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SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

OCTOBER 19, 2022

VOL. 62— ISSUE 7

Owls' end their six game losing streak

**By Ben Martin
Sports Writer**

Governor Lamont attended the Owls' first win of the season against Franklin Pierce University, as he flips the coin for the pregame coin toss.

The Owls just had a 22-yard completion from quarterback Marc Reali, a sophomore, to wide receiver Joshua Nieves. The Owls came to the new line of scrimmage after not huddling, knowing they were going to call a run play.

However, the run they called was not a handoff to the running back. Instead, Reali took the ball up the middle on a quarterback run. With the defense not expecting it, Reali was able to run through the middle untouched for a 17-yard touchdown and the Owls were on the board with a 7-0 lead.

"It's pretty easy to run straight," Reali said.

Reali combined that rush with nine more totaling 65 yards, and he added six completed passes for 141 yards and a passing touchdown leading the Owls to a 37-20 win over the Franklin Pierce Ravens on Saturday. With the win, the Owls gained the first win of the season on a special game in the homecoming game.

"I am so happy for the players and the coaches," Owls' Head Coach Tom Godek said. "Every day we come back out here and try to get the first win."

Along with Coach Godek, Reali was pleased that the Owls got their first win in the books.

"It's a big win. Coming in 0-6 we need this one bad," Reali said. "We did

everything we said we were going to do, and we got the win."

After Reali's rushing touchdown, the Owls had another electric scoring play. The Owls forced a punt from the Ravens on a fourth down and 16 with just over eight and a half minutes left in the first quarter. The punt was corralled at the 18-yard line by punt returner and wide receiver Tylon Papallo, a senior. From there, Papallo bounced it to the outside and turned on the jets as he ran 82 yards for the score putting the Owls on top 14-0.

On top of the kick return touchdown, in the second quarter, Papallo added a 49-yard touchdown off of some trickery. The play started at the Ravens 49 where Reali handed the ball to running back Shawn Martin, a sophomore. After receiving the ball, Martin passed the ball back to Reali who then threw a 49-yard bomb down the middle of the field to Papallo for the Owls' 4th score and third touchdown.

"I am not surprised," Papallo said. "It's what I am supposed to do."

Along with Reali and Papallo, running back Jordan Davis, a sophomore, totaled 10 carries for 65 yards and a score averaging 6.5 yards per carry.

"Hopefully now the players can see what it takes to play a complete game," Owls' Head Coach Tom Godek said. "They played some complementary football and good things came with it."

The next part of the Owls' complete game

came from the defense. The defense had an interception at the start of the third quarter by outside linebacker Richard Williams Jr., a senior. In addition to Williams Jr., outside linebacker Joe Digello, a junior, had a big game for the Owls; recording two sacks with one causing a fumble.

Along with the defense, the Owls' special teams unit added key scores. Owls' kicker Szymon Gawlick, a junior, put three field goals in for the Owls.

Along with the Owls' win, this was the last homecoming game for captain and tight end Tim O'Shea, a graduate student. O'Shea, who transferred to the university from UCONN, has been a big impact for the Owls on and off the field in two seasons.

"I'm happy we could get it done, especially, with the great atmosphere the school put on for us today," O'Shea said. "It could not have been a better homecoming; we took advantage of the opportunity and made the school and our alumni proud."

Regardless of the outcome of any game, there will always be a game the following week for the Owls football team.

"We just have to keep playing as a unit, and if we keep doing that, we are going to keep getting wins," Papallo said.

Along with Papallo, Coach Godek is looking for more complete football games from the Owls.

"Hopefully we can build some momentum," Godek said. "We are going to be all systems heading into next week."



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Owls player Andreas Picarelli punting the ball.



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Owls defense stopping the Ravens' "Run" play.



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Owl players shaking hands with Ravens to show good sportsmanship post-game.

SEOP founder James Barber recognized as he retires

**By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief**

Director of Community Engagement Jim Barber is retiring from the university and due to everything he has done, they honored him and the program he helped found at the anniversary event.

"The person who really runs this place is Jim Barber," President Joe Bertolino said.

The event was held at the Aqua Turf and had 400 people, 59 of them being students. Many

alumni attended the event to celebrate the 58th anniversary of the Southern Educational Opportunity Program, also known as SEOP, and Barber who helped them when they attended the university.

"The Southern Educational Opportunity Program or SEOP, which has always been about access and opportunity for our students and Mr. Barber a devoted tireless and change making member of the Southern family for over 58 years,

six decades," Bertolino said.

Barber was one of the few students of color to graduate from university in 1964.

"Today 47% of the students at Southern Connecticut State University identify as students of color. We will within the next couple of years officially become a minority serving institution," Bertolino said.

The first 50 students for SEOP launched in the summer of 1972. The program was created to help students who are

underrepresented and support them so they can gain admittance to the university.

"As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Southern Educational Opportunity Program, we thank him and his vision and his dedication to ensure that everyone, and I mean everyone, who wanted a degree from higher education was given the opportunity and place to achieve it," Alumnus Col. Adele Hodges, said.

She thanked him for being her mentor and supporting her when she was at the university.

"I'm very grateful for everything that it has given me. It not only got me into college and where I am, but it gave me friends and familiar faces around campus," social work major Ariana Lopez, a senior, said.

Following Lopez speaking, Jason Edwards created a video, "Love letter to Jim Barber," that had alumni, faculty, friends and family of Barber thanking him and wishing him a happy retirement.

