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Students celebrate school spirit at Southern's Homecoming Day



Students gather at Southern with spirit to celebrate Homecoming Day

PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

By Josh LaBella

Southern Connecticut State University students and fans flocked to the Brownell parking lot last Saturday to celebrate homecoming day. There was music, games, food, tailgating and a parade.

One of the booths at the event was a bake sale to support relief for victims of Hurricane Maria. Jessica Hartwell, a senior communication disorders major representing the French Club, said many clubs and organizations had cooperated to put on the bake sale. She said the proceeds were going to UNICEF.

"So far we've had a really good turnout and a lot of

people have said they will be coming back to donate more," said Hartwell. "It's honestly a great idea. I know a lot of students who have wanted a way to donate to those effected by the hurricane. We want to give what we can so having it at a big event like this is a really good idea."

Jake Gillespi, a freshman business management major, said he had been watching the parade. He said it started with the marching band and then finished with a golf cart float-style parade.

"Events like this are great, I really like them," said Gillespi. "They help build school spirit." Kevin Lenheart, a soph-

omore psychology major, said he'd been spending his time chilling, eating food, playing football and enjoying life. He said he loves going to events like homecoming.

"This is my first year living on campus," said Lenheart, "and it's totally awesome."

Mitchell Donnellan, a freshmen computer science major, said he heard about the parade at Connecticut Dining Hall and came dining hall. He said he enjoyed seeing all the creative designs on the different organizations floats. Donnellan said he also went to get balloon animals after a friend forced him to. He said this was his first homecoming and it was quite fun.

"It brings the Southern Community together," said Donnellan. "You meet new people and all the different organizations on campus."

Yarelis Canales she was among many Southern alumni who came back to tailgate at homecoming. Canales said she had been hanging out, tailgating, watching the parade and seeing her friends. She said she loved the event.

"I think it's a way to bring the Southern community together," said Canales. "It raises school spirit so I always love events like these. The tailgate environment is a lot more engaging and fun."

SEE HOMECOMING PAGE 2

Hurricane victims offered chance to continue education at CSCU institutions

By Josh LaBella

Last Thursday the Connecticut State College and Universities (CSCU) board of regents approved a plan to allow students from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to continue their education in Connecticut.

Maribella Luz, the CSCU communications director, said President of the board of regents Mark Ojakian wanted to help students affected by Hurricane Maria. She said members of CSCU had been in contact with universities in the islands who said many of their institutions were not operating.

"Students from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands would be allowed to come to one of our 17 institutions and pay in-state tuition," said La Luz. "We felt it was the best way for us to help."

La Luz said the CSCU system would provide other support and resources including financial support and counseling for those affected by the traumatic experience. She said a lot of students were affected and those able to get to Connecticut and stay with family or friends would be more than welcome. She said she does not know how many will come.

"Communication is still very hard," said La Luz. "When we first proposed the idea we weren't even able to contact any of the universities down there. We are creating the protocol now and don't expect many students but we want to be prepared."

Alyssa Gorman, a freshman elementary education major, said the plan was a great opportunity for victims of the hurricane to continue their education. She said she was glad the students will only have to pay in-state tuition because it will make it easier for them to pay for school. She said it reflects well on the CSCU system.

"It says we are very open to helping anyone and everyone," said Gorman. "It's very inclusive says a lot about our diversity. I also think it's very important to provide counseling services since many families were affected by the hurricane and it must have been a very traumatizing experience for each and every person there."

Rakshwak KC, a senior computer science major, said he thought the plan was very good given the fact that President Trump is trying to stop giving the islands support. He said it is good to see that Connecticut schools are trying to help them when the government really is not.

"They are being helpful and trying to promote education throughout the world," said KC. "Not just Connecticut."

Amanda Kavoto, a sophomore psychology major, said there are a lot of situations in Puerto Rico that are not being solved and if Connecticut wants to help them then it's positive. She said it seems like the government does not seem to recognize that they are part of the country and they deserve help.

