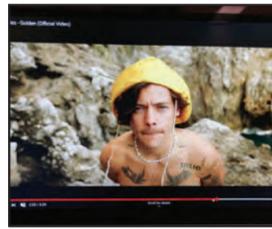




DiSalvo returns for fifth year to pole vault
Page 5



International candy trick-or-treat
Page 7



Harry Styles films new music video
Page 8

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

VOL. 59— ISSUE 10

‘Voter Teach-In’ educates students The importance of participating in the election discussed

**By Donavon Wilson
Reporter**

Students voiced their opinions about the Nov. 3 election at the local “Voter Teach-In” where they could encourage other students to fulfill their civic duty by registering to vote.

The “Voter Teach-In” event consisted of several

people from around campus speaking on why it is important that everyone who is eligible to vote is voting. There were also voter-related resources made available to the students who attended. The event took place on Monday, Oct. 26 at 3:30 p.m. on the Buley Patio.

“We wanted to really emphasize why voting

matters. We had the march for Black Lives Matter but now we need to vote like these lives matter,” said communications major and co-host of the voter teach-in Jamil Harp, a senior.

The main focus was making sure that everyone votes. There was emphasis on making sure that the voting process does

not stop at presidential elections, but extends to the local level and even student government elections. The intent was to make sure that students registered to vote and there was the ability to do so through registration tables with QR codes.

There was also a strong focus on making voting more accessible. One

of the biggest problems addressed was long lines at the voting areas. Ways to cut down on those lines were discussed, such as opting in for early voting or possibly sending in a mail-in ballot.

“Now more than ever, it is important that not only faculty and staff, but students as well, are vocal about making sure we all

vote,” said President of the Student Government Association Sarah Gossman.

There was also a focus on the ideas of activism. The idea that voting is activism within itself and is entirely free no matter what was presented to students.

See Voter Page 2



Diane Ariza listening to students speak at the ‘Voter Teach-In.’

PHOTO | JASON EDWARDS



Sarah Gossman, SGA President speaking at the ‘Voter Teach-In’ event.

PHOTO | JASON EDWARDS

Professors talk about diversity

**By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief
By Desteny Maragh
Reporter**

An hour of virtual anti-bias and critical race theory teaching featured 10 professors who spoke on the issues of diversity, equity and anti-bias training.

The discussion centered on an executive order, “Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping,” passed by President Donald Trump on Sept. 22.

“The purpose of the order is to forbid federal agencies and federal contractors to offer any training that includes what the order deems ‘divisive concepts’ and forbid the use of federal grant funds for such training,” said librarian and Women and Gender Studies liaison Kari Swanson.

The discussion, “Critical Race Theory,” was moderated by Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, chair of women and gender studies. It

was held on Oct. 26 via Facebook Live.

The order they discussed was intended to “promote economy and efficiency in federal contracting, to promote unity in the federal workforce, and to combat offensive and anti-American race and sex stereotyping and scapegoating.” However, it brought a very different response.

KC Councilor, professor of communications, media and screen studies, spoke about the role of language and how references to LGBTQ+ people were erased from websites after Trump’s inauguration.

He discussed how the order has “color blind individualism” that seeks to maintain a white supremacist status quo. He said he believes the order shows a deep anxiety about the shift in consciousness that is happening since the tide is turning toward justice.

See Diversity Page 2



Siobhan Carter-David, associate professor of history.

PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Wright to leave university

**By Desteny Maragh
Reporter**

Jermaine Wright, vice president of Student Affairs, will be leaving after working with the university for two years.

“I have really enjoyed my time at Southern and being the only man of color within a leadership structure at the level has been good to see, but I wish there were more,” said Wright.

Wright has made a profound impact on campus by structuring and collaborating on projects that push for inclusion and opportunities for students of color.

“I help students connect with resources and support to help bring them to the next level,” said Wright.

While working for the National Urban League, Wright said he learned of the “nationwide issue around Black and brown people not having access to employment.”

Wright said there is an “epidemic of people of color not being on an equal playing field when it comes to allocation of resources and/or support that people of color receive.”

He also said it is important for those students to have faculty members who are persons of color and look like them. He said it is meaningful to him to have been a role model for students at a predominately white institution.

“I’m saddened by the fact that in my departure, there will be limited men,” he said. “I don’t think there will be any men of color within the senior leadership structure.”

During his time on campus, Wright worked closely with the university access programs, such as the Southern Educational Opportunity Program (SEOP) and Gear Up, to help low-income, first-generation and students of color make it to the finish line.

The position held by Wright was one of power and importance, especially among students of color. Wright was the only black man serving on many university boards.

Wright’s impact is profound on campus, especially in the realms where minority students are affected most.

“Working in population that are similar to my upbringing, I began to see the students in need and think of them as myself, however many years ago,” he said.

In his two years here, he has completed long-lasting accomplishments.

“Updating of the Greek life manual and the Greek life expansion; we now have Iotas on campus, and when I began there was no Iotas on campus,” said Wright.

The Iota Phi Theta Fraternity is America’s fifth-largest, predominately African-American social service fraternity, with over 30,000 collegiate members worldwide.

Bringing the Iotas to Southern is one example of how Wright has “helped to diversify the population of students by bring more historically Black Greek organizations to the campus,” he said.

Another example of Wright’s impact on lower-income and minority



Jermanine Wright, vice president of Student Affairs.

PHOTO | DR.JERMAINWRIGHTPHD.COM

students is a study abroad trip to Bermuda that he helped organize for students who are part of the access program.

Students who participate in the access program are predominantly minority students. Many have never traveled beyond Connecticut.

These students were given the opportunity to obtain passports and travel outside of the country.

In his time working in the Student Affairs office, Wright was successfully able to create six functional areas where all the work in the office is categorized.

The six areas are: leadership development, student self-advocacy, equity lens, insuring exponential learning and academic support for students in need.

Wright said these six

areas “have been very pivotal in ensuring the way we categorize work in student affairs.”

“It’s a way to really compartmentalize, strategize and structure the work of student affairs,” said Wright.

With a notable presence on campus, Wright said he is grateful to have been able to help students during his time here.

“As I’m leaving,” said Wright, “I’m hearing a lot from students who’ve said, ‘thank you so much, I’m going to miss you because I bumped into you in the hallway and you recommended something to me or you said there was a book loan program or offered assistance and support,’ unbeknownst to me, because that’s just the nature of what I’ve been compelled to do.”

SGA discusses updated pass/fail policy

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

The Student Government Association discussed the pass/fail policy and what it means for students at their weekly meeting.

"The university has approved the pass/fail policy with a 41 to three vote, meaning students will be able to declare their classes pass or fail after finals, based on their department's rules," said Gossman.

Gossman said there will be a web form posted that lists all the information, such as classes that aren't up for the pass/fail option and how choosing that student option may

affect your acceptance to grad schools.

She said the next steps are to "find out more about the departments and determining which ones will be a part of pass/ fail option and making sure students are aware of what they are really signing up for."

As of right now, Wednesday Dec. 16 will be the last day students can change to pass/fail.

Gossman also shared updates on her progress working towards a revision of Southern's world language requirement.