"There are two important dates in our lives. The day

we are born, the other day is the day you know why, and it was because of this man working for him, teaching me, guiding me and directing me I was able to fly without wings and I wanted to do what he was doing here a career," alumnus Renee Barnett Terry said. "And he's encouraged me to consider the field go to the library research; that field and I ended up at University of Southern California. I have always envisioned that every student I meet as a professional that I will help them as this man helped me and that I will always be that light for students wherever I am as he was for me."

English major Emmanuel Akuamo, a junior, spoke about what the SEOP program has done to help him and how he figured out the path he wants to take throughout college and in the professional world. He talked about what it was like to see faculty who are people of color and how it made him feel like he belonged.

"It helped me realize my own potential, my self-

confidence and ultimately my belief and for that I'm forever grateful," Akuamo said.

University Access Programs Director Dawn Stanton spoke about her experience running the program currently and how she was a student who took part in the program too.

The university has created a fundraiser in Barber's name to continue the success of underrepresented students to get their degrees. Barber and his wife, Doris, were also given a statue of an owl.

"The SEOP program has helped approximately 3,000 students over the past 50 years. So many of us have gone on to earn multiple degrees and enjoy meaningful careers," Stanton said. "We've gone on to raise our kids and our grandkids illuminating how SEOP positively impacts not just individuals but generations. My own career is evidence. Not just SEOP's positive outcomes but of the ethos that Mr. Barber baked into the program."



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

James Barber getting an owl statue from President Joe as a thank you.

Students win big prizes at bingo night

By **Ali Fernand**
Features Editor
Bradley Robidoux
Contributor

Every night of homecoming week is an opportunity for fun and prizes. On Tuesday, Oct. 11, students had a chance to win AirPods Pros, a Nintendo Switch and a 40-inch TV by winning a game of bingo.

This was all a part of the Office of Student Involvement's "Signature Homecoming Events." This was a series of nightly events to prepare students for the homecoming football game.

"We're celebrating homecoming week, which is really fun," said graduate intern for the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Celina Hunter.

Bingo Night is one of the annual events that students can attend before the game. It is a popular event every year. The Student Involvement leaders have taken note of that.

"I hosted bingo last time we did it and basically

every chair was filled," said leadership graduate intern of Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Talia Lent. "So I'm hoping for the same."

The same happened for Bingo Night this week. Nearly every seat was filled in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. Students were hoping to win one of the 10 prizes that were up for grabs. Many were ready to win.

"I will win, I am confident I will win," said Psychology Major Alexandria DePaul, a senior.

Just like she said, before the game started, DePaul ended up being the winner of the 40-inch VIZIO TV. Since she lives in North Campus Residence, DePaul had to utilize the campus shuttle system to get the TV back to her dorm. She needed her friends to help her carry the TV down the student center.

Just as the graduate interns had said, the prizes are picked out to cater to the wants of students. This requires awareness of trendy items.

"We go to Target and



PHOTO | BRADLEY ROBIDOUX

Students playing bingo on their phones in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom on Oct. 11.

try to get a wide variety of prizes that we think students would like," Lent said.

The items for Bingo Night were electronics. There were prizes that appealed to students who like gaming, music and watching television. This included a record player, a karaoke machine and a Meta VR headset.

To even play bingo,

students had to scan a QR code on their phone. From there, the board would show up digitally.

"All of the students coming in are scanning a QR code and that way, they get their own sheet," Lent said.

Both Lent and Hunter took turns calling out different bingo board placements. All the placements were decided by a computer generator. As soon

as students got five across, down or diagonally, they would raise their hand and yell out.

There were many strong reactions in the crowd. Students would yell and sigh as the numbers were called. There were prizes on the line.

"I'm always energized when there are prizes," said English Major Deja Bynoe, a senior.

The ballroom was almost completely full of students wanting to win the prizes.

Bingo was scheduled to take two hours from 8pm to 10pm. This was because they were planning on doing many rounds.

"We're doing 10 rounds and each round is going to have a prize," Lent said.

However, the rounds went by very fast and the entire event ended before 9pm. Despite this event being brief, Student Involvement had something planned for students every day leading up to the homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 15.

"Our office is hosting an event each night Monday through Friday leading up to homecoming," Lent said.

This includes both events that students have seen in previous years and new events. The team at Student Involvement collaborate with other organizations to put on the events. This includes the pep rally that took place on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

"I think homecoming is going well I know a lot of students are excited," Hunter said.

A hidden gem on campus

By **Hailey Roy**
Contributor

An outfit for the workplace, cold winter nights, college classes and a plethora of other occasions are available for college students at no cost in the Sexual and Gender Equality Center (S.A.G.E.).

"It's one of the best-kept secrets on campus," said 22-year-old S.A.G.E. Center Graduate Intern Brandon Iovene. "It really is surprising for some people who come in and are like wow! I can get several outfits and be able to clothe myself for any season, any occasion, any type of environment at any time."

Along with clothes, the open-door closet also supplies shoes in many sizes, tampons, pads, jewelry, face masks and other beauty/health products.

The S.A.G.E. Center only provides clean clothes to students. The clothes accepted are thoroughly checked for stains, rips or any other damages. The items containing damages are thrown away, although some items are given to other donation places.

"We want to make sure any clothes we don't use ourselves are donated to an ethical corporation that really prioritizes the similar missions we have," Iovene said.

