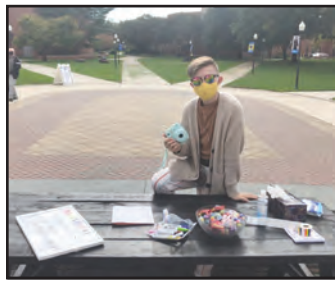
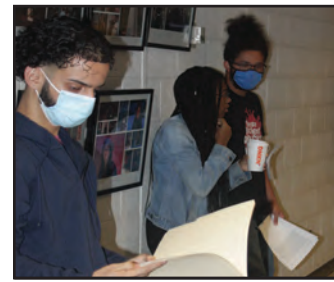




**Kelly finds success on and off field**  
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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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OCTOBER 14, 2020

VOL. 59—ISSUE 7

## Registration changes

### Residential students will have priority over commuters

**By Abby Epstein**  
News Editor  
**By Sofia Rositani**  
Arts & Entertainment Editor  
**By Desteny Maragh**  
Reporter

Residential students will have priority over commuter students for spring registration, but all seniors and athletes will still have top priority to register for classes.

"Resident students have priority only for on-ground and hybrid courses," said Julie Edstrom Vice President of Enrollment.

According to Edstrom, the reason behind the change was because students were choosing to live on campus and spend money on room and board, only to have many teachers switch their classes from on-ground to online.

"Those students found themselves in a financial contract so looking ahead to spring registration, we

wanted to be sure that those students had some priority," said Edstrom.

According to Director of Residence Life Robert Demezzo, the number of students who live on campus by year included; 13 graduate students, 110 seniors with 90 or more credits, 241 juniors with 60 to 89.5 credits, 387 sophomores with 30 to 59.5 credits, and 698 freshmen with 0 to 29.5 credits. These students will be getting priority over commuters on registration day.

"We are at about 60 percent capacity for residential students, as I understand it, compared to prior years and approximately 1,450 students are living on campus," said Registrar Alicia Carroll. "So, right out of the gate we are not talking about registration priority for the usual number of residential students as we are accustomed to having on campus."

Carroll said while

there are 1,450 students living on campus, the registrar's office took into consideration those who have priority regardless of residency. This includes athletes and those who receive support from the Disability Resource Center.

According to Carroll, roughly 125 juniors, 220 sophomores, and 385 freshmen are getting a two-hour slot to register for on-ground and hybrid classes before commuters.

"When we knew we had to break out in time slots we looked at existing models that worked over at Central, and I know Eastern has a similar system as well," said Carroll.

When the Registrar's Office chose how to do registration this year, they made a pros and cons list. The pros were that a senior will get priority by how many credits they have and that the Banner Web will not crash again as much as it usually does during registration. The cons were that some of the

students will not get their first choice. Usually it is freshmen who struggle due to taking their LEP requirements before their major requirements, so those seats fill up faster than in their major.

"Well, we are 25 million dollars in debt," said President Joe Bertolino. "We were looking for ways to incentivize our resident students. I don't think Julie and I anticipated the response that was received. There's lessons we're learning and there were mistakes made."

A committee meeting was held with many of the stakeholders, who were asked to meet on short notice.

Priority registration for residential students was not a recommendation made according to Deborah Weiss, professor of communication disorders. The decision about priority registration was made outside of the committee.

See Changes Page 2

## Two officers are promoted

**By Matthew Polek**  
Contributor

The Southern Police Department promoted two of its officers to the rank of sergeant. Sgt. Kim Clare and Sgt. Carlos Maldonado were sworn into their new positions by the Executive Vice President of Finance & Administration Mark Rozewski.

The ceremony was held in Moore Field House in

front of friends, family, and SCSU PD staff. Chief Joseph Dooley started the morning with a few words about the two new sergeants' backgrounds and what this means for the department.

"This is a critical day for the department," Dooley said. "There's about 50 years of law enforcement experience between these two and we're all excited."

See Police Page 2

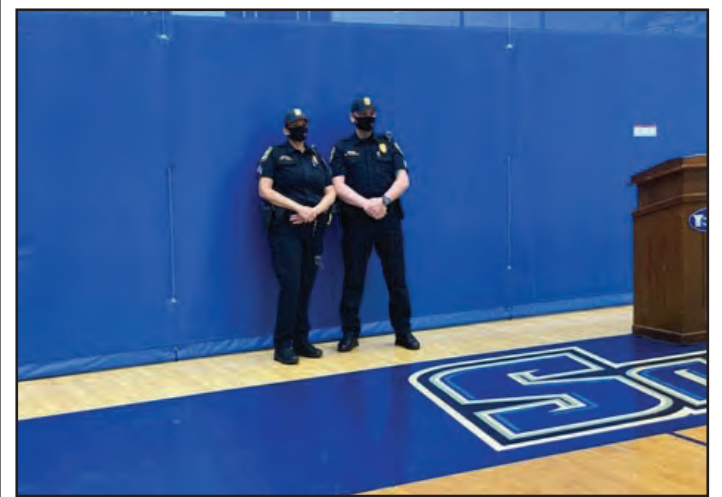


PHOTO | MATTHEW POLEK

Sgt. Clare and Sgt. Maldonado after being promoted.

## Human Performance Lab currently closed

**By Abby Epstein**  
News Editor

Filled with high tech technology, the Human Performance Lab, located in Moore Field House, can test body composition, running technique, oxygen levels and much more.

An underwater weighing tank, 3D Gait motion capture system, and a metabolic cart is just some of the technology used in the performance lab. Exercise science major students have the chance to experience and learn how to use much of this technology in their fitness management class.

"So basically, any sort of testing related to health and human performance we can do most of that in our lab and our students get trained in on how to do that sort of testing," said Robert Gregory, director of the CT Running Clinic.

This semester, professors are not able to take their classes into the performance lab due to the its closure, but one student who had the chance last year to use the lab was able to see how the underwater weighing tank works.

"I found it fascinating that just from being underwater and exhaling as much oxygen as you can, that will determine your body fat percentage," said exercise science major Kylie Greenberg, a sophomore.

The Human Performance lab is not only used for teaching purposes, but anyone can make an appointment to test the state of their body.

However, it does cost money, which varies depending on the equipment someone wants to use in the performance. More information can be found on the Human Performance Lab website.

"For a lot of the services that we offer, most of the people who use them are not from Southern. They are people who live in the community," said Gregory. "We will get people here from New York, New Jersey, all over Connecticut and sometimes Massachusetts."

Another component of the performance lab is the CT Running Clinic, which consists of special high-speed cameras and a sophisticated treadmill. The treadmill measures the force people exert on the ground when they are running and that is used to evaluate the person's running form.

"We offer our services to anybody basically in New England and it doesn't have to be for runners who are injured, it can be

for runners who want to know more about their running style, their running technique and find ways to improve their form," said Gregory.

Some of the athletic teams have taken part in using the services of the performance lab. A couple years ago, the football team would regularly go to have their body composition evaluated. Soccer has also gone in occasionally to get a baseline test of their balance.

Gregory mentioned that within eight years of being a part of the Human Performance Lab, he has had only about four students from Southern use the services.

"I do think it's a great thing to have," said sport management major Jake Mattei, a junior. "Although I personally I have yet to use it, I think it would be very beneficial especially for not only runners, but people trying to learn more about their body."

See Lab Page 2



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Human Performance Lab located in Moore Field House.

## University works to gain reaccreditation

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Editor-in-Chief

To ensure a quality education, members of the university are doing a data-driven self-study in hopes to gain reaccreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education.

"The goal of accreditation is to show that we're paying attention to the quality of the education that we're providing," said Theresa Marchant-Shapiro, a political science professor who is co-managing the accreditation process with Trudy Milburn, associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

To gain accreditation, the university needs to meet the nine standards provided by NECHE every 10 years with an interim report every five years, with a goal understanding the university's identity, where it can improve and grow, and the direction it is headed in the future.