"Helping is the best thing we can do at this point," said Kavoto, "considering they've lost everything."

Kavoto said the victims of the hurricane need to go to school and giving them in-state fees is a good way to help mitigate that issue.

"We want educated people," said Kavoto. "I think that supports the foundation of our nation - to help our own people. I think it's great."

Southern's Owl Logo gets a new Look

By Josh LaBella

Southern Connecticut State University's owl logo got a fresh new look. The official release occurred during Saturday's homecoming event.

Jay Moran, Director of Athletics at SCSU, said he's been at Southern for four years and was never crazy about the old logo. He said alumni, especially athletic alumni, told him they missed "the fighting owl." Moran said the alumni signed a petition a few year ago to redesign the schools logo.

"To me the owl we have now is has his wings spread like the 'I give up owl,'" said Moran. "Our new owl has become more aggressive."

Moran said the school was going to try and launch the new logo last spring but it didn't work out. He said the athletics department hired Phoenix Design Works out of New Jersey to design the new insignia. He

said the rollout will occur over the next several years.

"It's going to take a few years to get the old owls out of here because they are all over the banners across campus, they are all over our gym, and on our fields and courts," said Moran. "It takes a while to incorporate the new logo everywhere. You'll see the new owl popping up on all our athletic attire, you'll see it at the book store, and you'll see changes around campus. It's going to be a three to five year process."

Moran said Otis, the university mascot, will also get a new look within the next year. He said mascots are quite expensive, starting at a price of at least \$20,000. He said there is talk on whether Otis will get a name change but he isn't sure what will happen. Moran said he's excited and likes the talons on the owl as it give Otis the new

aggressive look that they were looking for. He also said the font will be uniform across the sports teams.

"One of the things I noticed when I first got here is that each sport had its own font," said Moran. "Part of this new logo, from an athletic standpoint, is to have athletic department have the same colors and the same font. We will look like a team, a family, one unit."

Moran said the athletics department drove the change but they collaborated with many groups on campus such as the public relations department and student affairs. He said he had gotten a lot of good feedback from people on campus.

"I think our student athletes are excited, people on campus are excited, and our alumni will be excited," said Moran. "The old owl looked like the Wise Potato Chip owl, this one's a lot better."

John Guadio, a sophomore business major, said new logo is pretty cool. He said he likes the way it looks and the font.

"It looks bolder and better," said Guadio. "It looks more like an owl. The old one was just his face and this on this one you have the whole thing. It's nice to have a fresh look."

Quanzhi Love, a sophomore biology major, said she liked the new logo because it's more vibrant than the old one. She said she liked the deeper, more royal blue.

"The owl looks a lot nicer," said Love. "It's really cool."

the families can't obtain the basic necessities, such as food, clothes, shelter and more," she said.

Grande stressed the importance of others to help out their community and to dig deeper on the issues of homelessness.

Spoken word encourages Southern students to rise up

By Micaela Valentin

Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs, Dian Brown-Albert introduced "Beyond the American Binary: The Inner Ethnic Conflict of Latinidad" as the last event in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"You'll learn not just about Noel Quiñones, but more about our Latino countries. National Hispanic Heritage Month may be over as of yesterday, but we will continue to celebrate," said Brown-Albert.

A member of OLAS and OLAS Dance Team, Jazzlyn Torres, opened up for spoken word poet Noel Quiñones by singing "Rise up" by Andra Day.

"It's one of my favorite songs right now," she said. She also emphasized how impactful the song's overall message is: "This song means even more to us right now, given the events surrounding the hurricane in Puerto Rico."

In that moment, the song was meant to uplift and inspire the Latino community, the day after National Hispanic Heritage month was over. The lyrics were fitting as the precedent for a discussion about what it means to be latino/a.

The ASC theater was compassed with some tears, people embracing one another and what appeared to be deep nods of reflection.