Gossman said she met with LEP committee on Thursday, Oct. 29, and presented the PowerPoint from last semester.

The PowerPoint listed several reasons and statistical data to support the push for a world language requirement revision.

Gossman said the "next steps are to meet with [Resha] Cardone, head of World Language Department to listen to the presentation."

The weekly meeting was held Friday, Oct. 30 at 1 p.m., via WebEx.

Gossman said there are two upcoming events that she asks everyone in her organization to "try to attend if possible."

One is the food pantry volunteering event, which will be held Friday Nov. 13 from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m.

The other is the Ally to Accomplice event, set to

be held Nov. 2 at 1 p.m., online.

Next in the meeting, SGA treasurer Paige Tetro gave her report and updated the meeting on what she has been working on this week.

Tetro handles the allocation of funds for SGA to other groups who request their aid. She said she received four proposals this week.

"Esports club requesting \$50 for three different types of gift cards for Super Smash Bros Tournament, we approved their request," said Tetro.

The nursing organization on campus requested aid for an event, but Tetro said they "had to get more

clarification from them on the said event, so it's not approved yet."

The Global Brigades wants to hold a virtual event from outside the country, which requires more of an in-depth clarification process; to truly acquire access for an international event, Tetro said "it's in the process of getting approved."

The last request came from the American Sign Language Club, which was requesting money for gift cards and a social media takeover event.

Tetro said she "had to deny them request because they did not specify why they needed it and also did not get the copyright for the movie."

SGA representative Will Valois, also gave his weekly report. He spoke about video ideas for students in quarantine to lift their spirits and to remind them that they are not alone in this time, and as a university we do care and empathize with them.

Valois also said "WSIN radio asked to collaborate on a project or event." He said they discussed with them vigorously and found it was "beneficial to do so."

Valois ended his report speaking about other organizations that SGA can collaborate with and how they can further be of allies to other organizations around campus.

Diversity

Continued from Page 1

Swanson said the language of the order suggests that marginalized people are committing acts of racism against white people by providing training aimed at enhancing mutual understanding of race and gender equality within the federal force.

Ultimately, she described the executive order as "a form of censorship that strips federal agencies from the freedom to fulfill these American principles of equality and fairness."

Cassie Meyerhoffer, associate professor of sociology, said racism did not begin with Trump and it will not end with Joe Biden, if elected. However, what is "terrifying" about the order is the idea that people don't see color so white people don't have to be uncomfortable or see their role in upholding a racist social order.

Diane Ariza, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, called the executive order a "personal attack."

"By ignoring racial difference and the reality of deeply institutionalized injustices to racial minorities, we continue to perpetuate oppression and the status quo," Ariza said.

She said critical race theory is one of the many theoretical frameworks that offers the ability to examine how issues of power, race and racism continue to be

embedded in structures, policies and procedures.

Janani Umamaheswar, assistant professor in the department of sociology, also spoke. Her perspective came from her studies in criminology, incarceration and gender.

"This color blind attitude, this notion that we can approach questions of social equity and social justice from a race neutral and gender neutral, is fundamentally flawed," Umamaheswar said.

She said it is important to not be neutral in race conversations because race matters and we need people to have these conversations head on.

Brandon Hutchinson, Associate Professor of English, said people don't get beyond the issues of race by deciding not to talk about it anymore; it will always come back and reassert itself.

Speaking as a white female speech-language pathologist, Barbra Cook, Associate Professor of Communication Disorders, said critical race theory is important to her work as meeting the needs of individuals whose needs are not being met, as they are over or under identified.

Instead of hiding stereotypes, she said people need to learn to understand racism and learn about how different cultures influence each other.

As a historian, Siobhan Carter-David, Associate Professor of History and Women's and Gender Studies, said perhaps

criminalizing the discussion around critical race theory becomes problematic when it comes time to do her job.

"If we think about critical race theory, one of the major points that it proposes is that white supremacy and racial power are maintained over time, and in particular that law may play a role in this process," she said.

She said it is impossible to teach U.S. history without understanding the role that white supremacy has played in the nation's history, even if it feels uncomfortable.

The order, according to Luciana McClure, a women's and gender studies MA student and graduate assistant, is attempting to erase the U.S. oppressive history. As a woman, mother, and immigrant, she said her and the people she loves feel personally impacted.

As educators, she said it's their duty to make sure the order does not move forward.

Stephen Monroe Tomczak, Professor of Social Work, said it is important students learn about critical race theory and understand how the executive order restricts and undermines everyone.

"As I pointedly tell my students on the first day of class," he said, "you cannot understand social welfare policy in the United States without a deep understanding of the impact of racism and other forms of oppression on its development, design and structure."



PHOTO | JASON EDWARDS

Jamil Harp (left) and Camyrn Arpino-Brown speaking at the 'Voter Teach-In.'

Voter

Continued from Page 1

"Now more than ever, it is important that not only faculty and staff but students as well are vocal about making sure we all vote," said president of the Student Government Association Sarah Gossman.

There was also a focus on the ideas of activism. The idea that voting is activism within itself and is entirely free was presented to students.

College students are historically at the forefront of many Civil Rights related

movements. Many speakers, young or old, put an emphasis on making sure younger people vote. For people watching the presentation or even just on campus, this is the first election they will be voting in or at least eligible to vote in.

"A lot of people may pay attention to politics or politics aren't for me but that simply isn't true. Whether we realize it or not, politics is for all of us and affects us all in our daily lives," said Diversity Peer Educator Marie Perez.

A component of many of the speeches at the event were anecdotes and small stories. A lot

of the stories were about personal experiences or lesser-known historical sequences. For example, the events of the Freedom Summer-1964 Mississippi voter campaign were discussed. So was one presenter's American experience as a kid.

Voter suppression was addressed as a main issue. It was discussed how it was not until 1975 that multilingual people had the right to vote. It was noted that this was 10 years after African American people were given the right to vote.

"Your voice needs to be heard on every single level," said Gossman, "not just the national level."

Want to get involved in student media?

Apply for openings available for next semester!

Southern News open positions:

- Editor-in-Chief
- General Assignment Reporter
- News Writer
- Layout Editor

WSIN Radio open positions:

- News Director
- Webmaster
- Programming Director

Crescent Magazine open positions:

- Editor-in-Chief
- Copy Editor

*Other editor positions for clubs will become available depending on selections made for leadership positions.

Applications are due by Friday, Nov. 20.

Follow this link to apply: <https://forms.gle/7rM2BR4WGE29hCTi7>

For any questions, feel free to reach out to guerrucciji@southernct.edu.

University prepares for shift to online learning



By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

These are the opinions
of The Southern News
Editorial Staff

So far, this semester has felt a lot like traveling long distance by bus: everyone is fighting off feeling sick and you are desperately trying not to touch anybody.

This fall has been unlike any semester there has ever been, but that has been known. What we need to do is remember that, in the wise words of Kimberly Guilfoyle: “the worst is yet to come.”

Remember last spring, when one day we were all together on campus, then suddenly we went our separate ways for a brief break and then never came

back? Well, we are just a few weeks away from that happening again, when all on-ground classrooms become remote Zoom calls. Are we really prepared to do this again?

