with The New England Waste Septic and Filtering system in Marlboro Massachusetts. There he conducted research on phosphates in soap causing algae blooms. Kearns returned to graduate school at The University of Massachusetts and

conducted research on water quality in India for four months measuring toxicity levels in the human body caused by potential Arsenic in contaminated water sources, which makes exposed populations more likely to develop cancer having genetic predispositions poisoning from contaminated water sources.

Kearns is now an analytical chemist and a professor of chemistry focusing on the instruction of chemistry and the

measurement and determination of environmental pollutants. Kearns first learned about the Amazon Frontline organization through the New England waste systems which have connections with the Secoya Relief Foundation in Ecuador and Peru.

Through The New England waste system, he also met Luke Wiess.

“I would actually call Luke one of my very best friends” Kearns said.

In 2012 Kearns, Weiss and his crew set out to measure the active ingredients in the vine Paullina Yoco. The Secoya people believed that the greater the diameter of the vine the more caffeine content it contained. The Secoya people call this vine ‘jungle coffee.’ Kearns and his team tested the caffeine potency at Yale University, the findings concluded the Secoyas belief was in fact correct. The results show a linear positive slope between amounts of caffeine and vine diameter.

During the summer of 2014, Kearns and his team set out to test the compound Theobromine in the Yoco vine. Theobromine is a vasodilator that produces stimulating effects in a similar way that

caffeine does. While also serving as a heart stimulant that can affect blood pressure. The findings determined that there was no correlation between the stem diameter of the Yoco vien (vine) in diameter and the amount of theobromine.

This research did not come without its challenges Kearns spoke about some difficult environmental conditions he faced in the Rainforest, for example, Kearns traveled by canoe 850 kilometers in the Peruvian forest through the Napo River, Kearns described his experience squatting in a small canoe for twenty hours to get him from Ecuador to Peru.

During Kearns’s time in Ecuador, he not only conducted fieldwork and discovered important findings, but he also enjoyed meaningful moments with the Secoya people. He’s grown to love the culture and the people. His work there has been meaningful educationally and emotionally.

“The biggest thing is the tribal structure there’s never loneliness and people aren’t scared of not having enough food, you’re never alone,” Kearns said.



Photo of an elder of the Secoya tribe

PHOTO | JAMES KEARNS



PHOTO | BROOKLYN KUBIYAN

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## Last band concert of the academic year held on campus

By Sarah Shelton  
Features Editor

Musical pieces were played in Engleman Hall last week for students by the university's own band.

The university's music department held a band concert on Thursday, April 28 for the last time of the semester.

According to @scsu-musicdept on Instagram, "The SCSU University Band, under the direction of Dr. Craig Hlavac, performs classic and new pieces from the wind band repertoire.

Psychology major Alexandria DePaul, a junior, said she attended the concert to support her friend playing in it.

"I didn't even know Southern had a band until this semester," DePaul said. "It was a great show though."

The band played songs such as the Ukrainian National Anthem, "Star-Spangled Banner," "Variants on a Mediaeval Tune," "Blue Tango," "Cheerio" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

Nursing major Makaila Vasquez-Steele, a junior, said she took the band music class for one of the tiers on the university's degree evaluation but had to take it three times to get the credits.

"I have been playing since my freshman year, 2019, but due to the pandemic we didn't have a concert second semester or at all my sophomore year," Vasquez-Steele said. "But my junior year we had concerts both semesters."

Vasquez-Steele said it is relaxing for her to focus on the music and not oth-

er stressors.

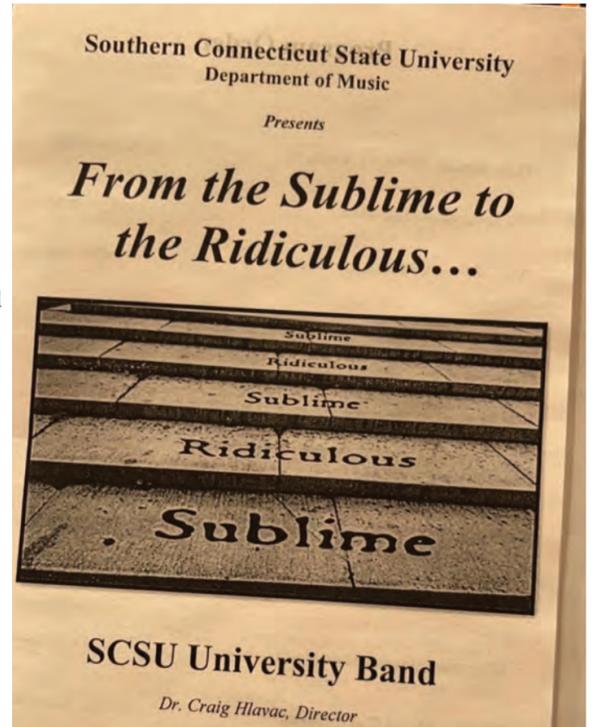
"I thought once I graduated high school I wasn't going to play again, so it was good to be able to continue," Vasquez-Steele said. "I enjoy performing and bringing the audience joy, especially after the pandemic. We have students, faculty, alumni and people from the public that play in the band."