The original report will be submitted in December; a revised version will be submitted to NECHE in July 2021, and then a site team will come evaluate the campus and interview students and faculty in the fall to determine whether the university will be reaccredited.

The nine standards include mission and purposes, planning and evaluation, organization and governance, the academic program, students, teaching,

learning and scholarship, institutional resources, educational effectiveness and integrity, transparency and public disclosure.

Each standard has a team assigned to it, with a total of 80 people who have been working on it for the past year, according to Marchant-Shapiro.

Vice President for Student Affairs Tracy Tyree is co-chairing the second standard, planning and evaluation, with Robert Forbus, a professor in the School of Business.

"One of the challenges is that it's a 10-year span, and 2011, 2012, 2013 feel like they're a long time ago, but from a NECHE lens you're looking at the last 10 years," said Tyree.

She said NECHE wants to see that a plan has been created and implemented and that there are mechanisms that will evaluate if those goals are accomplished or not.

"I think this is something that is often seen as administrative or a faculty staff thing," said Tyree, "but students need to care if the university is accredited or not and it is foundational to the value of their degree."

Tyree said the university is also not eligible for federal financial aid if it is not reaccredited.

Both Marchant-Shapiro and Milburn have been leading forums with faculty, staff, students and alumni to collect qualitative data to see their perspectives on how the university is doing.

"We heard about how

some students felt very welcome and they felt like they had an instant sense of belonging when they came to Southern compared to other institutions," said Milburn, "and then some students said even though individuals feel like that, not everyone does."

At a student forum held at a Student Government Association meeting, Sarah Gossman, president of SGA, said they were asked about the mission statement and the university's identity.

Some of the discussion addressed looking at students holistically, the benefit of small class sizes, and diversity of the college population.

As for what could be improved, Gossman said the university needs a set definition of what it means to be a social justice university and making sure all decisions are centered around it.

"When we say Southern is a social justice school, what exactly does that mean? Because we feel sometimes because social justice is such a wide term, and it's such an umbrella term, and so many things can fall under social justice, there's not really a set definition," said Gossman.

Another area of improvement was having a more diverse faculty. Gossman said students want to see staff that have shared experiences and that can represent them in a classroom or clubs.

See Renew Page 2



# Clery Report released showing crime statistics

By Sofia Rositani  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Wednesday Sept. 30, Patrick Dilger emailed students the 2020 Clery Report. This report goes back to 2017 and shows

the number of different crimes committed on campus.

"Any university that receives federal financial aid has to send in their numbers to the department of education

annually. The numbers are related to only the January through December calendar for the three years prior," said Sergeant Cynthia Torres.

Torres said that the way the numbers are calculated are through the campus security authorities. They are then sent directly to Torres' department (where they then go in to calculate the numbers).

Torres said she noticed a few decreases since 2017, such as drug abuse arrests, liquor law violations, and liquor law arrests.

"People are still able to report to us to contact us, email us. There are certainly less people on campus, which would have some correlation," Chief Joseph Dooley said about how COVID-19 has

affected the university.

Torres said that every service that the university had prior to COVID-19 is in fact still up and running.

The Clery Report helps students understand what has happened on campus and by gathering all this data, it shows statistics of crimes that have happened on across campus in the last three years.

According to the report, crimes such as drug abuse arrests have gone down drastically since 2017; it went from 34 to 15. When compared to Eastern's numbers, a smaller university in a suburban area on 182 acres and according to USNews, 4,800 undergraduate students, Southern has the higher numbers. Eastern

had 12 drug abuse arrests in 2019, while in 2017 the university had 18 drug abuse arrests.

While drug abuse arrests have gone down, stalking and dating violence have gone up. In 2017 stalking had four accounts while in 2019 it went up to 11 accounts. With dating violence there were three accounts and in 2019 there were six.

Torres said that there is no correlation with "Not Anymore," because students have to take that coming into the university.

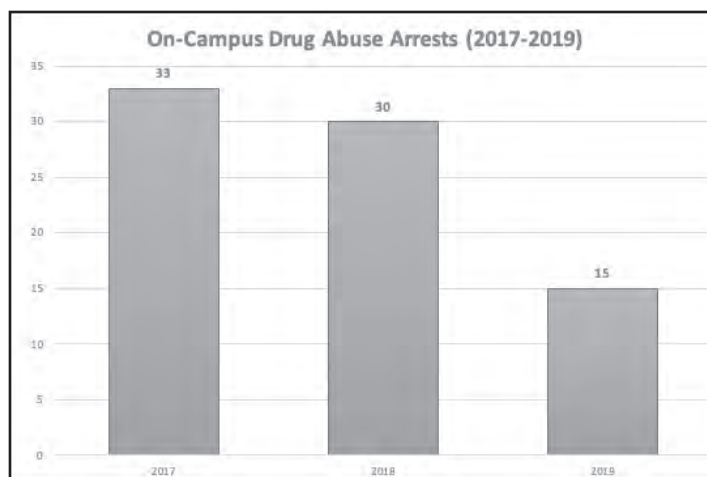
Some students said they feel safe on campus. Such as psychology major Karina Granados, a junior who is a commuter, said that she feels pretty safe on campus and that event though she is rarely on

campus she does think she has any issues and that the police are doing a good job because she has not seen anything bad happen on campus.

Nursing major Nicole Aboagye, a junior, said that she also feels safe on campus,

"Because I always see Southern police walking around, or if there's an altercation they are always sending out emails. I think they are good with that kind of stuff because they let us know what's happening," said Aboagye.

In the three years since Aboagye has been on campus she said she has always felt "generally pretty safe" and the campus police have been doing a good job with their tasks at protecting the campus.



GRAPHIC | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A graph showing the on campus drug abuse arrests from the 2020 Clery Report.

## Changes

Continued from Page 1

"Immediately I heard from the SGA and they were surprised about it and concerned about it," said Weiss.

At the senate, Weiss said Adian Coleman, who is the SGA representative to the senate, spoke passionately about stating the SGA thought the decision was unfair to commuter students and the SGA was quite upset. Also, many of the faculty that spoke up in support of SGA.

"We [SGA] saw it as a social justice issue," said

Sarah Gossman, SGA president. "If you have the funds to live on campus, you're getting a leg up in the registration process and you're getting dibs on those classes that someone else will need.

Commuter students have different takes on the changes of registration.

"In a sense I guess because they are paying a little more for dorming during these insane times, but it was their choice to dorm," said education major Madeline Gill, a junior. "I'm kinda on the fence about it."

Art major Karne Daye, a senior, does not believe residential students should have priority.

"For them to get classes

before us that is not totally fair," said Daye. "You want the classes you want to get especially if it's your major and if you don't get it then you are screwed to even graduate."

Spring registration is going to look different than it has in the past years. Edstrom said they tried to adjust the registration process off the recommendations they received from students and faculty.

"I can use your help in two ways, the solution to registration is more on-ground classes and more classes that students need," said Bertolino. "We need to be sure we're putting our resources in the right place."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A sign for Southern, which is in the process of reaccreditation, near Conn. Hall.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Madeline Gill (left) and Karne Daye, both commuters, in the Adanti Student Center.

## Lab

Continued from Page 1

Runner Sarah Granese, a senior, had the chance to work in the performance lab.

"I had an independent study last year with the gate analysis teadmil," said Granese. "Everyday was something different and you always learn something new."

Gregory said a common misconception people have with the Human

Performance Lab is that they only work with athletes and are all about sports. They will work with anyone who wants to use the services of the performance lab, and the performance lab does conduct studies.

"We basically look at all aspects of human performance across the lifespan in different populations," said Gregory. "I always tell my students on the first day of class, human performance isn't just about running fast, jumping higher, or throwing faster."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Human Performance Lab located in Moore Field House.

## Police

Continued from Page 1

Rozewski told the crowd that it was a great honor to swear them in and he is proud of what the department is accomplishing.

"This is a great department we have here at Southern," Rozewski said. "I say that not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of President Joe Bertolino, and the entire university."

