



Owls Flight Crew
Page 2



Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
Page 5



Jose Clemente soccer profile
Page 6

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

OCTOBER 16, 2024

VOL. 64 — ISSUE 6

2021-2023 campus clery report released

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The annual Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Statistics for 2024 was released on Oct. 1. Reports showed data from 2021-2023.

The most eye-catching data was found with motor vehicle theft, campus liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action and drug abuse violations referred for disciplinary action, as there was an increase in cases.

On campus liquor and residential facility liquor law violations tripled to 65 in 2023, from 21 in 2021. Similarly, on campus and residential facility drug abuse violations rose by 27, with 35 violations in 2023.

Chief of Police Makiem Miller said that this new increase in numbers are a reflection of the campus returning full-time since the pandemic.

In 2017, on-campus liquor law violations were 221, while drug abuse violations were at 60 in 2018.

"You can see we are going back into full school



Group of students with K-9 Brody and Jules on the cover of the newly released campus crime statistics.

PHOTO | INSIDE SOUTHERN

academic years on campus since COVID," Miller said "Numbers are still lower than pre-COVID, but you can still see the rise."

New marijuana laws that were enacted in 2022 can also influence these statistics.

"Marijuana used to be

and a half is permitted and anything packaged for sale is prohibited.

Drug and liquor abuse arrests were both at 0 in 2023. Miller said that this is credited to arrests being their last resort.

"Violations are the go-to

because we don't want to put it on students' records," Miller said.

Liquor abuse violations occur in most cases with underage drinking in dry dorms or those of the legal drinking age selling it to underage students.

Miller commends the

Office of Residence Life for supervising residences in liquor violation cases.

"Residence Life has a nice structure. Their organization is good with supervision," Miller said.

Motor vehicle theft rose to 11 in 2023 from 0 in 2022 and 2021 and weapon law violations rose to 1 in 2023.

Despite these increases, other categories' statistics also show steady rates.

Rape has remained at 2 since 2022 while domestic violence remains at 0 from 2021.

Miller said that rape statistics only show those that come forward.

"This is a positive because due to more services and confidentiality for students, now victims have more confidence to come forward," Miller said.

Stalking is down to 1 and dating violence decreased to 0 in 2023 from 3 in 2022.

Miller said he is proud that stalking has decreased from its previous rates of 11 in 2019.

"Social media is a big thing, and people are posting their location now. I'm glad it's going down," Miller said.

Miller commends the

Course registration for Spring 2025

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

As midterm exams approach, so is course registration for the spring semester.

On Nov. 4, course registration will begin. Students will be able to look at the registration checklist linked under the one stop registration tab on the university website.

However, there have been changes made for course registration regarding first-year students in INQ 101.

Registration for first-year students will be open on Nov. 19.

"First-semester students will be assigned to a professional adviser for their first year and will meet with that

adviser for their registration appointment," Faculty Director of Academic Advising Meredith Sinclair said. "They also have already received an email inviting them to schedule their advising meeting via Navigate."

At the start of next semester, there will also be more changes implemented. First-year students will now be assigned a faculty adviser in their major.

They will have their professional adviser as an additional member of their advising team until the start of next fall semester.

"INQ instructors will still meet one-on-one with students to discuss other matters not related to course registration,"

Sinclair said.

Students will now have an assigned CASAS success coach and a peer mentor as part of their first-year success team.

There is also a new degree plan tool located in students' degree evaluation.

"First-year students will already have a degree plan template loaded that they can tweak to make their personal map. Continuing and transfer students can build a degree plan with the help of their adviser," Sinclair said.

She said this is an exciting development because it allows students to take control over their academic map. Students now can make adjustments

such as adding terms, adding minors or second majors, adding accelerated pathways, adding internships or study abroad and more easily accessible.

"For all students, once a plan is complete and locked in by their academic adviser, the courses in their next semester will automatically import to the schedule planner, making registration even easier," Sinclair said.

Students are recommended to begin contacting their assigned academic advisers to request an appointment within the next few days. Advisers' names and contact information are available on the top of students' degree evaluations.

Report of altercation at West Campus Garage

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

According to university police reports released on Thursday, Oct. 10, there is an ongoing investigation into an altercation between two male residents that involves one possessing a handgun.

An anonymous silent witness notification to police reported that a loud pop was heard around 11 a.m. near the West Campus Garage, sparking the inquiry that began on Sept. 30.

Chief of Police Makiem Miller said that he commends individuals using the Silent Witness program.

"It's great that a university member came forward with that," Miller said.

Officers also reported that there was a spent bullet casing and a live, unfired round on the ground found on the ground at the scene.