In all fairness, the shutdown last spring came out of nowhere. While most people knew what was upon us, there was no real time to prepare. This semester, professors have had two months to prepare, but is that enough time?

I do not ask this question to be pessimistic. I ask because I am genuinely curious; because I do not know the answer. But as a

student who went through the trials of last semester’s switch, I would certainly like to.

Last spring, I had a professor who referred to the final weeks of the semester as a “survive and advance” scenario, meaning both students and professors were struggling and scrambling. While loose due dates and lack of an organized class may benefit procrastinators, I am one who likes structure, and I fear that the ending to this semester will be like that of the last.

In my experience, professors who are

teaching fully remote are still in no way masters in the arts of online teaching. That is in no way a fault of any of them, as they themselves have to relearn how to do their jobs. It is still a fact that reality won’t right itself in the short span of a few weeks.

On the contrary, many on-ground professors have once again gotten used to being back in-person and I wonder how the transition will be for them and their classes. It could be smooth; it could not be. But my best guess is as reliable as flipping a coin.

I am not here to say

that the switch to online learning after Thanksgiving will be a complete train wreck again, but we need to be ready for this and I fear we are not.

Students and professors alike, when referring to the switch to online, speak very casually about this. We all need to be prepared and expect the unexpected, because the worst is yet to come.

Long story short: this long-distance bus ride of a semester is far from over. Metaphorically speaking, our destination is New York City, and we are only in Akron. Strap in.

Pandemic fatigue is real and must be acknowledged

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Pandemic fatigue is a completely new concept in our society, but definitely one worth paying attention to as COVID-19 numbers keep rising once again.

Last week I had the pleasure of interviewing Emily Rosenthal, head of the campus contact tracing team part of the COVID-19 task force here. While speaking on the rise of COVID-19 numbers, I learned about the unique

and new phenomenon of pandemic fatigue. This was something I hadn’t heard of before but instantly made sense to me.

So, what exactly is pandemic fatigue? It is a feeling very similar to depression, triggered from the intense emotions caused by the current times. Another term used is COVID-19 burnout, as that’s essentially what it is; becoming exhausted from living with the virus.

I feel it is important that we pay attention to this phenomenon, but we

need to stop acting like it’s this unique cutesy little COVID-19 thing.

This isn’t some sort of just a new thing. This is very much the early signs of depression being brought on by the intense emotions caused by the current pandemic. We need to treat it like it has long-term effects rather than like a trend.

The major symptomatic feelings of pandemic fatigue include feelings of helplessness, sadness, worryness, frustration, and irritability. As someone who has grown

up around many people who have depression and even anxiety, it’s clear that this is much closer to feeling depressed or even seasonal depression rather than some sort of new phenomenon. Let’s not beat around the bush with these young kids and tell them exactly what they’re feeling.

The whole label of “pandemic fatigue” feels more like a marketing ploy from companies. As fear lessens on the actual entity of COVID-19 but the quarantine rages on, these companies and their

marketing teams need something new to fixate on. Depression is an old concept; you can’t profit off of that, but can profit off of something new and exciting and best of all, scary.

I may be looking too much into this and seeing it as more than it is, but there’s no doubt in my mind that it adds to the mental health stigma. It tries to normalize it so much to the point where it feels like a joke or just merely insignificant. Mental health is a more important issue now than

ever and now is not the time to lose our vigilance.

In the end of it all, maybe this whole concept is just a passing trend. Maybe by the time this article publishes, people won’t even care about pandemic fatigue, much less even know what it is.

However, as our world changes very fast nowadays we need to act on things while they happen rather than banking on it being a passing trend. The fact is that right now, vigilance is key. Keep out an open mind but a watching eye.

Electoral college needs to adapt to modern times

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

Election years always seem to open the same wounds, not the least of which is the continued use of the United States’ Electoral College.

But what is that, exactly?

Established in the second article of the Constitution, the College is composed of 538 delegates divided amongst the 50 states. It is described there thusly:

“Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled

in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.”

Lots of old-time fancy talk. Essentially, when an election comes around, each state appoints electors, also known as delegates.

However, they can’t be elected officials or government employees, and there must be a two plus however many representatives the state has, which is assigned every decade based on population counts taken by the census.

The way these delegates then cast their ballots has changed over the years. As of now, they are obligated to vote for the

winner of the popular vote in their state.

They can be punished by a fine or even removal from their position if they ever break this rule. Most states also give all their delegates to whoever wins the total vote in their state.

Sound complicated? I believe so.

The Electoral College was established when the United States was still no more than a bakers’ dozen of newly fledged states, embarking on the virtually unattempted feat of Western democracy. (There’s a reason we’re called the ‘Great American experiment,’ after all.)

Also, despite what it’s supposed to do, the electoral college has gone against the popular vote five times, including in the

2016 and 2000 elections.

We have only elected 45 presidents; that means one out of every nine lost the popular vote, but won the position.

I think that should be enough to get rid of the accursed thing. But an argument I regularly hear against the abolishment of the electoral college is that states with high, dense populations, like California and New York, would determine elections.

This is a mis-framing. Californians and New Yorkers would, admittedly, have a strong sway over an election; likely because combined, they make up about 18 percent of the U.S. population.

(In 2016, they had a cumulative 84 electoral

votes, or 15.16 percent).

Abolishing the electoral college would give smaller states more voting power than they have now. Wyoming, which has a population approximately one-sixth of Connecticut’s, has three more delegates than we do.

Furthermore, those who vote against the popular vote, like Californian Republicans, would have their votes counted for their candidate. Historically, they are overlooked.

According to a poll by CNN, 31 percent of Californians voted for President Trump in 2016, but all 55 of the state’s delegates went to Hillary Clinton.

Here in Connecticut, an even higher 40.9 percent

of voters chose Trump, but every one of our seven delegates (again, several less than a state that is mostly wind farms) went to Clinton.

The Electoral College also creates a division of attention. Why would a candidate come to Connecticut, knowing we only have a meager 7/538 delegates and all of them are predicted to vote Democrat?

There is no clear reward when compared to a state like Ohio or Pennsylvania, which switch between the parties and offer higher rewards for a candidate’s time.

I think, fundamentally, American politics will never actually be about the American people for precisely this reason.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928

Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:

Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
Student Center Room 225
New Haven, CT 06515

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow Us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thesouthernnews](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernnews)
Visit us online: [TheSouthernNews.org](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org)
View print edition at: [OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern](https://www.OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern)

Jessica Guerrucci

Sam Tapper

Section Editors

Abby Epstein

Bernadotte Sufka

Sofia Rositani

Mike Neville

Roma Rositani

Essence Boyd

Staff Reporters

Ed Rudman

Donovan Wilson

Desteny Maragh

Bria Kirklín

Copy Desk

John Carluccio

Wula Cham

Ellis McGinley

Business/Ad Manager

Sam Tapper

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor

News

Opinions & Features

Arts & Entertainment

Sports

Photo

Online

Sports Writer

General Assignment

General Assignment

Photographer

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.

Online Exclusives

“What’s going on in Connecticut”

Check out more on www.thesouthernnews.org

PHOTO

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

PAGE 4

Halloween, a 'wicked' good time

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

On Oct. 31, students participated in events during the week of Halloween including pumpkin carving, pumpkin painting, costume contests

and food trucks. Students who participated in pumpkin carving were also given cold apple cider and kettle corn along with a pumpkin. The events all operated within and followed COVID-19 guidelines.



