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Coming Out: A conversation on sexuality

President Joe Bertolino and President Mark Ojakian talk to faculty, staff and students being openly gay leaders.



President Bertolino and Mark Ojakian openly talking to students about their roles as being homosexual leaders.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

By Josh LaBella

Southern Connecticut State University President Joe Bertolino and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities President Mark Ojakian told students they had no set agenda except to discuss their experiences as openly gay leaders and then to give students an opportunity to talk to them about it.

The event, titled Out: A Conversation with President Joe and President Mark Ojakian, was held in the Adanti Student Center Resource room at 7 p.m. last Wednesday. President Bertolino said they wanted to share how they got to where they were today. President Ojakian said that when he was younger, it was very difficult to be gay. He said a lot has changed since then.

"I'm very proud that as my life has evolved, I've been able to check my insecurities at the

door—to embrace who I am," said Ojakian. "Being gay doesn't define who I am. A lot of people try and put you in that hole. It doesn't define everything I do in my life."

Ojakian said people should be whoever they are and be proud of it. He said they should express themselves however they see fit. He added that coming out is a very personal experience and a person should do it when they are ready.

"If you're ready, you will," said Ojakian. "If you're not, it's your own business. Your privacy and your right to that self-awareness is yours and yours alone."

President Bertolino said when he came out to his parents, they said they still loved him but they did not understand it. He said he realized the people in their lives are also a part of the coming out process. He said once he was out, he was out. Bertolino said for the rest of his professional career he only worked at places that are supportive of his community.

"What I have found most

rewarding is that I'm not the gay president, I'm president of Southern, who just happens to be married to a man," said Bertolino.

One topic that came up several times throughout the night was religion and how it coincides with being gay. One student asked how the two men, who were raised Catholic, defend their faith to their sexuality. Ojakian said while he still believes in a higher power, he does not go to church anymore because he does not feel comfortable.

"When I was struggling with this [sexuality] I went to confessional," said Ojakian. "I expected to hear words of wisdom. But he told me I should come around to the socials they hold to meet a woman that I could spend the rest of my life with. The experiences that I've had with being a Catholic have not been particularly constructive to who I am today."

Kiara Wells, a sophomore media studies major who organized the event on behalf of the Sexuality and Gender Equality (SAGE)

center, said she put together the event as a part of social justice month to show students that coming out is not just one event but a process.

"I thought that bringing President Joe and the president of CSU to come and talk about the importance of coming out and the importance of living your truth, would be a great thing for students to know," said Wells.

According to Wells, the questions about the overlap between religion and sexuality were a great reflection of what they wanted to do at the event. She said people coming out is not just about your sexuality, but about how all of your influences combine into one person. She said she was really happy with how the event went.

"This was a major discussion of likeminded people," said Wells, "just coming in and talking about how to live better and how to learn."

Students get career guidance at Alumni Professional Day

By Josh LaBella

Southern students met with alumni last Wednesday to get advice and support from graduates that worked in a wide variety of fields.

Michelle Johnson, the director of alumni relations, said this is their eighth year hosting the event, which took place in the Adanti Ballroom from 1 to 4 p.m. She said they work with alumni to give students a connection to a professional in their career.

"This is a really relaxed setting where students can sit down with alumni in a variety of fields," said Johnson. "They can find out what that field is really like."

According to Johnson, the event was supposed to promote frank conversations between students and professionals about what it is really like for the professional to do what they do. She also said the event might open students up to other careers.

"There are so many different professions," said Johnson. "The student might be shopping. There might be a student that's a liberal studies student that has absolutely no idea what they're doing or what they want to do. By talking to different people, they might get an idea."

Johnson said there were 72 alumni at tables in the ballroom. Just to name a few, there were congressional aides, real estate administrators, software engineers and tax consultants. Johnson said they had been advertising with flyers, lawn signs, posters and banners to try and get as many students to come as they could. She said they were hoping to get a couple hundred students to show up.

"It's a great thing to take advantage of," said Johnson, "and sometimes students don't know that."

Joe Payano, a sophomore international business major, said he came to Alumni Day to try and get better insight on his path and to see how alumni can help him understand the difficulties of his career field.

SEE ALUMNI DAY ON PAGE 2

Students react to Las Vegas shooting and reflect on gun control

By Josh LaBella

Aiming out the window of the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel, Stephen Paddock fired onto the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival, killing 58 people and wounded nearly 500 others before ending his own life. The battle over gun control ignited once again.

In the aftermath of the massacre, it came to light that Paddock had used semi-automatic rifles that were modified with a device known as a "bump stock." This device allows the rifle to simulate automatic fire. That is what allowed Paddock to cause so much damage in just 15 minutes.

Jacob Bojnowski, a freshman earth science major, said he remembers hearing the death toll climb the day after the Oct. 1 massacre. He said he does not know why a person would do something like that. In reference to the gun control debate, he said he sees a need for more restrictions on

firearms.

"I feel like if there were more laws on control it would definitely help keep things like this from happening," said Bojnowski. "There should be much higher restrictions on A: what type of weapons you can have. You don't need super long range guns as a pedestrian. And B: The process of getting one should be much more critical. Especially if you have a criminal record. They should check your background."

America has too many freedoms, according to Terri Lane, a senior music major. She said the United States has taken its constitutional freedoms way too far.

"We were never meant to have so many guns and the types of guns that we have," said Lane. "We were originally allowed to have guns when England was trying to take us over. We were protecting our homeland from tyranny."

Lane said that is no longer the case. She said no American should have weapons that allow a rate of fire that can cause the

damage that occurred in Las Vegas. She added that the problem has two sides.

"There's the fact that our freedoms are being taken advantage of," said Lane, "There's the fact that the country has a health care crisis. So people who are mentally ill cannot get the help and treatment they need. So they fall through the cracks and things like this happen."

Avery Mezzanotte, a senior international business major, said the shooting made him feel like the country needs to learn how to protect itself. He said he sees an increase in the frequency of mass shootings and cited the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting. He said the United States have done nothing to stop these events while other countries have.

"Look at Australia," said Mezzanotte. "They haven't had a mass shooting in years and they got rid of all their guns. I believe the Second Amendment is an important part of our country and I stand by that. But we need

to make it so we can protect ourselves too."

Mezzanotte said if the shootings do not stop nobody will go to out anymore. He said he is not sure how more gun regulation would stop this problem. More laws, he said, would mean more ways for criminals to get around them. He said background checks most likely would not keep shootings like the once in Las Vegas from happening.

"Supposedly Paddock was just a normal guy and then he went on a rampage," said Mezzanotte. "It definitely could help to have background checks but really who knows?"

The Pew Research Center reports there are between 270 and 310 million guns in the United States. The number almost matching the total population of the country. Mezzanotte said he does not know why Americans need so many weapons, especially automatic weapons.

"It's part of the American Dream, I guess, to have cool guns," said Mezzanotte. "But, you know, I don't think it's necessary."

“Health for All, Free for All Festival” promotes healthy living

By Josh LaBella

Southern Connecticut State University has many programs that promote healthy living. There were 48 organizations represented at the “Health for All, Free for All Festival.”

The festival took place on Oct. 11 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the ASC Ballroom. Bianca Flowers, a graduate intern at the Wellness Center getting her master’s in public health, said she organized the event to show students all the resources they have at their disposal to stay happy and healthy.

“In order to maximize your potential in the classroom it’s important for you to be well and be healthy in different aspects of your life,” said Flowers.

Flowers said they decided to host the event in the fall because it is a time of transition. She said students should realize how many different people are there for them both on campus and in the surrounding community.

“On campus, some of the organizations we have are the fitness center, the counseling center, alcoholics anonymous and financial literacy as well,” said Flowers. “Off campus we have a partnership with ShopRite, and both their dietitian and their pharmacist have come over. The pharmacist have administered flu shots for free to students, faculty and staff.”

According to Flowers, she wanted at least a couple hundred people to attend the festival. She said she was happy with the turnout and had been getting good feedback from the vendors and the students.

“The students seem to be genuinely interested in what’s here,” said Flowers. “It’s stuff that they can relate to. They are really able to take something away from it – literally because there are a lot of giveaways.”

Angel Torres, a freshman biology major, said he decided to check out the festival because he saw the balloons when he was walking by. He said if you do not go to events like this one, then you are not getting the full experience. Torres said



Students participating in the “Health for All, Free for All Festival.”

PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

he had been to several vendors to talk to them about what they do.

“I got some insight on skincare and therapy and all kinds of stuff,” said Torres. “It’s pretty cool. I do come to events every once in awhile but this one really peaked my interest.”

Richard Notice, a junior public health major, said he was in the bathroom when a guy told him he could come to the event and get some free stuff. He said he had been walking around, asking questions, playing jeopardy and spinning wheels.

