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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Buley hosts Native American Heritage Month

**By Braden Saint-Val  
News Writer  
Brandon Cortés  
General Reporter**

Inside Buley Library, the first-floor exhibit case features books by Native American authors curated by Jacqueline Toce, the library's head of technical services.

Multicultural Affairs and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI, are hosting one of many programs this month to commemorate National Native American Heritage Month.

They cover a variety of topics from biographies, art, history and politics to juvenile literature like "We are Still Here!" by Traci Sorrell.

"We Are Still Here!" is a children's book that discusses Native American history but also wants readers to know that Native Americans are present in society, and it discusses issues of social justice and politics that affect them," Toce said.

Daisy Torres-Baez, DEI's faculty and staff diversity recruitment and retention specialist, presented an online seminar called "Me and We Search", where they talked about the methodology, terminology, personality and research agendas that centers Native American and Indigenous identity or communities.

Since 1990, the month of November has been designated to celebrate the

rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories of the Native Americans.

Torres-Baez said that a crucial aspect of Indigenous or native communities lies in the robust interconnection among them: the formation of narratives, languages and highlighting the cohesive fabric that binds these communities together.

"In Quechua, we have 'Pachamama,' which you can translate from English to Spanish as 'mother earth,'" Torres-Baez said. "There is a relationship with plants, nature and everything that surrounds it, which in turn helps the creation of stories in these communities."

In the pursuit of researching Native Americans or Indigenous communities, Torres-Baez found critical importance in considering the purpose and methods behind conducting such research.

"We have to think about who's benefitting from this research. Whose interests does it serve? Who will carry it out? This doesn't only apply to research about Native Americans and Indigenous people but to many other types of research."

The sense of reciprocity is not commonly mentioned when researching these types of communities.

DEI's Vice President Diane Ariza said, "If anything, the 'white savior' complex or the 'American savior' complex

always comes into play."

Ariza said that individuals often enter these communities with a mindset of "I'm here to save you. I'm here to provide," whether it be through financial assistance, clothing or methods for developing water systems.

Ariza also said that the lack of a reciprocal relationship, even when entering a community, can lead to a top-down approach.

In such instances, there is a tendency to overlook understanding the community's needs before arriving as an investigator or researcher. Ariza emphasizes the importance of approaching community engagement with an awareness of the community's specific needs and not assuming that external help is automatically welcomed or necessary.

Torres-Baez said that events like these have the potential to raise awareness about more things related to Native American and Indigenous culture in the United States and the American continent.

Despite this, putting the spotlight on Native voices has proven to be challenging at the university.

Ariza points out a significant gap in educational approach. While there are commendable initiatives in certain departments, such as women and gender studies, the overall curriculum falls short in doing justice to Native histories.



PHOTO | BRADEN SAINT-VAL

**On the first floor of Buley Library, the Native American Heritage bookcase highlights books that honor Native American culture, such as "Chief Locho."**

"The issue lies in the fact that, regardless of the community's size, the data and curriculum are often not designed for them. Instead, they seem to cater to a broader audience," said Ariza.

Ariza finds it disheartening that even in discussions about theories and methodologies, there is a prevalent sentiment that suggests that because we lack a specific population, we should not engage

in conversations about it.

Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs James Henderson notes that the recent lack of participation from the campus community in multicultural programming has made it difficult to both create and promote it.

The Buley Library's director, Amy Beth, suggests that the library can be more involved in educational programming

and interactive exhibits for monthly cultural celebrations.

"It seems to me painfully limited to put the material out to demonstrate our collections rather than to invite people to make use of our collections," Beth said. "I think there's any number of programmatic opportunities for libraries, and at the moment we're not interacting; we're presenting."

## First-generation students honored through guest speaker presentation

**By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
News Editor**

First-generation students at the university were celebrated with a career empowerment hour with Tameka Ellington.

Ellington is the founder of Tameka Ellington Enterprises, a personal, professional and spiritual wellness company. She is dedicated to empowering her clients to reach higher levels of self-confidence and break cultural barriers.

Ellington said we celebrate "National First-Gen Day" for several reasons like empowerment, acknowledgment and breaking the stigmas and generational curses attached to the term "first-gen."

"It's important because first-generation students oftentimes are under-represented students," Ellington said. "About 50% of the time, first-gen students are students of color. Oftentimes, about 50% of students come from low-income families."

"When you are on that trajectory, you are breaking those generational curses. You need every bit of empowerment you can get because you are already starting at a disadvantage," Ellington said.

"The empowerment that you need to keep going- you oftentimes

can't get that from family and your friends. So, you need the empowerment wherever you can get it," Ellington said.

Associate Director of Career and Professional Development Rachel Cunningham-Exavier reflected on her experience being a first-generation student in college. She said this keynote event for students is extremely important so they can learn from it.

"Being a first-gen myself, there's a lot of things I did not know going through my college career," Cunningham-Exavier said. "So, the more resources, the more people that can give you the things that you need to know, whether that be your resources or how to navigate the career world or the academic world, I think is great."

Cunningham-Exavier said first-generation students were not really publicized much when she was in school. She feels it is important for students to have pride in being the first in their families to go to college.

"To have something specifically for that population, to have something for our students in that nature, especially for graduate students who are sometimes overlooked as first-gen students is awesome," Cunningham-Exavier said.

"Having Dr. Ellington here to be able to talk to

our students and empower them for their career and for life is awesome."

Ellington said her presentation was created to help first-generation undergraduate students prepare for their careers when they graduate and empower them to continue their first-generation journey.

Ellington said during her career she did not know she could negotiate her salary until she was in her thirties.

It took her a lot of time and dedication to get where she is today because of the barriers she had to overcome being a woman of color and a first-generation student.

Ellington highlighted one of her four books titled "Be the GOAT." She credits the things she wrote in this career-readiness manual for the successes she had once she graduated.

To her, the acronym GOAT stands for gracious, outstanding, authenticity and tenacity.

"I came from the inner city of Cleveland," Ellington said. "Being gracious was one of the things that helped me move beyond what I saw on a day-to-day basis."

Ellington said being gracious is what helped her on her journey. This is what made her able to work with others who had lost touch with their own graciousness.

"Being outstanding

was not an option. There was no room for mediocrity. I couldn't be mediocre. I had to always be excellent," Ellington said. "When you strive for excellence, you always try your best and put your all into your work."

She said students should always be themselves at all times. She wants first-generation students to stand in their own integrity.