Vasquez-Steele plays alto saxophone for the band, but there was a different variety of instruments being played to bring the music together.

"The band has been rehearsing for the concert since the beginning of the semester. We would meet once a week and rehearse on Thursdays from 6:15-8:45 p.m. and of course, practice on our own time outside of our rehearsals," sociology major, Gianna Rubino, a freshman, said.

Rubino played the flute, but said she also loved when she got the chance to sing and whistle during the concert, which happened during the song "Cheerio."

"My favorite part about being in the band is being involved with other amazing musicians who share similar interests and who have a bond with each other. I'm so happy that we were able to come together to prepare for and put on an amazing show while having a great time," Rubino said. "People can get involved with the band in different ways. Some students register for the class, MUS 105, while others who want to be involved can volunteer. There are many people involved, from students to faculty, and other members of the community."



SCSU University Band play bill handed out at concert. PHOTO | GIANNA RUBINO

## The Forever Purge played in Farnham Programming Space

By Sarah Shelton  
Features Editor

The lights are off and alarms are blaring. The Purge is beginning.

On Tuesday, April 26, Programs Council, known as ProCon, held a movie night for students. This time the movie was the 2021 film directed by Everardo Gout, "The Forever Purge."

According to IMDb, the movie is about how "all the rules are broken as a sect of lawless marauders decides that the annual Purge does not stop at daybreak and instead should never end."

The Universal Pictures YouTube description under the trailer for this movie states it is about Adela and her husband Juan who works as a ranch hand for the Tucker family.

"On the morning after The Purge, a masked gang of killers attacks the Tucker family—including Dylan's wife (Cassidy Freeman, HBO's The Righteous Gemstones), and his sister (Leven Rambin, The Hunger Games), forcing both families to band together and fight back as the country spirals into chaos and the United States begins to disintegrate around them," the description states.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

The forever purge playing on FPS screen.

This movie is the fifth movie of The Purge series, the first one titled "The Purge," which came out in 2013.

This movie night was originally supposed to be outside in the ResLife Quad, but due to weather, it was moved inside to Farnham Programming Space.

Senior nighttime programmer Katie Kost said they decided on the movie through Instagram story polls that students were able to vote on.

Nighttime programmer Ramsley Exantus is the one who created the polls for this specific night, and students were able to vote from six movies.

"I just pick randomly from the movies that are popular,"

Exantus said. "I looked up popular movies right now and decided my six, and the purge became the winner."

Before the movie started, at 8 p.m. the programmers lined the back table with sodas, wings and pizza for the students to grab and eat while the lights turned off.

Italian major Stefania Forte, a freshman, attended the event with her friend. She said ProCon advertised "The Purge" but she immediately recognized from the first scene it was a different movie in the series.

"We usually try to do a few [movie nights] every semester just because everyone likes movies," Kost said. "And we always get food going with it and people love the food too."

## Discovering a new band: Let's Eat Grandma REVIEW

By Mary Kate Belli  
Copy Editor

With summer coming up, many bands and artists are trying to get out their newest singles, albums and EP's hoping to release this summer's signature song.

One group coming from Britain just released a new album this past Friday. The pop indie group is known as Let's Eat Grandma.

The band was formed in 2013 by Rosa Walton and Jenny Hollingworth. They are known for their eclectic inspiration, with one song called "Eat Shiitake Mushrooms" on a previous album being inspired by graffiti in their hometown of Norwich, a city in Norfolk.

Their debut album was titled "I, Gemini" and mainly featured songs written by the two when they were younger. The album came out in 2016, three years after they formed a band.

Their second album was titled "I'm All Ears" and was released in 2018 and received critical acclaim.

This new album is their third, and it is called "Two Ribbons," with a song of the same title on the album and released as a single. The album has a mixture of synthpop 80s style music as well as sappy acoustic guitar. It truly expresses the individuality of this group, and how their music is different from what is seen on the mainstream these days.

I personally loved the song "Levitation," which fits into the synthpop side of this album.

Despite peppy-sounding instrumentals, the song has quite depressing lyrics, such as "I fall apart, I'm good at picking up pieces off the bathroom floor." Accompanied by beautiful echoey vocals, this song is a delight to listen to when going for a drive or if you just want to dance in your room despite some melancholy lyrics.

The namesake of the album, "Two Ribbons," is a slow acoustic guitar ballad lasting almost six minutes, making it a long song, especially

in the pop world where songs average three minutes at most. It is full of feeling, with soft vocals. It again features heartbreaking lyrics, such as "We both held on so tight that we're bruising up." A song of love and loss, it is a tear-jerker or an in-my-feels kind of song.