“I spun like 10 wheels today,” said Notice. “I have two

bags of free stuff”

Imani Allen, a sophomore exercise science major with a concentration in human performance, said a professor suggested she come to the festival. She said she learned about different organizations, some of which she did not know existed.

“A lot of people here don’t know what’s available to them, what’s at their disposal,” said Allen. “So it’s nice to get involved and know what you can do. A lot of the [health and wellness] things we look for, we can find on campus or they provide us with the information to get it off campus.”

President Joe highlights the importance of student safety & budget

By August Pelliccio

President Joe Bertolino was invited to appear at Student Government Association’s weekly meeting Friday. Undocumented students, CT state budget, and crime on campus were all talking points.

Bertolino’s opening comments were directed to informing members of SGA that he is not personally running the university’s “day-to-day.”

“Most of my time is spent out and about, on public relations and partnership building within the community,” Bertolino said.

Even so, he said he is concerned with students’ interests, and encourages anyone to reach out to him formally.

“It’s one thing for me to hear things randomly from students,” Bertolino said. “It’s very different when you or a member of your team sends me or the administration a communication saying ‘we would like to make the following request.’”

He went on to speak about the way Southern is coping with the concern of state budget.

“The good news,” Bertolino said, “is that for this year, we are meeting our budget target.”

He explained that last year the administration was even able to set aside \$2 million worth of budget as a reserve, which was never needed. Bertolino hopes that this year there will be a slight budget surplus as well.

He encouraged students who are concerned about future state budgets to reach out to their local legislators. According to Bertolino, 94 percent of Southern students are from the state, and 84 percent stay in CT after graduation as state taxpayers.

“If you have the opportunity to share that information, please do that,” Bertolino said, “and if you ever decide to visit with one of your legislators, let us know, because we can arm you with information.”

Mia Forgione is a SGA representative at large, who was in attendance of Friday’s meeting. A concern that she brought to Bertolino’s attention was the safety of students who have been protected by DACA.



President Bertolino talking at SGA Meeting.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

“I was wondering if you have an update on what the university is doing to protect undocumented students,” Forgione asked.

Bertolino referenced Christopher Catching and his support team for undocumented students in his response. He said that the university does not keep a record of undocumented students, so to take advantage of the support system, they will need to self-identify as undocumented.

“If anyone from immigration were to find their way to campus,” Bertolino said, “the policy is that they need to come to my office and I will deal with them.”

He said he is very much concerned with student safety, security and protection, no matter what the politics or the policy dictate.

President of Southern’s SGA, Julie Gagliardi, then brought up the changes to Title IX. “I know some things have changed on a national level,” Gagliardi said.

She asked whether Bertolino would talk briefly about how the university is handling the changes.

“They have lowered the standard, which the university doesn’t support, but we’re not going to lower our standards here,” Bertolino said. “We’ll continue to have a robust policy, related to Title IX.”

The conversation was shifted again to student safety, and Bertolino brought up the increase of police activity related mostly to on-campus theft.

“As a result of that,” Bertolino said, “I have just authorized the hiring of two additional police officers. I also authorized the funding for additional security cameras.”

Finally, in this meeting, student Benson Rodrigues was sworn in as a new SGA representative. According to Gagliardi, this brings the body up to 25 members for the first time in 13 years.

Alumni Day

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“If I have any questions they can answer that would help a lot,” said Payano. “I’m going to try and talk to as many business people as possible and maybe try and find an internship.”

Thai Streater, a freshman psychology major, said she needed to come to the event because of her inquiry class but she had planned on going anyway. She said she was looking to find out more about what she could do in the field of psychology.

“I’m thinking about [going into the field of] counseling and I just sat down with a person who works in mental fitness. We talked about how keeping your mind healthy is just like keeping your body healthy,” said Streater.

According to Montrel Morrison, a senior political science major with a minor in criminal justice, he came to network and make connections for when he graduates for school.

“I’ve gained knowledgeable wisdom and credible experience from people in my field,” said Morrison. “I talked to

an alumni who worked under four presidents putting together intelligence reports. He was telling me how to be able to work for the White House.”

Damaris Garcia, a sophomore communications major, said she wanted to get background on alumni’s different interests and experiences. She said she never considered communications as a major until she attended the event last year.

“Now I’m in it,” said Garcia.

“Today I’m looking to see if I should get into any kind of minor. So far I’ve visited a marketing alumni and an alumni who worked in the nonprofit field. I feel like events like this give people the opportunity to speak out and get to know people. Any story can change someone or impact them - it did to me.”



People participating at Alumni Day in the ASC Ballroom.

PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

New buses shuttle students from Union Station to campus



The new Union Station shuttle bus in the parking lot in front Morrill Hall.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

By Alex Palmieri

There are new and bigger buses that will transfer students from the Union Station to SCSU and vice versa.

Ryan Sylvestre, a senior communications major, is a commuter and said this was a good move by Southern because the new buses can fit more students.

"I think this was good for Southern," said Sylvestre. "People that are commuting are trying to get their education and they might have to come from far places."

He said this is an easier way for students to get to school because they do not have to pay. Compared to an Uber or taxi, Sylvestre said this is the best alternative.

"I think it's a great addition," said Sylvestre. "I know it's been around for awhile. I used to take it my freshman year to Union Station, so I've used the other [bus] before."

Greg Tower, general manager of First Transit, said the purpose of getting a new bus was to assist with passenger capacity for the Union Station route. The older bus was smaller than this one. Tower said this bus is set to accommodate for having double the amount of passengers that the smaller shuttles can fit.

"Chief Dooley, with the assistance from First Transit, facilitated the acquisition of the additional fleet at no cost to the university," said Tower.

Tower said the buses were transferred from the UCONN Storrs campus

due to a changeover in their fleet.

Sylvestre said everyone struggles to pay for expenses when they are in school. Because of this, he said it is good that this was done at the university. He added that there are a lot of students who are not financially stable, so any form of transportation is important for commuters to have.

"I just think it's a good move by Southern," said Sylvestre.

Deanna Diaz, a sophomore secondary education major and a commuter, said it was smart for Southern to take part in getting bigger buses to fit more students.

"I do not commute from that far away but I know that having a bigger bus from the station to here would be very beneficial to a lot of students,"

said Diaz.

Diaz said this is beneficial because it is an easier way of transportation, rather than taking rides that cost money. She also added fitting students into a bigger bus can be very beneficial for the community.

"They probably get less trips in," said Diaz. "This can be economically be better."

The buses will help transfer more students in less time. Because of the bigger size, Diaz said this form of transportation is very important and all students who commute from a distance should look into taking the buses from Union Station.

Diaz said, "It's a preferable form of transportation."

Participate in our
**Halloween
 Writing Contest**

Presented by the Southern News

Submit your most chilling, spine-tingling Halloween horror stories to the Southern News and three winners will be featured in the October 25 issue.

Stories must be 500 to 600 words.

Must not include profanities or obscenities.

Must be submitted to SCSU.Southern.News@gmail.com before October 21.

Be sure to include your name, year, major, and best form of contact within the email submission.

Good luck and happy haunting, Owls!

FEATURES

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Unsung Hero: Jemmel Ormond saves student with Heimlich

By August Pelliccio

It is not often that something life threatening happens within the walls of Southern's Connecticut Hall said Jemmel Ormond, a Chartwells employee. When a choking student could not breathe a few weeks ago, Ormond stepped in.

Ormond said he celebrated his 11th anniversary of working for Chartwells on Sept. 11 of this year, and the very next day he was presented a unique opportunity to help a member of the community. He said it was lunchtime on a Tuesday in Connecticut Hall when suddenly a student was struggling for air.

"I was working upstairs, cleaning the tables and the floors," Ormond said. "When I went to go wipe her table, she grabbed me."

Ormond said that her friends had been trying to help dislodge the piece

of brisket she was choking on, and his coworker eventually stepped in to try to perform the Heimlich maneuver, but was unsuccessful. Ormond, who had recently been trained to properly perform the Heimlich maneuver, then took action.

"I was nervous, at first," Ormond said, but he proceeded.

The first and second heaves were both unsuccessful, but after repositioning himself, his Heimlich was effective, and the student's airway was cleared.

"I just took a course in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver," Ormond said. "I remember them saying if you can't get it by the third try, get down on your knees behind them in a chair and do it."

According to Ormond, after being saved from choking, the student looked at him and said, "Oh my God, I thought I was going to die."

If Ormond's third try proved unsuccess-

ful, he said his next step was to call in for Emergency Medical Services.

Ormond said that everybody around the girl was in a frenzy, and after the couple of students who tried were unsuccessful, he reacted on his instincts.

"I saw somebody choking and thought I could save them," said Ormond, "so I just acted."

Ormond said he credits his success to his ability to remain calm in the situation.