"Never allow yourself to feel pressured into doing something you find unethical," Ellington said. "Authenticity is everything."

Ellington said no matter who you are, you have to be someone who is willing to be tenacious.

"A person that is tenacious is a fighter. They are strongly determined to win; they never give up and are never afraid to revolutionize how they think," Ellington said.

She wants first-generation students to follow their own paths, not what their parents envision for them.

"No matter what your major is, no matter what you want to do in this life, it must be something that you're going to love," Ellington said.

"Don't let anybody make you feel bad about the degree that you are going to be getting or the work that you will be doing. You deserve every success that you get," Ellington said.

## University's author gets recognized by Buley Library

**By Braden Saint-Val  
News Writer**

Buley Library staff and university faculty celebrated the milestones the university's Authors Citation Database has made since its creation in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

The Authors Citation Database is a collection of citations of publications made by university faculty, staff, administration and graduate students from every academic department.

Buley's Head of Research and Instruction Rebecca Hedreen, who after the Provost's office gave out a call in 2019 for a collection of recent written work by Southern authors, volunteered to manage it and help format the citations.

**See authors Page 2**

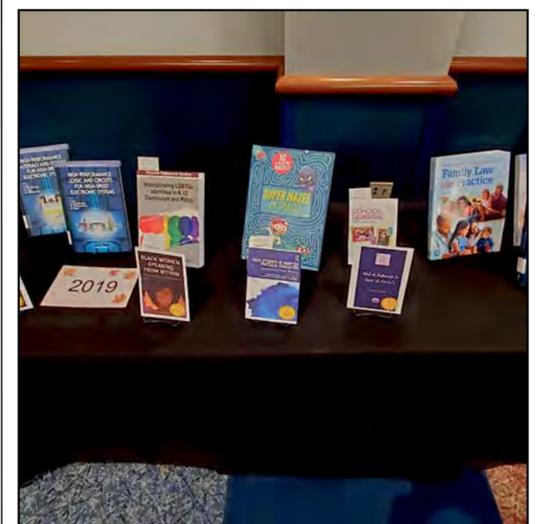


PHOTO | BRADEN SAINT-VAL

**University faculty members wrote the books displayed at the event.**

# University hosts Holocaust workshop

By Braden Saint-Val  
News Writer

“From Workshop to Classroom”: a professional development workshop where teachers from Avon and Milford gathered in the Adanti Student Center Theater to gain a better understanding of genocide education and genocides throughout history.

It was made possible through Voices of Hope, a Connecticut nonprofit that aims to raise social consciousness of the

Holocaust and other genocides, and its Holocaust and Education Resource and Outreach Center, HERO.

The HERO Center is a program that provides support for educators, students and community members to meet the requirements of Connecticut's 2018 mandate requiring schools to provide genocide education in the social studies curriculum.

This is done through workshops, webinars

and lesson plans for educators, field trips, as well as genocide survivors and their descendants speaking to students.

“To talk with, or to hear the testimony of one survivor, they begin to empathize. They see in those folks, in those survivors, their pre-war life. They begin to see reflections of themselves,” says Jeri Butlien, the HERO Center's associate director.

Speakers in Tuesday's workshop included

professors David Pettigrew and Armen Marsoobian from the university, David Simon from Yale University's Genocide Studies Program and humanities teachers.

Simon broke down the definition of genocide provided by the United Nations' Genocide Convention and how it was used after its creation in 1948, like in the Rwandan genocide.

He also provided ways to study genocide in the classroom through historical, political and social lenses.

“I can say that one of the important legacies of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda was that the UN created an ad hoc tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, that became the first international tribunal to convict an individual of committing genocide,” Simon said.

“That act breathed some life into the Genocide Convention, which had at that point existed for almost 50 years without any of its provision- in this case, for punishment- having been invoked at the international level. The Rwanda experience also showed that the Genocide Convention as

written was inadequate as an instrument for preventing genocide or mobilizing action to suppress one that is underway,” Simon said.

David Pettigrew discussed the Bosnian genocide and addressed memorialization efforts and activism that he has taken part in to commemorate victims and combat the continuous denial made by Republica Srpska's government.

“Raising awareness about past genocides is crucial for the prevention of a repetition of the atrocities. This year for example, young members of the Bosnian-American community in the Hartford area successfully advocated for the Connecticut legislature to pass a law recognizing July 11 as Bosnian Genocide Remembrance Day,” Pettigrew said. “This shows what can be accomplished by dedicated individuals who advocate for the human rights to the truth and memorialization.”

Colleen Simon guided attendees through the Yale Fortunoff Archive for Holocaust Testimonies' newest curriculum, “Race and Citizenship,” which will examine the relationship between

Nazi Germany and Jim Crow U.S.

Armen Marsoobian taught attendees about the Armenian genocide and the attempts to rewrite history by Turkey and its allies.

“I would argue that there's this continuity in the violence against Armenians. And the continuity, that continuing violence against this group, is a result of denial and distortion because that denial fuels hatred, and it creates the ability of perpetrators to recruit masses of people,” Marsoobian said.

Teachers also discussed effective ways to bring the knowledge they have learned to their classrooms with the workshop speakers.

“Social studies teachers, I believe, welcome professional development that is content based; that involves engaging with experts who can assist us with our curriculum,” said Jiliana McCormick, a social studies teacher at Avon High School. “And with the number of different courses and electives that we need to teach and need to have a broad content knowledge on, we're grateful to everyone here for taking time out to help us.”



PHOTO | BRADEN SAINT-VAL

Director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale, David Simon, giving a presentation on genocides in history.

## Students' thoughts on diversity

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
News Editor

Although retention and enrollment rates remain low, students expressed their opinions on the current diversity amongst undergraduate students.

Nursing major Kalangi Pedro, a freshman, said that she feels the diversity at the university is great.

“I came from a high school that wasn't the most diverse. So, transferring to Southern from a community college was a big change. Seeing how many students there are here and how students of each race are prevalent is good,” Pedro said. “Seeing African American students heavily immersed and represented on campus makes me extremely happy.”

Pedro said that she is excited about continuing her academic journey at the university in hopes

that the diversity grows even more.

Computer science major Brian Hathaway, a junior, said that campus is very diverse with the number of students that attend.

“It gives us a different outlook on life from different perspectives. So, you'll learn a lot from different people,” Hathaway said.

Recreational therapy major Paola Rodriguez, a junior, said that you can walk around the university and see many people, especially people of color.

“Diversity is really important. It makes you feel welcomed at a place,” Rodriguez said.