Noel Quiñones, associate director of service learning and civic engagement at Brooklyn Friends School, got the crowd amped up with a big "WEPA!" Although it was a small crowd, they filled the room with their "WEPA," and laughter to follow.

He not only livened the small intimate setting, but explained what "wepa" means to Latinos. "Depending on how it's used it could either mean to celebrate, and it could be used after you've made a mistake," said Quiñones. He then used inflections to demonstrate the difference between the two, which resulted in laughter, and nods in agreement.

Noel Quiñones explained "latinidad" as "a constant ever-changing mix."

"Identity shouldn't be clear cut," said Quiñones. While his performance, included three of his spoken word poems, he also implemented an educational aspect.

"The words Latino and Hispanic are not terms chosen by us, therefore, they'll never be fully encompassing of who are. I don't care if you can't cook rice and beans, if you can't dance bachata, if you don't know the lyrics to every Selenas song; you are enough," said Quiñones.

Latinos face a constant struggle of not feeling Latino enough, and Quiñones reminded everyone that no matter what anyone else tells them, they are enough.

While he is a high school administrator by day, Quiñones is an activist for Puerto Rico by night. His mission is to inform people about Puerto Rico so that they have the information necessary to make well informed decisions.

He implements education about Puerto Rico in the school system because that is not information that students will learn in their textbooks. "I started doing my own research and realized that we need our own textbook," said Quiñones.

"I've started a petition to repeal the Jones Act. I've also started teaching my students what the Jones Act is. A lot of people don't know that Puerto Rico loses \$537 million a year to the Jones Act," said Quiñones.

Noel Quiñones brought a unique perspective to Southern's campus. He used his voice to speak up about the injustices that Latinos are faced with on a daily basis. His personal experiences shed light on the struggles that Latinos face, not knowing where they fit in.

"Thank you for sharing your story with us today," said Brown-Albert to Quiñones. "You've left me with a lot to think about."

Mobile Food Pantry helps students get the food they need

By Josh LaBella

The mobile food pantry visited Southern's campus last Wednesday to give free groceries to students who need them.

The truck comes every other Wednesday and is managed by the Storehouse Project Inc. Margie Castillo, a senior early childhood education major, was working at Storehouse Project mobile food truck. She said their goal was simply to provide food to Southern students.

"We know some of the students here at school have some difficulty paying for food," said Castillo. "We supply the meals they need just to get them by."

Castillo said when they make their bimonthly visit the amount of students they get can vary. She said the first time she came this semester they got six students and the next time they came they got 18. Castillo said they get their food from a few different places.

"A lot of this stuff comes from the Connecticut Food Bank," said Castillo. "Also Cornerstone church will purchase anything else that needs to be supplied for the truck."

Castillo said there are some students that are regulars and

they seem to really appreciate it. She said from what feedback they've gotten they seem to be well received. She said she started volunteering with the mobile food truck because she is a member of Cornerstone Church and because she knows the need for it.

"I've been in that position," said Castillo. "I know a few students who come here and I thought a familiar face would be comforting for them to see. Some people feel embarrassed about it so I think seeing me here makes it a little bit easier for them to come."

Castillo said the stock changes every time they come. She said have meats, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, cereal, fresh produce and pasta to name a few items. She said to sign up to receive food students need to fill out a form which comes in the email that gets sent out before they visit.

"The form is for the Food Bank," said Castillo. "It just tells us their name, family size and income, and if they receive any other resources. They can print it and fill it out before hand. We don't even look at it we just send it back to the office so they know what to supply us."

Robert Carl, who says he is the leader of the group, said when they used to make three stops around campus but

because of low participation they decided to consolidate and just use the Brownell parking lot. He said the project has been going pretty well.

"The most students we had was 26 and that was like 'oh my God,'" said Carl. "I'd say on average we get about 12 students."