"If I panicked like her friends were, maybe I wouldn't have been able to perform," he said. "In the heat of the moment, I just had to do what I had to do."

Ormond learned the proper Heimlich technique and other emergency medical procedures over the summer at the New Freedom Missionary Baptist Church's health fair in New Haven. After he took the short course, he said he said

the instance in Connecticut Hall was the second time he had successfully employed the Heimlich.

The first was about two weeks before, in a Texas Roadhouse restaurant in West Haven.

"I was dining there, and a little boy was choking on a chunk of steak, and his parents didn't know what to do," Ormond said.

Ormond said the technique of being behind the person on his knees worked both times.

On Sept. 14, Ormond said he was credited with a "YouFirst" award from Chartwells, and his life-saving efforts were honored.

"It made me feel good," Ormond said. "I just love working here, I love the environment with the students, so I'll do anything I can do to help a student."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Jemmel Ormond wiping down a table.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Jemmel Ormond, a Chartwells employee.

Veterans Office: Serving Southern students since 1975

By Jenna Stepleman

Since being founded, the number of students taking advantage of Southern's Veterans Services has only increased.

Samantha Wandling, a psychology major, works in the Veterans Service Office and attends it regularly herself.

"Our many services are helpful to veterans who attend southern on a daily basis. We offer them a place to come sit and relax with peers who are similar and age and have been through things similar to them," Wandling said.

Jack Mordente, director of the Veterans Service Office, has been working at SCSU since the beginning of this program in 1975—he refers to himself as a counselor and advisor to these students, and says there is plenty more than support veterans can find at the office.

"We have a 65-inch TV, our own Netflix account and cable students can use free of charge," Mordente said.

Another new program they have employed recently is having past students bring their old or unreturnable books for the veterans to use for classes free of charge as well as complimentary tutoring services.

"We also offer a new program called Veterans Tutoring Veterans," Mordente said. "As it implies, we have members tutor others in subjects they are most comfortable in."

Many people do not think about how many veterans or people in the reserves there are at SCSU.

"We see about 30-40 veteran students on average in a day since we moved into the bigger office, and in my opinion [this number] will grow to more in the next few years," Mordente said.

This program was started in 1975 with grant money given to the state's schools after the government saw how

many veterans were coming back to be educated.

"After Vietnam, they saw an influx of veteran students into the university and the grant that started this office was used to accommodate that," Mordente said.

Southern's program has been ongoing since then, but not all schools can say the same.

"After, however, when the grant money dried up," Mordente continued, "schools were not under the obligation to provide those kinds of services anymore, so they only kept around the person who files the G.I. paperwork."

In Mordente's opinion, that led to a lot of problems in the university community for veterans as they were not aware of what their options were.

"But as a result of the new G.I. bill and the influence [of] Iraq/Afghanistan programs [that] are starting to be renewed in the state, and I look around cause we have been doing it since 1975," Mordente said.

This is a tight knit community and just because it is not discussed regularly among students does not mean it is lacking awareness. There is a 10-foot wide board of all the recognized Veterans in the hallway of Engleman's basement.

"The first step to enrolling as a Veteran involves G.I. Bill, paperwork so I would say about 99.9 percent of the veterans at Southern know of our program; it's the average student who may not be as familiar," Mordente said.

The office is located in the basement of Engleman Hall in room B018. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mordente added he hopes students could join the office of Veterans Services in observing Veterans Day on Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Theater.



PHOTO | MELISSA NUNEZ

Jack Mordente, director of the Veterans Service Office.



PHOTO | MELISSA NUNEZ

Samantha Wandling, a psychology major and worker in the Veterans Service Office.

Student Research Spotlight: Nicholas DeVito

By Melissa Nunez

A year ago, Nicholas DeVito said he had to make a choice – the choice between chemistry and biology.

DeVito said that while he enjoyed the subject, biology focused heavily on anatomy, a topic he did not like studying and although he never liked general chemistry classes, he found organic chemistry to be exciting.

“To be honest, I never really liked chemistry to begin with; ever since I started taking chemistry in high school, it was just general chemistry. But taking organic [chemistry] has a completely different feel than general chemistry does,” said DeVito. “It is much more interesting than general chemistry and after I took the organic chemistry one class I decided, ‘This is really interesting, I’d like to study it more,’ and I changed my major from biology to biochemistry shortly after.”

As a senior chemistry major, DeVito began an organic chemistry class with Adiel Coca, a chemistry professor. Coca said when the call for students came from Southern’s summer 2017 research grant, he approached DeVito with a chemistry research opportunity that involved studying antimicrobial properties of tetrazole analogs, Coca found him to be skilled with the course work as well as in a lab setting.

“[DeVito] was doing very well in the course and I got to observe in a lab as well,” said Coca. “So, when I pick a student for research, not only do I want them to have done well in an organic lecture component, but also just to have good skills in a lab as well. So that combination led me to propose this to him.”

DeVito said that upon starting his research five months ago, he began his work with the goal to synthesize tetrazole compounds, adding different chemicals to the structure and seeing whether these changes can alter the chemical properties.

“We are synthesizing a compound called a tetrazole – the tetrazole structure – and we are adding different molecules onto the tetrazole to see whether or not we can change the chemical properties. So, if we add a chemical group onto it, it might kill a bacteria versus doing absolutely nothing to it.”

Coca said DeVito is picking up research from where previous students left off and the work will likely continue after DeVito graduates in spring 2018. In the meantime, DeVito said he has already synthesized some of the compounds and will continue to do so throughout the fall semester—he has also written an honors thesis on his research and hopes to begin biological testing next semester.

“[DeVito’s] predecessors, they found a particular structure that includes a tetrazole structure. It also includes a benzene ring and a ketone,” said Coca. “So, there’s a basic structure that we found that works well. So we tested among several compounds, I think we tested probably close to 40 of them and the one that had that particular structure, we found was the most active bacterial cells. [DeVito’s] project has developed around, ‘We have the basic structure, we just want to change some groups around it to see if we could increase the activity of it even more.’”

The biology and chemistry aspects of studying the antimicrobial properties of tetrazole analogs is what DeVito says he finds the most engaging aspect of his research.



PHOTO | MELISSA NUNEZ

Nicholas DeVito, a senior chemistry major.

“What was really exciting is [the research] kind of straddles both biology and chemistry,” said DeVito. “So, I get to synthesize new compounds, which is the chemistry side of it and I also get to test it against different strains of bacteria to see whether or not it can affect the growth of that bacteria. So it takes both aspects of what I like: the small biology at the cell level, but then the chemistry.”

If one thing can come from students reading about his research, DeVito said it is that he hopes students will consider doing the same for themselves.

“To any student reading [this], talk to faculty, really try to do research with

somebody,” said DeVito. “It’s a very fulfilling experience.”

Coca agreed, saying student research grants them the opportunity to test the theories they are learning in class, to apply them as well as expand them.

“As Nick mentioned, research is a very important component,” said Coca. “It is a way to put students to learn outside of the classroom and to put the theory they have learned in class to the test and you actually learn a lot more advanced techniques and other things that you never learn in class. So it’s really a great way to improve your skills before you leave Southern.”

The dangers of texting and walking



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

A student walking and texting in front of Connecticut Hall.

By Jenna Stepleman

Texting and driving has been a cause of upset for years now, but another problem that comes with cell phones is texting and walking. Students weighed in on if it is important in their daily lives, and if they walk and text.

Samantha Vidlosky, a sophomore pre-nursing major, said she texts and walks all the time.

“I don’t see it as a major issue, and I’ve never run into anyone or anything that makes me feel like it’s too much of a distraction,” Vidlosky said.

She added that she has yet to see others bump into each other, but she could see where it would become a problem when crossing main roads and other places with a lot of traffic.

Rosemarie J. Conforti, an associate professor in the Media Studies department,

has seen numerous instances of students and the general population too distracted to walk and text.

“I have seen students on our campus walk right into parked cars in the parking lot and simply keep on walking,” Conforti said.

This is a problem on campus as well as off in her opinion.

“In NYC, where crowded sidewalks are common, I see many more incidents of bumps, trips and falls due to texting and walking. I’ve seen more than a few people texting and walk directly into glass doors,” Conforti said.

She said from her experience in the ever changing field of media studies that culture is changing with smartphones.

“It may seem obvious, but smartphones have created a culture of distraction that is becoming more dangerous as smartphones become more ubiquitous,” Conforti said.

Kari Ervin, a senior sports management major said she also texts and walks, both

on campus and off.

“I don’t think it’s that much of a big deal, I never have walked into someone but even if you do, all you do is say sorry and move on. It’s not such a big deal that you’re gonna seriously hurt someone,” Ervin said.

She said she had something of a “sixth sense” when it came to walking while texting—she holds the phone up to eye level so in peripheral she can see who is in front of her.