Maldonado has been with Southern Police for two years, but has spent 22 years with the New Haven Police Department in multiple roles. He spent 12 years on patrol and then moved up to detective before becoming a Sergeant in Internal Affairs from 2014-2018.

"As a supervisor with the New Haven PD, I expected officers to conduct themselves with respect and professionalism," said Maldonado. "That expectation continues at SCSU."

Clare has been at Southern since 2004 but like Maldonado, she also has a history with the NHPD. She spent six

years as an administrative assistant in the chief's office before entering the police academy in 1991. She additionally spent time as a school resource officer at Hillhouse High School in New Haven.

"There was an adjustment period," Clare said speaking to transitioning to Southern PD. "Here it was mostly about being able to not only interact with the students but try and help them find whatever resource they needed to succeed."

Being here for 16 years now, Clare said becoming a sergeant wasn't always a goal, but it felt right.

"I went through the process a couple years ago, but I wasn't disappointed in not getting it then," said Clare. "I was happy to be considered for it that time. In almost 30 years I think it was something I thought I was ready to do now. It wasn't something I always wanted to do, but I think I felt like I was ready to do it now."

Maldonado said the biggest difference between being a Sergeant in the NHPD and Southern PD is just the types of calls that are handled, and notifications made.

"Title IX and the Clery

said Tyree. "It's always important to me that we talk about that we're aspiring to be a social justice university; we are not there. We have a lot of work to do. Honestly, I'm not sure if there is a there."

Milburn said President Joe Bertolino has done a good job letting students know about the social justice mission, but work can be done to define what it means to different groups and how to make sure it is pervasive in all areas.

The university saw to it that it hired a Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Diane Ariza, which Milburn said was a good step forward, but it's also taken a long time to get to this point.

"As Diane Ariza spoke about, we're always in the process of becoming, we're never there, we can never say we've achieved it," said Milburn.

To ensure change comes, Gossman said it's important to take accountability to make sure the right steps are taken moving forward and students get involved in the process.

"At the end of the day we're the ones sitting in the classrooms, we're the ones that are going to these clubs and organizations," said Gossman. "We are the student body at Southern so the more feedback students can give the better and more accurate this reaccreditation process can be."

Act are must knows," he said. "The volume of calls is less, but safety is still the primary concern. Crime prevention, such as building checks, is more of the norm, but when an incident occurs the methods for investigating are the same."

With a new title comes new duties and responsibilities, and both Clare and Maldonado are well aware of this.

"There are no challenges I foresee at the moment,

only opportunities for new experiences," said Maldonado. "Working the midnight shift may be a challenge though."

"I'm looking forward to working together with the officers and making sure we're doing the best that we can to keep the community and university safe," added Clare. "In the toughest of times, I'm still proud to be a police officer, and it's an honor to serve the Southern community."

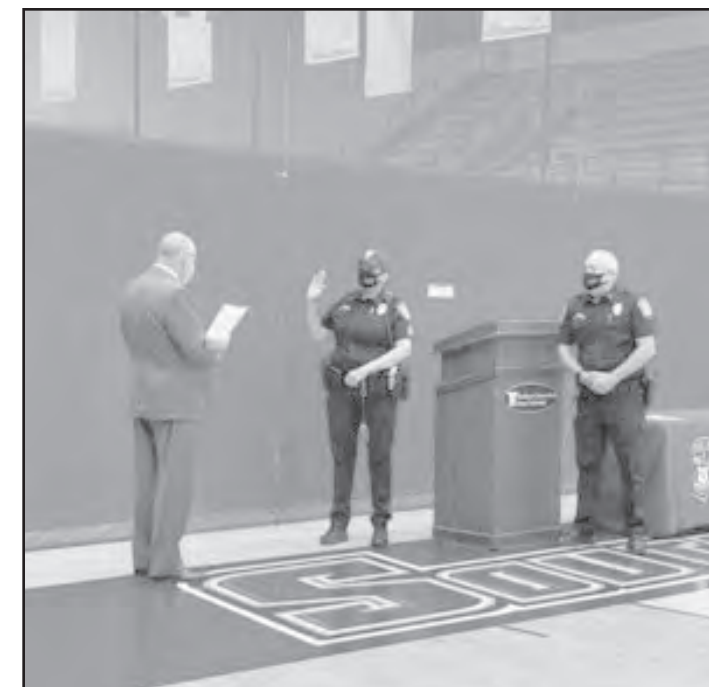


PHOTO | MATTHEW POLEK

Sgt. Clare gets sworn in by Mark Rozewski.



## The midway point can be seen as a small victory



By Jessica Guerrucci  
Editor-in-Chief

These are the opinions  
of The Southern News  
Editorial Staff

As students continue to juggle navigating through a pandemic and being in college, it's certainly a unique time to be earning a degree and we've all made it to the midpoint of the semester despite the craziness around us.

There was a lot of speculation when students first returned to campus in last August about just how long the university would manage to stay open. You'd hear students say things like "Oh, just give it two weeks," or "we're not making it to Thanksgiving," but it seems the bleak outlook may have taken a turn.

Students seem to be

saying that they feel safe in their classes or being on campus. The university has managed to keep COVID-19 cases down with little to no trouble in terms of complying with policies.

We see schools around the state like Scared Heart who had to suspend more than 100 students for COVID-19 safety violations, according to NBC News and here at Southern that seems crazy or not even possible.

As the President of the CSCU's, Mark Ojakian told me last week, "you all sold yourselves short" in terms of a college student's ability to follow rules and help keep the virus contained

even though we've been stereotyped as "lazy" or "irresponsible."

And of course, we'll surely have stories to tell as time goes by about how one day a virus completely changed the face of all our college educations and the times that we wore masks in all our classes.

But now we've made it midway. So, what begs the question is, what's next?

Ahead, lies are steadily increasing COVID-19 rate across the state of Connecticut and midterm exams. Those two things shouldn't typically go hand-in-hand, but that's where our reality has taken

us.

We're all still anxiously holding our breath. Even if our mindset has changed or we feel safe, the stressors that come with being a college student and living through a pandemic are real and everyone is impacted in different ways. It's surely taken a toll on everyone's mental health.

The shift to entirely remote learning that lies ahead after Thanksgiving looms in the back of our minds and what that transition is going to be like after a seemingly chaotic shift back in March, which wasn't anyone's fault, but it will show how we've

grown the second time around and if we made the necessary preparations going forward.

Even now that we've all adjusted to a new "normal" and a changed campus atmosphere, there's still plenty of twists and turns along the way for us all to adapt to.

Remember to breathe and give yourself a break when going through midterm exams and pay attention to your mental health as you're going through the rest of the semester.

So, let's take reaching it midway as a win for now, or just a small victory.

## COVID-19 cases are increasing again in CT

By Kenneth Baah  
Contributor

From the sharp rise in cases in the New London County, to the University of New Haven spike in COVID-19 cases, Connecticut has seen a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases as of late. This has raised some questions and concerns about whether the state will be able to prevent a mass outbreak as the winter and flu season approaches.

However, I think given the resources at hand, Connecticut has done a respectable job, given the circumstances, in

containing the virus especially in comparison to other states in the nation. COVID-19 came into the state of CT and it being a new disease brought new fear. Hospitals filled with infected patients and the stockpile for masks and hand sanitizers did become low.

At this point, it is imperative that we follow the safety guidelines, such as wearing masks and social distancing from others. With these in place we can contain any upcoming cases that may come our way.

It is easier said than done, especially with the

state currently moving up to phase three of reopening that sees social hubs like bars and clubs reopen again. At the time of writing, there has been a 64 percent increase in cases in the last 14 days, according to the New York Times.

On campus, there has only been a handful of cases and as a result, the campus has been able to stay open so far. Prior to the fall semester, there were many doubts of whether the campus should even be open in the first place.

The randomized testing has proven to be very successful along with the

designated quarantine areas on campus. It has helped contain the virus so far on campus and has allowed the campus to stay open.