Carl said the program started because there was a need for it. He said some students expressed a need for enough food to get by. Carl said most of the people working at the truck have gone through college and know it can be tough at times to get food.

"That's why we do it," said Carl. "To take the edge off their budget."

Darryl Hall, a junior communication major, said he comes to the food truck to get help. He said as a student at Southern he's not as fortunate as others and even with a job he has a lot of other things going against him. He said he comes to the truck every time it's on campus.

"Being a junior I don't have the unlimited meal plan," said Hall. "We need to cook our meals. Being one of the students who are less fortunate, why not take the opportunity to get some help?"

Minor Changes to Dining Services, and Proposed Solutions to University Issues



Students participating in SGA meeting to make several changes and resolutions.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

By August Pelliccio

Last Friday's Student Government Association meeting touched upon several minor issues, including an upcoming update to on-campus dining, a proposed policy to increase enrollment, and plans to help a student in need.

The new change to on campus dining was brought up in a meeting of the food service committee last Monday. According to Joey Gentile, SGA representative who sits in on food service committee meetings, they are looking to bring in a new vendor, who supplies pre-made smoothies and milkshakes.

"The company is called f'real, and they're looking to bring a truck on campus one day, to do sampling, and see how students react to it," said Gentile.

Gentile was very confident that the student reaction will be positive, and he said if that is the case, f'real will put a machine in Connecticut Hall.

"If we could get the machine, it would cost between \$3 and \$3.50 to purchase a smoothie, on top of the swipe into Conn.," Gentile said.

One other recent change in on campus dining that Gentile

talked about had to do with the unlimited meal plan. Students with the plan were previously restricted to one swipe per hour, which he said prevented easy come-and-go access to the dining hall. The regulation has been changed to allow students to swipe in as often as every fifteen minutes.

Next, SGA representative Mia Forgione spoke about last week's faculty senate meeting.

"The enrollment is a little bit down," said Forgione, "and they're looking for ways to get more students enrolled at Southern."

According to Forgione, one proposal was to take students from East Lyme Community College, and Gateway Community College, and give them the option to get a Southern degree from their schools.

"They were looking to try to come up with a pilot to start to implement this for fall of 2018," said Forgione.

However, there are many complications to overcome before something like this is possible, according to Forgione. With that in mind, it is something that the faculty senate is considering.

SGA representative Bryce Gentino then brought up an atypical issue.

"Jordan Cowles, a representative of SUMA, the SCSU Marketing Association reached out to me saying that there's a girl on campus who is in severe need of a service dog, but doesn't have the money to raise for it," Gentino explained.

Gentino said that he would like to plan an event on campus that will raise funds for this student to get their service dog. He even went to the following extreme: "If we are unable to get enough [money], I'm planning to use my stipend to pay for the entire thing."

Finally, Adam Gowdy reviewed last week's meeting with the campus climate surveying committee.

"We're putting together a survey, to give out to faculty and students," said Gowdy.

The survey will gather opinions about the on campus climate. There will be two separate surveys, according to Gowdy: one for the faculty and staff, and one for the students. Among other things, the surveys will collect information about people's perception of the university, the campus environment, and the work environment.

Gowdy said, "Right now we want to implement this as part of social justice month, so right now we're in the planning phases."

Homecoming

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Dan Magee, a junior sociology major, said he'd been drinking at the tailgate most of the day. He said he was ready to watch the football game and support his team.

He said he was really enjoying himself

"I've been getting free monsters, some food, and just drinking," said Magee. "This brings the community closer together. Everyone has a great time."

Liz Nerkowski, a junior accounting major, said she came to the event to show school spirit and support the football team. She said she'd been tailgating since 11 and had had a lot of fun. She said she like the parade and was

happy that they moved it down to Brownell instead of up at the fields. Nerkowski said events like homecoming bring the community closer together.

"I've met so many new people just since I've been here," said Nerkowski. "It definitely brings people closer together. On a good day too."