The university is one of the most diverse college campuses in the state of Connecticut.

Students of color make up 47% of the university undergraduate population, which is over 8,500 people. The class of

2027, which has around 1,300 scholars, is one of the most diverse classes in university history, containing 63% students of color.

“Southern is the most diverse university in the state of Connecticut,” Interim President Dwayne Smith said.

Rodriguez said if the university lacked diversity, then she would not have felt welcomed.

Special education major Katie Ryan, a sophomore, said that the campus is very diverse.

Ryan feels that it is nice to see other races. She feels every group gets treated with their own events, organizations and other activities.

“It's nice. It is good for students to feel welcomed but also accepted in college. Most high schools don't really prepare you or reflect how the college community really is. So, the campus community

at Southern is different because it is so large with a lot of different type of students,” Ryan said.

Nursing major Gabriella Jordan, a junior, said that the university has a wide range of students, and each racial group is celebrated equally.

“With like all the Gala events they host and how many events happen on campus, I feel like every race is represented equally because I believe we are or one of the most diverse campuses in the state,” Jordan said.

Jordan said the diverse range of people that attend the university is what makes it so special.

“The unique perspectives and people that are here is what make this place so special. It is needed that universities are diverse because without that element, you kind of lose the point of trying to market a school as a community,” Jordan said.

## Upcoming events:

### SAGE Center hosts 'Transgender Day of Remembrance'

SAGE welcomes keynote speaker, Ace Ricker, to speak on the transgender experience and remember transgender people who have lost their lives due to violence. This will be on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Theatre.

### How to be a better ally- Indigenous Latinx/e

The university is hosting an event to spotlight indigenous people during Native American Heritage Month. Students can visit Engleman Room B106 on Thursday, Nov. 16 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

### Pre-Columbian Ceramic Art from the Permanent Collection

The exhibit displays artifacts from the regions of modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Peru. The display is located on the Buley Art Gallery ground floor Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (to Dec. 7)

### Buley Library Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

Starting on Nov. 1 and ending on Nov. 30, the Buley Library celebrates National Native American Heritage Month with a detailed exhibit acknowledging the significant contributions of Native people. The show is on the First Floor of Exhibit Case from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

### Notable Native American History Tabling

The Multicultural Center hosting a tabling event designed to help participants learn about the many notable Native Americans in history and to celebrate their contributions. The event is from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the Adanti Student Center Plaza Level on Nov. 20.

### Making Treason Odious Again: Perspectives from the Naming Commission and the Army's War on the Lost Cause

Connor Williams, lead historian on the Department of Defense's Naming Commission, will speak on campus on Nov. 29 from noon to 2 p.m. inside Engleman Hall - Room C008.

If you are looking to promote events on campus, please email Editor-In-Chief Jaylen Carr (car-rj14@southernct.edu) or Managing Editor Ali Fernand (fernanda2@southernct.edu).

## Campus authors celebrated at event

Continued from Page 1

STEM Librarian Diana Hellyar then volunteered to help with the data cleanup, and the Authors Project went into full gear.

Computer science students in their capstone course also contributed by developing the database's interface as part of their project.

Hedreen believes the database can act as a lens into the university's academics and credibility.

“People should know what we do. Prospective students, students who are here who are maybe exploring majors or looking for a professor to work with: this is all available to anyone

who wants to look and see what we do here at Southern,” Hedreen said.

So far, the database has over 5,000 publications and counting by authors from the university, dating as far back as the early twentieth century, back when the university was called the New Haven State Teacher's College.

“It sets an institutional record, which is really important for any institution to have its own archive and its own record,” Amy Beth, the director of Buley Library said. “It also is an opportunity then to bring about visibility for the stupendous work of our colleagues.”

At the celebration, Beth and Hedreen gave their thanks and appreciation to the faculty that have provided additions to the database and reflected on its growth and improvements.

Both Provost Robert Prezant and Interim President Dwayne Smith gave their remarks, as well as Dr. Anuli Njoku and Dr. Marian Evans, professors of public health who are the editors of “Navigating Academia During COVID-19: Perspectives and Strategies from BIPOC Women,” a book in the database that provides the personal narratives of diverse women in academia regarding strategies to

navigate academia during times of COVID-19 and unrest.

There were also table displays that presented books published by faculty from 1983 to 1993 and from 2019 to 2023.

The Authors Citation Database is always growing, and Hedreen and Hellyar plan to add creative works such as performances and art exhibitions as well as publications from digital measures and undergraduate student work, like the annual Folio magazine.

It can be accessed through Buley Library's website by navigating to the “Find a Database” drop-down bar.



PHOTO | BRADEN SAINT-VAL

Books written by faculty on display during the Authors Citation Database celebration.

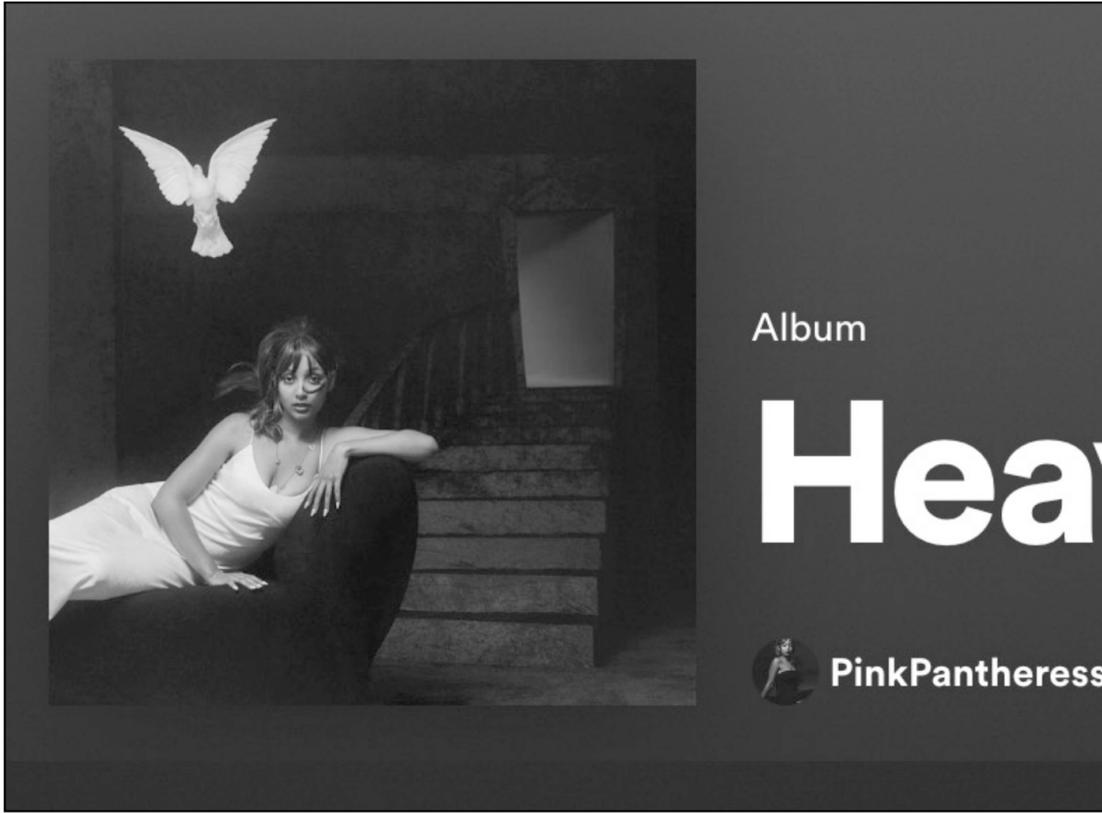
## Pop artist PinkPantheress releases debut album