Students carve pumpkins while social distancing.



Student's painted pumpkins from an event in Schwartz Hall on the week of Halloween.



Pumpkin carving event held at Farnham programming space.



Students receive t-shirts from the OwlFest event on Halloween.



English major Dave Lee, junior dressed up as a character from 'Left 4 Dead 2'.



Students dressed up as 'T-Bo' from i-Carly and the infamous 'Joker'.



Students dress up for the Halloween costume contest.



Students participate in a pumpkin painting event at Schwartz Programming Space.

PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

NCAA grants an extra year Winter athletes have option to stay and compete

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

The NCAA has given its winter athletes an extra year of eligibility due to the pandemic and the effects it has had on athletics.

With this additional year of eligibility, seniors on all Southern athletics teams will have to make a decision on whether or not they want to come back for the extra year.

"This has been weighing heavy on me for a while because I have been thinking about it," said guard on the men's basketball team Isaiah Boissard. "For me, I feel like I have a much different situation than most seniors because I already did a redshirt year so I'm older than a lot of guys. I'm at the point where I really want

to stay another year but I'm still not sure."

Boissard finds himself in an interesting situation where he must decide whether or not to decline the opportunity to play an extra year at the university. His decision carries weight, as his goal is to play professionally overseas in Europe after his college career is over, something he would push back a year if he decides to stay.

Even though he'd be pushing back his dream another year, Boissard said that there are positives for doing so.

"It wouldn't hurt me in anyway, there's a lot of upside to it. Being here on scholarship and getting a free education, I would be able to start my masters like debt free. I'd have more time to work on my game too and continue to

improve and get better," said Boissard.

Not only is Boissard considering the option of staying another year, but so is his teammate, guard C.J. Seaforth. Seaforth also is weighing in on his options and has aspirations to play professionally overseas.

"As a senior, so if I graduate and we don't have a season and we have a whole other year, I can just straight focus on basketball and not have to be taking that many classes," said Seaforth. "It would be much easier because I could just focus on basketball. There's a possibility that it happens and that it doesn't, but we'll see and I'm going to continue to stay positive about it."

Boissard and Seaforth staying another year is dependent on whether or not the team will be able to

have a season this winter or if the season is drastically shorter and the pair won't have nearly as much total playing time as compared to a regular season.

If this were to happen, both of the players said they would be much more inclined to coming to the decision of opting in to one final year as an owl.

Boissard said, "At first, I thought there was no way I'd consider coming back to play for another year because I want to get to the next level and if we play, if we don't play, like I'm still going to try and go overseas. There's no question about it but I mean, thinking about it and really weighing my options, I've been kind of changing my mind back and forth but it's still up in the air at this moment of what I really want to do."

Virtual fundraiser exceeds \$10K goal

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

The "Sell Out the Stadium" campaign proved to be a great success, as the school easily exceeded its goal of \$10,000, raising \$23,751.

"I think it was a great event. I think we made the most of a tough situation and I think that our fans, our supporters and our alumni really showed what makes Southern Connecticut such a special place," said Associate Director of Athletics Ken Sweeten. "They answered the call when we were trying to make something out of, unfortunately, nothing and I think it was a great event and it's something we'll look to do again in the future."

Due to the pandemic and the inability to host a traditional homecoming, the university opted to have a virtual event centered around supporting its athletic programs at the university.

Swimming and Diving raised the most money, as they received \$6,405 from 207 donors, followed by Women's Lacrosse who raised \$4,365 from 151 donors. Other teams that were able to raise over \$1,000 included Men's cross country and track and field, football, women's soccer, women's basketball, baseball and softball.

"Tim Quill's done a great job of building his program and does a great job with alumni relations. Keeping in touch with his past athletes and they're very much engaged regularly with the program. Tim keeps them informed and he's seen some outstanding athletes come through here throughout his time," said Sweeten. "He's built a good program and I don't think it's a poor reflection on any other team. I think the participation of all were great across the board. It's just a testament to how Quill has put his program together."

See Stadium Page 6



C.J. Seaforth taking the ball up the court from a game in late January 2020.

PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

DiSalvo drawn to challenges

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

When she first began pole vaulting, Elaina DiSalvo said the nature of the sport was a challenge. Running towards a pit, pole in hand, "letting it take you," then being freely up in the air was something totally different.

"I tried it and I fell in love," she said. "Of course, it was hard in the beginning, but once I got the hang of it, I was like 'wow, this is something I want to do.'"

Pole vaulting, an event that requires a high degree of coordination, timing and speed, can be seen as a challenge, but that is exactly what drew DiSalvo in.

With a background in dancing and gymnastics, the flexibility that came with those skills translated into DiSalvo eventually becoming a NE10 Pole Vault Conference Champion.

After finding her way from Lake Grove, N.Y. to New Haven and now in her fifth year on the team, DiSalvo, a graduate student working to receive her

master's in psychology, has become a team captain and a leader.

Michelle Grecni, who held the school record at the time, reached out to her about joining the team in 2016 and DiSalvo said she saw it as an opportunity to improve and grow.

"The biggest thing for me was the hype of Southern's team," DiSalvo said. "When I came for my visit, everyone was so responsive and wanted you to come there. They wanted you there."

On the track, DiSalvo's mindset and the way she carries herself, is something pole vaulter Maria DeSouza, a sophomore, said brings the team together.

"In practice and competition and outside of training she's been a leader all around," said DeSouza. "With her experience she's been able to mentor me really well."

With support from her team as well as the coaching staff, DiSalvo said she has improved and matured, and it has helped lead her to success.

Melissa Stoll, the head coach for women's cross



DiSalvo competing at meet from the 2017-2018 season.

PHOTO COURTESY | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

country and track and field team, said like any athlete, DiSalvo has had her ups and downs.

"I remember her sophomore year she no-heighted at the outdoor meet and that was at home," Stoll said, "and then the following indoor season she was a conference champion."

DiSalvo said it was standout moment in her career was when she finished first in pole vault

at the 2019 Northeast 10 Conference Championships with a personal best mark of 3.47 meters.

"When you're on the track and you're trying to achieve your goal - you're in your head obviously, you're nervous, you're trying to overcome this, but just seeing my team across the track cheering for me, that was the best," DiSalvo said.

See DiSalvo Page 6

Field Hockey taking it 'one win at a time'

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

As teams continue to practice in the fall, working to polish their skills and get ready for a potentially sports filled spring semester, field hockey is no different.

"Practice has definitely been a little different, especially not having the whole team there but we've even doing the best we can with it," said player Megan Habakangas, a senior. "We've been starting to work on more group activities like getting into formations, passing to each other and working on our communication."

The program currently has multiple members on its team that made the decision to forego living on campus this semester and train with the team remotely from home, adding a new dynamic to this semesters training period.

The team has primarily focused on the foundations of the sport, such as stick skills, fundamentals, and technique, according to Head Coach Kelly Frassinelli.