Hofstra Professor Lori Ultsch talks Early Women Writers

By Josh LaBella

Last Tuesday, Oct. 17, Italian language students, and anyone else welcome joined to hear, “gender and genre: early modern women writers of the Veneto.” Lori Ultsch, of Hofstra University, gave the lecture.

Associate Professor of Italian, Lisa Vitale, arranged the lecture, and gave an informative and detailed introduction for Ultsch to begin the event.

Vitale spoke of Ultsch’s work teaching as an adjunct at U.C. Berkeley, and as a visiting professor at University of Memphis, before landing at Hofstra.

“Her research and teaching interests include medieval and renaissance, and 20th century women writers, especially,” Vitale said. “She describes herself as a generalist, so she covers all areas.”

According to Vitale, Ultsch’s published works have focused on analyzing the early modern period of writing, as well as the 20th century.

“Her current project is Dante and the natural world: an analysis of the poet’s use of nature to represent the supernatural,” Vitale said, before welcoming Ultsch to the podium to begin her lecture.

Ultsch went on to speak about profound intentions of several of the “key players” in 16th century writing in the Veneto. She spoke of Maddalena Campiglia, Arcangela Tarabotti, Moderata Fonte, and Lucrezia Marinella, just to name a few.



SCSU Campus Police at the Flippin’ Cops event in Conn

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

“Works by 16th century Italian women authors attest to some unique re-workings of the genres codified by contemporary male authors,” Ultsch said.

Ultsch explained the similarities shared between these writers, but also highlighted some of the differences. In particular, she compared a work of Fonte to a work of Marinella.

“Moderata Fonte’s is a witty

dialogue, and defense of women resting more on anecdotal evidence, and first hand experiences, rather than academic debate,” Ultsch said, “and the other text by Marinella offers a learned, sustained, philosophical demolition of a misogynistic diatribe entitled ‘women’s defects.’”

Another interesting aspect of these women that Ultsch highlighted was the fact that a few of them were also experi-

enced courtesans.

“We cannot fail to take note that they had the freedom to approach these genres, considered untouchable by respectable women living in the highly rigid Venetian society of the time,” Ultsch said, “precisely because they lived outside the gendered moral laws of that society.”

Ultsch described these authors as non-conforming, transgressive, and dangerous, yet alluring because of their status as courtesans.

Erin Larkin is an associate professor of Italian at Southern, who was in attendance of Ultsch’s lecture. Intrigued by the direction in which the lecture had gone, Larkin added a new layer to the conversation.

“I’ve read a little bit about some critics’ view of Campiglia, and the erotic, lesbian undertones implied,” Larkin said, before asking Ultsch to comment.

“What she’s doing, is she’s foregrounding the importance of women in her works, and if you think in terms of the representation of friendships,” Ultsch said. “Usually in the renaissance period, these great friendships are gendered male, so in her work she has this gendering of friendship as female, I believe that it’s a recognition of the value of women.”

Ultsch welcomed questions and comments like these at the end of her lecture. The lecture was originally scheduled for Sept. 19, but was rescheduled due to predicted severe weather, and Ultsch said this was for the better, because it made for better discussion

Chartwells helps to reduce food waste on campus

By Jeffery Lamson



PHOTO | JEFFERY LAMSON

In an effort to reduce food waste on campus, the Office of Sustainability has had a lot of help from student interns as well as volunteers from the Geography Club, and Chartwells employees.

According to senior geography major and Office of Sustainability intern Courtney Pesce the Geography Club been a major asset to the program.

Pesce, whose concentration is in applied sustainability and is also a member of the Geography Club, encouraged her club to volunteer. They, along with club advisor Eric West of the geography department, have fully embraced the food recovery program. In just three weeks they have put in over 40 hours of work.