A more cheerful acoustic song is "Strange Conversations," which reminds me of my childhood. It sounds Americana and reminds me of John Denver's "The Eagle and the Hawk" in its forlorn vibe and soulful vocals.

I grew up on old American music, so this acoustic style of music reminds me of my childhood and it is comforting for me to listen to.

All in all, this album in my opinion is a beautiful work, and is for sure worth a listen.

I recommend it to any indie music fans or synthpop fans. It can satisfy both, which I haven't seen in an album before. It is a unique and intriguing listen for any music fan.

## Crescent magazine Spring 2022 Edition and Folio 2022 Edition

By Sarah Shelton  
Features Editor

Crescent magazine is an award-winning publication created by and for Southern students.

The eighth edition is now out and around campus for anyone to pick up and read.

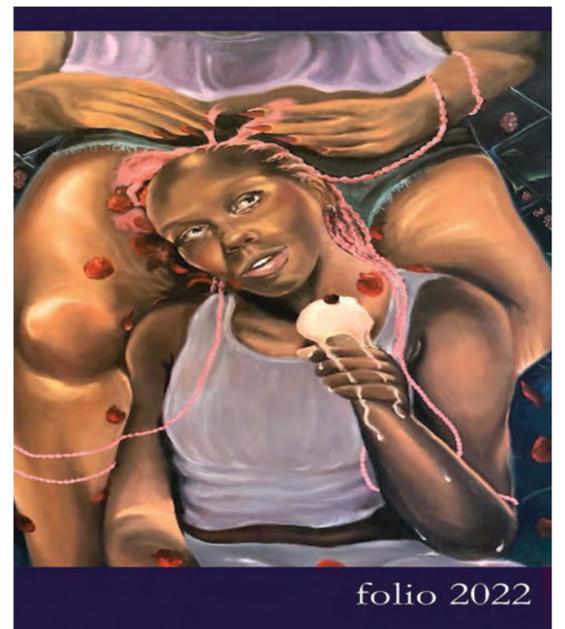
This magazine features many stories such as Drag Queens on campus, cool cars on campus, Connecticut's Geology and many more.

Stated in the Editor's note: "This semester, six articles have additional video storytelling to enhance our presentation.

We invite our readers to watch these video packages on our website: [crescentmagazine.org](http://crescentmagazine.org)"

Folio is the university's undergraduate literary magazine featuring art, poetry, and stories from the university's own students.

The magazine comes out once a year and can be picked up around campus or at their office, Adanti Student Center room 221. They are having a release party May 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the fireplace lounge.



## Goodbye to the hardships and my Southern News family

**By Sofia Rositani**  
Editor-in-Chief

I have been working for the Southern News since I was a freshman at this university. I am now a senior and I have to sadly say goodbye to the publication that I have worked on for three years.

I have learned a lot working here and I am not going to lie, it has been a tiring process. I went from a general assignment reporter to Arts & Entertainment editor and finally to Editor-in-chief. I am proud of what I have accomplished and

while I look forward to my future, I am also mourning the fact that I am no longer going to be working in the newsroom every Monday.

"I worked all night, every day while you were out clubbing," sang BTS in their song "N.O."

It has been a long but also short three years since I got to this university, and I am very excited for my life once I am out of this university.

While I am not graduating with a degree in Journalism, I will still use everything I learned for my future.

After next semester I will hopefully be getting

my master's in library science and hopefully work in a library one day as a librarian. I always loved being in libraries so being able to work in one is the dream.

While I love journalism, I lost my love for it along the way and I feel like it is not something I would want to focus on, but who knows maybe one day you may see my name on an article.

I will miss having the Southern News family I have made with the other staff members. We all have had a rough two semesters and because of it we have grown closer and have worked together

to give the university a newspaper that we would get criticized for each week.

"In the middle of the road, in the moment you want to give up, Shout out even louder: So what?" sang BTS in their song "So What."

We have gone above and beyond what we were supposed to do for the Southern News and the fact that students and faculty have been giving us a hard time is beyond me. We are a small newspaper with only seven staff members, we have all done our part and we have all worked hard to get a paper out each

week for students and faculty to read.

I am the Editor-in-Chief and yet I have done the jobs of a Managing Editor, News Editor and reporter. The countless breakdowns and emergency visits to the counseling center all for a newspaper and a university that does not even care about the wellbeing of its students.

I am ready for the next chapter of my life because at least I will be getting sleep. While I am grateful for everything, I have accomplished I am worried for the next generation of students who are taking over the

newspaper, something I have given three years of my life to. I have not met or been able to mentor the new staff coming in. I hope they do well, and I wish them luck for the upcoming semesters.