By Ali Fernand  
Managing Editor

Emerging pop star PinkPantheress has released her anticipated debut album "Heaven Knows." PinkPantheress has gained attention for her use of 2000s aesthetics and lo-fi style. Her songs often feature soft vocals, fast percussion and dreamy synths. "Heaven Knows" follows her established style; however, she demonstrates growth as a musician. This album features more instruments than her previous singles. Many of the songs on this album feature guitar, bass and harp. PinkPantheress is showing her development as a musician with this album.

The production on this album is amazing. The beats, melodies and instruments fit together perfectly. No other artist right now has established a creative aesthetic quite like PinkPantheress. "Mosquito" is the song that perfectly demonstrates her evolving style. It has a laid-back and creative vocal melody. The beat is a heavy lo-fi snare rhythm, and a guitar riff is featured throughout the song. This is the strongest song on the entire album.

"Ophelia" is another



PinkPantheress's new album "Heaven Knows" as seen on Spotify.

song that shows off PinkPantheress's style while expanding on her creativity. This song focuses on the harp, which makes for a very dreamy pop song. "Nice to Meet You" has immediately become a fan favorite. The music video

features PinkPantheress and dancers in front of a colorful background. It is edited in a way that is aesthetically pleasing, and fans immediately took to it. The beat and vocals are once again the standout features. It is ridiculously catchy with a repetitive

soft melody.

"Capable of Love" is another standout song. It was one of the first singles from the album. The song showcases a grander take on PinkPantheress's style. The vocals and instruments have more dynamic growth

than her past songs.

Releasing this song as a single was a great choice as it showcases the appeal of PinkPantheress as an emerging new artist.

"Internet Baby" is supposed to serve as an interlude on this album. However, it could

absolutely stand as its own song within the album. The melody is one of the catchiest on the album. It is nothing groundbreaking, but it is on par with what PinkPantheress fans are familiar with.

The weakest part of this album is the features. Rema on "Another Life" is a weak rap verse that does not add anything special to the song. Central Cee on "Nice to Meet You" is also a bad feature. It is not as bad as Rema, but it once again adds nothing special to the song. These bad features do not ruin the album, but it also does not help it. They are simply bad features on otherwise good songs.

The one exception to the bad features is Ice Spice on "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2." This collab was immediately a pop classic. PinkPantheress's soft aesthetic was a perfect fit for Ice Spice's laid-back rapping style. These two make a fantastic duo for a fun and catchy song.

Overall, this is an impressive release from PinkPantheress. Besides the bad features, the songs on this album are great. This album will stand the test of time as a unique pop album of this decade.

**These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff**

PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

## CASAS hosts 'Culture Fest'

By Brandon Cortés  
General Reporter

Amidst the wave of students coming and going in and out of class at the Engleman Rotunda, the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, CASAS, stood organizing a cultural festival for students to come and put up any phrase, sentence or word with which they feel identified.

The university has a wide variety of cultures, religious beliefs, backgrounds, disabilities and ability statuses. The purpose of "Culture Fest" was to elevate, celebrate and empower all these different identities.

"This will help to send a message that the university values each and every person," said Associate Director of Accessibility Services Ted Donahue. "No matter what place you come from, what background you have, there is a place for you here."

Donahue says that a lot of places are not as diverse, so hosting events that help recognize these different cultural backgrounds is a big step forward into inclusivity.

"We want people to feel welcome, respected, wanted and visible," said Donahue. "So, this is an opportunity for people to express their identity, who they see themselves as and who they want people to know them as."

Transfer students make up a significant part of the university since many of them come from community colleges or even different universities.

For Santi Arounsack-Colon, a junior transfer student from Housatonic Community College, it was a huge surprise for him to

encounter an event like this for the first time in his academic life.

"Events like this give you the stereotypical concept of what a four-year university life looks like," said Arounsack-Colon. "There weren't events like this back at Housatonic; all you did back there was come and go. There was no reason to stay any longer."

As a transfer student, Arounsack-Colon feels a sense of belonging at the university thanks to events like these.

"Seeing the board with all those notes; every single note has something that characterizes the person who wrote it. It's beautiful," said Arounsack-Colon. "It makes me feel that I belong here."

At the event, a raffle was organized, providing students with the chance to win various items.

Participants eagerly took part, with each ticket carrying the potential to reveal a range of prizes, from Amazon gift cards to interesting experiences.

"Students have the opportunity to win an Amazon gift card or even some CASAS merch," said Jenna Barccello, a graduate intern at CASAS.

Barccello says that this event will most likely be limited and will not be repeated until next year, but that they will try to do similar events throughout the remainder of the fall semester.

"This year at Southern, every week is themed," said Barccello. "So, this week our office wanted to put together this little event. I'm not sure we'll do it again until next year, but we have to wait and see what the future will hold."

## Student mentors lead new students

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
News Editor

Students can get involved in student leadership positions to enrich first-year students' experiences by becoming a peer mentor.

Director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development Denise Bentley-Drobish said becoming a peer mentor teaches students numerous things.

"Learning techniques to support students, learning campus resources and mentoring skills" are some of the thing's students learn Bentley-Drobish said.

Peer Mentoring started in 2007. Although it was called a different name, students were the ones who came up with the idea of offering mentorship skills to first-year students, helping in the crucial first year experience, Bentley-Drobish said.