University police reports state that it was

discovered that the two resident students involved had previously engaged in a physical altercation two years prior.

It was also found that the prior dispute was the main cause of the confrontation between the two students.

Miller summarized the altercation as: "an isolated incident from two guys that go here that unfolded on campus."

According to university police, no one was hurt, and there is no current threat to the campus community. The person who is deemed to be responsible has been suspended by the university until the investigation is completed.

While Miller cannot provide extra information at this time due to the investigation, he assured that the safety of residents, faculty and staff are not at risk.

"It is nothing related to Southern," Miller said. "No one is in danger of being hurt."



Office of Academic Advising in Room 102 in Buley Library.

PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ



Police Chief Makiem Miller in his office at the police station.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

New tradition kickoffs at the university

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The crunch of cleats hit the turf as lights cast a spotlight over the field. Blue and white silhouettes crowd the bleachers while spirited beats from the marching band vibrate throughout the stands.

Players and students that crowd the tunnel are fueled with excitement as adrenaline pumps fiercely moments before they run out into the field.

With Owl Flight Crew, students have the opportunity to experience Friday night lights in a new way.

"They just feel like they're a part of the team just for that moment," Sal Rizza, the director of orientation, transition and family engagement,

said. "It's the coolest thing to see."

The Owl Flight Crew is a new thrilling tradition where students are selected to lead the football players out onto the field.

The crew made its debut at the season opener on Sept. 5.

Rizza said a key purpose of Owl Flight Crew is to cultivate a strong sense of school spirit.

"To develop that excitement, enthusiasm and loyalty for Southern sports and for their Southern experience," Rizza said.

At every game, a group of students is invited to join the crew. For the first football game, Rizza said freshmen were his target audience. With a turnout

of 30 members, Rizza said it helped to gain momentum throughout the student body.

The student organization that promotes school spirit, Blue Crew, decided to join in on student engagement efforts.

Eliana Tolentino, the graduate intern of recreation and fitness, said that she noticed freshmen were eager to get involved on campus.

"With Flight Crew being the first group of first years, it was like a perfect segue to try to get more people involved with Blue Crew," Tolentino said.

This experience is not exclusive to freshmen, as many students used Blue Crew and Owl Flight Crew to create connections with their

classmates and community on campus.

"It's just cool to see all the students connect more at the games," Tolentino said. "Especially if they come alone and they want to be a part of something."

Many Owl Flight Crew members have crossed paths due to participating in the event, while others use the experience to hang out with friends and exhibit their school spirit.

Business administration major Aidon McCray, a sophomore, said that after running out on the field for the first time, he invited his friends to join in on the exhilarating experience.

"The third time, I had a bunch of my friends. We just all ran out on the field looking crazy, but it was a good and fun time,"

McCray said.

Psychology major Mark Jones, a senior, participated in the Homecoming football game on Oct. 5. Jones said it was fulfilling to celebrate school spirit with his fellow peers.

"It was literally just funny seeing everyone and just being energetic with my people," Jones said.

While many students crossed running into the field off their bucket list and called it quits, McCray joined the Owl Flight Crew and never looked back.

McCray said after being invited, he knew he had to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I have the school spirit, and I know there's not a lot of school spirit, or there will be people

who complain about how there's no school spirit. And then we had an opportunity like this, so I just took it," McCray said.

As the football season winds down with only three home games remaining, students are encouraged to participate in the university's latest tradition.

Students can check their email for invitations to join Owl Flight Crew or reach out to the Office of Student Involvement. McCray urges those who have not already to seize this opportunity.

"Don't be too cool for school," McCray said. "Don't say we're gonna lose anyway, so I'm not gonna be embarrassed by it, like it doesn't even matter. Just do it because it's fun with your friends."



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Owl Flight Crew members run out onto the Jess Dow Field on Sept. 13.



Business administration major Aidon McCray, a sophomore, leads Owl Flight Crew members at Homecoming football game on Oct. 5.

Owls learn about LinkedIn

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

According to a recent survey of 2,500 undergraduate students by College Pulse.com, 58% of students who currently hold an internship or full-time job or are looking for one say LinkedIn is a helpful tool.

To allow students to get familiar with LinkedIn and create their own professional online presence, the School of Business Career Springboard Center and Maria Themistocleous-Frey, hosted "Creating you I-brand with LinkedIn."

President and Founder of Executive Consultants of New York, Corp Maria Themistocleous-Frey walked students through how to navigate the app on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

The session, which ran from 12-2 p.m., allowed students to gain full insight on how to create an effective profile.

LinkedIn, the social media platform that focuses on business and employment, is seen as a valuable tool for students to build a professional network.