"We've incorporated our off campus athletes by bringing them in through the computer. Really just keeping them engaged, it's a matter of how we respond to what their needs are," said Coach Frassinelli. "Practicing everyday for two hours out on the field is just not feasible in this time so we've been trying to get the most out of it."

The team, looking to improve upon last season, finished 1-16 overall last year and 1-13 in Northeast 10 conference play. Their victory came against NE10 foe Molloy College, beating them 4-1. Last season was an improvement from the prior, as they did not win

any games in 2018 and finished 0-18 overall.

One of the more focused on aspects of this semester is making sure the freshman get acclimated to the program when it is not operating at full strength and ability.

Jessica Maier, a Senior, is currently one of the members of the team that is training remotely from home and spoke about the training this semester and the logistics of it all.

"During phase one, it was really easy to do what everyone else was doing and as it progressed more into the deeper phases and more stick skills became involved, I quickly realized that it was not the same as being with the team. So I decided to come back and I've only been to one practice so far before athletics were shut down last week but I plan on going to the rest of the practices in person," said Maier.

Looking ahead, the semester is nearing its end and the team will continue to work on what they can and further polish their skills. When the spring rolls around and a potential competitive season begins, the field hockey program will be ready to show how much they've improved.

Coach Frassinelli said, "Of course everyone wants to win a championship, but for us, it's more about the more attainable goals, you know. One win at a time, how we're making plays on the field and how we connect. One of our strengths a couple years ago was our passing game and it's kind of come away from that so I'd like to return to that. I'd like to get back to those connections happening all the time and it'll create all those opportunities for scoring and winning and maybe a championship."

Flu shots offered on campus

By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

Amid the ongoing global pandemic, almost all the current health concerns stem from attempting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With winter just a few weeks away, flu season is now upon us.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, pharmacists from ShopRite in Hamden, Conn. came to set up and administer a flu shot clinic. The group of pharmacists were on campus for about four hours not only distributing shots to students, faculty and staff for free, but also serving as a reminder the flu still exists despite all the talk of COVID-19, and it is still crucial that people protect themselves from it.

"Honestly, [COVID-19] has probably heightened people's awareness of the importance of getting their vaccines," said John McCarthy, one of Shop Rite's pharmacists who helped run the clinic. "That's been my experience at the pharmacy, you can't yet protect yourself against COVID with a vaccine, people are looking to kind of do what they can to protect themselves from everything else."

The flu, which is officially known as influenza, is a viral respiratory infection that is highly contagious, not unlike COVID-19. The similarities between the two viruses and their symptoms are one of the greater concerns heading into this flu season. People may not be able to tell the difference should they start experiencing any symptoms.

However, the advantage to having flu shots readily available is that it helps ease that concern; if everybody gets their flu

vaccines, any symptoms can be clearly traced to COVID-19, and thus, not occupying much needed hospital beds with influenza patients.

"There is a lot of overlap [with symptoms]; a fever is present in both, difficulty breathing can be present in both, it's more common in COVID," McCarthy said. "So basically, if you have symptoms of the flu, you may want to look into getting a COVID test to be sure that you don't have COVID because it is so contagious, most important thing I could say is: wear a mask because it protects against both. Distance from other people because it protects against both."

All that was needed to receive the shot was a valid health insurance card followed by a brief questionnaire.

Crowds seemed to come to the clinic in waves based on class schedules, as there were periods where the Bagel Wagon was cavernous and times when the line was long. The

consensus among those in line was that getting a flu shot should be a priority for everyone this year.

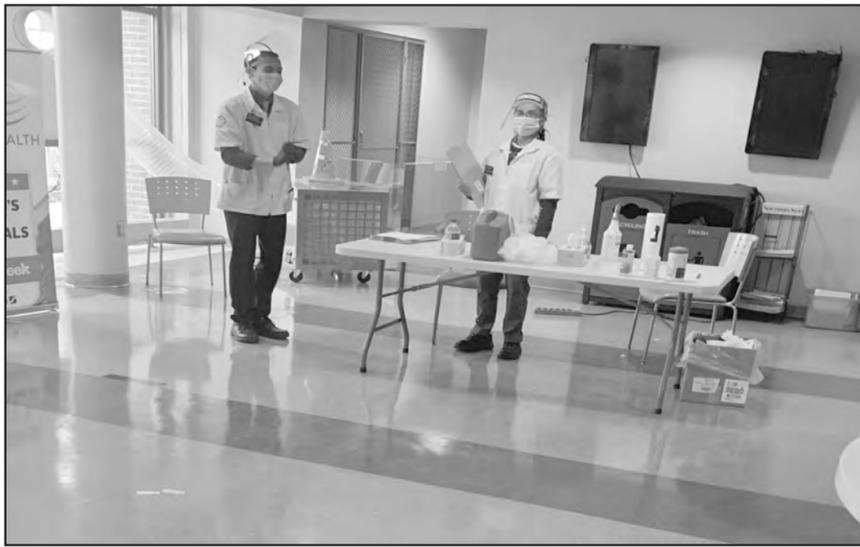
"I think it's important to get the flu shot, especially this year with COVID, because the symptoms are so similar, they're encouraging people to get flu shots even if they haven't in the past," said Susan Cusato, a professor in the Department of Environment, Geography and Marine Studies. "This year it's even more important to get it because if you end up with certain symptoms, you want to at least be somewhat sure you don't have the regular flu. And then you can behave accordingly whether you think you have something more serious or not. I think it's just a good year to get your vaccines."

There has long been a debate about flu shots and whether they work. Special education major Hanna Forsten, a junior, regularly gets the vaccine and has first-hand experience that the shots do what experts say they do.

"My first year of college, I ended up not getting [a flu shot], because it was just wrong place, wrong time," said Forsten, "and I got really sick; 102 fever, headaches – the worst headaches – and I threw up a bunch. I still went to college because I had a math exam and I wasn't going to miss that but, after that I was like 'you know what, I'm never going to miss it again' because it just wasn't worth it."

This clinic is ShopRite's third and final clinic on campus this semester. They have been coming to campus for the past several years, and that partnership is planned to continue next fall as well, according to McCarthy.

"Given the current times, having to make a special trip to go get a flu shot is probably not on most people's lists of things to do, especially younger people," he said. "I think having the ability to come and just get it when you're here on campus makes it very convenient for people."



Pharmacists from ShopRite administering flu shots in Engleman Hall.

PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Students solve a murder mystery

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

The Halloween season is different this year, but the Bookmarks English Club did the best they could with the regulations and held an online murder mystery event open to anyone who wanted to join.

"I will be the host and I'll put you all in a random generator and I'll private message the murderer and they will private message me who they want to kill," said Taylor Havrilla, president of the Bookmarks English club.

The Bookmarks English club has an annual murder mystery event near Halloween. This year, due to COVID-19, it was held online through a WebEx call at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 28. The event ran until 9:00 p.m. and consisted of five rounds of the murder mystery game.

Bookmarks is an on-campus English club. Their mission statement is to promote literacy through literature.

The game ran by one of the members being the host, one being a murderer each round and every other member of the call was the regular roles trying to figure out who the murderers are while also trying to and avoid being murdered.