I also want to thank the wonderful staff who have been supportive and have done more than they should to get to where we are now, I am entirely grateful for them.

"Follow your dream like breaker. Even if it breaks down, don't ever run backwards, never. Because the dawn right before the sun rises is the darkest," sang BTS in their song "Tomorrow."

## Photographing my way to my last Southern News edition

**By Roma Rositani**  
Photo Editor



From the photographer to the photo editor of the Southern News, I've

learned how to photograph just about anything.

Two and a half years, nine hundred twelve and a half days and one million three hundred fourteen thousand minutes, I have channeled into the newspaper. Although it sounds like I'm complaining, it is the farthest from that. The paper, my coworkers, and my mentors have taught me an abundance of things I will take with me forever.

Everything I've learned from doing this, nothing has prepared me to reflect on the past nine hundred twelve and a half days.

My life with the paper and my life with Southern

have been two completely separate entities. Coming to the paper was a getaway, a place where me and the people I have called my family could talk amongst each other and complain about anything and everything with no judgment.

Not only have I made a family with the people, I share the same ambitions with; having my sister by my side as the Editor-in-chief, was exciting and a little scary—big sisters are always scary, but she was somebody I was able to count on and look to for help. AP style is hard, and she somehow made it easy.

There has never been a

day where the work that the entire staff did, did not matter in some way on campus, and I think that's a beautiful feeling.

The early mornings, the half drunk coffee sitting at my desk, and the computers slower than my 89-year-old grandmother have seen to be worth getting a paper out every Wednesday.

To say thanks to the people who have helped me the past nine hundred twelve and a half days may be a cliché but, I do want to say thank you to my sister, again Sofia Rositani for being the best big sister. Bria Kirklín, the photographer

and my close friend, for taking pictures when I genuinely was too lazy. Wula Cham, our copy editor, for not making fun of my bad, awful, go back to elementary school, spelling. Sarah Shelton, our features editor, for ranting about her problems and putting a smile on everyone's faces. Thank you Morgan Douglas, our sports editor, for listening to me ramble nonsense while you were laying out your page. And finally, Cindy Simoneau thank you for trusting me with the role of Photo Editor and guiding us through what it means to put out a good paper.

A scared first-year student with a photography major looking for work on campus led to doors and experiences unimaginable.

I have been able to take away so much from the Southern News and would not trade those nine hundred twelve and a half days for nothing.

Thank you all for making it so hard to say goodbye, I know I will be seeing you sooner rather than later.

Ritu Ghatourey once said "Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you've had, what you've lost, and what you've taken for granted."

## Farewell Southern News and covering university sports

**By Morgan Douglas**  
Sports Editor

Well, I suppose this is it. This is the last edition of the Southern News for the semester, so it is time to say so long whilst I reflect on what a valuable learning experience that this time with the Southern News has been.

I want to start by acknowledging and expressing my appreciation for the whole staff of the Southern News who stuck it out through a tumultuous school year.

Without going into much detail, we had two key people quit the paper just weeks into the Fall semester, changing what

traditionally was an eight-page paper per week into the four-page, or in this case, six-page edition you have become familiar with.

The changes among the staff only caused those of us who remained to grow closer, as we had to rely on one another more and more to get the paper out each week, and while it may not have always been perfect, we stayed together and got the job done, no matter what.

Being short-staffed also forced a sports guy out of his comfort zone and to cover events and happenings on campus I never would have otherwise.

I covered three plays for crying out loud. Those

were, let us say, interesting.

Late last fall, I remember the plan was for me to cover the morning portion of CSU President Tim Cheng's town hall meeting with the faculty.

I did not think much of it, I had done town halls before, no big shakes.

Then, as I crossed Fitch Street to the main campus on my way to Adanti Student Center, I saw the faculty and they were organized and marching with signs, chanting, "What do we want?"

"Fair contract!"

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

To put it mildly, it was not what I was expecting, but a great experience for an aspiring journalist,

because it cannot always be ball games and practices, in real reporting, things get heavy.

I hear that a sports editor and a sports reporter have applied for the upcoming fall semester, and that is good to hear.

I could have used the help the last two semesters, but it is too late to complain now, I am done.

One thing being the primary person covering sports for the news afforded me was the chance to witness so many cool moments on campus and interview a lot of excited athletes afterwards.

Women's basketball winning a tournament game in overtime was great, so were the pair of

walk-off home runs I saw the baseball team hit.

I saw some exciting finishes in softball as well.

An unforgettable game-winning field goal as time expired for the football team, and nobody can get a gym full of fans rocking like the Owls' volleyball team.

However, men's and women's swimming and diving winning their respective conference championships together on the same night, in their home pool was the most memorable moment of my time covering sports on campus.

The women lead wire to wire, and the men pulled off a comeback on the final day of competition.