A rise in cases was inevitable, although the most crucial factor was how the cases are being contained and treated. Currently the time of the writing, Gov. Ned Lamont has reversed the reopening due to their spike in COVID-19 cases according to the Hartford Courant.

The Hartford Courant also reports that Gov. Ned Lamont will publish a town-level map in which a town would be

recommended to revert to phase 2 if they have 15 cases per 100 thousand residents. This will be imperative in making sure that the virus is contained and does not spread within the state.

The future is still uncertain however it has been proved in other regions of the world that it is possible to return to some form of life we once had. Until a vaccine arrives, we are going to have stay aware of how we interact with each other.

It is our responsibility to make sure that we contain follow the guidelines from health

experts and stay up to date with cases in Connecticut. We must wear our masks, social distance as much as we can, if we want to avoid any other spike like we had earlier this year.

Despite the questionable image from President Trump, it has now been clear that the virus had a different effect on different regions of the country. While also disproportionately affected minority groups as well.

There is still a lot to learn about COVID-19 but that does not mean we have to stop everything we are doing. We must keep going and stay safe.

## Trump's diagnosis raises concern on multiple levels

By Sam Tapper  
Managing Editor

President Donald Trump has consistently downplayed the severity of COVID-19 since it became a daily talking point in early 2020. Now, Trump is one of the 7.64 million Americans who have tested positive and there is a lot to unpack with this situation.

First, comes the health of the president and the First Lady. Regardless of which way you vote, a sitting president contracting a deadly disease is a critical historical event as well as

a somewhat of a crisis.

Next is the obvious: the irony. Support him or not, it's undeniable that Trump has consistently downplayed the severity of the virus, which Bob Woodward revealed the president knew back in February and still purposely did nothing to act.

Even just days before his positive test at the Presidential Debate, Trump mocked his opponent, no longer Democratic Nominee former Vice President Joe Biden, for his use of masks. As Biden pointed out in the debate, Trump has said the virus will

blow over since March, how it will disappear by Easter, then by the summer. Well, it is now October, COVID-19 is still a continuing crisis and Trump now has it.

All that aside, the biggest and most complex circumstance around Trump's positive test is his administration's response, or lack thereof, to the American people. Originally, Trump tweeted on Oct. 2 just shy of 1 a.m. that he and the First Lady had tested positive.

Originally, Trump's administration told us that the President as well as the First Lady got

tests for precautionary reasons, because senior counselor Hope Hicks had tested positive and had been in close contact with the Trumps.

Now this is where things get messy. According to a timeline released by Forbes, the Trump Campaign knew of Hicks' condition, elected to proceed with their fundraiser in New Jersey despite knowing the president was exposed to the virus, offering no official comment about Hicks' positive test.

After Trump was taken to Walter Reed Medical Center when experiencing "mild

symptoms," officials from the White House and the Trump Administration began their overflow of contradiction. White House Physician Sean Conley said in a press conference that the president was "doing great," while Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said that the president's vital signs were "very concerning" and that there was "no clear path to recovery" immediately after Conley spoke.

Later that day, Conley suspiciously would not answer on whether the president had a low blood oxygen level despite reports of him needing

more supplemental oxygen.

The next day, Conley caused confusion after suggesting the president tested positive a day before originally reported.

Conley later expanded more on Trump's health and the president was released from Walter Reed days later. But the concern is in the opacity.

As Americans, we all have a right to know of the president's health, and we still do not know the state of his health. after his hospital stint. We have a right to know about this COVID-19 case. affecting him.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau  
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: [scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com](mailto: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

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

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

### Corrections

In an Oct. 7 article "Theatre department addresses racism" Ryleigh Rivas's pronouns were written incorrectly. They should have been "they/them."



# PHOTO

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## Campus community finds ways to stay engaged



Winning team "Kick-fil-a" poses for a picture at the Kickball Tournament on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

**By Roma Rositani**  
Photo Editor

COVID-19 hasn't stopped students from finding safe and engaging ways to still be involved within their campus community.

Whether it be competing in teams at kickball tournaments, participating in auditions for the upcoming virtual play, or encouraging voter registration for the

upcoming presidential election, students and staff have put on their masks, stood six feet apart and found ways to stay connected.

While most events have moved to a virtual format because of social distancing guidelines and capacity limits set by COVID-19, some events have still been able to be held on ground in a safe way that allows students to take a break from the stress of school.



The team "Mighty Hucks" waits in line at the Kickball Tournament.



Luciana McCulure (right) set up a table at the Southern Votes event on Friday, Oct. 9 outside Earl Hall.



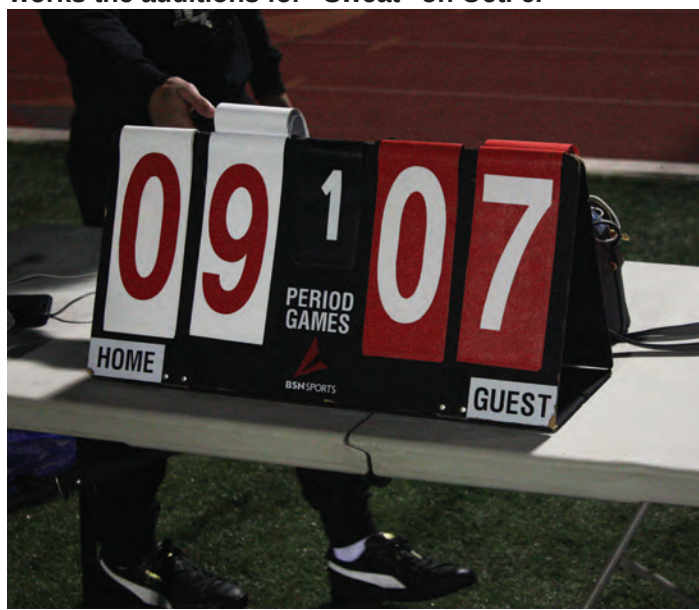
Assistant Stage Manager Lorenzo Maldonado (right) works the auditions for "Sweat" on Oct. 6.



Majesty S. Moore (left), Daniel Santana Gonzalez, Leah Herde and Matt Lopes before Sweat auditions.



A student pitches the ball to the other team during the Kickball Tournament.



The score is kept during a game at the Kickball Tournament.



PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN  
Wiley Carr, professor of painting and printmaking, makes a poster encouraging students to vote.



A team member waits for her chance to run to home base.



Tricia Lin, director of Women and Gender Studies, encourages students to vote.



## Moran at home with Owls Athletic director wants to help athletes improve

By Mike Neville  
Sports Editor

Jay Moran has held many titles throughout his life, ranging from University of Connecticut football walk-on, coach, and soon after finding his place at Southern, athletic director.

As a hometown kid from West Haven, his current position as athletic director was not in the works at first.

"I was involved in recreation at UConn as an intramural basketball official. I then became in charge of all the sports and intramurals," said Moran.

"I worked at home game

management, my wife and me got married, and four dollars an hour and UConn tickets were not enough, so I had to go get a real job."

After leaving UConn, Moran went onto fundraising for the American Heart Association, and would end up at his alum mater Notre Dame High as alumni director.

He would get his first taste of working with college athletics full time at Saint Joseph's in West Hartford.

"I was asked to come up as the assistant athletic director for recreation and intramurals, I did home game management too," said Moran.

With a year under his belt at St. Josephs, Moran was asked to do something entirely new and coach a sport in which he had little experience in, cross-country.

"In my second year they said they need a cross-country coach, asked what's my experience. I said I jog, so I got into coaching for eight years in a sport I knew nothing about," said Moran.

His kids would later become cross-country athletes also, and after his

time as coach, Moran started his career as head athletic director.

"I went to Albertus Magnus as the athletic director for two years, Bridgeport for ten years and now I am in my seventh year at Southern Connecticut State," said Moran.

An individual who has worked with Moran for years is associate director of athletic communications Ken Sweeten, who considers Moran an amazing teacher.

"I tried to get out of business of sports information, I was home for six months trying to find a job and Jay gave me an opportunity, and what I learned from him he taught me how to deal with people," said Sweeten.