During the night portions of the game, the murderer would tell the host who they wanted to be murdered. The victim would then have their camera turned off and their mic muted, representing their death. During the daytime

portion, the remaining party members would question each other and then vote to execute who they think the murderer is.

There were five rounds that happened throughout the event. Round one failed due to the murderer of the round accidentally messaging his would-be victim to everybody rather than just the host. However, round two went with no issues. Round three was interrupted by the meeting crashing but rounds four and five went smoothly.

"During last year, I almost passed out while wearing my death cape," said Sophia Oneto, Vice President of Bookmarks English Club.

An aspect of the night was just friends sharing anecdotes from murder mysteries of years passed. However, due to the socially distanced aspect, shenanigans were not quite as high stakes this year.

Another aspect of the night was the idea of playing a character. Every member of the club appeared on camera in some sort of costume that ranged from a Pokémon character to Andre 3000 from OutKast's "Hey Ya" music video.

"I was outside strolling along the lake because I had a song stuck inside my head," said George Shelton, a member of Bookmarks.

Made up alibis and back stories were another part of the game. The member of the club playing a Pokémon kept referencing areas from the Pokémon games and shows and the member of the club play Andre kept referencing being a musician.

PB&J social offered every Thursday afternoon

By Kevin Landrigan
Contributor

Students took a break from college and schoolwork this week to eat some delicious peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Program Council held an event last Thursday afternoon in hopes to ease student's minds as midterms approach.

But even here, COVID-19 made the event more complicated than it would have been a year

ago. Instead of "make your own sandwich," it was pre-made and already packaged PB&J sandwiches for the taking.

ProCon does events twice a week, including the PB&J social every Thursday afternoon. They get the word out for these events using their Instagram page and over Owl Connect.

a day-time programmer Sarah Cooney, said "It brings something fun to campus, especially during Covid."

Unfortunately, this

semester has not gone completely as they planned. Without classes being held in person, there has been a lack of attendance at many of these events. "There would usually be a rush of people going through the halls on a day like today" said Cooney.

David Jensen, one of about 30 students who attended the event Oct. 29, couldn't turn down a free PB&J sandwich after his writing intensive class.

"It was the perfect

pick me up after a long morning of classes," said Jensen.

There were two options of sandwiches the students could pick from, grape jelly or strawberry jam. They also came with the option of Pop-Tarts or Welch's fruit snacks. The food was packaged in a brown paper bag to put an elementary twist on the event.

The coordinator of Thursday's PB&J social Arianna Taylor, said ProCon staff had to observe many new

protocols they must follow in order to hold events like these. Attendance needs to be taken, gloves are worn, and all food must be pre-packaged.

"Unlike previous semesters, we are not able to put the ingredients out for a 'make your own' type of event," said Taylor.

With midterms looming, these tasty treats are the perfect way for students to keep their morals high and give motivation to do well on their exams.

"What college student doesn't love free stuff?" said Taylor. "And it is somewhere to go, that isn't class."

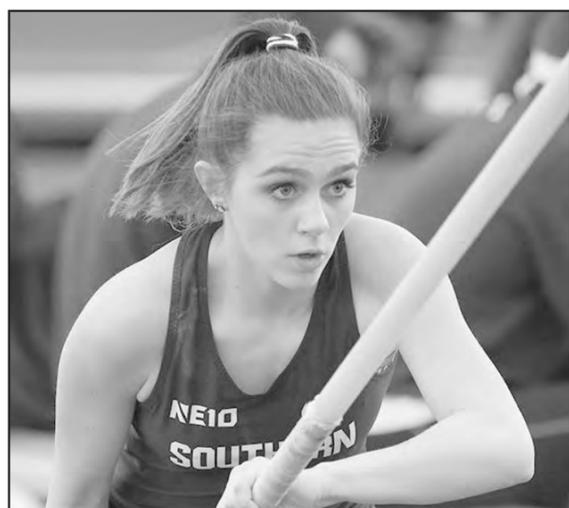
Taylor said ProCon has worked hard to build a community with their events, which is crucial in times like these. It is somewhere to go and feel welcomed it gives a huge boost of confidence, she said.

"Once you start going and start to see familiar faces," Taylor said, "it becomes nice to go every week."

DiSalvo

Continued from Page 5

She said one of her favorite parts of pole vaulting is having



DiSalvo pole vaulting at a track and field meet.

PHOTO | WWW.SCSUOWLS.COM

someone to do it with and look out for her. Her and DeSouza have worked together to improve and support each other.

While the male pole vaulters offer DiSalvo support on the track, she said have DeSouza

is different because they can train together closely and help each other improve.

"She really dedicates herself to everything she does and it's a great thing to look to," DeSouza said. "It's a great attribute she has, and I feel fortunate that I'm able to be her teammate and she's able to be my teammate and friend inside and outside of training."

DeSouza said DiSalvo has helped her with her competition anxiety by reminding her of all the hard work she's put in and telling her to treat it as if it were any other jump.

Besides her 2019 NE10 Conference Champion win, DiSalvo has been named USTFCCCA Indoor All-Region East Top Performer for pole vault in 2019, a three-time USTFCCCA Indoor All-Region East Performer for pole vault in 2018,

2019 and 2020 and a three-time USTFCCCA Outdoor All-Region East Performer for pole vault in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

As a student-athlete, DiSalvo has found balance between sports and school, receiving several honor roll and academic achievement awards. This has been achieved, she said, by time management and organization.

"That's the biggest thing," she said. "You have to set time aside to be like 'okay, I have to get this done' and you have to make a plan ahead of time."

The skills that she has learned on the track, she said, will "100 percent" play a role on how she plays in her future.

"It's definitely changed me a lot," DiSalvo said. "Just being on the team as a whole and having that support and that group and people to fall back on."

Stadium

Continued from Page 5

In total, the \$23,751 donated came from 558 donors, greatly surpassing the predetermined goal of 200 donors. The donations came from all over the country, including California, Texas and Florida.

"I think it's great to see the support all across the country. I think it just goes to show how deep the tradition of excellence at Southern runs and I think it's great to see that spread all over the country and coming back to us in New Haven," said football player Bobby Valeri, a Senior.

The virtual homecoming showcased many faculty and staff for the festivities, including Assistant Coordinator

of Athletic Facilities Jay Turiano, who made a video tutorial of himself making his buffalo chicken dip from his home.

"I actually wasn't virtually available, so Ken helped me shoot the video and it was awesome. It was a good experience, you know," said Turiano. "We had everything ready to go, shot the video, and I think it came out really good. Overall, it was a great event. We raised over 20k and it was great to see all of our alumni supporters come out."

Seeing success, despite not being able to gain money from traditional ticket sales, the event may happen again in the future.

University officials are pleased with the outcome. Sweeten said they are potentially looking to have a similar event in the spring because of the success they saw.

Ryan Pastor seeks to sustain healthier earth

By Ben Paquette
Contributor

Ryan Pastor, a senior, said he hopes to use his degree in Earth Science and Geology to one day help oil companies find untapped oil trap reserves beneath the earth's surface. Yet he realizes that The Green New Deal and the United States' push towards clean energy initiatives and renewable energy sources may pose a threat to his desired career field.