Themistocleous-Frey described LinkedIn as, "the 'Facebook' of the

business community."

Despite being seen as a social media outlet, there is a format that Themistocleous-Frey is an expert in.

Themistocleous-Frey said that a student's profile should allow employers to see what they bring to the table.

"Personality is very critical. It shows who you really are outside of the confines of a resume," Themistocleous-Frey said. "Your profile should allow me to see who you are, your personality, your witt, what you're involved in, what volunteer work you do."

To showcase their best selves, Themistocleous-Frey also said that students should identify their top three core skills.

Themistocleous-Frey said that regardless if they are "soft skills," such as communication and teamwork, they should not be underestimated.

"Post-COVID those soft skills have taken a front seat to hard skills," Themistocleous-Frey said. "These are the skill sets you practice in school."

For students that do not have a long list of experience or volunteering on their resume,

Themistocleous-Frey said that school projects and outside endeavors can satisfy this category.

"If you have experience as a student that isn't related to your major, it shows that you're working towards your goal which is admirable," Themistocleous-Frey said.

Learning how to navigate LinkedIn can be beneficial to students, especially those that are entering the workforce soon.

Art and design major Jaizier St.Hilaire, a senior, said that he joined to begin the job searching process.

"I am trying to be more active on my social media awareness and be able to network with others," St.Hilaire said.

Interdisciplinary studies major Sarah Khan, a senior, said she found ways to improve her profile, such as adding testimonials about her experience. Khan also said that the session was very helpful.

"I think they taught really good life skills in your career, and you learn how to achieve what you really need, which is not taught in classes," Khan said.



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Students focus in on President and Founder of Executive Consultants of New York, Corp, Maria Themistocleous-Frey reviewing her LinkedIn profile on Oct. 9.

Students with food allergies share dining accommodations

By Lexi White
Feature Editor

Some may not have trouble figuring out what to eat on campus, but for communication major Darin Talento, a freshman, navigating his eating habits on campus has been difficult due to his peanut and tree nut allergy.

"Sometimes, I have to do a double take when reading the allergy list for the desserts at Conn because I don't really know if they cross contaminate it," Talento said. "There are usually little flyers for each item saying what ingredients are in it, but other times the cards are blank."

While getting a sweet treat can be difficult for Talento, he said that the meal portions available at Connecticut Hall are very precise with labeling for his allergy.

Students with food allergies face unique challenges on campus; Connecticut Hall and the Adanti Student Center do not have many options for certain allergies, and some food items are not being labeled with what ingredients are included in it.

There is a gluten-free pantry in Conn Hall that provides many gluten-free options for students, such as chicken nuggets, bread and all kinds of snacks.

All the frozen meals that are accessible to students can be made in a crock-pot or microwave; are provided in the pantry.

Students must get approval from Sodexo in order for their student ID card to have access to the pantry. Students can scan their card and grab what they need to eat.

If a student does not have access to the pantry, they can talk to dining hall workers that are available.

In addition, the Conn Hall and Sodexo staff have a gluten-free and nut-free hot meal station for those who would rather grab their food hot.

On the university's dining site, it states: "We offer Simple Zone, a pantry free of gluten, peanut, and tree nut options. We encourage anyone with food allergies or dietary restrictions to contact our District Dietitian Samantha Standish so our team can work with you to ensure your needs are met."

If a student would rather have another hot meal that is not initially provided to accommodate their allergy, they can talk to Mateen.

"Students can tell me what they are allergic to, and then I will tell the chefs," Mateen said. "The chefs will accommodate the students who have allergies."

For someone who has a dietary concern other than gluten, peanut, or tree nut allergies, they can leave suggestions on the university's dining website.

Psychology major Leticia Asante, a

sophomore, is lactose intolerant and has to watch her sodium intake due to having hypothyroidism.

"I don't feel accommodated at all because there are not a lot of options for people who are lactose intolerant on campus," Asante said. "It would be nice if there was vegan pizza or other dairy free stuff available at Conn or Stu."

Asante said that she got accommodations from CASAS to have a better way of eating.

She lives in a dorm in North Campus Residence Complex so she would have her own kitchen and could make her own meals.

"After struggling last semester with my eating habits, I realized that I shouldn't pay so much money for a meal plan when I'm not going to use it," Asante said. "It would be very awkward because my friends would ask me to go eat with them, but because I can't eat at Conn, I'm the odd one out."

Communication major Kevin Francois, a senior, has a shellfish allergy.

He said that he mainly eats chicken or the other meat options that are available at Conn Hall.