There were no spectators allowed, so I had the privilege of sitting with the Owls in the bleachers and witnessing their emotions firsthand as they became champions.

Being able to interview athletes in those moments when they are feeling all sorts of emotions is a real treat and will be one of the things I will miss the most about having this position.

I will miss those moments and the people I got to work with, both those involved with Southern News and those involved in the athletic department.

So, to my fellow staff members, the athletic department and the athletes, I say thank you.

# SOUTHERN NEWS

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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 and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to [scsu.southern.news@gmail.com](mailto:scsu.southern.news@gmail.com), or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 222. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit [www.TheSouthernNews.org](http://www.TheSouthernNews.org) for more.

# Student-Athlete mental health on campus

By Tim O'Shea  
Contributor

In March, Katie Meyer a national champion goalie and captain for the Stanford University women's soccer team committed suicide.

As a student-athlete myself, I could only dream of achieving the heights Katie Meyer had accomplished.

This is another tragic story of a student-athlete who seemed to be living the dream, but was obviously battling demons we can't even fathom.

This tragedy prompted an idea to take a deeper dive into the NCAA's strategy for promoting mental health awareness in student-athletes and athletic programs as a whole. Even more so, I wanted to see if Southern Connecticut State University was doing their part to hold up to the standards of the NCAA.

I wanted an answer to the question, is Southern doing the most for their student-athletes?

Through the NCAA's studies, they have outlined a few key components for the best practices in providing mental health support (Stamatis et al., 2020):

1. Mental Health care should be provided to student-athletes by



PHOTO | MORGAN DOUGLAS

**Jess Dow Field. Home to Owls' football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and track and field.**

licenced and qualified professionals only

2. Inter-collaborations are encouraged for developing plans that focus on early identification and referral of student-athletes in need

3. Pre-participation screening for a variety of sub-clinical symptoms of mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, insomnia, and alcohol use is suggested

4. Education of all stakeholders towards the development of sport cultures that promote student-athletes' mental health issues management

is recommended

According to Nick Pinkerton, the Director of Counseling at Southern Connecticut State University, he says that, "Coaches, trainers, and other athletics staff have been provided with some baseline training on how to support student-athletes who are struggling with their mental health," thus making everyone in the athletic department capable of helping any student-athlete in need of mental health help.

The NCAA has also been doing its part to help students mentally

and physically. In college football, the NCAA's largest grossing sport, they have made some recent rule changes that are significantly pro-player.

For instance, since the beginning of modern college football, teams have held two or even three practices in a day.

In an attempt to limit repetitive head impact exposure during the football preseason, the NCAA eliminated two-a-day practices in 2017, while maintaining the total number of team practice sessions (Stemper, B.D., Shah, A.S.,

Harezlak, J. et al., 2019).

They have also heavily increased the enforcement of targeting. If a player is called for targeting in a game, they are immediately disqualified. This is because of a crack down to prevent head-to-head collisions, and limit concussions.

In a study by Aukerman, Bohr, Poddar, et al. (2022), they studied the correlation between targeting penalties and concussions. They found that concussion risk was significantly higher during plays in which targeting was called, especially those in which targeting fouls were upheld (Aukerman, Bohr, Poddar, et al., 2022).

This shows an effort by the NCAA to not only prevent injury, but creates a healthier environment mentally and physically for college football players.

In my research I have found that Southern has been doing its best to increase the mental wellbeing of their student athletes.

For instance, all student-athletes now receive protein shakes after workouts and practices, helping athletes with their nutrition.

The James Moore Fieldhouse has also been under heavy renovations since

director of athletics Chris Barker took over, creating a better environment for the athletes.

According to Pinkerton, "There is an ongoing focus on student-athlete mental health and holistic wellbeing here at Southern. As the Director of Counseling Services, I am actually a part of a strategic planning committee that has been meeting regularly with representatives from across the campus, as well as expert external facilitators from the field, to enhance the experience of our student-athletes, with a particular focus on their mental health and wellbeing."

In conclusion, the recent drastic changes to the Athletic facilities and talking to Pinkerton, it is very apparent that Southern is doing as much as it can to create a healthy environment for all student-athletes.

They are constantly looking for ways to improve their student-athlete's lifestyle, and continue to look for other strategies to provide the best mental health support.

They are following the NCAA's guidelines to give these athletes an athletic culture that puts the players' needs first, and to do anything to help reduce any type of stress, anxiety, or depression.

## Final campus sports recap

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

Here is one final update on the university's sports teams, surrounded by a large ad because this newspaper does not have enough material for six pages this week.

Track and field has been covered in this edition for the first time this school year, so need need for an update there.

Softball is also covered in this edition. They have a big playoff game coming up this week in the NE10 Conference Tournament against the Pace Universty Setters scheduled for Tuesday, May 3.

Starting pitcher Jessica Perucki, a junior, leads the Owls' pitching staff with 107 strikeouts and a 2.94 earned run average.