He also said that the last two years spent with Moran has been the most beneficial to Sweeten as a person.

Moran's people skills have been put to use, as he has gone above the ranks of being athletic director and became the Mayor of Manchester, Conn.

See Moran Page 6

## AFI discusses racial injustice

By Mike Neville  
Sports Editor

The Owls' mission to battle racial tensions in the United States and in New Haven came to fruition with the first virtual meeting of Athletes Fighting Injustice.

The forum, which is open to athletes only, included: field hockey coach Kelley Frassinelli, junior Bayleigh Takacs of lacrosse, senior Jazmyn Martinez of softball, and junior Elijah Ortiz of men's track and field, among others.

"One of the main purposes of the event today was all of us to find a movie clip to highlight an important topic we were going to discuss after we finished," said Takacs.

She said a takeaway from one of the clips is that people are not born racist, and that children adapt to what is being preached in front of them.

The turnout for the event was expected to be a small since it was only limited to athletes.

"I think we got enough people where they can relay the message to other

teammates and get more athletes involved for the next event," said women's soccer midfielder Madeline Sweeney, a sophomore.

The events are planned for every Sunday night at 4 p.m., with a privilege walk in the works for next week.

"A privilege walk is an activity to show each person's privilege and give you a perspective on how people's lives differ," said Ortiz.

Moving forward, the athletes agreed that this will be a big step.

"It allows for another platform for students and athletes to learn more, discuss, share their own personal experiences and have important conversations with events on campus and in the world," said Takacs.

The goal for AFI is to be open to all students.

"We want this to be open to as many students as possible to deliver the message, I think those meetings are for planning purposes," said Associate Athletic Director of Athletic Communications Ken Sweeten, "but we are always open for discussions."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Moran (left) greeting a gymnast on Senior Night 2020.



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Kelly (left) with NE10 Commissioner Julie Ruppert.

## Kelly finds success on and off the field

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

The university prides itself upon the success of its determined student athletes on and off the field, one of those athletes being Track and Field member Turner Kelly.

Kelly, a thrower, earned his undergraduate degree last spring and is now taking graduate degree courses in Business Administration here at Southern, but due to the cancellation of last spring's sports seasons, Kelly finds himself with another semester of eligibility to compete as an Owl in the spring.

"The day I found out our whole entire season was cancelled, at first I was really disappointed and sad," said Kelly. "But then, within that day, I realized I still have to keep training, I still got to get ready for myself because whatever I do with track or school, I need to finish it out. So, I finished out school and

then I kept training because I still wanted to see where this would take me."

Kelly attended Copiague High School in New York and was a captain for both his Track and Field program and Football team. He was county champion and Two-Time All-League in shot put.

When he came to Southern, Kelly had to adjust to the change in training coming into a legitimate division two program and never received the proper coaching for throwing in high school due to the fact that he did not have a coach that had experience throwing, according to Kelly.

"A lot of it was in the weight room. We had to make a lot of technical changes in his shot but he was willing to do that because he knew he didn't have a great grasp on how to throw yet," said Head Coach John Wallin.

See Kelly Page 6

## Football team helps food pantry

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

One of the main goals of the Owl's Football team this semester is to continue their past efforts of giving back to the community, recently taking part in donating food to the Mobile Food Pantry.

The pantry visits Connecticut Hall on the third Wednesday of every month and the football team makes sure to participate.

"I'm hoping we can really become a staple with the pantry amongst other things that we do on campus and the occasional off campus community service," said Head Coach Tom Godek. "Right under our nose, there's things that can be done to help our students and even

members of our own team."

An issue such as hunger may not necessarily be brought up as frequently as other current matters among students, but that does not mean it is not present on campus.

"As a freshman, it was my first time doing it and I thought it was nice that the upperclassmen invited us to be a part of it," said Joe Digello. "Some players took stuff from the pantry, so you're not just helping people around the campus but also some teammates as well and it felt good to give back."

Under regular circumstances, a division two level student athlete, under, has a 20 hour per week training regimen and must stay on track of their academic tasks, and some may be doing this with a

less than adequate food supply.

"Nobody likes to be hungry and it's a hard thing to hear that and sometimes see that," said Godek. "And it's made me say to myself, like, I wonder if that kid ate at all today, and I saw him at 6am at a lift, he went to school, went home and came back for a 6pm practice., I wonder how much that person ate today?"

Godek spoke about how recruiting junior college athletes is especially "eye-opening" when it comes to the difference in opportunities provided to eat.

"When you're recruiting a junior college player, it's almost like a sick joke that 'hey, we're going to get recruited and maybe we'll get 25 meals a semester if

I live in North Campus," said Godek. "There's like a little running joke out there that 'we just do it without eating,' basically, and it's pretty eye opening."

It matters like this that are why Godek takes community service seriously and his players understand how important it was to take part in the food pantry and give back to the community.

"You never know what somebody's going through. You don't know somebody's lifestyle outside of school or just based on their appearance," said Linebacker Marcel Walker, a freshman. "It's a good thing that we have this access to have people willing to donate and we're thankful that Coach G was able to have us tag along to help donate, which was the biggest thing."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Members of the football team outside of Connecticut Hall assisting with the mobile food pantry.



# Students encouraged to participate in voting



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Tricia Lin, director of Women and Gender studies encouraging students to vote.

**By Bernadotte Sufka**  
Opinions & Features Editor

“Southern Votes” is a brand-new event on campus, combining voting history facts, voting registration, feminism, communications and different art mediums, all in one.

The event took place outside and inside of Earl Hall where students could RSVP and work to learn how to create posters inside the graphic design lab, or register and learn about voting outside.

“Southern Votes” is an event educating students about the importance of voting—but also tying contemporary issues to also art making,” said graduate assistant Luciana McClure, main host of Southern Votes.

The event was a collaboration between the Women and Gender Studies Department and Art Department addressing visual literacy.

“We think about art activism and ways that we are actually tapping into the part of us as creators and makers and how we utilize creativity. Poster design is what

we’re doing to make your voices heard. We also thought of who else we should partner with and we have a history department professor, Siobhan Carter-David and she’s making historical facts around voting. Particularly to us in the Women and Gender studies, we are looking into women’s issues and how is it that we’re all being affected within our community,” said McClure.

The event brought forth many professors and student helpers to aid in setting up the outdoor tables, different art mediums and advertising flyers.

It happened on Oct. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students could come and go to learn about the multiple stations available.

Due to classroom capacity restrictions, students had to email McClure beforehand if they wanted to learn and be able to design a poster of their choice.

“I found out about this event through Lucy who is my teacher assistant for my gender class,” said communications major

Hannah Birenbaum, a senior. “I guess I didn’t know a lot, but I can always know more about the history of voting because we’re taught in such a linear way in high school about it. I think it’s cool to hear it from different perspectives.”

The university community continues to promote more awareness on voting and always has registration open to all students. To have this event run on main campus brought more understanding in a fact based and creative perspective. The many education departments that were a part of it enhanced students’ learning views and interests upon the start of the event.

“I found out about this event because I’m a member of OLAS and they sent a general email out,” said sociology major Andreina Barajas, a freshman. “I was already on campus for tutoring sessions and I decided to stop by before I head back home. Since I’m a sociology major, I’m not really exposed to these types of things, but I

would be interested in learning more about the graphic design and voter turnout.”

Students who did not major in any of the following departments collaborating the event participated and were exposed to new information and skills.

The atmosphere was open, and the professors were more than happy to assist students with their small projects and explain the medium to them. The outdoor space made it easier and more accessible during this time to bring forth any students on campus, willing to learn about what the event offered.

“To allow someone to vote does not necessarily mean access to voting,” said McClure. “There are a lot of things we are hoping to engage with students as we think about language, history, facts, stories and what is our responsibility to each other and to our community.”

Southern Votes organized a large list of diverse topics and skills on campus and for students to become more aware about.