“I don’t think it’s something the school or average student should be concerned about, people are gonna do it anyway no matter if they think it has the small possibility of risk,” said Ervin. “Just be smart about it.”

National and local studies however have had rising concerns about that “small risk” associated with walking and texting.

“In 2008, more than 1,000 people were injured seriously enough to seek medical attention at the emergency room as a

result of texting and walking – double the year previous (which was double the year previous as well),” according to Safety.com

It is not just texting while walking that is a problem. Anything that can be distracting on a mobile device ends up at the same issues. From reading on Facebook to playing mobile games, any on-screen activity comes with risk.

According to Safety.com, researchers from Ohio State University found that young people under the age of 25 are more likely to be injured while on their cell phones, and men are more likely than women to be injured while using a mobile device. Their statistics showed that talking on the phone made up about 69 percent of injuries, and texting only accounted for about 9 percent.

Regardless of whether or not texting and walking causes as many injuries as talking and driving, it is important to stay aware and keep your eyes and attention on the pavement.

Participate in our Halloween Writing Contest

Presented by the Southern News

Submit your most chilling, spine-tingling Halloween horror stories to the Southern News and three winners will be featured in the October 25 issue.

Stories must be 500 to 600 words.

Must not include profanities or obscenities.

Must be submitted to SCSU.Southern.News@gmail.com before October 21.

Be sure to include your name, year, major, and best form of contact within the email submission.

Good luck and happy haunting, Owls!

Robert Plant stays true to his classic rock roots



COURTESY OF | MAN ALIVE!

Robert Plant performing at the Palace Theater in 2010.

By August Pelliccio

Robert Plant, former singer of Led Zeppelin, released a new studio album last Friday. It was a modern take on his classic and signature sound.

It is hard to mistake Plant's signature voice, which sounds as talented and deliberate as it did in the height of Led Zeppelin's popularity in the early 1970's. His new sound is not nearly as heavy and tense as Zeppelin's, but nothing about the new album, "Carry Fire," leaves the listener wonder what was missing.

The opening track of the album is called, "The May Queen," though allusion to Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" ends there. The song shares very little with Plant's well-known sound. The repetitive guitar backing, chanting and folky violin accompany much of the song, giving it an almost backwoods sound.

"New World" is a song that would be at home in a movie soundtrack. It is unobtrusive yet catchy, which would be an effective way to highlight visual scenery. No music video has been made with the song thus far, although it seems appropriate.

"Season's Song" and "Dance With You Tonight" both share those qualities mentioned about "New World," and, in fact, the three songs sound very similar. Perhaps the songs should not have been listed adjacent to one another, to avoid boredom with the sound.

The album picks up a little bit of momentum with "Carving Up the World Again... a wall and not a fence." The song certainly has a musical personality of its own, and additionally it sounds as if this is yet another example of a songwriter quietly mocking President Trump and his wall. "A whole lot of boss shooting very little sense," Plant sings.

"A Way With Words" has a dramatic sound, highlighted by heartbeat mimicking drumbeat, a sustained background string track, and a keyboard track with heavy tremolo. The acoustic piano featured starting in the first verse adds to the suspense of the song with deliberate, if limited, intervals and chords.

The title track, "Carry Fire" borrows instrumentation and scales from South and Western Asian traditional music. Plant's ability to write effectively using those aspects of Asian music is impressive, and make for what may be the best song on the album. Some aspects of the song are reminiscent of Led

Zeppelin's "Kashmir," another brilliant display of Plant's writing.

"Bones of Saints" and "Keep It Hid" are very different songs, but they both demonstrate the idea of effective bridge writing. The bridge is the best part, and arguably the only part that hold the listener's attention in either of these songs. In "Keep It Hid," this bridge continues on to be the exit of the song.

Track 10, "Bluebirds Over the Mountain" sounds most similar to a Led Zeppelin song of any on the album, albeit not very. Again, it has that faint Eastern world influence that makes it interesting. Also, in this song is the only instance on the album, which Plant even approaches the higher vocal range he was once famous for.

Tension is built in the final track, "Heaven Sent." The guitar track uses so much distortion and the instrumentation is otherwise so dreamy that the listening experience is vivid.

There are only a couple tracks on the album that should be listened to alone; otherwise, the listener has to work pretty hard to find what makes the album impressive. Ultimately, the reasons are there. The experience as a whole is a good reminder that although Robert Plant is best known for his work with Led Zeppelin, he himself is not Led Zeppelin.

Editor's picks: the perfect albums for winter



COURTESY OF | EVAN GUEST

Gucci Mane performing at 515 Alive in August.

By Lynandro Simmons

People are constantly overwhelmed with options in what music to listen to. Every day, there is a new artist to pick from. Between competition of new and old artists it can be hard to choose. On Friday Oct. 13, a plethora of artists both young and old released music for their fans to enjoy. Three of these recently released albums have managed to stand out amongst the rest.

The first album is from the up and coming R&B singer Brent Faiyaz. Some could say Faiyaz got his big break this year as the singer for one of the most popular choruses on Goldlink's hit single "Crew." However, Faiyaz takes center stage on the new album "Sonder Son." From the opening track "Home," Faiyaz showcases his soulful voice that will have listeners reminiscing

on a time when singers used to have emotion in their music. The 12-track project is produced by Dpat & Atu, members of Faiyaz's band Sonder as well as a handful of others. Fans of the R&B genre will be excited to hear a young voice that provides a new perspective in the genre. With no major features, no major co-signs and no major label backing, Faiyaz has managed to release an album that still can stand on its own.

OVO R&B duo DVSN's long awaited album "Morning After" has finally been released. Since the duo's debut project "SEPT. 5TH," which released in 2016, fans have been looking to see what could be next. The album was formally announced in August after DVSN dropped the new single "Think About Me." The duo—consisting of singer Daniel Daley and producer Nineteen85—does not disappoint fans on the new album. The 13-track

album provides more of the slow jams fans of the duo's previous project loved. 2017 has seen many strong R&B albums released and DVSN's latest offering "Morning After" helps to solidify the duo's standing in R&B.

Gucci Mane's "Mr. Davis," is the newest album from the changed rap star. After a prison bid, Gucci has undergone an incredible evolution. With a new autobiography, clothing line and an upcoming wedding, Gucci has become a new man. Now with a brand that has become bigger than ever and a sober mind, the Atlanta rap veteran has returned to releasing his signature brand of trap music. This album is the tenth project Gucci has dropped since getting out of prison in May 2016, showing that Gucci is back to his prolific work ethic. The new 17-track album includes features from ScHoolboy Q, Big Sean, The Weeknd, Nicki Minaj, A\$AP Rocky



COURTESY OF | THE COME UP SHOW

DVSN performing at the Summer Sixteen Tour in 2016.

and more. With the release of his 11th studio album, Gucci continues to prove that jail has not caused him to miss a step.

These three new albums all have their own unique sounds and

can provide the soundtrack to the upcoming winter months. As the fall weather begins to set in, this nice mix of young R&B artists and a solidified rap star can give music listeners something to ride out to.

Theater major finds home on the Lyman stage



Trell Cheeks (left), Olivia Davenport (middle) and Guzenhauser (right) performing in "Violet."

COURTESY OF | SCSU FACEBOOK

By Chloe Gorman

Although he may be a sophomore, Chris Guzenhauser knew exactly what club he wanted to join when he came to Southern last year.

Guzenhauser, a theater major, decided to audition for last year's musical "The Boy Friend," and the rest is history.

"Auditions for that were on the first day of class, so I got involved pretty quickly," he said.

According to Guzenhauser, he had experience doing plays and musicals in both middle school and high school so he was no stranger to the stage.

However, he almost did not audition at all because callbacks were during the first week of classes, he said. But, since then, he has never looked back.

In fact, Guzenhauser said it is easy to balance his school work and participation in the Crescent Players.

"On most days, I'm done with class by noon and have rehearsal at night which gives me the

entire day to do homework, study and catch up," Guzenhauser said. "The most challenging part of balancing schoolwork and productions is having to get up for class after a long night of rehearsing or performing."

Guzenhauser said, even though it is hard work, being a part of the Crescent players is worth it. He says it is rewarding to see everything pay off in the end and see the production come to fruition.

Even though the Crescent Players puts on four shows a year, Guzenhauser said that working with the theater department to put on these shows is one of his favorite parts about being a part of the group.

While he said he has been involved in each show since his freshman year, Guzenhauser does have a favorite production.

"My favorite musical I have been involved in would be last year's production of 'The Boy Friend,'" he said. "It was just a very fun show to perform in. Almost every number I was in I

was leading a giant dance break and I was very proud of myself for landing a principal role in my first college production."