Francois said, "I feel like they mainly accommodate more toward vegetarian options there, but I like how they make a good effort with separating the dishes from each other to keep the food safe."

Breast cancer awareness walk

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Students came together to honor the beginning of breast cancer awareness month. Led by the Residence Hall Association, students walked from the Buley Library to the Residence Quad to spread awareness of the disease.

A member of the RHA programming board, anthropology major Arielle McIntosh, a senior, helped to host the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Oct. 8. She said that the significance of this walk is to let students know that this disease is very real and affects the lives of many people on campus.

"My grandmother had breast cancer, and I was with her throughout her treatments," McIntosh said. "I want the others who are fighting to know that we are all supporting them, and that they have a community that cares."

For those who attended the walk for awareness, t-shirts, bracelets and bows were given out. RHA wanted to make sure everyone who was participating was wearing pink, the color of the

breast cancer ribbon.

McIntosh said, "When students see all the pink apparel, they will know that this is about breast cancer and that we are making their fight our fight."

Police Sgt. Cynthia Torres and K-9 Jules also wanted to participate in the walk honoring the women who have fought against the disease. Torres said that when she was asked to come to the event, she did not need a second to consider attending.

"A lot of the members of the police department have family members who have luckily survived breast cancer," Torres said. "This is certainly a cause that we believe in very strongly, and we are happy and honored to help support."

Business administration major Asia Fairweather, a junior, was one of the students who wanted to share her support for those who have battled against breast cancer. She said she came to the event to help give the disease as much recognition as possible.

"As a woman, this event is so important because

we have to be aware of the early signs and let other younger ladies know that the symptoms can start even at our age," Fairweather said.

Healthcare studies major Chekeena Jeudi, a junior, came to the event because she got an email from RHA regarding the walk. She said that she was eager to help support the cause.

"I'm looking forward to hearing people's stories and to seeing everyone come together," Jeudi said. "Bringing recognition to breast cancer during breast cancer awareness month is probably the thing I am looking forward to the most today."

Jeudi said that giving acknowledgments to the people who are not personally dealing with the illness but have a relationship with someone who is impacted by it, is also very important.

"People on campus can have somebody at home who's going through this, and they might not get to see the hopeful side of it, so for them to see what is happening today is so special," Jeudi said.



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

K-9 Jules wearing a breast cancer awareness walk t-shirt.



Computer science major Alison Escobar, a sophomore, and psychology major Idalis Nuez, a senior, getting ready to walk for breast cancer awareness.



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

"My favorite childhood show would have to be "Hannah Montana" because I used to watch it with my mom growing up."
-Nursing major Rebecca Anastasio, a junior



"The Tom and Jerry Show" was my favorite show because it was really funny and gave me a lot of information."
-Computer science major Murtaza Shahnan, a freshman

Owls Decide

What was your favorite childhood TV show?

By Lexi White
Features Editor



"Ninjabo" because it was a diverse cast of characters, and it was very action-packed."
-Philosophy major Jacob Vasas, a sophomore



"My favorite show was "Phineas and Ferb" because it's very nostalgic and funny."
-Nursing major Sydney Crockett, a sophomore



"Either "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody" or "Drake & Josh" because they were always so funny."
-Business administration major Anderson Graham, a junior



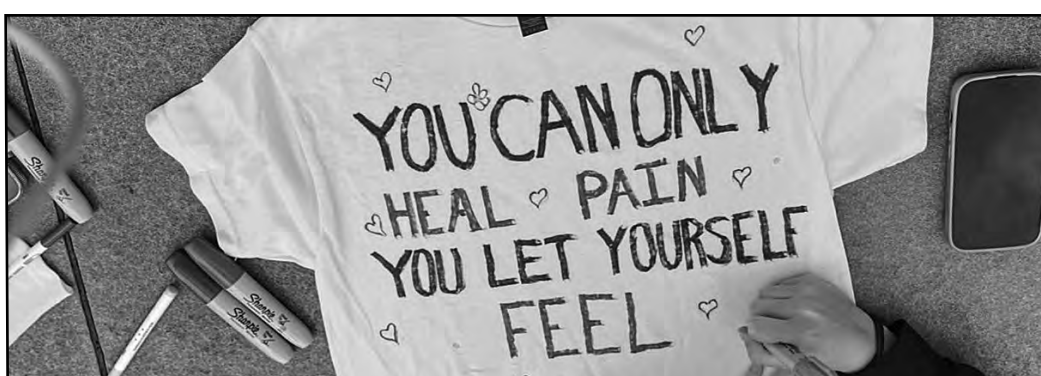
"Mine was "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" because I used to watch it with my dad and brother every Sunday."
-Sport management major Dontrail Antoine, a sophomore

VPAS clothesline project instills hope in students



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

English major Emily Weiner, a senior, showing off the shirt she made at the clothesline project event.