The center plans on looking into more donation places and their ethics as they remove clothing from the closet that has been there for too long.

"We want to make sure we're bringing our places that people will really benefit," Iovene said.

Sociology Major Rain Iaccarino, a junior, has donated to the open-door closet four times.

"It's pretty cool to donate. I've taken clothes from here before so it's like a recycling system of you give back and then take things you want," Iaccarino said.

A huge part of the open-door closet is to provide gender-affirming clothing.



PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

Jasper Dunman (left) and Brandon Iovene (right) organizing and looking through clothing in the open door closet on Wednesday Sept. 28.

"For a lot of our LGBTQ+ peers on campus, a lot of people are coming from different places which is why Southern is a very large community of intersexual identities," Iovene said. "With that comes a lot of people questioning who they are, what their identity is and how they want to explore that and express that. Gender-affirming clothing is a huge aspect."

The closet has a large range of traditionally masculine clothing and traditionally feminine clothing.

"A lot of students find the clothes to be very affirming for their own identities and it helps them get a concrete feel of how they want to present themselves in the world as they gain their independence in college," Iovene explained.

An 18-year-old studying studio art with a concentration in jewelry, Jasper Duman, a freshman, has used the open-door closet multiple times.

"Having that help to find gender-affirming clothing for free has been extremely helpful," Duman said. "It allows people who have been through many walks of life to pick out clothes free to them for whatever reason they need."

Dunman was shocked the first time he saw the open-door closet in the S.A.G.E. Center due to how

full of clothes it was.

Picking up items from the open door does not involve any questioning. Students can grab and go without having to give back anything in return. This is so students are not put in an uncomfortable situation.

"We don't want anyone to have to disclose that they might be experiencing financial insecurity or might not be able to have the resources to go out and get their own clothes," Iovene said. "Being a college student is super expensive, so you want to make sure people have an opportunity to save money, focus on their academics but also have the stuff that they need."

As of right now, the center wants to keep the momentum going. Additionally, they want to accelerate the closet.

Currently, the S.A.G.E. Center is looking for winter clothing as well as professional clothing for the winter season.

"We're mainly going for more winter clothes. Jackets tend to be really expensive, and it could get pretty cold up here. We're also looking for sweatpants and leggings or any long pants that are warm is also helpful," Dunman said. "We're always looking for professional clothing for job interviews because professional clothing is very expensive."

Gamers react to new games

By **Ali Fernand**
Features Editor

It is an exciting time for gamers at the university. Huge gaming companies such as Rockstar Games, Nintendo and PlayStation have all had news to share with fans.

Rockstar- Students have been anticipating news on popular titles. However, there have been unexpected events. Just last week, it was revealed that the popular game Grand Theft Auto V (GTA V) was hacked. GTA V is a story and online game where players can perform heists, steal cars and run from police.

"From what I understand, there was a kid in the UK who recently gained backfiles that are in 'GTA V' and clips of 'GTA VI,'" said Biotechnology Major Miles Bagoly, a senior.

This was announced by the developer of 'GTA,' Rockstar Games. They stated on Twitter that an illegal third party accessed and downloaded confidential information. This included the source code of 'GTA V' and footage from the sixth game that they are currently developing. Fans of the game are afraid that this leak will push the game back even further.

"I could see 'GTA VI' being delayed for another year, because they will have to change a lot of the work they already put into it," Bagoly said.

This controversy has raised conversation around what game development looks like. Bagoly said that just because early game footage does not look great, it does not represent how the game will look when it is finished. Game developers were able to declare solidarity and ease the concerns of fans.

"A lot of developers are taking a stand with Rockstar and releasing their early game footage," Bagoly said.

The news about the

"GTA V" hacker was released in the same week that companies were teasing new games. Nintendo and PlayStation - both big names in gaming-hosted showcases revealing new titles.

Nintendo- "I'm looking forward to the Square Enix games; I love all of them," said Computer Science Major Anthony Jenkins, a sophomore. "I'm really excited for Bayonetta 3."

Nintendo Direct is a brief showcase of video game trailers. This one lasted about 45 minutes. There were over 15 games teased that students could anticipate.

Square Enix and Bayonetta are highly anticipated by Nintendo fans. Some mainstream Nintendo titles showed off in this stream were 'The Legend of Zelda,' 'Mario Kart,' 'Kirby' and 'Splatoon.'

"They have a lot of really strong titles, but they don't really try to innovate for those titles," said Business Information Systems Major Jason Summerfield, a senior.

Many of the titles that Nintendo works on have existed for decades. For young adults, these were games that existed during their childhood. Nostalgia is tied to these long running series. However, students feel a lack of enthusiasm when it comes to their new developments.

"In terms of Mario Kart and Smash Bros, it has been pretty bad," said Secondary Education Major Nick Vitale, a senior.

Nintendo has announced

the third wave of Mario Kart 8 downloadable content set for December 2022. The last update for Super Smash Bros Ultimate was released in October 2021. Nintendo is not the only one with disappointed fans. PlayStation has begun to concern fans because they have released games that were exclusive to them on PC.

PlayStation- "I'm not sure that it's a strong business decision to put some of their exclusives on PC," Summerfield said. "I think PlayStation is at its best when it is holding onto those exclusives really tight."

Despite their business decisions, PlayStation games still have games that students are looking forward to.