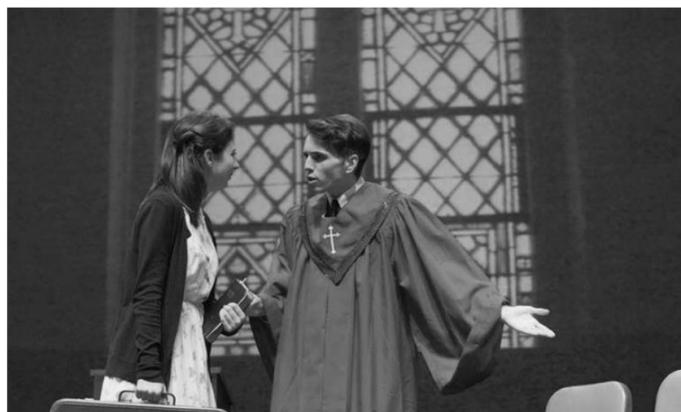
He was even nominated for his role, and had the opportunity to attend the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Guzenhauser described it as "such an amazing opportunity to represent SCSU."

According to Guzenhauser, this year's musical, "Violet," is his second favorite production he has been in thus far.

"It's the first show I've done that digs a little deeper than just song and dance and it's been a challenging, but also fun, process," he said.

For those who are thinking about joining the Crescent Players or auditioning for one of its productions, Guzenhauser said students should take a chance and do it.

"If you're not a performer, there are many other ways to be involved in a show such as tech and crew positions," he said. "There are many amazing



Marie Whalen (left), who plays Violet performing alongside Guzenhauser (right).

COURTESY OF | SCSU FACEBOOK

opportunities within the Crescent Players, so if you're considering joining or being involved with a show, just go for it."

Not only has being a part of the Crescent Players helped Guzenhauser become a better actor, but it has also helped him realize the importance of having the support of friends and family.

"Most of my best friends are people involved with the Crescent Players or theatre department, so we're all there for each other," he said. "Having that kind of support encourages me to be the best I can be in any given opportunity."

Southern's a cappella group has high expectations

By Jenna Stepleman

Emily Velidow, a psychology major with a minor in music, is a junior at SCSU. She is also founder and the president of the NOTEorious a cappella group here at SCSU.

The club is co-ed which means anyone can audition to sing in the group.

"We currently have about 21 singers of various music backgrounds. Some sing for fun, some have been singing in choirs since they were 14," Velidow said. "The group has only been running officially for a year, so our goal for right now is to expand our notoriety—no pun intended—and get our name on everyone's lips."

They have appeared at various campus events in the past year such as "Take Back The Night," Honors Convocation and the Undergraduate Commencement.

"We hope to use that as a springboard to start our own program traditions and eventually combine forces with a cappella groups from other universities," Velidow said.

The group has 21 singers, but 23 members total. They meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 9:30 p.m. They are hosting a karaoke event on Nov. 4 in the Farnham programming space from 2 to 5 p.m.

"We also hope to do something special for the holidays before the semester ends. At rehearsal, we discuss these upcoming events and rehearse music for our upcoming events as well," Velidow said.

Velidow wants people to know real world a cappella is not like "Pitch Perfect;" it is just as fun, but a lot of work.

"We like to arrange our own covers and the group has to learn it and

practice it before we are ready to show it to the world. Pitch Perfect definitely made a cappella music more popular, which is great! There's so much more to it that the movie doesn't show but that's because it's Hollywood," Velidow said.

They sing all different types of music from pop to classical and members are free to suggest to the group.

"We've done a mashup of 'Telephone' by Lady Gaga with 'Hotline Bling' and then 'Work Song' by Hozier. We've even sang 'Superstitious' by Stevie Wonder," Velidow said.

Right now they are working on "Human" by Rag'n'Bone Man, "Who you Are" by Jessie J, and "Waiting for the End" by Linkin Park according to Velidow.

Danae Sawchyn, a senior English major, works public relations for NOTEorious.

"We've learned a lot through our first year of being a group. We developed ideas about how to run rehearsals and auditions, and I think it's really paying off this year," Sawchyn said.

She wanted to give a shoutout to all the members who made this club possible and especially to Trystan Brunet, who is the vice president of NOTEorious. One of his many responsibilities is arranging and the teaching music.

"He's a senior and he works a lot, yet he consistently puts a lot of effort into making our group possible," Sawchyn said, "and we all really appreciate him and his great humor."

If you are interested in having your club profiled, please contact editor Chloe Gorman through scsu.southern.news@gmail.com



NOTEorious posing for a group photo.

COURTESY OF | NOTEORIOUS OWLCONNECT

'Violet' tells story of strength and unity



The stage at Lyman before the performance of the musical "Violet."

PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Jenna Stepleman

The crowd was small but loud at Lyman Center Friday night during the final weekend of the show "Violet."

The show is centered around a young white girl in 1964 named Violet. Violet has an unsightly scar on her face from a childhood accident. She decides she is going to get "healed" as she sees on TV, and saves up all her money to cross the country.

The mission goes awry, of course, when she meets a black soldier and his friend on a bus along the way.

Violet learns the true meaning of beauty and just how relative it can be.

Rebecca Barko, a music department faculty member attended the show to show support

for various students she has had in the play.

"The singing tonight was really amazing. It was one of the highlights," said Barko. "You can't leave out the music though; that shined as well."

The titular character Violet, played by Marie Whelan, was the star of the show along with Eric Clinton as Flick and Shawn Tyler Allen as Monty.

"Marie really never got a break up there. Violet is such a daring character to play, and widely unknown as well, so people's first impressions of her were made her tonight. She really killed it, she blew me away," Barko said.

During intermission the audiences chattered about what was going to happen next and who they were rooting for to end up with who.

Isabella Corradi, a freshman English major, was very impressed after the show ended especially with the gospel church scene in particular.

"The gospel scene was very impressive. The voices and talent in the room was amazing," Corradi said.

The scene referenced is a powerful number on what is to be a TV set in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The crowd in the church sing and dance both in harmony and unison; it all comes to a climatic end when Violet comes bursting in the room begging to be healed.

Chris Salmon, a New Haven resident, was there to view his friends' performances in that very scene, so he also thought that to be the highlight of the show.

"I would give it a solid eight out of 10 as a whole. The church scene was my favorite

though. The singing was very powerful," Salmon said.

The performers he was there to see, John Murphy and Matt Iannantuoni, played Billy Dean/Bus Driver 2 and Leroy Evans/Bus Driver 3.

"My friends are theater majors and I was here as support and I'm glad I came," Salmon said.

When the show came to an end, the crowd got out of their seats for a standing ovation and cheered as each performer took their bow.

The cast seemed enthusiastic about the program as they came out after the show.

This weekend's run was the last run of the show, but Lyman Center has upcoming shows this spring and next fall, as well as Student-Directed One Acts April 24 to 28.

Artist of the week: Georgenie Lherisson



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Lherisson, a studio art major, working on her art in the studio.

"I make art based on the things inspiring around me, like recent events or nature. It's hard for me to pick just one type of art because there is so much to make, but my favorite is ceramics."



Artwork by Lherisson.

PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN
A clay sculpture by Lherisson.



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN
A clay pot by Lherisson.

Student art of the week is an arts and entertainment project from the Southern News. If you are interested in submitting work in any artistic format please contact A&E editor Chloe Gorman through scsu.southern.news@gmail.com



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Sabri Akter and an Adelphi player argue a call during Southern's tie with Adelphi.

Venard excelling in her sophomore season



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Venard was named to the Northeast-10 weekly honor roll last week for her play against Bentley and Assumption.

By Matt Gad

Anna Venard, a sophomore, has held down the position of libero for the Southern volleyball team since she was a freshman last season.

"I started last year and played as libero for the whole year and I've started again this year," Venard said. "My specialty is defense as the libero always plays out of the back row."

From Thornton, Colorado, Venard was Top Female Athlete and All-Conference in volleyball in high school and also competed in track and field. She was a captain for both teams and also played volleyball outside of school for the Ballistic Volleyball Club.

"Anna's a great defensive player. The libero is generally the best defensive player on the floor," head coach Lisa Barbaro said. Barbaro was recently inducted into the New Haven Tap-Off Club Basketball Hall of Fame.

So far this season, Venard has recorded 0.29 points, 0.32 assists and 3.78 digs per set. She has played in 21 matches and performed well in conference match-ups. She was recently awarded Southern Athlete of the Week honors and was also recognized by the Northeast-10 Conference for her performances.

"Everyone is really supportive when someone is honored," she said. "I wasn't expecting [being honored twice] at all. We're all really supportive and I think that helps us become more successful."

SEE SOCCER PAGE 11

SEE VENARD PAGE 10

Soccer ties Adelphi

The men's soccer team has eclipsed their win total from last season with four games still remaining.

By Kevin Crompton

A torrential down-pour set the scene as the Owls looked to upset undefeated Adelphi University on Wednesday night.