One of the t-shirts made by students at the clothesline project event.

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Colorful t-shirts with powerful messages written by students were placed on the pedestrian bridge to give those passing by a reminder of how much they matter.

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center provided the shirts for students to write compelling statements on. Coordinator of VPAS Colleen Kearney said she was excited to see students use their voices to empower others.

"It's the most incredible feeling in the world to see our students come out to support people that they've never met or to support people that they know in their own life," Kearney said.

Kearney supports students who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking at the university. She helps students find resources that fit their needs in navigating their trauma.

Kearney said, "Sometimes, you don't want to have this job because you wish that these things weren't happening, but to be able to give that support to students is really important to me."

Psychology major Jillian Haggerty, a senior, works as a student counselor for VPAS and said that she thinks their clothesline project is an important presence to have on campus.

"Us being here shows that we are educating students," Haggerty said. "They come over and ask us what we're doing, and we reply with telling them what's wrong or right in relationships."

Haggerty said that being a part of VPAS and helping students who have gone through dating violence is something that she is passionate about.

"I am a victim of sexual violence and having this event on campus shows that there is support for the students who have gone through it," Haggerty said. "These sayings can have positive impacts on their mental health, and they can become more aware of what abuse really is by talking to us."

Many students came to this event, regardless of if they have personally been affected by the issues VPAS spreads awareness of.

Communication disorders major Ava DeTulio, a sophomore, said that she came to the VPAS table because she wanted to

show her support for the survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

"Spreading a positive message is important to me because it shows victims who feel lonely that they have support in various ways," DeTulio said.

Another student who made a motivating t-shirt at the event was interdisciplinary studies major Dakota Dipietro, a senior. Dipietro said that coming to the event was important because of the message VPAS promotes and the support that is available for survivors.

"As a survivor myself, this event means a lot to me, and it's very empowering to know that there's such a great support system here on campus," Dipietro said. "This can help give people the strength to keep pushing through."

Dipietro said that people who have gone through traumatic experiences need a reason to defy the odds and get the help they deserve.

"Hope is what pushes people through their hard times," Dipietro said. "If they know that there's people supporting them, and that they're not alone, I feel like they could get through anything."

Alternative ways to eat while staying on campus



PHOTO | HANNAH GRAHAM

Health science major, Deenah Banner, a freshman, cooking in her dorm room.

By Hannah Graham
Copy Editor

One of the few universal truths of life is that one must eat to live. Consequently, humans, and resident students especially, spend a great deal of money and time on the creation and consumption of food.

Cooking in the dormitories on campus comes with a fittingly messy list of sorrows and joys, though.

"You don't have to depend on anyone else; you can make what you want," health science major Deenah Banner, a freshman, said.

There are three main dormitories which offer private kitchens on campus, including Schwartz Hall, West Campus Residence Complex and North Campus Residence Complex. According to an example room plan on the Schwartz Hall page, the kitchens have an oven, microwave and sink.

Residents in every building can access communal kitchens, but that comes with its own problems.

"If I think back to when I worked in Wilk, I remember there was a struggle because we had to do a lot of reminding about cleaning in those communal-style kitchens," North Campus

Coordinator/Director Reaunna Bartell said.

As for the students actually using those spaces, they are not necessarily representative of the opportunity for independence.

"Honestly, using the community cooking space in West just reminded me of how poor I was while I'm there making ramen again," marketing major Lana Drew, a sophomore, said.

However, not every student finds their on-campus cooking experiences so harrowing.

Banner said: "It made it easier for me. It's way more convenient. I don't have to go all the way to my dining hall for cereal."

While freshmen who live on campus are required to use the full meal plan, once a sophomore, students are able to choose where they live and how much of a meal plan they will be using.

As such, these in-dorm kitchens offer new financial avenues for students who may not be able to afford the full meal plan every year.

The opportunity to use a kitchen space within your dorm room is a boon to students; still, there are some pitfalls.

"I would say our biggest issue right now with the kitchens is education on fire safety," Bartell said. "We have public signage, emergency signs, newsletters, even TikTok videos at one point."

The residence life staff use several avenues to try and communicate the rules around fire and how to avoid smoke alarms going off while cooking, but there are always a handful of alarms that send students out of their dorm hall and into the parking lot or lawn surrounding it each year.

However, the community that is created around kitchens in the dormitories is well worth the occasional fire alarm.

Banner said that she particularly enjoys it when she has a chance to cook for her friends.