Jenkins is excited for a few PlayStation games: 'Forsaken,' 'Skull and Bones,' 'Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2' and 'Overwatch.'

At the PlayStation State of Play, SONY announced that they were working on a remake of Resident Evil IV. This is a popular horror series that was originally released in 2002.

"Resident Evil is one of my favorite franchises," said Summerfield. "It feels pretty outdated, so when they announced a remake, I was really hyped."

However, students remain optimistic about the current state of gaming. This year has included releases of the games 'Elden Ring,' 'Cult of the Lamb' and 'Stray.'

"For games, this year is really good," Jenkins said.



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Students playing games on the PCs in the Esports room in the Adanti Student Center on Sept. 26.

Hopeless romantics have no place on campus

By Ali Fernand
Features Editor

You would think as a bisexual woman I would have an easy time dating on campus. I have the world of options: men, women, people who are non-binary; I do not care. However, I feel like I can never find that connection on campus.

Nearly everyone I have dated or “it’s complicated” situation I’ve had in my over two years of college life has been off campus. I feel like I constantly must

go out of my way to meet people that I really like. Between beginning college during COVID-19 and now being a commuter, I have not really had the chance to socialize on campus.

All the friendships I have made have been with clubs or people I consistently have classes with. To be honest, I cannot even say that I have made enough friends.

When I was in high school, I would always fantasize about how sociable I would be in college. I had this idea in my head that this would

be the time where I would meet the people I have the strongest connections with. While I have met a lot of great people, that perfect vision in my head was not what came about.

My social anxiety only grew with COVID-19. Now that events are starting to go back to normal, I am having a hard time doing what I imagined I would be doing. I show up to these events and often shut down and become shy. There is something holding me back from mingling. I feel judged when I am in public and I feel overwhelmed at the

possibility of having to go through getting to know someone.

Dating is not easy. It requires effort and being vulnerable. While I have done those things, it required tools like the internet and dating apps. I am unbelievably sick of meeting people online. It often leads to terrible experiences and weird people. Men, specifically, are different in real life from how they portray themselves on the internet.

I wish there were more opportunities to meet people on campus who

have things in common with me. Or maybe people can just generally be friendlier to me.

I try to be friendly to everyone I encounter. Not in a flirty way (that is only on occasion), but I want to offer connections to everyone. I like having people around campus who I am just generally friendly with. However, this friendliness is often not extended.

Many people are rude and look at me weirdly. It could be in my head, but I often feel discouraged from even extending my

kindness to others.

This makes it hard for me as someone who is hoping to connect with people without feeling like I am forcing anything. But as of recently, that is a challenge that I am willing to embrace. As of now I know I am happier living my single life not forcing myself to make connections.

I have deleted all dating apps off my phone. No more “so what music do you like?” conversations on Tinder. I am up for the challenge of naturally meeting the right person.

Expand the food court in the Adanti student center

By Joey Merly
Copy Editor

As a commuter student, I do not go to the university’s eating establishments as often as residents. However, I do like the eating options and I tend to use the food court at Adanti Food Center a lot. In order to save money, sometimes, I pack my own food and bring it to school. Either way, I am at the university long enough where if I do not eat, it will be a problem.

I have also gone to Connecticut Hall but I do not like the food there as much. However,

Connecticut Hall has many more food options than the food court.

Aesthetically, the food court is well designed. It is an open space with tables that are regularly sanitized. Many students tend to congregate there and it functions very well as a social environment for students to meet and converse in. It also has tall windows which let in all the outside light. This gives a bright, exuberant vibe.

The service of the food court is executed in a very timely manner, and they always get your order right. I do not see many if any people complaining about the staff or the speed

at which people get their orders for food.

The food court has multiple options such as the famous chicken tenders and fries and burritos. You can put many different combinations of food items in the burritos, subs and wraps. Personally, my favorite is the chicken wrap. However, I believe that the food court lacks enough options.

Connecticut Hall has a lot more options from pizza, pasta, lasagna, ice-cream and many more. Those aforementioned items are not offered in the Adanti Student Center. I think it is important for the food court to expand its options,

particularly, because Connecticut Hall tends to be the place for residents as they have breakfast, lunch and dinner. That is unlike the food court, where all the food is closed at 4:30 pm and it opens at 11:00am, except for Dunkin’ which, understandably, has longer hours. So, there are no breakfast or dinner options.

I would argue that the food court should have many of the options that Connecticut Hall offers. This way, in case certain students do not enjoy the food at Connecticut Hall, they have more options available to them at Adanti Student Center. It is also

logical given that the food court and Connecticut Hall are the only two major dining areas on campus. Therefore, they should be similar to the number of options they have and their hours.

It would be better if the food court had more options because I think it should operate as a place for commuters. Of course residents should be able to use it but many commuters may have to stay for later classes in the evening. In that case, they should have more options at the food court if they do not like the options at Connecticut Hall.

For example, if a student has a class from 6:25 pm–

7:40pm and they have a 30-minute drive, they may want to arrive at the university early enough to eat food and, obviously, be there in time for class. If a student does not prefer the options at Connecticut Hall, it is only fair for the food court to expand its hours so that their options are available for a commuter in that similar kind of situation.

Additionally, some commuters may have friends who are residents. Consequently, they may want to have meals with residents and it is fairer if they have more food options to engage in those activities.