## Moran

Continued from Page 5

While running for Mayor in 2007, he switched to Republican and then back to Democrat, meeting individuals like Deputy Major Sarah Jones.

“I’ve known Jay for 15 years starting when his kids were in high school. I was director of student activities at the time,” said Jones.

Moran and she would then go onto run together and would become the pillars of the city of Manchester.

Jones described Moran’s personality as ‘Manchester’s biggest cheerleader’ and someone who goes above and beyond in the community.

“I don’t think there’s a mayor in the state that uses a sense of humor as well as I do, it’s all about people to me, to be the biggest cheerleader with the athletic director and mayor,” said Moran.

Student athletes have also gone above and beyond under the watchful eyes of the athletic director excelling in the classroom, something Moran said is all thanks to the athletes.

“The success of the college athlete has to do with them,” said Moran. “The most important

thing for me is that they leave here better people than they came in, that they make a difference and hopefully they got a college degree.”

Moran described himself as the one orchestrating everything behind the scenes while the athletes are the main pieces that hold the puzzle together.

An unseen entity that keeps Moran going was the death of his daughter, who passed away from Hurler’s disease at six and a half

“She’s still my inspiration to this day. I support the community to give back to them for treating my daughter so well,” said Moran.

He has inspired so many during his time at Southern and in his political career like Sweeten and Jones and said that he wants to be remembered as someone who ‘made a difference.’

With seven years completed at the Owls helm of the athletic department, there is only one thing that Moran said he has learned from his peers.

He said that the wins and the losses don’t matter as much as the human level that everyone earns for.

“It doesn’t matter what you call me, it doesn’t matter if people like me or hate me, if you leave an impression on the heart it’s all the matters in the end,” said Moran.

## Kelly

Continued from Page 5

“He’s been able to make those changes but that was the easy part. He needed a good four or five years of lifting weights to get to the level of strength that other throwers in college are at.”

Kelly described himself as someone who needs to work, while still being focused on the upcoming spring season.

He is looking to further his career now that he has his bachelors degree.

At the moment, Kelly is working as an insurance salesman and is hoping that he can become a

financial adviser within the next six months.

His accomplishments as an Owl include All-region selection in the shot put (outdoors and indoors), hammer throw, weight throw and was named the Most Outstanding Field Performer at both the Northeast 10 Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Wallin said, “Turners a special guy and a very driven guy. He’s a guy that has a lot of fire in him and at the end of the day, he really does a good job at all the areas he’s working on, on and off the field. If my three boys end up being like Turner Kelly, boy that means I did a good job as a father because he is a special guy.”

# Country duo back on the rise

**By Donovan Wilson**  
Reporter

In 2018, “Brothers Osborne” released their record “Port Saint Joe” but their breakout hit came instead from their two year old song “It Ain’t My Fault”. Now the country duo is back with Skeletons and this time, they’re ready to party.

“Lighten Up” rather than crescendo the album, kind of starts as an acoustic riff that slowly slinks into a funky little alternative rock riff. Ironically, the brothers are asking you to lighten up but as soon as the song ends, the energy roars to life. “All Night”, the lead single from the album, is where the elements of arena rock that are displayed on this album start to pop out. It almost paints “Lighten Up” to have been a fake out to all of their previous fans and “All Night” being the real welcoming party.

“All The Good Ones

Are” continues this trend of genre blending with their signature sound.

The instrumentation on this song wouldn’t sound out of place in a 90s alternative song but paired with the fast sang, drawled vocals you are left with what almost sounds like Zac Brown tried to write for third eye blind and it’s kind of beautiful. “I’m Not For Everyone” is a blast to the past of 2000’s pop country that may annoy a purist but is irresistible to dance to for anyone else.

The title track switches things once more to a much more true blue country sound and sounds like it could be the theme to a Western movie. Everything about it screams an outlaw looking for their arch-enemy in a sweltering desert. “Back On The Bottle” is like if power ballads and honky-tonk had a very energetic and drunk baby. It feels more as if T.J. is talking to us than singing and John just

happens to be sound-tracking a late night drunken rambling. It’s a bittersweet celebration of a relapse in a way. “High Note” is purely a beautiful pop ballad about breaking up on good terms. It’s the inner thoughts of someone who knows this won’t end well but doesn’t want to ruin the good times they have with that person. It’s a simple feeling but one people might resonate with. Elements of bluegrass creep in on “Muskrat Greene” which is a fast-paced instrumental piece that shows off the instrumental prowess of the brothers and serves as a pick me up from the previous song to tell the audience that the party is not over.

This segues into “Dead Man’s Curve,” which is an out of nowhere country rap barn burner that is unapologetically nothing more than a get off your feet and lose your mind anthem. A vibe of a salty breeze on a beach washes

over everything as “Make It A Good One” flows into the album like a cold beer at a beach house. It’s the Osborne’s entry into the age old tradition of feeling good country music about making your life great while you have it.

“Hatin’ Somebody”, the second single from the album, is the Osbornes brothers’ response to the hatred prominent in 2020. The gang vocals on the chorus fit perfectly here as it completes the feeling of unity that this song is attempting to display to the audience. “Old Man’s Boots” is a slowly trudging along song that ends an album all about celebrating new influences with back to their roots ballads that ties everything together.

Brothers Osborne are having a victory lap of sorts here. Skeletons is celebration everything the brothers have learned on their way to the top and a way to show everyone what’s to come.



Brothers Osborne single “Lighten Up” from their album Skeletons on the Spotify app.

PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI



## SAGE Center introduces #ProudtoBe event

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

The SAGE Center is helping students be proud of their identities in an enthusiastic way even during the ever changing landscape of COVID-19.

National Coming Out Day is Oct. 11 this year. National Coming Out Day, as the name suggests, is a day to celebrate either coming out or helping others come out as part of the LGBTQ+ community. People across the country celebrate it.

"We're here to celebrate National Coming Out Day and show what we're proud of," said Sage Center Graduate Intern Aaron Morabito.

On Tuesday Oct. 6, Aaron represented the Sage Center by setting up a table on the Buley Library patio for their Coming Out Day event #ProudToBe.

The event consisted of writing on a whiteboard what students were "proud to be" Morabito then takes a photo of

the students, holding the whiteboard with a Polaroid camera and the students could keep it. It allowed students to be proud of their identities in a public setting.

This event falls within the mission statement and beliefs that the SAGE Center set out to establish. They intend to help the LGBTQ+ community integrate within the general community more specifically, on campus.

Many events the groups hold are in conjunction with other groups and clubs on campus, like the LGBTQ+ Prism Club.

The SAGE Center has helped push for the involvement of many resources on campus for the LGBTQ+ community, such as the all-gender designated bathrooms, as gendered bathrooms can be uncomfortable for some transgender and non-binary people.

They also help provide research to see how they can make the campus even more accessible for the LGBTQ+ community.

One of the major

components of the "#ProudToBe" event was the color selection of the markers. One of the major identifiers of the LGBTQ+ community is the use of different colors, namely the colors of the rainbow either separately or more commonly together as the actual rainbow.

To compliment this, when writing on the whiteboard. The students were given the option of any color they wanted from an array of different shades of markers to fully express themselves.

As with most events on the campus nowadays, COVID-19 regulations were still put into place. Before you touched the whiteboard students had to sanitize their hands and Morabito would be also regularly sanitizing all the supplies being used as well to maintain these regulations.

Naturally, as it was on campus, masks were being worn and everyone was socially distanced from each other. An event centered around taking photos already



PHOTO | DONOVAN WILSON

Aaron Morabito, graduate intern, promoting #ProudtoBe event outside of Buley.

involves distancing and is an effective way to keep the campus community involved with the resources available to

them while still abiding by COVID-19 regulations.

Events such as this tend to bring forth more interaction.

"The SAGE Center has a lot of events coming throughout the year," said member of the Center, Shaniya Mesilien.

## New hobbies found during the COVID-19 quarantine

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

While COVID-19 has hindered the physical aspect of sharing one's hobbies in any public setting, some students have found creative ways to combat the physical aspect.