"It's exciting, 'cause people actually trust me cooking their food. And they always come back for more," Banner said.

The chance to connect over a plate can help students craft a joyous community.

"I would keep my friend company while she cooked food for us, and one time we got yelled at because we were screaming and laughing too loud," Drew said. "It was worth it."

Upcoming artist Doechii releases new rap album

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

The sound of Top Dawg Entertainment is still alive and thriving, as musical artist Doechii reminds the world that she is more than just a hip-hop artist.

Jaylah Ji'mya Hickmon, known professionally as Doechii, was born in 1998 in Tampa, Florida.

Doechii rose to prominence in 2021 thanks to TikTok, where her song "Yucky Blucky Fruitcake" from her first EP went viral.

The success of TikTok helped her sign with Top Dawg Entertainment that same year and released her second EP, "she/her/black bitch" in 2022.

Her first Billboard Hot 100 entry was in 2023 with "What it is (Block Boy)," featuring Kodak Black. The single peaked at No. 29 and has received platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America.

Currently, she boasts

1.3 million followers on TikTok, 854,000 followers on Instagram and 10.7 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

On Aug. 30, Doechii released "Alligator Bites Never Heal," which consists of 19 songs. This album is the first in her catalogue.

Her album cover that was released on Aug. 30 showcases her sitting down on a chair holding an albino alligator with a dark green background.

Doechii already earned her points from me by including the rare albino alligator on the cover art.

My favorite songs on this album are "NISSAN ALTIMA," "HIDE N SEEK," "DEATH ROLL" and "WAIT."

Pitchfork, an online music publication that specializes in reviews, posted their thoughts. The publication scored the album a solid seven out of 10, which is good, since they score albums extremely critically.

What makes Doechii a star is the genre-bending

she has mastered between hip-hop, R&B, pop music and her lyricism.

The genre bending music Doechii produces and releases is the reason why her brand is creative and authentic.

She is inspiring not only to people with ambitions to have a career in music, but also to other onlookers. She is one of the only female rappers that are dark skin in today's generation of music.

Just recently, she was featured on a song called "I'M HIS, HE'S MINE" with the one and only Katy Perry. This song showcases that she is a force to be reckoned with.

I am excited to see how her career continues to flourish and wish nothing but the best for her as she continues to go mainstream.

Doechii's upcoming concert shows in the United States will be in November, in Oakland, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Atlanta and Washington D.C.



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

"Alligator Bites Never Heal" official cover art.

Luxury clothing is extremely expensive

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Luxury clothing has long been associated with high prices, often sparking debates about whether such costs are justified.

While some argue that quality materials and craftsmanship warrant these prices, others contend that the luxury fashion industry relies heavily on marketing, brand prestige, and exclusivity to inflate costs.

One of the primary arguments against expensive prices is that the actual cost of materials and labor often does not align with retail prices.

Many luxury brands use high-quality fabrics and skilled artisans, but the markup can be astronomical.

For instance, a simple dress may cost several hundred dollars to produce, yet it can retail for thousands.

This disparity raises questions about the true value of luxury items, suggesting that consumers are paying more for the brand name than the product itself.

Moreover, the luxury fashion industry heavily invests in marketing and branding.

High-profile advertising campaigns, celebrity endorsements

and fashion shows create an allure that drives consumer demand.

The emphasis on image and status can detract from the actual craftsmanship and innovation involved in creating the clothing.

Customers might find themselves paying a premium not for superior quality, but for the prestige associated with a brand.

The exclusivity factor plays a significant role in pricing and the prestige of a brand.

The emotional appeal of luxury clothing is something that also cannot be overlooked.

Brands cultivate a lifestyle image that resonates with consumers, often associating their products with success.

This emotional connection can lead consumers to justify spending insane amounts, even when the tangible benefits of the pieces are questionable.

Limited editions and scarcity tactics create a sense of urgency and desirability, pushing consumers to spend more to own a piece of fashion that feels rare.

This model creates a cycle where high prices are accepted simply because of the brand's status, rather than any inherent quality in the garments themselves.

The rapid pace of fashion trends also impacts the issue of high-priced luxury items.

The fashion industry often operates on a seasonal cycle, compelling brands to continuously introduce new collections.

This relentless drive for novelty encourages consumers to buy frequently, leading to a perception that luxury items are worth their high price tags simply due to their trendiness, which is not always the case.

As awareness of these dynamics grows, a shift in consumer attitudes may be on the horizon.

More individuals are seeking value-driven purchases and embracing sustainable fashion by thrifting, using second-hand platforms like Depop, Grailed and Poshmark.