The first-year student retention rate at the

university is 77% in 2023. There is a four percent increase at the university when compared to the entire state of Conn. Bentley-Drobish said that the retention rate is crucial to analyze how supported students feel during their first-year experience.

Bentley-Drobish explained the two ways students can get involved in becoming a peer mentor.

"The way we're currently trying to get more students involved is with the INQ Peer Mentors 391 course which is open to anyone in any grade. Also, through the fast track, which is offered during the summer, [is] for students to attend sessions and learn the skills necessary for becoming a peer mentor," Bentley-Drobish said.

Sabrina Yaser, a sophomore, is currently a peer mentor. She acknowledges the things she has learned from becoming one.

"It's really fun but it also puts a lot of

responsibility on your plate. I consider it a good opportunity to help you become independent and responsible and understand what it is like to be guidance for someone else," Yaser said.

Yaser explained that there are some hardships that come with becoming a peer mentor.

"Sometimes it is a little hard for students to engage with me through GroupMe. But eventually students give in and message me back trying to get some help because without guidance they won't have the skills to do things in the future," Yaser said.

Peer mentors help students learn how to navigate OwlConnect, create schedules, understand degree evaluations and find resources on campus.

Cody Benegoss, a freshman, is one of the students in Yaser's class and said he is happy to have someone there to help him.

"I would be a little more lost without the assistance of my peer mentor. It's made my experience easier to adjust to college," Benegoss said.

Benegoss is hopeful that students in the future will get involved in becoming peer mentors.

"I have thought about it myself. I'm not entirely sure if I will go through with it, but I know some people who are interested in becoming one. After all, all freshmen need this service so I'm sure people will continue to sign up to help," Benegoss said.

Yaser said she views peer mentoring as a great experience to get involved with leadership roles.

"I look forward to recommending some of my students from my class to just even attend the meeting where they learn about becoming one. It helps you come out of your comfort zone and meet new people you would've never interacted with, so why not become one," Yaser said.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Nursing career fair in ASC Ballroom

By Kahiona Senior  
Photo Editor

Nursing students, both prospective and current, spent time in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom learning about medical organizations in Connecticut at the nursing career fair. Booths had hand outs, infographics and were especially informative about what students can do with their nursing degrees.



Nursing major Brian Svyatskiy, a freshman, learning about opportunities from an army representative.



The Adanti Student Center Ballroom, full of tables and opportunities for prospective and current nursing students.



Representatives of medical organizations talking to students and answering their questions.



Nursing majors Pauline Makinano and Jocelyn Hanley, seniors, and Jomelene Golbin, a junior, stop to discuss their options.

## School of Business ‘Barbie Movie Night’



Psychology major Xochitl Sanchez, business information management and services major Jose Mandujano and business major Wajiha Ali, juniors, about to choose snacks.

On Nov. 8, the School of Business, Women in Leadership Initiative and Pro-Con held “Barbie Movie Night” for students to connect, wear pink and watch 2023’s “Barbie.” This was a fun event to go to on a Wednesday night. There were a lot of snacks and a raffle at the end of the movie. Three students won \$50. This empowering event brought students of all majors together in the School of Business’ Auditorium.

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Pink colored snacks offered to students attending the “Barbie” viewing.



Journalism major Mackenzie Byerlee and elementary education majors Cole Brown and Katie Falasco, freshmen, using the photo station.



The School of Business’ Auditorium full of students watching “Barbie” on Nov. 8.

## ASA Hosts the first 'AFROGALA' on campus

**By Solé Scott**  
Features Editor

Lights, camera, action! Looking for a party where people dress up like the Grammy awards or Met Gala? Well look no further than the "AFROGALA."

The African Student Association, ASA, hosted one of the biggest events of the year on Nov. 9 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom on the 3rd floor. This was the first year that the event ran on campus.

Psychology major Cielo Rhymer, a sophomore, was one of the first guests to attend the event.

"Honestly for me I just wanted to show out, you know support everybody because my babies are on the dance team," said Rhymer.

Studio art major Rouba Momori, a freshman, went to the event with friends.

"I'm trying to see everything cultural; diversity is where it's at," said Momori.

The decoration theme was black, purple and gold. The event had a gold backdrop outside the Ballroom where guests can take pictures.

The event was catered by "Betty's," an African restaurant in Bridgeport.

Students that attend the university had to RSVP through OwlConnect, while off campus guests had to pay \$15 online or \$20 at the door when they arrived.

Patience Henry, a freshman, attended the event with her friend Madison Harvin, a freshman.

"We wanted to dress up," said Harvin.

There was a dance floor in the middle of the ballroom that was utilized by the ASA dance team as they performed.

The attire for the event was black tie and African clothing.

"Excited about the food and the music," said Harvin.

Doors opened at 6:30

p.m. and the event was supposed to start at 7 p.m. However, not a lot of guests showed up until around 8 p.m. The doors remained open until 9 p.m.

By 8 p.m. the line to sign in started to get longer as more people arrived in their elegant gowns and sophisticated suits.

The event was so popular that all tickets were sold out before the day of the event. There was a waiting list of a few people who did not RSVP.

F.A.C.E. Models E-board made an appearance during the night.

African Student Association has been advertising this event since Oct. 7.

The music was provided by deejkwame.

The celebration ended around 12 a.m. after a long night of partying.

ASA is looking forward to continuing the AFROGALA on campus as they already teased for next year.



PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Patience Henry, a freshman, and Madison Harvin, a sophomore, pose for picture.



A line of guests waiting to sign in outside the Ballroom.

## Thanksgiving this or that: Apple pie or Pumpkin pie?

**By Lexi White**  
General Reporter



"Apple pie."

— Health science major Sedona Piana, a sophomore



"Pumpkin pie."

— Psychology major Mark Jones Jr., a junior



"Pumpkin pie."

— English major Noah Crespo, a junior



"Pumpkin pie."

— Nursing major Rachel Loevlie, a sophomore



"Apple pie."

— Environmental science major Sarah Tufts, a sophomore



"Pumpkin pie."

— Marketing major Veronica Castellanos, a senior

# 'Barbie' makes her way to the School of Business

By Lexi White  
Brianna Wallen

General reporters

When you hear the word "Barbie," what do you think of? Maybe the color pink? Feminism? The very popular "Barbie," starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling? Well, the Businesswomen in Leadership and ProCon Committee hosted an event that contained all three of these factors!