Chartwells has been important to the food recovery efforts as well; many of the employees have also embraced the initiative to reduce waste. “they have embraced this, they love this,” said Recycling Coordinator, Heather Stearns. Some of the big efforts and advancements in the goal of making Conn Hall a zero-waste facility is

both the composting project with Blue Earth Compost in Southington and food donations to St. Ann’s Soup Kitchen in Hamden. Since the start of 2017, 10,300 pounds of food have been collected in comparison to 4,900 pounds for the whole of 2016.

Food that students leave on their plates does not go into the trash as some may think, but instead is collected and transported to Blue Earth Compost. This is where their anaerobic digester takes what would otherwise be in a landfill or incinerator and instead extracts methane, creates electricity and also creates a compost soil which is then used in the SCSU Community Garden. 900 pounds of the food produced has been either donated to St. Ann’s Soup Kitchen or used back at Conn Hall. In this, the Office of Sustainability has created a cyclical process that they are very proud of.

As for food that is not served, it is donated to St. Ann’s Soup Kitchen who now are having enough food to share with other local food banks after having to cut

serving portions just a short while ago.

SCSU students are encouraged to volunteer. Stearns said, “Come knockin’, we’ve got a place for you.” Any help is appreciated and does not require a large time commitment.

Students can also do their part by, “being mindful of the food that they put on their plate,” said intern, Nicole Gigas.

Intern Julie DellaVecchia, who is pursuing her nursing degree said, “Eat with your stomach, not with your eyes.” This is in reference to food that is being discarded which would otherwise be donated to those in need.

“It’s more than just volunteering, it’s passion,” said Courtney Pesce, which is evident at every level of the Food Recovery Project.

Stearns, Pesce, DellaVecchia, and Gigas all spoke about the rewarding nature and ease of getting involved. They would like to encourage students to volunteer or do their part in any way they can to reduce food waste in the hopes of being as close to zero-waste as possible.

FEATURES

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Do Southern students believe in ghosts



PHOTO COURTESY | BEAT TSCHANZ

By Josh LaBella

Anthony Perrotti and his roommates were using a Ouija board in their dorm when one of them kicked his longboard down the hallway. It stopped dead and rolled back to them.



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Anthony Perrotti, a senior accounting major.

"We were in our suite in West and we were getting really interesting answers from the Ouija board," said Perrotti, a senior accounting major. "We rolled my board down the hallway and asked the board if it would roll it back. It came slowly rolling toward us."

Perrotti said his uncle saw the White Lady in Union Cemetery in Easton, Conn. He said his uncle was driving next to it when a man in a top hat appeared and as he looked at him he drove into a woman standing in the road. When his uncle got out of the car to check on her, she was gone.

Elise Ryan, a junior English major, said she somewhat believes in ghosts. She said there is a possibility for anything and ghosts cannot be proven or disproven. Ryan said she had two potentially ghostly experiences.

"I used to go ghost hunting a lot at cemeteries and abandoned buildings in Connecticut," said Ryan. "Once I heard an extremely weird noise, something akin to a classic video game zombie sound at a cemetery in Ansonia."

Ryan said the other experience happened when she was 7 years old in gym class. Someone tripped her and she broke her collarbone. She said she remembers someone grabbing her by the arms and lifting her up off the ground. When she later talked to her gym teacher about who had helped her, the teacher said nobody was around.

Casey McNally, a sophomore graphic design major, said she believes in ghosts but she does not know why. She said she has never seen one but has definitely felt them.

"Sometimes I will feel something watching me when I'm alone," said McNally. "Other times I'll be walking somewhere and I'll feel a sudden cold around me. I just say 'Okay, that's fine.'"

McNally said her mom frequently sees little orbs of light flying through her house. She said she does not like that that happens and she and her mom disagree on whether their house is haunted. McNally said her mom claims it is because when she was a child she played with a Ouija board and did not burn it.