Southern men's soccer avoided falling victim to the teeth of the Panthers the way their last nine opponents did. After two overtime periods, the game ended in a 0-0 tie, as neither team could find a way to put the ball past the opposing goal keeper.

Weather was a major factor in the game, especially in the first half, with relentless heavy rain hitting the turf.

"The biggest challenge is being clean on the ball and being composed," said junior defender Jhony Gonzalez. "In weather like this a simple bounce can go over you and that's a goal."

"The kids played really hard and showed a great deal of character."

— Tom Lang, head coach

Adelphi finished the game with a total of six shots on goal all of which were saved by Southern

goalkeeper Noah Varonier. Varonier recorded his fifth shutout of the season, besting his 2016 season performance of four. Two more shutouts on the year would tie his career best seven shutout season that he posted as a freshman.

The conference matchup produced physicality from both sides with the referees issuing yellow cards to players on each team.

"We're third right now on the table, they're number one," said Gonzalez. "We're coming out to prove a point. They're number two in the nation and we finally just got ranked to 24, and I feel like we're better than that so we wanted to prove

a point—not only to the league, but to the rest of the country as well."

With Wednesday's tie both Southern and Adelphi remain unbeaten in conference games. Southern is third in the Northeast-10 with a 6-0-3 conference record behind Adelphi and Merrimack – both 7-0-1 in conference games.

Gonzalez felt that his team held its own in defending their home turf. The Owls picked up a point in the conference rankings which is something he believes not many teams will do against Adelphi this season. Head coach Tom Lang also weighed in on his team's performance.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Murphy Murad is the Owls top returning scorer from last season.

Women's basketball prepares for season

By Matt Gad

Last season, Southern women's basketball finished 12-17 and reached the Northeast-10 Tournament, losing to Stonehill in the opening round and Adelphi in quarterfinal action.

"I'm always looking forward to playing opponents we've lost to in the past. We have a very competitive conference," senior guard Murphy Murad said. "Any one team has the ability to beat the other; it's the team that fights to the last possession that comes out on top."

The season will begin with matchups against the University of the District of Columbia and the University of Bridgeport Nov. 11 and 12, with both games being played in Bridgeport. Outside of conference opponents, another key date will be Dec. 28 when the Owls will play an exhibition with Division I Rhode Island.

This year's team is without recent graduates Maria Weselyj and Taylor McLaughlin, the latter of whom signed a professional women's basketball contact with Denmark's Virum Vipers. McLaughlin was one of two former Southern basketball players to sign with a profes-

sional team: men's basketball's Michael Mallory agreed to a deal with HKK Zrinjski Mostar this past summer.

"We graduated most of our scoring," head coach Kate Lynch said, "and we brought in a freshman post player from Minnesota and also a Division I transfer, as well. What we like about this team this year is that we don't necessarily have one person or two or three who are gonna score 20 points a game but what we do have is 18 players who can give us 8-10 points a game. We really think that we can spread out the scoring a little bit and make it a little more difficult for people to

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

Venard

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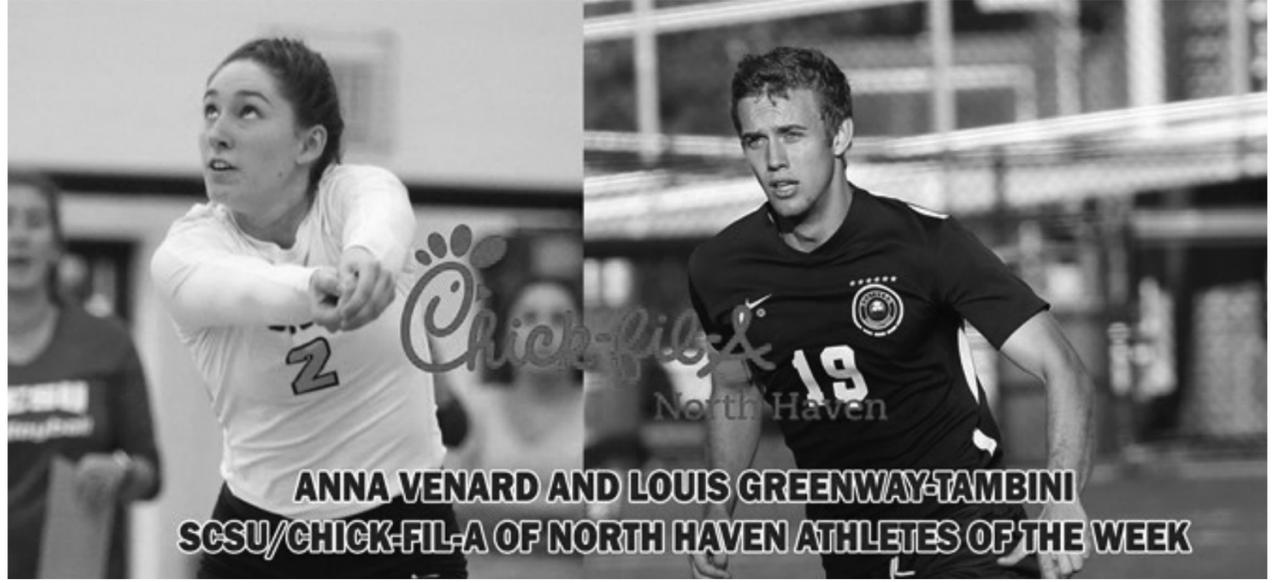
Venard said the team chemistry is really strong and everyone works really well together. The Southern honor is determined in-house, but the weekly honor roll is determined at the conference level and values everyone's performances, in all fall sports, throughout the NE-10.

Barbaro said Venard puts herself in a good position defensively and does a great job with her attack defense: "She gives us an opportunity to win. The game starts with a dig and if you don't pass the ball your hitters can't kick [so it all goes hand-in-hand]."

"You can often get overlooked at libero," Barbaro said. "You don't get the same notoriety as hitters. Anna's job is to set up the offense and she does great job in understanding her opponents and refusing to let the ball hit the group. Her honors are well deserved."

The team played American International College last night and will take on Merrimack Friday night at 7 p.m. On Oct. 23, they will also be home for Molloy College in another 7 p.m. tilt at Pelz Gymnasium.

"This year a lot of our starters are seniors. Both of our setters are," Venard said. "We have a lot of confidence in everyone. We have three captains and



ANNA VENARD AND LOUIS GREENWAY-TAMBINI
SCSU/CHICK-FIL-A OF NORTH HAVEN ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Venard was named as one of the SCSU/Chick-Fil-A North Haven athletes of the week along with Louis Greenway-Tambini.

two of them are seniors and then Leanna [Jadus] is a junior. Nicki [Hauser] and Alex Nimz are the senior captains."

She said everyone works

as one unit and they are all made to feel included. The team has two freshmen in Kirstin Colwell and Gabriella Welsh, five sophomores other than Venard in Tea Carter,

Gabriella Vazquez, Jennifer Dawson, Jenizza Febles and Jillian Chambers.

Alyssa Gage and Jadus are the lone juniors and then there is the aforementioned

senior team captains in Nimz and Hauser, as well as other seniors Alexandria Jurgens and Jourdan Hodge.

Men's rugby making big changes across the board



PHOTO | PIERCE PIANA

The rugby team playing a game at Jess Dow Field.

By Matt Gad

Last Saturday night, Southern men's rugby hosted their inaugural senior night at Jess Dow Field while the football team was away playing LIU Post in Long Island.

They defeated Providence College 76-3 and improved to 3-1-1. Out of 10 men's clubs in Rugby Northeast, the Black Attack are third.

"Our goal is always to win the national championship," junior Ben Croll said. "We have everything it takes to win and are finally getting our momentum

behind us. I remain incredibly impressed with the level of intensity we play with and our rugby IQ."

The Black Attack have played on Jess Dow Field before but say the turf makes it much different from their home field, which is located across from The Ballpark and near The Lyman Center. Senior Mike Sullivan said the turf is "a lot more forgiving" than their rugby practice field.

"The rugby field will always have a special place in my heart because it's our home field," he said, "but playing on the turf was a great experience."

The team did not lose anyone to graduation last year but grew this year from 28 to 50 members. Senior Lyle Luth said they are learning the game and are very exciting to watch. He said they have been very impressive so far.

Some of the players, like Luth, played football in high school and either played rugby in the spring or transitioned to the sport when they started college. While the United States is dominated by college and professional football, one of the main varsity sports in other parts of the world, like New Zealand is rugby.

Luth said the team added three new coaches this season and

credited their dedication. Bob Chester was brought in to assist the forwards, Karl Rempe came in to assist the backs and Nick Bellerose was added for strength and conditioning. The team now has five coaches and remain led by brothers John and Andrew Marullo, the latter of whom assists his brother.