"Barbie Night" occurred on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m. A good number of students came to show their support and grab some snacks. The organizers started "Barbie" at 6:30 p.m.

Businesswomen in Leadership and ProCon hosted this event together

due to Businesswomen in Leadership's relationship with the film's subject matter and ProCon's reputation of putting together fun events on campus.

There were plenty of tables draped in bright pink tablecloths. On top of those tables were a great deal of pink treats, such as cookies, cotton candy, starbursts and kettle corn.

Lisa Marotta, the co-coordinator of Businesswomen in Leadership, said the committee picked out this theme to highlight the female empowerment theme within the film.

"This theme is about the message behind the movie. My daughter has seen the movie, and she said it was very inspiring. For us, it seemed like a no-brainer to show this movie because it is a

wonderful opportunity to bring the students together and have a fun environment," said Marotta.

Working alongside Marotta in the Leadership program is business major Wajiha Ali, a junior.

"The 'Barbie' movie came out a few months ago, and it was a trend to wear pink when going to see it in theaters," Ali said. "So, I thought, why not bring that trend to Southern? It seemed like it would be such a fun, hyped-up event to host."

Students that attended the event enjoyed the pink theme as well. Graphic design major Risana Ahmed, a sophomore, watched the movie in the summer and said that she was excited to have the opportunity to

have another viewing experience.

"I like 'Barbie,' and she's associated with the color pink, and I love pink," Ahmed said.

'Barbie' fanatic or not, all the Barbies and Kens were able to enjoy the screening of the film and get involved.

"This event helped me to get involved on campus and connect with other students," Ahmed said. "I also enjoyed the activities and the food."

This was English major Jessica Brescia, a sophomore's, first time watching the movie. She said that she is excited for what the movie has to offer.

"I'm excited to see how they portray real world experiences for women," Brescia said.

For those who have

seen the movie, the film's theme resonates differently with viewers. Ahmed said that she related to the theme of self-discovery.

"The theme is to learn how to love yourself and have confidence," Ahmed said.

For others, the film highlights an eye-opening message to society about the challenges women face every day. Business major Taylor Greca, a sophomore, said that she urges everyone, not just women, to watch the movie.

"I think it's a great message for everyone,

especially women. I think it's important for everyone to watch it because it opens their eye to the real world," Greca said. "I had some of those experiences in the movie."

A guest viewer, Antona Brent Smith, said that the movie accurately portrayed women's struggles in society.

"Being a woman is never enough," Smith said.

Whether it is about a woman's physical appearance, role in the workplace, or even in their own family, the movie portrays the reality that a woman's job is never seen as enough.



PHOTO| LEXI WHITE

A variety of food was made available for students and faculty to indulge in.



PHOTO| BRIANNA WALLEN

Graphic designer major Risana Ahmed, a sophomore attends the "Barbie" showing at School of Business.

## Spotlighting the Veteran's Office

By Solé Scott  
Features Editor

There is a community of veterans at the university that needs a safe place to share experiences and receive special resources to promote mental health.

Britt Conroy is the coordinator of veterans, military and adult learner support services on campus.

"I started this role on July 1 of 2022. I was actually a student worker for the previous coordinator, Jack Mordini," said Conroy.

The Veteran's Office is located in Engleman Room A012 and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center offers a plethora of services, including the GI Bill that helps pay for college,

rehabilitation, academics and counseling.

"I think our veteran students are aware of it largely," said Conroy.

This week, the Veteran's Office is celebrating and honoring veterans that attend the university. On Nov. 6, there will be a Veterans Day Ceremony in the Adanti Student Center Theater.

"We have a lot of dependent students that have family members or parents that served in the military, so they are connected to that lived experience," said Conroy.

Business major Alejandro Medina, a freshman, has a personal connection with Veterans Day because of his stepfather.

"For Veterans Day, he usually likes to reminisce. He likes to respect the day and does not celebrate,"

said Medina.

Accounting major Brady Evon, a sophomore, has a personal connection with veterans.

"My grandfather, my uncle, and my cousin are all veterans," said Evon.

The Veteran's Office opened in 1975 on campus after an influx of Vietnam soldiers started to enroll.

"There is a shared experience that I do not think that is very well understood by people that have not been a part of the military," said Conroy.

According to Conroy, there are an estimated 286 students utilizing a veteran status at the university.

Conroy's story on why she wanted to become a soldier is deeply personal.

"I knew from a very young age that I wanted to join the military," said Conroy.

She was inspired by Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

"I was General Norman Schwarzkopf for Halloween when I was about eight-years-old," said Conroy.

The Sept. 11 attacks not only changed the world forever but Conroy on a personal level.

"Happened when I was in my senior year of high school. That solidified my desire to serve for sure," said Conroy.

Her decision to join the military had some negative impacts.

"Delayed me a little bit. My parents were not super happy about me wanting to join the military right away, so I actually did a semester of college at Gateway in New Haven. Then, I went to bootcamp in August of 2003," said Conroy.



PHOTO| SOLÉ SCOTT

Britt Conroy has been the coordinator of the Veterans Center since 2022.



Business major Alejandro Medina, a sophomore, stands in Brownell Hall.

## Students voice opinions on textbooks

By Brandon Cortés  
General Reporter

Textbooks are often the most important school material for university students. However, doubt and uncertainty are present about whether in this digital age they are still useful.

Math major Jay Chapa, a junior, understands perfectly why some students think textbooks may no longer be as necessary.

"I understand why some students don't like using textbooks or find them unnecessary. However, I believe that they are still necessary in some majors, like math for example," said Chapa.

Chapa emphasizes that despite the ongoing prevalence of digitization, he firmly believes that physical textbooks will endure. In his view, the tangible nature of traditional textbooks provides a unique and irreplaceable value that goes beyond the digital realm.

"I'm very old school when it comes to school materials and the way I take notes on lectures. I still use my pencil and notebook to take notes," says Chapa.

Chapa contends that the tactile experience of flipping through pages, the absence of screen-related distractions, and the reliability of having a physical reference contribute to the enduring significance of printed educational materials.

Despite the advancements in technology, he remains convinced that the coexistence of physical and digital formats is essential to cater to diverse learning preferences and ensure the accessibility of educational content for all.

However, the price of the books is something that is still somewhat surprising. According to a study carried out by Education Data, eBooks are 31.9% less expensive than physical books, but students spend approximately \$1,000 annually on textbooks.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the typical university student found themselves allocating an annual budget ranging from \$628 to \$1,200 for books and supplies. Within this budget, hard copy books commanded a considerable portion, reaching potential costs of up to \$400, with an average falling between \$100 and \$150. Compounding this financial challenge is the steady annual increase in textbook prices, rising by an average of 6% and doubling approximately every 11 years.