Chris Gibbs, a senior interdisciplinary studies major with concentrations in psychology and wellness, said he has found no physical evidence of ghosts and does not believe they exist. He said people who go through ghostly experiences—people he knows, or people in movies or on television—sometimes do not have very high standards for



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Tomás Stisi, a junior computer science major.

what qualifies as a one.

"If they tell me a story and it's like 'I was at my house at 3 in the morning and the door closed' or 'something fell over in my room'—I'm not going to believe that," said Gibbs. "If someone tells me they saw their recently deceased relative, maybe I will because I'm superstitious."

Tomás Stisi, a junior computer science major, said at his family's house in Shelton they have many experiences they cannot explain like doors closing or objects moving. He said recently he got home to find their stuffed husky toy sitting on the stairs. Stisi said none of his family members moved it there.

"My family is definitely pretty spiritual," said Stisi, "so we believe in ghosts. A ghost is just a spirit of deceased person returning to our world to finish business. From where, I don't know."

Prepping for Halloween on campus

By Jenna Stepleman

Students at SCSU and around the country know that Halloween, as fun as it is, can be expensive. Southern has many events on and off campus this Halloween that are both affordable and fun.

On Friday Oct. 27, Southern is hosting a movie night at the North Haven Cinemark for the showing of "Jigsaw," the most recent installment of the "Saw" series. This is completely free to students and includes a drink and popcorn as well as transportation to the theater.

Signups are limited but can be accessed in the Office of Resident Life. The bus leaves at 6 p.m. from Hickerson Hall.

Southern also is hosting its very own haunted house.

"Haunted Hickerson" is set for Monday Oct. 30 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. The event is in Hickerson Hall and is a makeshift haunted house that draws students and commuters alike. Last year, student actors and volunteers performed as things such as creepy dolls, screaming jump scares and other spooky horror based themes.

Ella Piekarz, a sophomore, works at the desk in Brownell Hall. She does not have a lot of time to go to events with school and work but said she would be interested in Haunted Hickerson since it was so close and cheap.

"I'm not too sure of all the options, but of the ones I have heard about [that] I would be interested to see [is] haunted Hickerson," Piekarz said.

Yearly at SCSU the Lyman Center

hosts "The Warren Files." Emily Stross, a junior, attended the event last year and plans to attend this year as well.

"I love that Southern has that event, I'm really into supernatural stuff like that and having someone who was personally involved in all those events around Halloween is interesting," Stross said.

The event is \$5 for students and their guest and is being held on Friday Oct. 27 at 8 p.m.

"Hosted by Tony Spera, experience the original ghostly images, actual voice recordings and haunting stories that inspired the new summer horror film 'The Conjuring 2' as well as 'Annabelle' and the blockbuster 'The Conjuring' as Tony Spera, son in law of Ed and Lorraine, opens the case files," according to the Lyman Center's website.

Aileen Barney, a freshman studio art major, said she was not doing anything for Halloween this year because it is "not worth it and I have to work anyway."

"I'm not much of a Halloween person and I'm off campus at work. So I'll be spending Halloween making money at work, which I guess isn't so bad," Barney said.

Southern students have to account for this year Halloween is on a weekday, and not a weekend, so many people have decided to keep their plans centered around the weekend.

"I may hang out with friends on the weekend but other than that I'm not going out on the actual night since it's a Tuesday," Barney said.