The Owls' big bat on offense has been catcher Jacqueline Dumont, a senior, who finished with a team-best .424 batting average, eight home runs and 37 runs batted in.

Softball finished th regular season with a 17-20-1 record, with an awkward tie coming over the last weekend of the season.

Lacrosse finished its season this past week, losing in the season finale to the Assumption College Greyhounds on the road, 14-11.

Lacrosse finished its season with a record of 4-12, with all four of their wins coming in home games at Jess Dow Field.

Attacker Bayleigh Takacs, a senior, led the team in goals with 38, and points, with 51.

Takacs recorded at least one goal in each game this season.

Attacker Karlie Rowe, a senior, finished second on the team in goals with 36 and points, with 50.

Both seniors are expected to return for next season, having been granted an extra year of eligibility as a result of the pandemic.

Of any team on campus, baseball can make the argument for having had the strongest season of any spring sport.

Baseball currently has a 29-10 record, heading into the final week of regular season play and has the tools necessary to make a deep run in the postseason.

The team has not lost back-to-back games all season and is currently in the middle of a three-game winning streak.

Both a potent offense and a consistent pitching staff have been key components to the Owls' success this season.

Starting pitcher Steve

Phillips, a redshirt freshman, has been the top starter on the staff, touting a 3.14 earned run average and a team-leading 61 strikeouts.

Relief pitcher Tommy Hughes, a redshirt sophomore, has been a weapon out of the bullpen for the Owls.

He has a team-best 2.73 ERA, has struck out 38 batters in 33 innings pitched and has converted on six save opportunities.

On offense, the Owls have two players batting

over .370.

Outfielder Andrew Eng, a graduate student, has been one of the most feared sluggers in the NE10 Conference all season.

The 6'1" lefty has amassed a team-best nine home runs, 50 RBI and has been walked 30 times.

Outfielder Billy Sullivan, a redshirt freshman, is batting a robust .376, has a team-high in runs scored, with 53 and is a perfect 12-for-12 on stolen base attempts,

contributing to the team in each facet of the game.

Owls' baseball will next take the field on Tuesday, May 3, for a home game against Adelphi University.

They will look to carry the momentum they have been building all season into postseason play which begins on Tuesday, May 10.

If all bodes well for the Owls during tournament play, they could be playing baseball until mid-June.

**Folio 2022 Release Party!**

Grab a copy of our 2022 issue and see our published artists share their work! Floor will be opened to everyone else who'd like to share.

Snacks, merchandise, and blackout poetry table provided! :)

Friday, May 6th  
ENG D253  
5:30 p.m.

## Softball clinches postseason berth The Owls finish the regular season with a record of 17-20-1

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor

After what has been an up and down season overall, Owls' softball clinched a postseason berth in the form of a spot in the NE10 Conference tournament.

Fittingly, the Owls clinched with a win in their final game of the season, at home on Senior Day, with a 7-0 win over the St. Anselm College Hawks in the second game of a doubleheader this past Saturday to cap an interesting weekend of softball for the Owls.

This past Friday, the Owls hosted the Southern New Hampshire University Penmen for an afternoon doubleheader.

Things were looking bleak for the Owls in game one, as they trailed 5-2 with their last chance coming in the bottom of the seventh inning, but they rallied.

Catcher Jacqueline Dumont, a senior, drove in the first run, then later in the inning, down to their final out, starting pitcher Jessica Perucki, a junior, hit a game-tying two-run double to right field.

"There were two outs," Perucki said. "I've got to get on base any way I can and that's what happened."

Game one would go to extra innings tied at five,



PHOTO | Bria Kirklín

Owls' catcher Jacqueline Dumont hit a team-leading eight home runs in the regular season to help power the Owls to the playoffs.

and Perucki would remain on the mound.

"My off-speed was really working well today and my screwball was doing really good today," Perucki said. "They are a pretty good hitting team, probably one of the best in the conference, and I really just thought about moving the ball around and trying to keep them off-balance, not knowing where I'm going to throw the ball next."

The Owls won game one in the bottom of the ninth after a sacrifice fly from infielder Kat Roy, a sophomore, for a final

score of 6-5.

Game two was another tightly contested ballgame which led to extra innings.

In the top of the seventh inning, the Penmen scored twice to take a 10-9 lead, and it would once again be up to the Owls offense for more late-game heroics.

To lead off the inning, on the first pitch no less, Dumont hit a clutch home run to left field to tie the score at 10 and was mobbed by her ecstatic teammates at home plate with a big smile on her face.

"I went up to bat, was

just ready to make a big play. Do something big for this team, came through," Dumont said. "Got to have that home run swing all the time. I was fired up. Ready to win this game, take two from them today. I was ready to sweep them."