The university is disingenuous to minority students

By Destene Savariau
News Editor

The university prides itself on being a progressive campus and an ally to all as it labels itself a “Social Justice” university. However, I do not think this is the case. If anything, their so-called “efforts” feel disingenuous as the school only takes credit for what the organizations and clubs on campus do while simultaneously not giving them the support they need.

For example, the Multicultural Center acts as a home base for all interfaith

clubs and multicultural clubs such as the Black Student Union, Caribbean Student Association, Asian Culture Society, Hillel, Newman Society and Campus Crusade for Christ.

Despite this, this haven for many students and organizations does not have nearly enough space they need. When it hosts events, students are crammed together in the room like sardines which becomes a massive fire hazard.

Yet the Multicultural Center’s concerns and suggestions fall upon deaf ears as they ask for more space

and more funding.

There is also the issue of the large disconnect between students due to a lack of equality. The university prioritizes giving a platform and voice to minorities, and only minorities. Do not get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with giving minorities a chance to speak. However, if you are also silencing other groups like the large majority then there is no space for varying perspectives. It is also hypocritical as it simply switches the positions of power between the disenfranchised and the majority.

For example, the university recognizes Indigenous People’s Day but does not recognize Italian Heritage Appreciation which is on the same day. This is the perfect example of the minority being given a platform over another group. The university does not realize that when you silence one to prop up another, it just adds more fuel to the fire as opposed to mediate the discourse.

Some students are bound to feel unrepresented and forgotten as if their problems do not matter as much just because they do not go

through the same things in society. However, if the university were really committed to being an inclusive campus that welcomes varying perspectives, then everyone should be included.

If minorities are given a platform at the risk of taking it away from others, then it does not feel genuine. Both sides should have an equal platform and a chance to speak. Otherwise, it just feels like brown-nosing as if they are only giving minorities a platform to claim allyship and look better and feel superior to

others. Like when people put #BlackLivesMatter in the bio but never went to any marches or donated any money; it is done for clout.

I feel as if I was drawn for the sake of their diversity quota, only to be surprised when it was not the “HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) of Connecticut” as they previously advertised themselves at Housatonic Community College.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff.

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
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Ultimate frisbee is back in full swing

By **Joey Merly**
Copy Editor
John Pisano
Contributor

The university's ultimate frisbee team is kicking off the new year. Frequently an underrated sport, the ultimate frisbee team has a new lineup and has just begun starting practices.

In lots of colleges around the country, ultimate frisbee is a lesser-known sport. It is similar to football, where there are several players on each team on a field about the size of a football field

attempting to score a touchdown.

However, there is no tackling. When passing the frisbee to one another, you catch it then stay where you are to pass it to the next player. It requires a lot of energy with a high amount of running, jumping and catching.

The team has players with a high amount of experience, very little or none at all.

Senior team captain of the club ultimate frisbee team, Christian Cavanagh, played ultimate in high school.

He never expected his

hobby to play a significant role in his life though.

"I played Ultimate frisbee in high school actually," said Cavanagh. "When I had the opportunity in high school to branch out and try something new, I decided to take the time and effort to try it."

Psychology Major Ivan Teplyakov, a freshman, has never played ultimate before.

"The whole point was to jump up, catch the frisbee, see if you can. After you do it, you would get approached by Dom, the team captain, and he

told me that I should join," Teplyakov said. "I never played the sport, but I heard about it a lot. So, I thought minus well join; give it a shot."

Since joining the team, Teplyakov says his skills in ultimate have improved "astronomically."

"So far, it's been better than anything," Teplyakov said. He said it is a great opportunity to bond and make friends with people. Similar to many clubs as an activity on the university campus, Teplyakov expresses this club as a great way to make friends.

Physical Education

Major Dominic D'Aurio, a sophomore and captain of the team, expresses that the team has been successful so far with new members.

"We have a lot of new faces showing up. It's always great to see new people," D'Aurio said. "We're preparing for some upcoming tournaments, and I think we'll do quite well at them."

D'Aurio, also, spoke about how new the team is as they have lost seniors since last year. He believes that new members have "a lot of potential." He expressed confidence in

the new team as a whole for this upcoming season.

The frisbee coach, Michael Schriefer, said a lot of players "had never touched the disc before, which is totally fine, but... in teaching them ultimate, it's a little quicker when they know the basics of the game."

Schriefer is the most experienced person on the ultimate frisbee team.

D'Aurio said, "If you go on Owl Connect, you can find our club there. Reach out to us and learn when our practice dates are and come out and meet the team."

Jones sets a program record for most assists

By **Jaylen Carr**
Sports Editor

Taylor Jones holds the single-program record for most assists at 57 in volleyball here on campus.

Jones set that record back on Nov. 6, 2022 playing against Assumption University. Jones's hometown of Middletown, New York was the place where she fell in love with

the game of volleyball thanks to her mom's best friend who was the high school volleyball coach.

"I had a really good experience with high school volleyball, and I think that's why it translated to college," said Jones.

Jones attended Pine Bush High School where she became an All-State and All-Conference selection. Jones, also, played multiple sports growing up.

"I played basketball, I ran track, and I played softball," Jones said. "Once volleyball started everything was out the window."

Jones also was surrounded by an athlete when she was growing up. Jones said that her father, James Jones, played quarterback at Lackawanna College in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Jones said that she appreciates her parents because of their support.