"It's not fair that you have to pay more than \$100 for a textbook for an elective class that you will never remember in your life," said Barnes.

## Men's basketball wins opener

By Luke Gadson  
Sports Editor

The Owls got off to a hot start this season, securing a victory in their home opener against the University of the District of Columbia. The Owls outscored the Firebirds 75-65 during the Friday afternoon game in James Moore Fieldhouse.

It was a slow start for the Owls as they shot 37% from the field and 62% from the free throw line in the first half. This was quickly changed when the Owls came out in the second half and improved those numbers to 52% and 80%, respectively.

"It felt good to get the first win. Now, we just have to continue. We have to fix a couple of things, but I feel good about our team, and I am happy about our first win," said guard Marty Silvera, a junior.

Silvera had an all-around excellent performance in the victory, making plays on both ends of the floor. In 35 minutes, he put up 21 points, six rebounds, seven assists and two steals.

"It felt great. It's our home opener. We have a new team, basically. We have a couple young freshmen and transfers," said Silvera.

Forward Josh McGettigan, a graduate student, recently transferred to the university from Saint Rose College, and he wasted no time to make an impact as an Owl.

McGettigan had 17 points, nine rebounds and two steals.

Rebounds were one of the keys to the win, and



Guard Sean James, a junior, brings the ball up the court for the Owls.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

forward Cherif Diarra was a force in the paint, racking up 13 rebounds.

Guard Sean James, a junior, made plenty of plays, putting together 11 points, five rebounds and four assists.

"I think it was our guard play, today. Marty and Sean controlled the game for us. They were getting us a lot of good shots, and Marty finished that game really well for us," said McGettigan. "We also rebounded the ball very well. We killed them on the boards."

Silvera said that he was

mainly happy about their rebounding because, "In practice, we have been struggling with that. Our coach has been on us about rebounding, so I am happy about what we were able to come out here and do on the glass."

In the 2022-23 season, the Owls lost their opening game, so beginning this year well is important to the team.

"It's huge. The last couple of years we stumbled out the gates, and this builds something. If you can build that momentum early, it

can go a long way. Today, we battled; we didn't play great, but we found a way to win," said Head Coach Scott Burrell. "That's a tough team. They are much better than last year. I think we can play better though, and hopefully we grow, learn and move on from here."

The Owls are off to a great start with a record of 1-0 after their first matchup. They have two nonconference games coming up before their first conference game at Assumption University on Saturday, Nov. 18.

## Football finishes the season with three straight wins

By Jaylen Carr  
Editor-in-Chief

The Owls won their final game of the season 20-14 versus Assumption University, finishing the season on a three-game winning streak. This is the Owl's first win against Assumption in 12 years.

Wide receiver Tylon Papallo, a senior, scored two touchdowns, pushing his season total to 10. He finished the game with seven catches for 106 yards. He became the sixth Owl in history to have a double-digit touchdown season.

Running back E'Lijah Gray, a junior, led the team in rushing with 190 yards. Gray rushed for over 100 yards in his final four games. Quarterback Keith Ridley, a graduate student, threw two touchdowns to Papallo in the first quarter, getting the Owls to an early lead.

Despite Ridley throwing an interception, the Owls' defense shut out Assumption University in the second half with the help of defensive captain and linebacker Hasan Dominick, a graduate student who led the team in tackles with eight.

According to the athletic website: "The season comes to an end with the Owls leading the NE10 in total offense (3,967 yards), yards per game (360.6) and passing yards (2,440), while its 1,527 rushing yards were second in the conference. Individually, Ridley led the NE10 in passing yards (2,244), yards per game (224.4), completions (194) and touchdown passes (17). Gray also led the NE10 in rushing yards (956) and yards per game (95.6) and ranked in the top five with five rushing touchdowns."



Wide receiver Tylon Papallo, a senior, gains yards for the Owls.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

## Grecco leads cross-country to a Nationals appearance

By Avery Martin  
Contributor

Senior Briana Grecco contributed substantially to the women's cross-country team's win at the NE10 Championships as she won her second-straight All-Region Honors.

The Owls won with 54 points, and Grecco finished sixth overall with a time of 22:36.70. She also received First Team All-Conference Honors. It was the first women's team's NE10 Championship win in program history.

Nursing major Grecco, a senior, said, "I think it's been a few years of working with Brian Nill and following his training plan, and I focus on the little things like rest, recovery and eating."

Exercise science major Emilie Noreika, a graduate student, is also on the team and is a friend of Grecco's.

"I feel like she is just always positive. She brings that energy to all of us," said Noreika.

Head Coach Melissa Stoll praises Grecco as a team leader and someone whose talent is evident.

"She's team captain. She leads by example. She is a contributor on many fronts outside of being a captain for this cross-country group. She is very much involved with all the girls," said Stoll.

Noreika also said that leadership is one of Grecco's best qualities.

"She is honestly a great leader. I feel like all of us



Senior Briana Grecco smiles alongside Head Coach Melissa Stoll after winning the NE10 Championship.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

**"For cross-country, we have nationals next weekend. The goal is to put our team out there. This is the second time in school history we made the national meet, and I think we have a really good team."**

— Briana Grecco

just look up to her. She is the leader of our whole

pack. Where she goes, all of us are going to go

and follow her," said Noreika. Grecco herself

attributes part of her stand-out performance

to teamwork. "I think this year we really focused on team bonding and making sure everyone was on the same page. We are making sure everyone's mind is right, and their health is good as well," said Grecco.

In the time that Stoll has coached Grecco, she has seen her times drop and her performance improve.

"She's definitely improved her 6k and 5k. She's been improving quite steadily," said Stoll.

In 2021, Grecco finished 39th in the 6k at the NCAA East Regionals with a time of 23:30.5. This year, she finished seventh with a time of 22:05.2.

Due in part to this performance, Grecco and the team will be headed to the National Championships in Joplin, Missouri on Nov. 18.

"I think we could surprise a lot of the schools with what we can do," Grecco said. "We are all just looking to get a PR and run a really good race and use the competitive field to our advantage."

Both Grecco and Noreika were excited to be representing the Owls on the national stage and hope the team impresses in Joplin.