"The trend towards clean energy is a great thing and will be super beneficial for humankind, but what people do not realize is that oil, is used for much more than just the automotive industry," Pastor said.

"I am a firm believer that petroleum will never

be canceled out."

Pastor remains optimistic, however, that pushes for legislation such as "The Green New Deal," which would eliminate fossil fuel use across the United States over a still undetermined period, would not put him out of work in the future.

"I don't think the field will become obsolete during our lifetimes. I think as we focus on clean energy the production of petroleum products will be focused elsewhere but will not go away in our time here on earth," Pastor said.

While he agrees there will be a shift towards a complete reliance on clean energy initiatives in the future, he does not believe it will happen for another 50 years or more.

Pastor attended Ohio

State University, where he planned on becoming an orthopedic surgeon. After realizing the extreme workload, he changed his focus to environmental law, but decided to take a gap year after one semester.

Hoping to find a new start, Pastor moved to Connecticut two years ago to pursue his growing passion in the Earth Sciences. He'd developed a love for the environment throughout his gap year.

As he continued to explore the different Earth Sciences, he found an interest in the field of geology.

"The more I began to focus on geology and look into the careers that are possible in the field, the more I knew I wanted to become a geologist and work outside in nature."

Pastor said.

Pastor's passion for nature, as well as the betterment of our environment, led him to choose a career path in the oil industry. An industry that in the more recent years, has become environmentally safer due to advances in the oil extraction methods.

Even if the country were to completely shift its energy reliance, Pastor said the production of oil for foreign consumption would not cease.

"There is going to be the need for oil in many other countries around the world, so I think as long as we have it here in America there is always going to be a demand. Private drilling companies can sell to outside parties and not focus on U.S. demand," said Pastor.



PHOTO COURTESY | RYAN PASTOR

Ryan Pastor climbing while on a hike.

Students debate voting decisions

By Sofia Rositani
Art & Entertainment Editor

The election has been a major part of the 2020 year since it first started. Now just days away from the much anticipated election between Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump, some students are ready for it to be over with while others are nervous for the outcome.

Business major Ni'asha Greene, a freshman, may not be able to vote for this upcoming election but if she could, she would vote for Joe Biden.

"I had a feeling that Trump would win but now I feel like Biden [may win]. I feel like his cause is better for more people, where Trump he's helping but only a certain circle of people," Greene said.

She said she has somewhat been following the election, she said she watched one of the debates and talked to students about it, but has not avidly participated in the electoral process or heavily debated the outcome of election day..

"I thought that Trump made himself look foolish because every time he talked, he bashed Biden instead of actually talking about what he was supposed to talk about," Greene said.

Though Greene may not be able to vote this year but public health major, Zaiyah Mckenzie-Henderson, a junior, will be voting, even though she does not like either candidates on the democratic or republican side.

"I think Biden is going to win just because Gen-Z kids. We are going crazy this year," Mckenzie-Henderson said.

Mckenzie-Henderson will be voting for Biden on Tuesday. She does not particularly like him, but does not want Trump in office for another four years.

"I think people who aren't voting is very irritating, because you should just have a say in what you want and don't complain because you chose not to participate in something that is effecting you in the next four years," Mckenzie-Henderson said.

Chemistry major Joshua Cruz, a sophomore, said he will not vote for a presidential candidate but will be voting to keep his district representative, Jahana Hayes, in.

"The biggest reason is because Connecticut's a blue state so it's going to Joe Biden anyways and the candidate I voted for in the primary, Bernie Sanders, did not win the primary so I don't really see it as a point for me to go and vote for Joe Biden," Cruz said. "Who is someone who is just the incrementally better Donald Trump, especially in a blue state. I think if we were in a swing state, I would consider it but here I don't think there is any point for me to do it."

Cruz said he is wary to say who is going to win because in the last election, everyone was sure that Hillary Clinton was going to win. But now due to the circumstances with over half of the country already having their ballots in through mail, and many of those who voted by polling voted for Biden, there could be a possibility for him.

With the electoral college also playing a role in the final decision, students have questioned whether or not the popular vote will ultimately decide who wins the 2020 presidential election.

"I didn't think this was going to happen," Cruz said. "I thought Joe Biden was going to lose to Donald Trump because the is what happened in 2016, but for now I think Joe Biden might be able to edge him out."

Trick-or-treat goes international

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

Tuesday, Oct. 27, the university's Programs Council held their first-ever international trick-or-treating event in Engleman Hall as part of this year's Halloween celebrations.

"It's a twist," said senior daytime programmer Ariana Taylor, a sophomore. "Regular trick-or-treating isn't really possible right now." She added that the event was about "the growth. It's exciting to try new things."

Daytime programmer Olivia Czachor, a junior, said the Council "values diversity and an exchange of values and ideas. We want to provide a variety of things to try."

The event featured candy and snacks from countries such as Turkey, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico, according to Taylor. They also provided American caramel treats, which they said were for students who might be wary of trying the unfamiliar. The

international candy was purchased in large variety packs from Amazon.

"We want to make sure things come on time and it's hard to work with a new company," said Taylor.

The treats provided included everything from pickle lollipops, chile hard candy, Turkish popping candy and savory cubuk kraker, a type of light biscuit, sticks. Czachor said they had worked to provide a variety of tastes and flavors, in case students didn't have a sweet tooth.

Interdisciplinary studies major Aleeki Shortright, a junior, said Halloween is "probably my favorite" holiday. She said she did not know of the event until she was passing by Engleman.

Secondary education major Taylor Hayes, a junior, said they heard about the event in weekly emails sent to students. They added that they had not yet tried "a lot" of international candy.

"I'm excited to try a pickle lollipop," they said. "I think it's organized good. I like that they have different countries.

I've never tried Korean [candy]."

To ensure the event was within COVID-19 protocols, participating students first signed in with their student ID for contact-tracing purposes, then they can choose from each country's dish. A gloved Taylor put their treats of choice into plastic, jack-o-lantern themed bags. All members of ProCon who staffed the event wore masks, and several hand sanitizer dispensers were nearby.

All tables were also covered in plastic. The candy was dispensed into plastic skeletal bowls and arranged so students could see each label. Council members attempted to translate as needed.

Towards the end, ProCon estimated they had seen anywhere between 15 and 20 students at their table. They also said they had been waiting for the rush of students that were let out from class, which was towards the end of their scheduled time block.

Taylor said, "planning and stuff is difficult."

"We're making the best of it and are there for the students who are here,"

said Czachor.

This was not ProCon's only Halloween event. They also hosted a Halloween-themed drive-in movie Wednesday, Oct. 28th, a jack-o-lantern carving on Friday, Oct. 30 and a costume contest Saturday, Oct. 31.

Halloween celebrations have also been scaled down, likely due to COVID-19 restrictions and a smaller on-campus student body. In previous years, ProCon has hosted Halloween Carnivals and Octoberfest events.

It may also be considered a timely substitute for regular trick-or-treating, which New Haven residents are discouraged from taking part in this year.

For students who missed the event, ProCon may host something similar soon.

Taylor said although it was not possible to organize with other groups on campus this time, she is "hopeful that next semester we can collaborate and see if anyone from the multicultural organizations is interested. We want to explore other cultures."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Many different types of candies spread along the table for students to take.