Setter and defensive specialists, Jones, junior is having a tremendous season this year. She had a 51-assist game back on Sept. 28, 2022, against Assumption University. Jones said she credits her teammates for her success this season.

"There is no way that I can get an assist if my hitters don't kill the ball and there's no way I can set my hitters if I don't get a good pass," said Jones.

She participates in the team's pre-game rituals, but she also has her own that she does before every game Jones said.

"I listen to the same songs every day before our games. I like the song '1942 Flows' by Meek Mill and I like to listen to Megan Tee Stallion because she pumps me up," Jones said.

Jones said she's been lucky to have great coaches her whole career so far. But the coach that has been most influential on her career is Namarie Gordan who was her club volleyball coach.

"He opened my eyes to a

new side of volleyball that I thought I knew. His way of play was a lot more free," Jones said.

Once Jones joined the university's volleyball team, she said that it was an adjustment at first because her club coach and her current head coach have different styles of teaching. Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said Jones is very athletic and quick to get the ball.

"She is very good in her decision making and keeping a quick tempo offense," said Barbaro. Coach Barbaro said Jones is a leader on the team because of the position she plays on the court.

"She has shown a lot of growth coming into this team," said Barbaro. "We are glad to have her, and I think she has made her mark in our program ever since she's gotten here." Outside Hitter Kacey Deecher, a junior, said Jones has been a great leader especially with the freshman on the team.

Deecher said, "She is one of the strongest leaders on the team. She always brings

good energy and a positive attitude."

Deecher said Jones is very athletic and encouraging. She is very easy to approach and talk to. "She wants what's best for the team at the end of the day and I feel like that's very important," said Deecher.

Deecher said she remembers one day where the team had a rough day at practice and Jones encouraged and motivated the team.

"She came to practice and she printed out all these inspirational quotes," said Deecher.

Jones would also send inspirational messages through the team's group chat every week to keep everyone inspired and driven, said Deecher. Deecher said not only she is a phenomenal player, but she is a phenomenal student as well.

"I'm most impressed by her taking on so much responsibilities especially at a young age," Deecher said. "She is a very well-rounded person."



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Setter and defensive specialist, Taylor Jones is setting during a game.

The best moment is yet to come with BTS in Busan

By **Sofia Rositani**
Editor-in-Chief

The best moment is yet to come...in Busan, which held a free BTS concert.

The World Expo is currently doing bids to organize the 2030 exposition, South Korea, Italy, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia. On Oct. 15 South Korea held a concert featuring BTS.

For those who have been living under a rock, BTS is a Korean Pop boy group created in South Korea. They have become one of the most influential groups with being invited to the United Nations to speak on mental health and recently the White House where they spoke to President Biden on stop Asian hate.

The group consists of seven members: RM or Kim Namjoon, leader and main rapper, Kim Seokjin, vocal and visual, Suga or Min Yoongi, lead rapper, J-Hope or Jung Hoseok, lead rapper and main dancer, Park Jimin, lead vocalist and main dancer, Kim Taehyung, vocalist and visual and Jeon Jungkook, main vocalist, lead dancer, sub rapper, face of the group and maknae, also known as the youngest member.

The event for the World Expo was a concert. Since the group's

"break," which does not feel like a break, this is their first performance together. The venue held 52,000 Army, the fanbase name, and dignitaries. Over 30 million watched all over the world in a free livestream, that crashed within 20 minutes of it starting.

I woke up at 3:40 am to get my computer prepared and to mentally prepare myself for this concert. Was I prepared? Absolutely. Did my computer crash? Absolutely. I was very annoyed because I woke up early to watch it with my Army Bomb light stick on the normal setting because the app, to connect it to my phone, also crashed due to the concert.

I did eventually watch it, thanking the people online who totally legally screen recorded it, and my mind was blown. As an old Army I was so sad to know they are retiring some of the songs they did perform especially since I never got to see it live and now never will.

They performed "Run BTS" for the first time ever and it was amazing. Their live vocals are no joke when dancing. The choreography at times made me laugh but then I hear RM rap "run beautiful," my heart skips a beat.

They performed old songs too such as "UGH," "Cypher Pt. 3," "Butterfly" and "Dope." These

songs, according to RM, will be retiring which is incredibly sad to hear. But then again, they also said they were taking a "break" and four months later here we are.

"At their concert this weekend, Jin revealed himself as the next member to share solo material, and announced he will be dropping a single shortly," Billboard reports. "I got the opportunity to work with someone I like, so a single will come out soon," Jin said, according to People Magazine.

I am excited to buy Seokjin's solo album even though my bank account will not. I also hope he dabbles in acting soon since many fans, including me, want to see him in a K-drama. It is still unknown when he is scheduled to go to the military, or if any member will be at all.

With their song "For Youth," it is a song for Army to remember that even when they are disbanded, they will always be there for us, and we will be there for them.

Same with "Yet to Come," this is a new chapter of BTS that we are all looking forward to as Army. BTS holds a huge piece of Army's heart. They taught us to love ourselves as we do for them. "Please use me. Please use BTS to love yourself," RM said.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

BTS Army bomb lightstick before the concert at 5 am.

Volleyball falls short to AIC 3-0

By Ben Martin
Sports Writer

It was a tough test for the Owls volleyball team Friday night as the top dogs of The Northeast 10 American International College (AIC) Yellow Jackets arrived.

Coming into the game, the Yellow Jackets had a record of 18-1, with their one loss coming almost two months ago to Bentley University.