When the university shut down back in March and shifted entirely online, students we mostly kept inside causing them to pick up new hobbies like baking or knitting.

Communications major Kieron Turnbull, a senior, is in the works of creating a new bold podcast.

"I haven't settled on a name yet, but I have different topics and segments all planned out," said Turnbull.

He said he is a huge fan of hip-hop culture and regularly watches podcasts that dish out the latest news.

"A new of my favorite podcasts are Joe Budden, the Breakfast Club, and the list goes on and on," said Turnbull. "I think what separates my podcast from others in the same category is the fact that I am not afraid to say what I feel, and I am open to different opinions and views. In fact, I embrace debating and I love people who can disagree with me but still communicate."

Turnbull said he believes his podcast will be important because of how he will portray himself.

"I know kids growing up who look like me need someone they can reference as a funny but successful character," said Turnbull.

Turnbull said while growing up, many times the only aspirations he was pushed towards were

sports or anything that had to do with physical labor.

"I am 6'2, everyone wanted me to play sports, and I did, I love sports, but I prefer to talk about sports much more than I want to play them."

Another student who has found a new interest during the pandemic is biology major Hollie David, a sophomore.

David said she has picked up "writing as a hobby but really more as an escape."

"Writing helps me de-stress," said David. "I recently started to blog on my Tumblr, I typically post blogs on the weekend and they range from about 100-1,000 words."

David said her blogs are not consistent with any specific genre; she just writes about anything she's feeling at that given time.

According to Today, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased anxiety and stress across the country, which has brought about concerns of a looming mental health crisis.

Mayo Clinic advised in the article that picking up hobbies such as writing can get people away from "the cycle of negative thoughts that feed anxiety and depression," and that "something positive to manage anxiety is a healthy coping strategy."

David said she writes whatever comes into her head just to be able to de-stress.

"Last week I wrote a small fictional piece about animals eating people, strange yes, but that's just what came to mind," said David.

"I write about all kinds of things, happy, sad or even scary," said David.

During the pandemic, it was rough at first because as an only child; she was normally home alone since her mom's a nurse, she never really got to see her. Even when she was home it was hard because they both knew the danger that could come from her job.

"I never really wrote anything outside of school assignments until the pandemic, I wondered if it would be a good pass time and I realized I like it a lot," said David.

More students who have unleashed their creative juices during the pandemic include Public health major, Paige Greger and Exercise science major, Riley Johnson, both freshmen.

The two students say they met on a university tour last year and in contrast stayed throughout their transition to Southern and decided to create a joint YouTube channel to talk about their college experience.

"We're going to call it 'Girls Getting Degrees' and it's going to be weekly vlog of our lives on campus," said Johnson.

"We don't have any classes together, so we're going to film our classes separately and meet up in common places like the student center or the library and film together," said Greger.

Both said they are excited and have already filmed some videos of them eating together at Connecticut Hall and a Q&A, they just need to edit the clips.

"We are trying to stay motivated in classes," said Johnson, "and we think this will help us and be sort of a therapeutic experience for the next four years."

## Students react negatively to Christopher Columbus

By Ellis McGinley  
Copy Editor

Some may remember the rhyme: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

Monday, Oct. 12 was Columbus Day, also known as First People's Day, Italian Heritage Day, or Indigenous People's Day. Originally established in 1971 to recognize the arrival of explorer Christopher Columbus in America, it is one of the 10 federal holidays recognized in Connecticut. Despite this, university students may note that this time classes were not dismissed for the day.

"Here's the thing: I don't like recognizing the disruption of indigenous people's sacred grounds," said biology major Leah Herde, a senior. "I don't think Columbus Day should be celebrated; but maybe like a remembrance day. If that were the case, then I would want it off."

It is now known that Christopher Columbus was not the first to discover the America. Native people, whom historical record shows Columbus enslaved and abused once arriving in the West Indies, had established societies throughout North and South America leading to the push for Indigenous People's Day to be recognized instead.

Viking voyagers are said to have landed on the East Coast five centuries prior, and Columbus was unaware that he had arrived in the Americas; at first he believed he landed in India.

However, his arrival

would enable European settlements to later establish colonies onto the foreign land's soil, according to CNN.

"It's dumb. Columbus is not a hero," said theatre major Sarah Kowalski, a freshman.

Back on Sept. 16, less than one month ago, the university's Faculty Senate submitted a resolution to President Joe Bertolino stating that "the Faculty Senate of Southern Connecticut State University, henceforth, designates the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as one way to continually strive to better acknowledge and understand the long, complex, dynamic, and ongoing histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples."

The full resolution, which is marked as approved, is available as a PDF on the "Inside Southern" section of the university website.

Regardless of their respective designations for the second Monday of October, other Connecticut universities also continue to hold classes. WCSU and CCSU both reminded students their courses would be in session, although the former closed non-essential offices.

Yale University also does not list Columbus Day as one of their recognized student holidays.

Its student populace aside, the city of New Haven holds its own ties to Christopher Columbus. The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic charity organization, was also founded in New Haven and named for

the explorer. According to their website, they continue to host their headquarters on Columbus Plaza--just 10 minutes from the university.

Despite Columbus's legacy in the city, New Haven's Board of Alders, or city council, recently voted to change the holiday's name. It will now be recognized as Italian Heritage Day, according to NBC Connecticut.

The city will not be holding a holiday parade this year and has yet to say if they will rename or restructure its theme in the future.

The Hartford Courant also reports that New Haven's statue of Christopher Columbus, formerly erected in Wooster Square Park, was removed in June after protests.

"He's too glorified," said exploratory major Hanan Sumra, a freshman. "I like days off. I wouldn't complain. But Columbus Day isn't a day I need off to celebrate."

Last year, Southern also held multiple events recognizing Indigenous People's Day rather than Columbus Day, including a panel of Indigenous activists, a lesson with Jessica Kreisberg, a Tuscarora Native American teacher, and Palestinian activist Ali Elissa and a sponsored event at the Palestine Museum in Woodbridge, Conn.

COVID-19 has presumably put a damper on any 2020 recognitions of Indigenous people, Italian heritage, or Columbus Day, and students will have spent Monday in class.



## 'Sweat' auditions bring push for diversity

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

The Theatre Department conveyed their commitment to racial equality in a recent public statement. They are now putting their words in motion with the production of *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage, a Black playwright.

The statement read: "As our pedagogies, policies, and production practices shift in the coming months, we look forward to collaborating closely with our students and other performing arts entities in the New Haven area to promote positive change in our industry locally and beyond."

The department has brought in a Black guest director, Dexter J. Singleton from the Collective Consciousness Theatre; a multicultural theatre for social change in New Haven, Conn.

In-person auditions for *Sweat* were held in the Kendall Drama Lab in the Lyman Center on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. The production's performance will be virtual and is scheduled to stream Nov.

19 through Nov. 22, via Zoom.

Students attending the audition said they were happy that the department is staying true to their commitment to racial equality and allowing people of color the opportunity to star in a production.

One student who was grateful to be auditioning for the role of Cynthia, a Black woman, is nursing major Majesty Moore, a freshman.

Moore draws from her previous experiences while acting in high school, "normally only white kids got casted for lead roles."

"I'm happy there's a push for diversity," said Moore. The statement put out by the theater department reads: "as a department we are dedicating ourselves to strengthening our efforts to fight racism and anti-Blackness while engaging in open, honest, and equitable conversations with our community."

While speaking on those previous experiences and how the theater world operates, Moore said "if you look back, normally

lead roles don't go to people who look like me."

Overall, Moore said she sees a positive change accruing in the theater world. "Over time people are becoming more progressive," said Moore. Moore said she decided to audition last minute and was happy that her director convinced her to do so. He told her it would be a good opportunity.

She said because the production was specifically casting for a Black woman, she knew she had to take the chance and audition.

"We commit to fostering a creative and inclusive environment wherein members of the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities have equitable representation and a platform to express their own unique stories," according to the Theatre Department's statement.