"Our old field had a lot of history behind it and it gave us an advantage in home games," Luth said. "I don't like playing on turf because there's an increased risk of injuries."

Jess Dow Field is comprised of field turf and the field hosts football, soccer and field hockey,

as well. It was dedicated in 1988 for the late Jess Dow. Dow played collegiate football at West Texas State College, now West Texas A&M University, and in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles. He coached the Southern football team from 1948 to 1965 and went 107-46-6. Dow passed away on March 24, 2003.

This year the program will graduate six seniors, including Sullivan and Luth. After not having any seniors last school year, Sullivan says it will be interesting to see how the younger guys step up.

The sports media world

By Matt Gad

Fox Sports has assembled a mighty in-studio crew for this year's Major League Baseball postseason games that air on FOX or their cable network, Fox Sports 1. Hosted by Kevin Burkhardt, in-studio talent includes Yankees legend (and Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend) Alex Rodriguez, the Red Sox's former star David "Big Papi" Ortiz, former Mets World Champion Keith Hernandez (one of his broadcast partners, Ron Darling, is in the booth on MLB on

TBS) and Frank Robinson.

Hernandez replaced Pete Rose, who received unfavorable reviews. His play-by-play partner, Gary Cohen, hinted at Keith's postseason work during the closing after the Mets regular-season finale several weeks ago. Before joining Fox Sports several years ago, Burkhardt served as the field reporter for Mets games on SNY and WPIX (Channel 11). He was replaced with Steve Gelbs.

In addition to being the primary anchor for Fox Sports' MLB studio coverage, he also

provides commentary on Fox during the NFL season. One of Burkhardt's early broadcast partners was now-49ers general manager John Lynch.

Fox has been alternating their playoff games between their national channel and the cable branch (Fox Sports 1, or, FSI). Fox Sports 1 has drawn criticism as a direct rival for ESPN, having signed many former ESPN talents, including Colin Cowherd and Skip Bayless. ESPN recently hired former Garbage Time host Katie Nolan, who hosted the weekly show Wednesday nights

or Thursday mornings at 12 a.m. Eastern. Garbage Time was both a television show and a podcast, however, the podcast featured original content and was not an audio version of the on-air show.

Nolan compares to Michelle Beadle, who is known for her work on SportsNation and now also as a member of the network's NBA studio coverage. Beadle's NBA role used to be controlled by ESPN personalities like Hannah Storm and Sage Steele.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"I thought we put in a good performance, said Lang. "First half, we did well keeping the ball and causing them some issues. I thought at the end of the day to tie the number two team in the country it was a good result for us. The kids played really hard and showed a great deal of character. We didn't really test the Adelphi keeper a great deal but at the end of the day we'll take the point and take the result and move on."

Southern will have a chance to claim the top spot in the Northeast-10 conference as they still have four games left and a matchup against Merrimack College lurking.

Southern will play its next home game on Wednesday Oct. 18 vs. Le Moyne College at 2 p.m.



The men's soccer team is now ranked No. 24 in the nation.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Women's Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Maria Weselyj (left) and Taylor McLaughlin (right) leave women's basketball with a big void this year.

scout us and try to guard [us]. On any given day we believe any of our players can step step up, and they will."

This year's roster includes one freshman, that Lynch referred to, Miranda Crenshaw, and Division I transfer Africa Williams, who comes to Southern after spending time at both Wagner College and Mohawk Valley Community College (New York). Murad is the lone senior on this year's team.

"Every team is different, but luckily most of our team is returning so integrating the three newcomers has been relatively easy as there are fifteen of us to help them out," Murad said. "We know every team in our conference presents a different set of challenges so we'll need to be prepared physically as well as mentally."

Lynch is confident the team can rebound off their 2016-17 performance and get further than the NE-10 Quarterfinals, saying two years ago the team went 19-11 and going into last year they also graduated several seniors so the younger student-athletes had to step into larger roles.

Said Lynch: "From last year's team we're just gonna keep taking steps forward. We feel that we're moving in the right direction so we're definitely excited about this year."

Transfers make impact for football team



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

John Sullivan and Nasir Williams have been two transfers that have helped the football team this season.

By Kevin Crompton

The term walk-on and underdog go hand in hand. As a walk-on, you were not highly recruited by the coaches. You were not offered a large amount of money to play for the school and you certainly were not singing and skipping down the yellow brick road to a nice comfortable starting position on the depth chart.

Southern football's 2017 roster does not currently have any true walk-ons; however, a few transfer players have been trying to make a name for themselves this season.

Junior linebacker John Sullivan from Wethersfield was added to the roster as a transfer in the spring of 2017, and is already benefiting the team. Senior captain and quarterback Ray Catapano has taken note of Sullivan's early impact.

"Sully plays on special teams and has been making some plays out there this year on the field," said Catapano. "Whether it's in practice or in the games he's been contributing to the team's success."

Head coach Tom Godek also weighed in:

"John's been in some packages for the defense," said Godek. "There's a little bit of experience ahead of him right now, but as we move forward I think with another spring practice under his belt, that can be a spot that

he can help us in or at least somewhere out there on the defense."

Sullivan previously attended the University of Rhode Island where he was a member of the football team. He graduated from Xavier High School where he was a captain, All-state selection, and helped the team win two state titles. Sullivan says the process of joining the SCSU football team went smoothly in his case.

"I first contacted my coach from Xavier and then he contacted [Godek] for me," said Sullivan. "Then he got back to me and said, 'yeah they'll take you.'"

Sullivan also commented on how being a part of the team has enhanced his experience at SCSU.

"I have a lot more friends," said Sullivan. "I never really had to go out and join a club to meet people. From playing football I already know at least 90 guys."

Junior wide receiver, Nasir Williams, had a slightly different take on the transfer experience.

"It's easy to do, but it does take time and there's a lot of chance involved in it," said Williams regarding the walk-on/team transfer process. "There's always a chance that they like you or they don't, that you fit with the team or you don't. It can either go really well or really bad."

Luckily for Williams, he fit in right away.

"They really take you in as one of their own once you get on the team," said Williams. "They all look out for you and they all treated me well once I got here."

Catapano said that Sullivan, Williams and other players of the like are consistently benefiting the team.

"In practice they're always giving the starters a good look on the scout team," said Catapano. "They're always doing their best to make us better."

Catapano also encourages students who are looking to walk-on to have the courage to talk to him or other members of the team that they might have in class or see around on campus.

"We kind of just point them in the direction of the coach and tell them where to go and who to talk to," said Catapano. "The rest is in the coach's hands to see if they like them and feel if they're able to play at this level and if it works out we'll see them on the field. So far for a few of them it's worked out."

For anyone looking to walk-on in future seasons, Williams had some encouraging words of advice.

"Make sure it's something that you want to do," said Williams. "You can't play the game, especially in college, without it being something that you want to do. Keep your head up no matter how hard it looks because it's going to be hard most of the time."

Packers are in trouble

By Phil Zoppi

Aaron Rodgers may be out for the season and that means the Green Bay Packers season is over.

Rodgers rolled out to the right Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings, but before he knew it there was a defender driving him into the ground. If anyone is familiar with the collarbone injuries that Tony Romo suffered in his career, the play looked exactly like that.

There is no NFL team that relies on their quarterback as much as the Packers do, and it is hard to imagine the team performing anywhere near the level they did with Rodgers in the lineup.

Green Bay will most likely turn to former UCLA quarterback Brett Hundley. Hundley has rarely seen any time in the NFL as he only has 11 career pass attempts. Maybe Hundley will surprise and become one of the many thriving young quarterbacks that are in the

NFL today, but no one can make the argument he is going to play on the level that Aaron Rodgers has been.

Now, not all hope is lost for the Packers. Rodgers suffered the same type of injury in 2013 and was back in time for a week 17 win and in game against the Chicago Bears. In 2013, Rodgers suffered his collarbone injury in week nine and was able to return just eight weeks later.

If Rodgers is going to make another comeback in late December, the Packers are

going to have to find some way to stay in playoff contention while their leader is gone. Guys like Jordy Nelson, Ty Montgomery and Davante Adams are going to have to step up and make plays. It is not going to be easy because Hundley does not get to throw to the starting wide receivers on a regular basis. There will be an adjustment period that Packers fans have to hope does not take too long, or their season could be over.



Phil Zoppi - Sports Editor

SCSU swimming vs. Iona College



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Southern's Jhony Gonzalez dribbling the ball against Adelphi.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Blaise Haba controlling the ball against Adelphi on Wednesday night.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Louis Greenway-Tambini (left) and Blaise Haba (right) arguing a call.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A Southern defender tries to stop an Adelphi player on Wednesday night.