"We were really nervous coming into this game," said Owls' setter Taylor Jones, a

junior. "AIC is such a powerful opponent." Although the Yellow Jackets may have been powerful, Jones did not see anything the Owls could not handle.

"I expected to come in here facing a bigger challenge," Jones said. "The fact that we could hang with them and we did not take that opportunity is really disappointing."

Although the Owls lost 3-0, Head Coach Lisa Barbaro believes there are some positives to take out of the game.

"We could have got down after that first set, but we battled back and had an opportunity to win the second set," Barbaro said. "[We] started to make some better decisions with the ball and finding the court."

Along with the Owls showing some heart and fight by battling back in set two, Barbaro had more takeaways for the rest of the season.

"AIC is one of the best offensive teams in the conference," Barbaro said. "We were able to dig up

a lot of balls and we were able to defend a lot better than we have in other sets."

Barbaro also said that distribution was another improvement from their matchup with the Yellow Jackets.

Even though the Owls did many things well, there are always places to improve. For example, the Owls' season-long problem of finishing sets poked its head out again.

"We really had them in the second set," said outside hitter Gabriella Gaibur, a

senior. "It was neck and neck and we did beat them by a few points but we kind of lost it towards the end."

Toward the end of the second set the Owls had a lead, but the Yellow Jackets took the next three points to tie.

"The problem that we have is we just need to be consistent and keep our energy up," Gaibur said. "Once someone makes one mistake, we all fall apart."

Jones said that she does not know when

the team will find it but they need to bring it out of them onto the court to be successful.

With film-watching and adjustments to the practice plan, the Owls should be able to bounce back said Barbaro and Gaibur.

"We just have to make these minor adjustments and make sure we keep our energy up throughout the entire match," Gaibur said. "Once we do that I think we will be good."

Column: On Rob Parker Event

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor



During Homecoming week here on campus, Southern alumnus Rob Parker came back home to give encouraging words to students, athletes, faculty and staff.

"From Print to Podcast: Rob Parker '86" was an event that was held in the ballroom at the Adanti Student Center on Oct. 14, 2022. The event opened with a video that told Rob Parker's life story.

He provided great advice that I will take to my future career in sports.

One piece of advice he gave was not to be afraid to fail. Growing up I was always afraid to fail and afraid of not living up to people's expectations, but Parker's advice resonated with me, and it changed my perspective.

His last advice he told us was to work hard. Having a blue-collar mindset will get you so far in life, especially in journalism, according to Parker.

One of my favorite hot takes from Parker was when he was on the widely renowned show on Fox Sports, called "Undisputed."

He had a tremendous debate with Shannon Sharpe and Skip Bayless back in Oct. 2016 about former Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre who at that time was going to be inducted into the Packers Ring of Honor.

Parker took a hilarious jab at Favre by saying, "When he comes out for the ceremony, they should allow him to throw an interception."

Seeing someone that graduated from the university with a degree in journalism and achieving things that I want to achieve is inspiring and motivating.

Also, seeing a man of color be successful in journalism and know so much about baseball is inspiring because there are not many African Americans that try to get to know about the sport. Parker is trying to change that which I love.

Parker has made it a priority to highlight Black and Brown major leaguers which inspires me to continue to cover baseball.

This event was amazing to attend because Parker provided advice and mentorship on those like me that want to be journalists which will resonate with me forever.

Hilpert scores season high in goals

By Avery Martin
Contributor

Midfielder, Yannick Hilpert, a sophomore became the university's first men's soccer player since 2014 to score a hat trick (three goals in one game) on Oct. 5th in a game against the University of New Haven. It was a proud moment for Hilpert.

"It was a great feeling to score three goals. In the end, if someone else scored three goals I would also be really happy. For me, getting the win against

New Haven was the most important thing. Scoring three goals was also really nice," Hilpert said.

Hilpert played soccer for the first time when he was just five years old, when he was introduced to the sport by friends back home in Den Haag, The Netherlands.

"I just loved it so much. Then I just focused on soccer, which is the thing I love the most," he said.

Hilpert spent most of his freshman season on the sidelines with an ankle injury he sustained in a pre-season game.



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Midfielder, Yannick Hilpert is practicing his skills on the Jess Dow Field.

"Last year was kind of difficult," he said. "It was pretty hard watching the guys playing, and just sitting on the sideline."

Since being cleared to play in the spring, Hilpert has made every effort to come back better than before.

Assistant Coach Sean O'Brien says having such an influential player back has been great for the team.

"Yannick this season has been good for us in terms of giving us an option at the front of the team. He's been someone for us who

can hold the ball up at the front of the team. He's someone that we look for when we are in attack," said O'Brien.

Business administration major, forward, Zico Groenveld, a sophomore, is Hilpert's roommate and teammate. They have both found comfort in being able to speak their native language Dutch to each other, and are from nearly the same region in The Netherlands.

"We have a lot of the same culture and we get along really well. I think it is nice

to have someone who you can be open with, because it is easier to talk to each other in the same language," Groenveld said. "He's a really good player. I think we linked up really well. He's a very smart player."

On Oct. 10th, Hilpert was named to the Northeast 10 Weekly Honor Roll.

"My days are pretty busy with practice, classes, then homework. But I think good time management and just being focused really helps," Hilpert said.



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Yannick Hilpert fights to get the ball from an opponent.