This change could convince luxury brands to reevaluate their pricing structures to cater towards customers while still providing genuine quality and craftsmanship. If this change happens, consumers might be more willing to accept slightly higher prices, as they would be justified.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
Adanti Student Center Room 222
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/thesouthernnews
Visit us online: TheSouthernNews.org
Print edition online: OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern

Solé Scott
Jay'Mi Vazquez
Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

Section Editors
Brianna Wallen
Lexi White
Dillon Flanigan
Carly Russell
Lily Rand
Wade Barillaro
Photographer

Staff Reporters
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
News Writer
Sports Writer
General Assignment

Copy Desk
Hannah Graham
Mackenzie Byerlee

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

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

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.

University brings 'The Prom' to the stage

By Carly Russell
Photo Editor

The Theatre Department, in collaboration with the Crescent Players, opened their show "The Prom" this week. The popular musical is based on a book by Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin. The university's production, directed by Larry Nye, saw a large turnout.

This week, "The Prom" will be showing on Thursday Oct. 17, Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19 at 8 p.m., and on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. Entry for university students and high school students is free with a valid school ID, with no ticket required.

Photos: Carly Russell



Communication major Spencer Lane, a senior, and his mother Jennifer Lane.



Kira Kelly as Olivia Keating, left, Trevor Howard as Barry Glickman, middle, and Kayleb Jewett as Motel Clerk, right.



The cast of "The Prom" during the opening number, "Changing Lives."



The cast of "The Prom" doing vocal warm-ups before the show starts.



Sam Lundstrom as Dee Dee Allen, left, and Kira Kelly, as Olivia Keating, right.

Raising awareness for breast cancer



Psychology major Kaliah Brown, a sophomore, left, Davonte Glasford, middle left and Kyra Catubig, middle right, graduate interns for orientation, transition and family engagement, and anthropology major Arielle McIntosh, a senior, right.

October is breast cancer awareness month. On Oct. 8, the Residence Hall Association held its annual Breast Cancer Awareness walk. Guest speaker and breast cancer survivor Grace Clark spoke, bringing awareness to how to catch breast cancer early and urging students to be aware of their bodies, and emphasizing the importance of knowing how to examine oneself.

Following the speeches, students, faculty and community members joined together to walk from Buley Library to the Residence Quad together, holding a banner that students wrote encouraging notes on. It read, "Their fight is our fight."



Students checking into the breast cancer walk and receiving their free t-shirt.



Guest speaker Grace Clark, a breast cancer survivor, giving a speech.



K-9 Jules and anthropology major Arielle McIntosh, a senior.

Jose Clemente: The Owls' missing piece

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The men's soccer team is filled with people from all over the world with different countries and backgrounds who all have one goal and common interest: soccer.

After being welcomed with open arms, Clemente fit right into place. The recent transfer and stand-out forward Jose Clemente, a senior, has been on fire with his new team.

The senior transfer from the College of Saint Rose, has been contributing in his first five games with the Owls. He has scored four goals this year, taking only five shots.

Clemente is leading the team in goals made and shots attempted. While only playing 15 games for Saint Rose, he led that team in goals with eight and points with 18, and would become a standout star on any team he would play for.

With the recent closure of Saint Rose, Clemente was in the right place at the right time. He was a great pickup from the transfer portal and seems to be the last key piece to this hard-working team.



Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, dribbles past Ravens.

PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

"Through the process, we knew Jose was going to be a leader within our group," Head Coach Kevin Anderson said. "We knew he was going to be somebody that this group respected."

With the addition of Clemente, the Owls locker room has been closer than it has ever been. Coach Anderson runs a tight ship

and has everybody buying into the revamp of the program.

The Owls have a very rich history when it comes to soccer. They appeared in 17 NCAA final-four, winning six national championships, the most in any Division II men's soccer program in the country and making. This includes Anderson,

who was a part of the 1992 national championship team.

"Coming here was not my idea. My other college had its own situation, and then I weighed my options," Clemente said. "The history of this program helped my decision very much."

Anderson came back to his alma mater in 2023,

making an immediate impact by building up the team through recruits and the transfer portal. Along with his coaching staff, he strives for their men to not only be hard workers on the field but in every aspect of being a student athlete.

Clemente fits the description, as he is currently studying for his

master's degree in business administration.

While being a key player to this team, Clemente is also a great person outside the soccer field. Off the field, Clemente and other teammates connect, study film and even figure out new strategies to win games.

Midfielder and team captain Umberto Catale, a senior, loves playing with Clemente because of his technique and skills on the field. They share a connection through their European origins, and this common background has sparked great chemistry and teamwork on the field.