Stoll is also thrilled to be heading to Nationals. "It has always been the dream to win the NE10s as a team. I am happy the girls are going as a team. It is what we always strove for, and now it's finally happening," she said.

# Enright and Miller push Owls past Purple Knights

**By Dillon Flanigan**  
Contributor

The Owls claimed victory as they defeated Saint Michael's College 3-2 in a five-set, gritty in-conference NE10 clash, extending their win streak to three games.

The Owls took their home court at Pelz Gymnasium after a week of practice facing Saint Michael's Purple Knights of Colchester, Vermont. They won the sets 25-17, 25-16, 25-16, 25-18 and 15-12.

"I think we showed a lot of heart out there. We won the first two sets, and then we started to get down but really wanted to win, and we came back," said setter Lily Miller, a junior.

In the first set, outside hitter Sofia Suarez-Ramos, a sophomore, put the first point on the board for both teams and was quickly followed up with another score by fellow teammate and outside hitter Ahunna James, a freshman.

With an early lead, the Owls maintained control and ultimately won the set. The second was no different, with Sara Enright, a senior, and Carissa Michel and Sarah Stark, freshmen, making up the scoring effort, the university continued to command the court taking a 2-0 set lead.

"It is important to be the first team to score. It shows the momentum in a game. It definitely helps. It is really hard to fight and come back if you are behind a few points," said Assistant Coach Abigail Epstein.

Facing an easy defeat, Saint Michael's took an early lead and never

looked back to remain alive for at least another set. In the fourth set, it was back and forth with the most tie scores, but Saint Michael's pulled away, tying the set lead at 2-2.

"We had a little bit of a late start. We got here too late, and so I do not think our warmups were as developed as we could have. So, we just kicked it into gear a little bit later than I expected," Saint Michael's first-year Head Coach, Lauren Brough, said.

In the second five-set game, the Owls maintained a two-point advantage until the Purple Knights knotted it up at eight apiece. Saint Michael's took a brief 9-8 lead, but with resolve, the university battled back. With an assist from Miller, Enright scored the winning set point, clinching the victory for the Owls.

"I think we really came together, and the third set we were kind of playing different games and getting in our heads. But in the end, I think we realized that we're all playing for the same team, and we helped each other out to get the win," said Miller.

In the third and fourth sets, the Owls played inconsistently. "The turning point in the game was realizing it is all mental. We try to create game-like situations, but they focus on their own game," said Volunteer Coach Gabriela Vazquez.

"The team still fought through to come back and win again," said Epstein.

Enright led the game with five, adding to her team total with 50 on the



Libero Aubrey Villena, a sophomore, dives low for the dig.

PHOTO | JCSUOWLS.COM

season. She also led her squad with 14 kills on 43 attempts. Just to add to her incredible night, Enright also led the team in points with 19. Unfortunately, she was unavailable for a post-game interview.

"It takes the whole group to keep it positive. They are two key players on the court and just came together to just get this win," Epstein said.

James totaled eight kills, two solo blocks and two aces, while Michel led the team in solo blocks with three and added an assist and 11 kills. Aubrey Villena, a sophomore, had two

assists of her own, but none came close to Miller's contribution.

Miller set up the game winner and delivered arguably her best performance of the season as she recorded her single-game high in assists with 38, pushing her team lead to 424 this season.

"Performance-wise, I just want to give my team my best. That's all I can really do. But strategy, I think I just really try to pull the team together as much as possible. This team is truly like a tight-knit group, and we love to play for each other," said

Miller.

The Owls look to continue the momentum from last weekend's victories with the hope of ending the last two regular season games strong.

"Our first win last weekend against Gold-ey-Beacom got us really fired up and showed ourselves that we can really win a game if we put our minds to it," said Miller.

These wins extend the success streak to three in a row, one shy of the season high. It also extended the series win streak to seven in a row versus Saint

Michael's, and in the last 15 contests, the Owls lead the series 12-3.

Even with the victory and one more game still to play, it is all but certain the Owls will finish with more losses than wins. They still improved overall to 14-16 and an in-conference record of 2-8.

Epstein said: "We are looking to end on a high note. We had some challenges we had to overcome this season that we were able to, and the girls have been able to come together and play, and I will tell them tomorrow to leave it all out on the court."

# Men's soccer loses in NE10 Semifinals

**By Luke Gadson**  
Sports Editor

The Owls lose against Southern New Hampshire University in the NE10 Championship Semifinals.

It was a physical battle up until the last second of the game, but the Owls were unable to score in the match and fell short to the Penmen 1-0. With this loss, the Owls' season comes to an end.

Both teams had a great outing defensively, with the lone goal being scored by the Penmen in the 36th

minute of play.

An impressive showing from goalkeeper Devin Juan, a junior, kept the Owls in the game until the end. Juan totaled seven saves in the match, with six of them coming in the Penmen's scoreless second half.

"I think we can just be proud of ourselves. We made an unbelievable run to even get to this point. Unfortunately, it was not enough today, but I think we can be proud of what we achieved and how far we came," said forward

Leroy Best, a junior.

Despite the season coming to a close, the Owls have much success and positive moments to look back on from this season.

Clinching the number six seed after a 3-1-2 record in their final six games of the regular season, the Owls upset number three seed Adelphi in the first round of the NE10 Playoffs.

Midfielder Yannick Hilpert, a junior, led the team in goals, finishing with five on the year.

Leading the Owls in assists with four on the season is forward Jalen Jean, a junior. Juan had an outstanding season as goalkeeper, leading the conference with a save percentage of .787. He also made 63 saves on the year.

The camaraderie and brotherhood of this team are the most important factors that went into sticking together and learning from a devastating loss in the playoffs.

"After a game like this, we just have to keep working and stick together because we are like a family. That's never going to change. We can win; we can lose, but no matter what, we are going to stick together and achieve bigger things," said Umberto Catale, a junior.

As Head Coach Kevin Anderson closes out his first season as head coach for the Owls, he reflects on the positives he and his team can take away from this year.

"It's difficult to come up with words that can express the emotion and the effort that guys have put in. I'm extremely grateful to this group, the coaching staff and to everybody that supported throughout my first season here," said Anderson.

Anderson also said that the key takeaway is that, "hard work is a talent, and that is a staple of who we continue to aspire to be."

In the end, the team is proud of the effort they showed.

"We are warriors. You saw that in the game as we kept fighting when we were down. We keep our heads high and continue," said defender Alex da Cunha, a junior.



Midfielder Ozar Razo, a freshman, gets the ball past his defender.

PHOTO | LUKE GADSON

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