A sweep looked unlikely in the top of the eighth inning, however. The Penmen loaded the bases with nobody out and things were looking bleak.

Then the Penmen hit a groundball to shortstop and the Owls got the force out at home plate, and then again, another

groundball to short, another force at the plate, and quickly there are two outs, and the Owls are almost out of a major jam.

They made the final out on a close play at third base, and suddenly the momentum was going all in the Owls' direction.

"It was so exciting," right fielder Liz DeRosa, a senior, said. "I was nervous. I was biting my fingernails. But we just rely on each other to make those plays and at the end of the day, they will, so it's all that matters."

DeRosa had three runs batted in during game two.

After the Owls failed to score in the bottom of the eighth inning, it was getting too dark, and the game was called off, ending in a 10-10 tie, a rarity in the sport.

Two games going to extra innings on a field without lights can lead to results like this, but the Owls got back on track the next day when they clinched their spot in the conference tournament.

The Owls will play the Pace University Setters on the road in the first round on Tuesday, May 3.

"It's that time of year when you're in the swing of things and the heat's on," Dumont said. "We've just got to come out on top and know that they're not going to beat us."



## Last Licks

By Morgan Douglas  
Sports Editor - Opinion Column

This is probably going to be my last chance to spout off sports opinions in this newspaper for a while, so I want to make the most of it. I thought of going about this a couple of different ways.

Maybe I would make a list of the top sports moments I witnessed on campus, or maybe a list of my favorite athletes to interview on campus.

I am not going to go down that road, but I am in a reflective mood and doing some looking back.

I want to thank Professor Cindy Simoneau for the opportunity to hold this position of sports editor for this past school year.

It was the first time in my scholastic life that I got involved with a school club or extracurricular activity, and I am sure glad I did.

I gained a lot of necessary experience covering and writing about sports on campus, a lot of valuable interview practice and experiences with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop which would have been hard to come by elsewhere.

But enough of all this other fluff, let's talk about the NFL Draft.

I'm kidding.

I know I am the only one of us who cares about where Bo Melton wound up or why he fell to day three.

Salute to New Haven native Travis Jones for being selected by the Baltimore Ravens.

The Ravens are among the most well-run organizations in the sport, and for them to invest a third-round pick in the UConn product says a lot about what they think Jones' potential could be at the next level.

Even though I am done covering them officially, I remain intrigued to see how the seasons will turn out for the Owls' baseball and softball teams, respectively.

Softball clinched an NE10 tournament berth after an up and down season, and baseball has been really good.

As of this writing, they are 29-10 and in the midst of a three-game winning streak.

You can follow what happens with them at [scsuowls.com](http://scsuowls.com), they do great work.

Doing this job would have been worlds harder were it not for those in the athletic department, specifically, athletic communications, so a big thank you to Associate Director of Athletics/Athletic Communications Ken Sweeten, as well as his assistants Colleen Murphy and Michael Riccio.

Working with you was always a pleasure and never a chore, although I am sure I was a chore at times.

Holding this position reinforced my love of sports, and for it, I am grateful.

Thank you to everyone who helped me get to this point and go Owls!

## Men's and women's track and field meet



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Women's track and field came in second place in their meet this past Saturday.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Sachin Manning, a graduate student, competing in hurdles on the track surrounding Jess Dow Field.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Besufekad Opstrup amongst a pack of runners during this past Saturday's track and field meet.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Quentin Askew, a junior, running on the track.

## Annual Undergrad Art Conference



Master copies from professor Thuan Vu's Art 220 painting class.

PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

### Photos and Story by Roma Rositani Photo Editor

Earl Hall had its 7th Annual undergrad Research and creativity Conference, that was supported by the SCSU Foundation this past Saturday.

The campus Art Instagram @scsuart, gave an itinerary on what the art

crawl entailed. You would first come to the Student Centers third floor for an undergraduate oral presentation at 9:30 a.m., then to Buley Library Gallery for the Entropic Exodus exhibit at 10:30a.m.

Then there was an art crawl at Earl Hall including graphic design, printmaking, ceramics, and jewelry and metals.



Artwork hanging in the hall of Earl



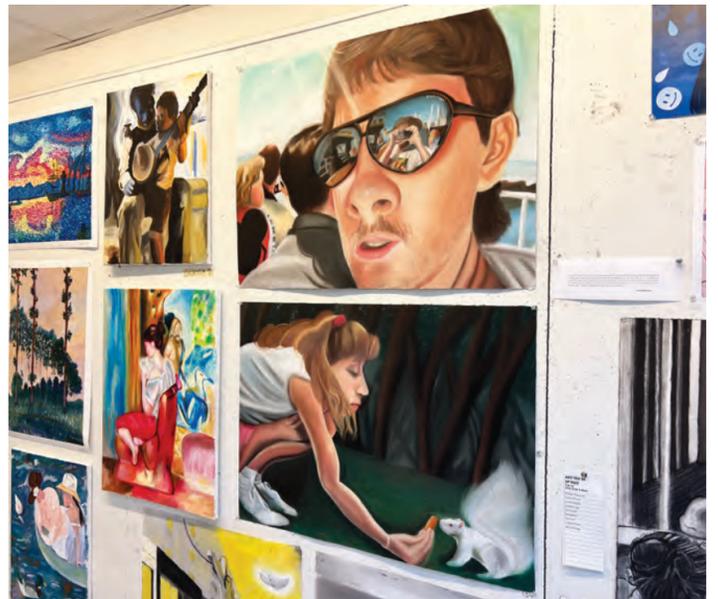
Artwork by Alison Wrogg.