Womens soccer ties against Southern NH

By Matt Cain
Contributor
Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

Despite the Owls' comeback in the second half to tie the game, it was not enough to win the game.

This is now the Owls' third tie of the season which puts their overall record at 5-5-3 and 3-3-3 against Northeast 10 opponents.

The women's soccer team played a tough game against Southern New Hampshire. Southern New Hampshire (NH) jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, scoring less than 15 minutes into the game.

The Owls did not back down as they played with aggression and teamwork.

The Owls got out to a slow start in the first half. Forward Victoria Vera said, "We knew we had to come in and get stuff done. That was the main thing."

The Owls had a slow start, but they kept a good pace, playing fast and rough. They ended up with 13 fouls in the game,

11 of them came in the second half which means the Owls came out of the locker room ready to go.

Defensive player, Britt Verstegen scored a goal 8 minutes into the second half. Her teammates went crazy as did the side lines and the fans

The score from Verstegen happened to be her first of the season which motivated the Owls even more.

In the locker room coming into the second half, Vera said, "We must stay positive and don't hang our head." The outcome from that was Verstegen's unassisted goal.

With the game getting very intense, the coaching staff did not back down.

Head Coach Adam Cohen said, "We watch good films and watch different plays. We get a real good feel for what they do in games." Cohen stuck with the plays and the playbook, and it paid off.

Defense was the key to the comeback. Goalkeeper Abby Allen racked up 6 saves in the game, not



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Julia Alicea, a senior goes after the ball during the game against the opponent.

letting Southern New Hampshire score again.

Another big part of the game was the team chemistry between forwards Julia Alicea and Kelsey Burr, who would team up with the game tying goal by Alicea assisted by Burr.

This goal brought new energy and excitement for the crowd.

Defense and midfield player, Mackenzie McCormick said, "We were all hype. Checking back

into the game I knew that I had to raise up to that level of play."

This was an important game for the Owls because this was a Northeast (NE) 10 team and with a tie it will affect the team in the standings.

Cohen said, "I give full credit to the players. We didn't get the win, but they got themselves together and made it interesting."

The outcome of this game did not faze the team or the coach.

"We are looking forward to the next game. It's a short turn around so we are already preparing for our next opponent," Coach Cohen said. The game ended in a tie, but there were a lot of great outcomes.

The team was executing the best of its ability and stayed positive.

"They really stayed positive. We like to focus on the positive," said Cohen.

Buzz-A-Thon fundraising for Camp Rising Sun

Photos and Story By Sarah Shelton
Photo Editor

Sunshine and hair falling onto Buley Patio occurred on Thursday, Oct. 11 for Alpha Sigma Alpha's, ASA, annual "Buzz-a-Thon" event.

"Buzz-a-Thon" typically has students getting a full buzz cut in honor of cancer, but this year ASA offered \$10 haircuts as a way to raise more money for their charity, Camp Rising Sun.

According to their website, "Camp Rising Sun exists to serve children who battle cancer. With this in mind, we carefully balance each child's unique medical needs with opportunities for maximum fun!"

Not every student wants to shave their head, but many do want to support the charity. ASA sisters said they allowed any type of haircut for that reason.

Every student who participated in getting their haircut, by the professionals ASA recruited, was able to enter a raffle to win a basket full of snacks.

A cornhole game was set up and available for students to play while they waited their turn for their cut, but most students decided to watch the haircuts and talk to the sisters instead.

ASA sisters held signs to get students' attention and handed out Camp Rising Sun bracelets, as well as information about their fundraiser.



Communications major Clare Beggan, a freshman, getting a haircut.



Bracelets that were being handed out to students.



Students getting their hair done under the set-up tents.



A raffle basket for participating students.



Alpha Sigma Alpha sisters holding signs to attract students to the haircutting tents.

Pep-Rally brings students together

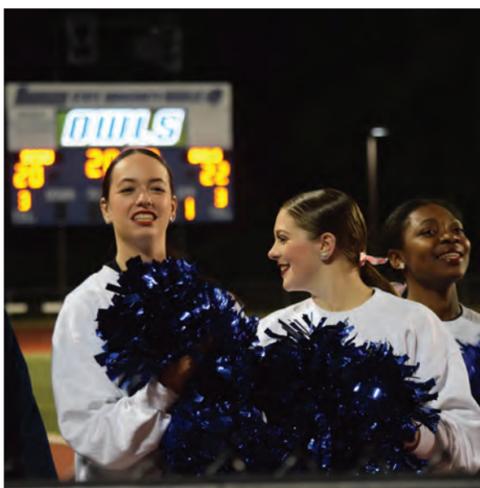
Photos By Luke Molwitz
Photographer



Students playing cornhole.



Students running on the field with Otus the Owl.



Members of the university dance team celebrating.



Psychology major Joey Forster, a sophomore, smiling.



Track and Field team ready to run out onto Jess Dow field.



Elementary education major Jordan Fisher, a sophomore and Special education major Gabriella Smith, a sophomore, posing for a picture at the pep-rally.

Rob Parker, alum, comes to campus

Photos By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

Southern Connecticut University graduate of 1986, Rob Parker, came to campus Friday, Oct. 14 to talk to students, athletes and faculty.

For more about this, see page 5.



Rob Parker speaking in the Adanti Student Center ballroom.



Parker, students, athletes and faculty posing for a photo.



Rob Parker speaking in the Adanti Student Center ballroom.