Northeast-10 Standings

MEN'S FOOTBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
ASSUMPTION	5	5-0	1.000	6	6-0	1.000
NEW HAVEN	5	4-1	0.800	6	5-1	0.833
BENTLEY	5	4-1	0.800	6	4-2	0.667
LIU POST	5	3-2	0.600	6	4-2	0.667
PACE	5	2-3	0.400	6	3-3	0.500
STONEHILL	5	2-3	0.400	6	3-3	0.500
AMERICAN INT'L	5	2-3	0.400	6	2-4	0.333
MERRIMACK	5	2-3	0.400	6	2-4	0.333
SO. CONNECTICUT	5	1-4	0.200	6	1-5	0.167
SAINT ANSELM	5	0-5	0.000	6	0-6	0.000

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NEW HAVEN	8	8-0	1.000	20	13-7	0.650
AMERICAN INT'L	7	6-1	0.857	21	13-8	0.619
ADELPHI	5	4-1	0.800	17	8-9	0.471
BENTLEY	8	6-2	0.750	20	14-6	0.700
SAINT ANSELM	8	6-2	0.750	20	13-7	0.650
SO. CONNECTICUT	7	4-3	0.571	21	16-5	0.762
STONEHILL	7	4-3	0.571	17	7-10	0.412
PACE	6	2-4	0.333	21	8-13	0.381
FRANKLIN PIERCE	6	2-4	0.333	17	4-13	0.235
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	7	2-5	0.286	16	6-10	0.375
ASSUMPTION	7	2-5	0.286	16	4-12	0.250
MERRIMACK	5	1-4	0.200	19	4-15	0.211
LE MOYNE	6	1-5	0.167	18	8-10	0.444
SAINT MICHAEL'S	6	1-5	0.167	11	1-10	0.091
SAINT ROSE	5	0-5	0.000	20	9-11	0.450

Southern reacts to hurricane aftermath in Puerto Rico



PHOTO COURTESY | THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY SGT. JOSE AHIRAM DIAZ-RAMOS

Puerto Rican residents in Condado, San Juan walking through the flooded streets on Sept. 22, 2017 after Hurricane Maria.

By Micaela Valentin

Hurricane Maria ravaged the island of Puerto Rico only four weeks ago, yet it still feels like a lifetime, for the people of Puerto Rico who are without power, food and water, and have little hope for what lies ahead in their future and the future of the island.

The reality that the island of Puerto Rico is facing is a tragic one. After the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico is in a state of urgency.

Families all over the island of Puerto Rico have lost contact with their loved ones. They are rationing their food because they do not know how soon they will get the help they need, according to an NBC article titled "Puerto Rico: Where Millions of Citizens Are Still Rationing Food."

They have lost their homes, and everything they own, and now they are starting to lose hope.

Puerto Ricans are in critical need of supplies, and support from the United States government. Unfortunately, the relief efforts, are not coming fast enough.

Meanwhile, Trump pats himself on the back by continuing to say, "We've done an incredible job, and that's the truth," according to a CBS New York article titled, "Trump Tours Storm-Ravaged Puerto Rico; Death Toll Number Rises."

Puerto Rico is in trouble, and that is no fake news. People are dying and instead of making a diligent effort to provide them vital resources to survive, Donald Trump diminishes the effects that Maria has had, and continues to have, on the people of Puerto Rico, by referring to Hurricane Katrina as, "a real catastrophe" in contrast to Hurricane Maria.



PHOTO COURTESY | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY SGT. JOSE DIAZ-RAMOS

President Donald Trump visiting Carolina, Puerto Rico, Oct. 3, 2017.

President Donald Trump visited Puerto Rico on Oct. 3, only to make a mockery of the damage caused by Hurricane Maria. During his trip to Puerto Rico, Trump threw rolls of paper towels into a crowd of Puerto Ricans and considered it a job well done, according to an NBC article titled, "Trump Throws Paper Towels to Hurricane Victims in Puerto Rico."

Trump continued to further diminish the catastrophic events of Hurricane Maria and its effects on the island by



PHOTO COURTESY | U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY BY P. ETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DAVID MICALFE

Support relief in Borinquen, Puerto Rico in support of Hurricane Maria to the residents of Moca, Puerto Rico on Oct. 9, 2017.

referencing to their cry for help as a negative impact towards his budget.

"I hate to tell you Puerto Rico but you've thrown our budget a little out of whack because we've spent a lot of money on Puerto Rico," Trump said, according to a CNBC segment titled, "Trump: Puerto Rico has thrown budget 'out of whack'."

What is not being said by Trump is that America makes billions of dollars off of the shipping in Puerto Rico every year through the Jones Act, according to a New York Times article titled, "The Jones Act: The Law Strangling Puerto Rico."

Without the Jones Act, Puerto Rico's debt would not exist. People in Puerto Rico are dying, yet Trump deems it more important to address their debt and overlook the deaths, according to a Washington Post article titled, "Did President Trump add \$33 million to Puerto Rico's debt by bankrupting a golf course there?"

Trump's visit to Puerto Rico did not provide aid at a critical time for Puerto Rico, nor did he empathize for those who have lost everything. Instead he made comments like, "Have a great time", in a time of crisis, according to a Washington Post article titled, "Trump hails 'incredible' response in 'lovely' trip to storm-torn Puerto Rico."

Donald Trump did not provide support, his relief efforts were appalling and his treatment of the Puerto Rican people was even worse. Rather than helping them during a time of need, he told them that their tragedy was not big enough. Trump is failing the people of Puerto Rico by allowing them to suffer alone when so much more could be done.

The crisis caused by Hurricane Maria is one that not only affects those in Puerto Rico, but also people here in the United States. Friends and family to those who live in Puerto Rico feel a sense of despair when trying to find solutions.

Four weeks post Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico has yet to see the help that they so desperately need in order to survive. The United States government's efforts have been slow and insufficient, according to a Washington Post article titled, "A week after Hurricane Maria, government relief is slow to reach Puerto Ricans."

"I've already given money. I still feel helpless. It's going to be a long road, a very long road. I feel like we're going to have to do this on our own," said Assistant Director of Academic Transfer students, Ana Rivera-Alfaro.

Although FEMA is currently in Puerto Rico, they are not responding to the disaster in a timely manner. They are not treating this dire humanitarian crisis with the attention that it deserves. Instead, they are misappropriating taxpayer dollars to get manicures and pedicures.

While people are in crisis and dying from bacterial infections that could be treated, FEMA somehow makes time to have a spa day, according to an MSNBC segment titled "Doctor quits Puerto Rico medical relief team over 'spa day.'"

There are resources in Puerto Rico such as the US Comfort, yet FEMA fails to get United States citizens in Puerto Rico on board to receive treatment.

President Donald Trump has also downplayed the severity of the catastrophic events continuing to unfold in Puerto Rico. Rather than guaranteeing support for United States citizens in Puerto Rico who are in dire need, Trump says, "We cannot keep FEMA, the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. forever," according to a CNN article titled, "Trump: We cannot aid Puerto Rico 'forever.'"

Students realize that Puerto Rico needs all of the help it can get, which is why fifteen different organizations have collaborated to put together a bake sale that will raise funds to send to Puerto Rico. They are also collecting items such as: canned food, water bottles, insect repellent, and more.

President of the Organization of Latin American Students Anthony Deleon said while he is not Puerto Rican himself, watching the tragedy unfold for those personally connected with the tragedy is terrible.

"It's devastating. With limited things being done to help them out, it kind of hurts," said Deleon. "I'm not Puerto Rican myself, but I have a lot of friends who are. Seeing them not being able to communicate with their family is tough."

Treasurer of OLAS, Olivia Moreno said her organization is doing as much as they can to help Puerto Rico, as they are in dire need.

"I feel terrible. An entire island has been wiped out of power and it's hard to get supplies to them. We're doing our best to do as much as we can to help Puerto Rico because they really need it right now," said Moreno.

Carlos Torre, an education professor, said the government support does not match the community effort, where Connecticut locals have gone above and beyond.

"The hurricane relief is much, much better than what the government is doing," said Torre. "Citizens have gone out there and done some really amazing things. In New Haven alone, we've raised close to one hundred thousand dollars."

"Everybody was clear that this isn't a one shot deal. It's not even just going to be a week or, two. This is going to take months, and maybe even the rest of the year to help them enough," said Torre.

Although people feel like they are not in a position to help Puerto Rico, any donation, big or small, can help to alleviate their suffering.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

PHOTO

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Students flock to Owl Fest



Owl Fest event taking place in the Residence Life quad on Sunday, Oct. 15.



Shawn McFarlane, a sophomore journalism major, getting his deep fried Oreos.



Line of students waiting to receive deep fried Oreos.



Apples being provided at the event.



Derek Stiffler, a sophomore computer science major, being painted by Joslynn Eskierski, a junior public health major.



Janaisha Twye, a freshman accounting major, working the Neff dormitory table.



DJ playing music in front of Wilkinson Hall at Owl Fest.