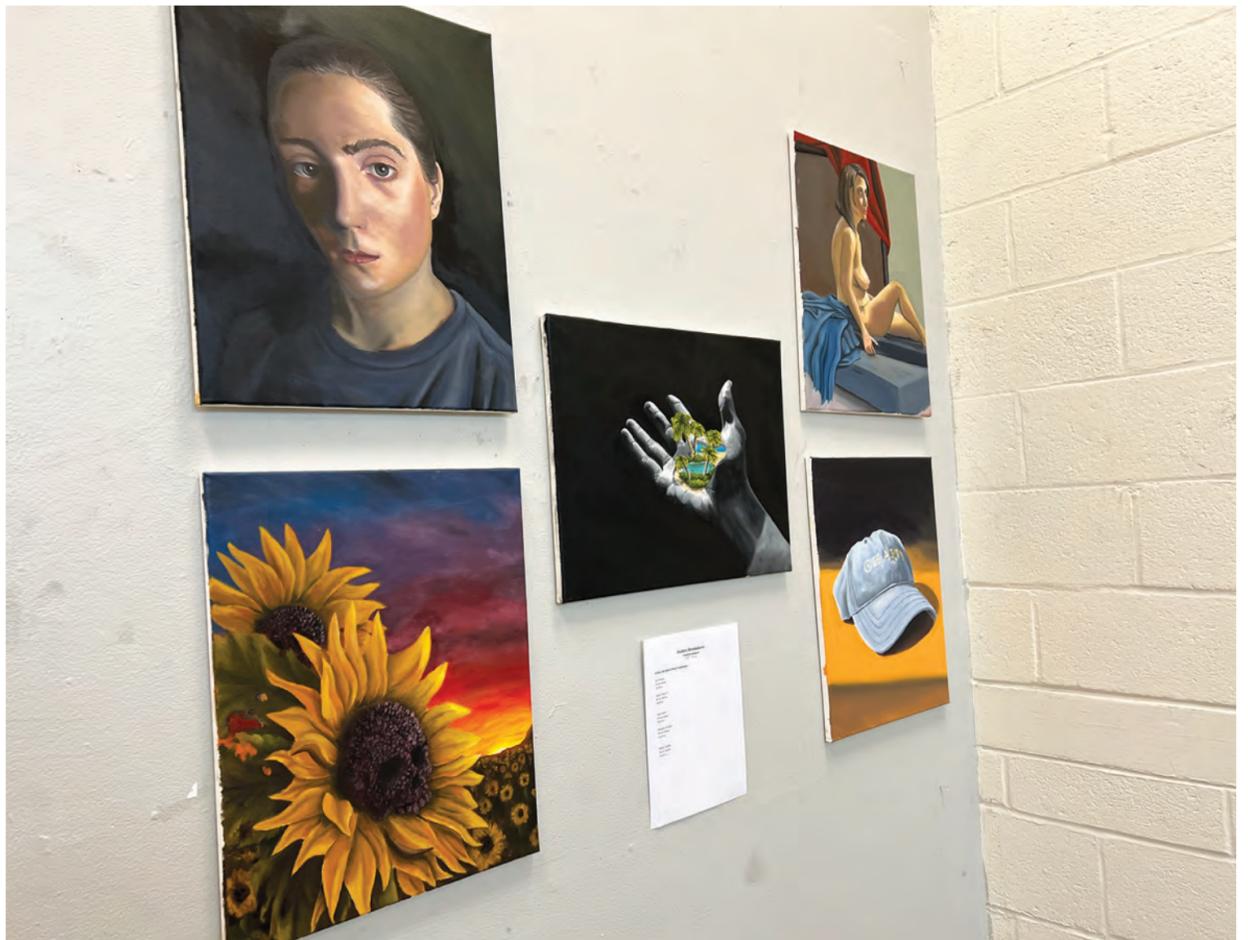
Artwork by Rafaela Martinez.



Aleesa Martins artwork hanging in Earl Hall.



More artwork from professor Thuan Vu's art classes.



Zachary Brocklehurst stylistic and subject matter exploration from ART 320.