Students nominated for scholarship

By Bernadotte Sufka
Features & Opinions Editor

A festival for the Theatre Department has been set in place. Their production “An Enemy of the People,” this month brought the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival staff to invite them to celebrate their work.

“KCACTF stands for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. It’s a festival where college theatre programs meet up annually to celebrate theatre in every aspect, whether that be the acting, musical theatre, playwriting, props, costuming, lighting, etcetera,” said theater major Matthew Lopes, a senior.

“We had two respondents listen in on the show and then through Zoom. The cast and crew got to meet the respondents and receive feedback on our production, as a whole, and we were all also given the chance to ask these very educated Theatre respondents any questions we wanted to know specifically,” said Lopes.

Students have worked hard to gain this much outreach and attention. As the university’s Theatre Department was recognized, they will also hold their production for a re-broadcast at this year’s festival. Even amid COVID-19, rewards have been obtained and scholarships have been given.

“It is a great honor for any production to be held for consideration

by the festival,” said Michael Skinner, Theatre Chairperson, in an email.

“It represents the hard work, talent, and dedication of our students and our program here at SCSU,” said Skinner.

The festival will be held virtually. There is no factor to limit the information though as many guest speakers, artists, presentations, and more will be available for view. Workshops will be held; faculty and students must register online.

“Another reason they came was to help the director and production manager decide on which actors and designers to send to KCACTF this February to compete in the different contests and scholarship competitions that the Festival has to offer,” said Lopes.

“One of the contests I am more specifically familiar with personally would be the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition, where actors from around the New England area prepare a couple of scenes and a monologue to showcase their talents for the region to see and to possibly win a College Scholarship while doing it,” said Lopes.

Two students, Daniel Santana-Gonzalez and Matthew Lopes, have been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. Typically, the Theatre Department allows for only one nominee per each production along with an alternate. The choice

had been made due to the online switch and will allow an easier transition. The nominees’ auditions can be done through monologue and avoid the gathering of multiple people for scenes.

Lopes decided to decline the nomination while runner up, Samhain Perez will compete for the scholarship with Santana-Gonzalez.

It will be an easier and more convenient process for the selected students. The festival will start next year in January during the regular registration and leave students a clear, open pathway to walk through.

“I’m excited because in high school we had awards and now I can get to continue that in college,” said theater major Nicole Thomas, a sophomore.

“Getting nominated is the hard part. I don’t know too much about it, but I feel you have to be the lead or play a higher part in the show to get nominated. I won’t be attending the Festival this year but if I get nominated or can eventually bring something with me then yes,” said Thomas.

A festival with many opportunities, information, scholarships and enjoyment is what students at the university’s theatre program have accomplished in earning their rank and title among other theater students. It is a major success and although the content will be held from a computer screen, the students’ hard work within their production speaks volume.



PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Lyman Center, which is shut down due to COVID-19.



PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

The outside of Lyman where plays are traditionally held.

Harry Styles is ‘Golden’ in recent video

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Harry Styles’ music video, “Golden,” premiered on Oct. 26. This music video shows Styles’ fun side as we see him dance and run through the streets of a city in Italy. I loved this video and the scenes of Styles dancing and running around a country I used to call home and it made me feel nostalgic and happy.

The music video begins like the teaser, which was posted the day before, and features Styles running through a tunnel in a white-collared shirt. Right when the beat drops, it

shows Styles dancing in the streets of Italy in a suit with a pair of crocheted gloves. Throughout the video, Styles is shown dancing and being adorable. By the end of the video, it is hard not to have a smile on your face.

While the dancing and Styles acting like a dork in the middle of the street was my favorite part, many fans have been stating that their favorite was his wardrobe.

In an interview with i-D magazine Steven Stokey-Daley, the designer behind all the wonderful clothing Styles wore in the video—including the yellow sailor hat talked about what it was like getting the chance

to work with Styles.

“Harry Lambert, (a genius), is a huge supporter of students and small brands, and he did a call out for students via Instagram stories for an editorial,” Stokey-Daley said. “I hadn’t met him before but still I sent him my look book. He replied saying that it wasn’t right for the shoot, but he had something else coming up that it could work for: ‘a project with Harry Styles.’ I couldn’t believe it. Both Harry Lambert and Harry Styles have been incredible in supporting my work.”

Users on the social media app TikTok have even been posting videos

about buying knock-off versions of what he wore and where interested individuals could find it.

There are two different TikTok users, though. The first being the users who watched the video, screamed, cried and loved his outfits. There are also the ones who create theories about the video. Larry Stylinson is a very popular ship name in the One Direction community.

The name Larry Stylinson is a combination of Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson, another band member, and ever since the band started, people have been wanting to see them together. It was no surprise when I

went on TikTok and saw all the theories about them surrounding the “Golden” music video, such as the song itself being about Tomlinson. While I understand why people would want to see them together, I believe it is their own business and should not be broadcasted to the world.

One thing that was so refreshing to see was Styles having fun and being free. There is a part in the song that starts with: “I know you were way too bright for me I’m hopeless, broken So you wait for me in the sky,” my interpretation of this song is how he feels about society, and how in the

past he could not dress the way he wanted, act, or sing certain songs. Toward the end the song shifts to: “I know that you’re scared. Because I’m so open,” this pertaining to how he is seen now with the way he dresses, and his music.

As someone who has been an avid listener of Styles since he first performed with One Direction, it fills my heart with joy seeing how happy he is now, and most importantly how comfortable he is in his own skin. There have been many theories online about a possible “Cherry” music video. If true, I will wait eagerly for them to release a teaser for it.

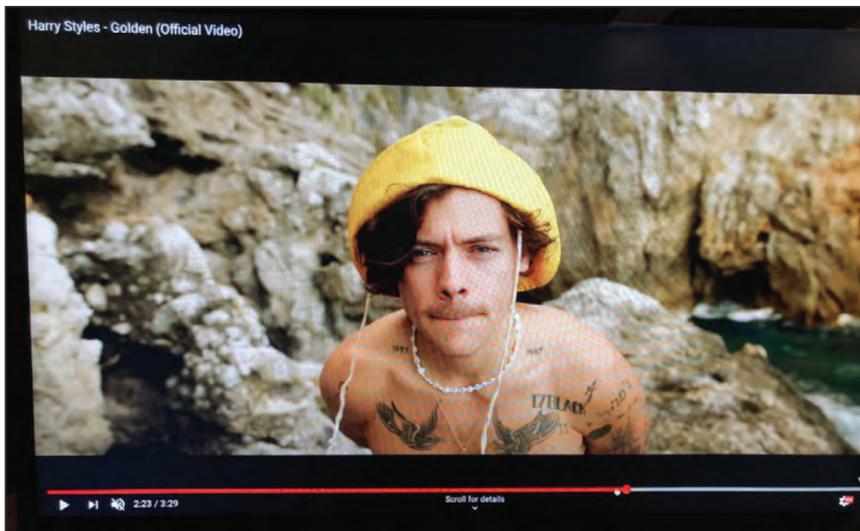


PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Harry Styles in his music video with the camera panning in and out of him on a rock.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

The opening title of Harry Styles music video “Golden,” showing a tunnel.