"We have a great relationship, and we keep leaning on that. We are like brothers," Catale said.

The recent success of this team comes from the brotherhood in the locker room. Coach Anderson has put steps in place to bring the program back to the top, and adding Clemente could be the secret ingredient for raising the seventh banner at Jess Dow Field.

"The end goal for me is that everybody walks away feeling valued, but I'm grateful to come back to Southern, and I came back to win that seventh national championship,"

Men's soccer fall short to the defending champs

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The men's soccer team lost a hard-fought game against the defending national champions, the Franklin Pierce University Ravens. The final score was 1-0, as the Owls were held to no goals throughout the game.

In the first half, the Owls were off their game, forcing them to play with a different game plan.

The Owls had seven fouls, resulting in the Ravens taking possession of the ball more and slowing down the game's tempo.

"The first half was tough. Knowing how they play and adjusting to it was a challenge for us," forward Zico Groenveld, a junior, said.

The Ravens' offense would be too much for the Owls, as they took 16 shots and scored a goal 25 minutes into the game. The Owls only had five shots throughout the

entire game.

"We had a game plan coming in. After they scored, we went down and started to lose it," forward Jalen Jean, a senior, said. "Second half, we just went for it and finally started to play our game."

The Owls showed flashes of defense in the game. Goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, had six saves, keeping the Owls in the game. As the Owls stayed within striking distance of the Ravens, they would come up short on multiple late-game opportunities.

The Ravens controlled the game and the stat sheet, as they beat the Owls in all major categories.

Coming into this game, Franklin Pierce had a 5-1 record, which has now improved to 6-1 with the win today, showing that they are still a dominant force in the conference and nation.

The Owls fought just like they have been this

whole season. Being that they have high hopes for the rest of the season, losing by one goal to one of the best teams is a step in the right direction.

"We will come into the next games with a better mindset and more energy out the gate," forward Jayson Dumont, a freshman, said.

Throughout the season, the Owls showed they wanted to be considered the best in the conference. The leadership and depth of this team is how they can achieve that.

Head Coach Kevin Anderson put out a different II guys this game than usual. Two freshmen and a sophomore got the start in the game, showing the deep rotation and bench that the Owls have.

With a lineup usually consisting of seniors and juniors, the younger guys getting the start and more playing time shows that everybody on this team can do their job effectively and efficiently.

Volleyball show positive signs in loss to rival

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

On Oct. 8, the volleyball team fell 3-0 to their NE10 and Elm City rivals, the University of New Haven Chargers.

"We definitely had moments where we were executing our game plan," Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said. "Then sometimes, we get those moments where that youngness and that inexperience just kind of shows up, and it's tough."

This season, the Owls have struggled with their ability to score and attack, but they played a balanced game offensively. Against the Chargers, they had 31 attacks with four errors.

Being a young team, Barbaro believes they hit a positive note in the season with encouraging performances from multiple hitters.

Outside hitters Victoria Pascual, a sophomore, and Raegen Emery, a graduate, had seven kills on 23 attempts and 12 kills on 27 attempts respectively.

"It was a tough loss, definitely," Emery said. "We know we're right there. I mean, we had the lead at least in that second

set. We got a lot of work to do. We know what our weaknesses are. We've just got to keep pounding the stone, grinding for it."

The first set was a back-and-forth match, as the Chargers ultimately pulled away, but they built a significant lead in the second.

The largest point differential was set by the Owls by taking a 13-6 lead on a service ace. However, the Chargers would score nine of the next 10 points without looking back.

"I really thought this was a really good, strong offensive performance against a very good blocking and defensive team," Barbaro said.

Though the offense was on point, the defense was scuffling, as the Chargers were not contained. The lack of communication hurt the Owls.

"Somebody's got to step in and take charge and take the ball," Barbaro said. "It's not any one person."

It is rare for everything to be perfect for any team. Even if your team is developing, it is instrumental to capitalize on your opponent's errors.

"It's really easy for opposing teams to win games when we're constantly making mistakes, making errors," Emery said. "It's really important that we do capitalize on any opportunity that we get, and we just didn't do a great job of that today."

Barbaro elaborated that they need to come out and take a point and not to wait for their opponent to have a moment of weakness. Being aggressive is key; taking advantage is important.

The youth of the team has bled this game where they have not come together as mentioned, but there is confidence and faith that it will click as they get deeper into NE10 play; the holes will be less and less.

"It's extremely frustrating. And the other team, they did a great job," Emery said. "Their defense was picking us up, blocking us, everything. So, you can do a lot of things right, the other team can just do it better."

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Ravens Joaquin Lauria Calvo attempts to score with a header.



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, goes for the dig.