Another student who said she was excited to audition was biology major Leah Herde, a senior.

Herde said she was in a similar piece last year called "Red Velvet" and was happy about the production and guest director.

During the last play, Herde said the whole cast "connected well," so she wanted a chance to experience that again.

Herde is not auditioning for any specific role but said she'll be happy with anything she gets.

Herde said, "acting is a really cool experience" and she loves.

She said acting helps "broadens her horizons."

The statement from the department reads: "We renounce past industry

practices of whitewashed casting and season selection as well as the lack of properly diverse representation in our curricula."

Another student auditioning was theatre major Matt Lopes, a senior.

Lopes said he "loves theater and wishes to act for as long as possible."

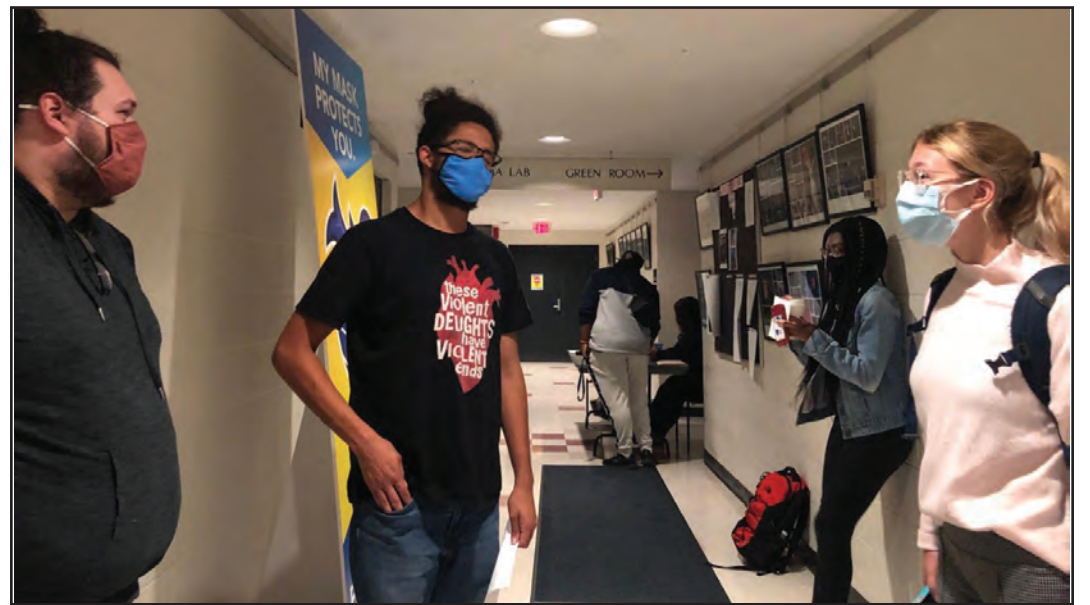
He enjoys the entertainment aspect of theater. "It acts as an escape and I love to put on a show for those who are

watching to escape," said Lopes.

Lopes was also not auditioning for any specific role, but there are two characters that fit his identity.

He said that he is "here to learn and takes every production as a learning experience."

Lopes said he has been in nine different productions so far and he is happy to keep that number growing before he graduates.



Matt Lopes (left), Daniel Santana-Gonzalez, Majesty S. Moore and Leah Herde stand outside the Kendall Drama Lab before auditions.

## Jones creates a world through art

By Rafaela Martinez  
Contributor

A studio art major eyes lit up as she described with enthusiasm a portrait she painted, making herself the focal point while using bright colors and surreal images to surround her in the background. The piece includes hands grabbing at a nude, confident and smiling subject with a gun pointed at her shooting flowers; displaying any evil formed against her will never thrive.

Christina Jones, a recent transfer student from Gateway Community College, is majoring in studio art with a concentration in painting creates a new world for those she paints as a way to understand them and make them feel safe within her art.

"I'm a very emotional person and when I paint I like to use very bright colors and I don't use harsh lines," Jones said. "My self portraits are made with soft lines and emotion and culture I use a lot of Black culture in my art. The piece I'm most proud of exemplifies all of that within it."

The self-portrait includes some of her black culture, using braided weave and cowrie shells meant to ward off evil. Jones describes this piece as a way of showing the world her strength and prosperity.

"No weapon formed against me shall prosper," said Jones.

She said she seeks to use art as a way of healing and understanding trauma, but also as a way to make people feel safe. Jones discussed portraits being a way for people to see their softer side.

"Art is my refuge. It's

like healing for me. People have a lot of trauma and it's very hard to deal with and art is the best way, in my opinion, to release emotion and help you heal," Jones said. "The people I paint, I try to identify them or they tell me how they want to be seen. I take the people and capture their softer side, their essence and aura."

Jones currently takes commissions on her website, "www.xtrabyxtina.pixieset.com." Her pricing is based on the size of the portrait, amount of subjects and time needed to complete.

Jones has a procedure she follows. She first sketches, then does the underpainting. She said she likes to work in layers. Jones always starts with the sketch and painting the people before creating a background of her own, never leaving the people where they were originally.

Brianna Walker, a former studio art student, described Jones' art to be breathtaking.

"Her understanding of the female form is one that many can agree with; eloquent and goddess-like," Walker said. "Her use, especially of gold leaf in her portraits, gives a familiar Byzantine feel, one used usually for religious figures. "Christina's art allows the viewer to feel at home and connected with themselves and her,"

Jones' significant other, Jordan Konan, said what it is like watching Jones paint and

"Christina's portraits are really amazing," said Konan. "She's really in her element when art is around her and it allows her to be herself and that's really what I love about watching her paint and about her work, She leaves a piece of herself in every work."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | RAFAELA MARTINEZ

Christina Jones, who is currently working from home.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | RAFAELA MARTINEZ

Jones's "No weapons formed against me shall prosper" painting.

## Play switches to audio only format

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

The Theatre Department has found a way to work around the regulations of COVID-19 and put on a radio production of "An Enemy Of The People."

"An Enemy Of The People" is a play written by Henrik Ibsen. The play focuses on a scientist who discovers a poisonous bacteria in his town's water and then shifts to political unrest in the small town. The play, which has been adapted to a radio drama, is performed entirely in five acts.

"We are so happy that you can hear these crazy stories," said the director of the play Benjamin Curns.

This semester started with the Theatre Department uncertain as to the way plays would be conducted or which plays could even be produced, but the one certainty was that the play would still carry on. This play worked to the strengths of the times we currently live in with COVID-19 regulations as it didn't require anybody to be in person. The audio-only nature allowed it to be easily produced.

"This is a topic we should constantly be talking about," said President of the Crescent Players Leah Herde.

In 2014, there was a health crisis in Flint, Mich. with this still being an ongoing issue and the COVID-19 pandemic being currently prominent all over the world, this play holds a lot of relevance.

The music of the play was produced by the Crescent Players, as it usually is. The music they played had a very creepy vibe to it which makes the

play even more appropriate for the times.

Plays include many moving parts rather than just the actors involved. All non-orchestral score sound effects were handled by the Theatre Department and cued to happen separately from the actors' audio.

There were no visual aids used. With the entire focus being on audio, that's where a bulk of the production took place. It also required the actors to put all of the emotion that they would normally display through costumes, movements and facial expressions entirely into the volume and inflections of their voices.

"They just don't make house calls like they used to," said member of the virtual audience Ariana Harris.

Plays usually always feed off of audience involvement to gauge enjoyment, see what worked can be reused next time or can be retooled. While there was no live audience, the production used a live chat that allowed the virtual audience to comment on the play. In some ways, this offered more in-depth, real time criticism from the viewers than is possible in-person.

The play first aired Oct. 9. There were subsequent performances on Oct. 10 and 11 and there will be performances of the play Oct. 15 through Oct. 18. All performances are at 8 p.m. the respective night.

The Theatre Department next production will be the play "Sweat." This will be the second and final production of this semester. Auditions finished on Oct. 6. rehearsals and production is underway.