PHOTO COURTESY | THAD ZAJDOWICZ

Halloween Writing Contest winners

Plock, plock

By Gary Scaramella

Plock. Plock.
You wake up. You don't remember your dreams.
It's dark in your room. Void dark. The kind of darkness that makes you think you've gone blind. Your mouth and throat are dry; you lick your lips, but it doesn't help.
Plock.
What was that noise?
Plock. Plock.
You hear it again. It's wet. It must be the faucet—the thing won't stop dripping. You try to ignore it and go back to sleep. Close your eyes on the darkness.
Plock. Plock. Plock.
You can't ignore it. It's impossible to fall asleep; you'll have to turn off the dripping. You pull your feet out of bed and set them on the cold floor. When you step out into the hallway and flick the light on, things seem wrong. You can't put your finger on why. They're just wrong. You consider getting back into bed.
Plock. Plock.
You can't get back into bed. You have to stop the dripping. You start down the hallway. It feels like you're climbing up a slope, or down a slope, or through a slope or just not moving at all. The light in the hallway is strange. It leaves no shadows. The vertical lines of the wallpaper flicker and bend.
PLOCK.
It's louder than before. It's filling your—
PLOCK. PLOCK.
—it's filling your ears. You keep walking—or, your vision leaves your head and you watch yourself keep walking.
PLOCK. PLOCK. PLOCK.
The hallway is warping around you. Your legs stretch forwards, then shoot backwards.
PLOCK. PLOCK.
You notice how silent everything is. Everything except the dripping.
PLOCK. PLOCK. PLOCK.
How long is your hallway? It feels like it's been hours. You miss your bed. Finally, you tumble into the living room. It's dark. Not as dark as your room, but dark. You fumble for the light switch. You always forget where it is. Your hands and nails scrape against the featureless wall, slapping at the surface, searching. You're so caught up that you almost don't

notice that the dripping has stopped.
You pause and listen.
A moment, then two. Nothing.
You put your hand to the wall again. You find the switch, flip it on.
The floor is red. A dark, crimson red. The kind of red that nature only uses to color the guts of living things. The kind of red that only sees light when insides have been brought outside.
It's wet.
Plock.
A drop of the gut-red plumes to the floor, mixes into an ocean of itself.
Plock.
Another. Your eyes follow it up, no matter how much your thoughts scream at them not to.
Plock. Plock.
That's when you see it. It's clinging to the ceiling like it doesn't follow the same rules of gravity as everything else.
Plock.
It's surrounded by viscera. Limbs. Hair. Skin.
Plock. PLOCK.
Familiar limbs, hair and skin.
PLOCK. PLOCK. PLOCK.
Your limbs, hair and skin, all sticking to the ceiling the same way it is. How?
PLOCK.
Its legs twitch. Too many legs, too many joints. They squelch in the gore, kick it aside uncaringly. It's crouched over (under?) something. Red drips from it—
plockplockplock
—and falls to the ground. A horrified moan seeps from your lips. The thing stops. Its bloodied maw turns, drops an arm—your arm—from its grip. It lands on the soggy floor with a plop.
It turns its head towards you and you see.
You see eyes. Lots of them. They're all dark. Void dark. The world around them fades. Its (legs? arms?) reach out to you. You can't move.
All you hear is:
Plock.
Plock. Plock.
Plock.
You wake up. You don't remember your dreams.



PHOTO COURTESY | LUCHO DE LEON

A hand in the dark

By Victoria O'Malley

Her breath came out in short pants despite her efforts to grasp it. The only sounds in the silent night were her heartbeat pounding in her head, her rapid breathing and the howling of the wind outside her house. Adrenalin coursed through her veins; her body was running on unhindered fear.
Her ancient house groaned. The floorboards creaked and the door to her room whined loudly as though someone had pushed it open. Her possessions cast long shadows in the eerie glow as the light from the hall cast a long beam across the room. The air in the closet was stifling and her muscles burned as she stayed crouched, trying to make herself impossibly smaller in the darkest corner of the closet.
She slowed her breathing as she urged herself to calm down. It's just the wind. Just the noises that an old house makes while it settles. Everything is fine. Just calm down. Just. Calm. Down.
She tensed further, continuing to repeat the mantra. Her fists clenched; her nails bit into her palms creating crescent moon imprints. Her mother always comforted her when her irrational fears got out of control but her mother wasn't here. She was all alone and there was no one coming to comfort her.
The gusts of wind quieted for a moment, and all she heard was short huffs of breath. She let out a sigh of relief that she didn't realize she was holding.
Immediately her eyes shot open; her body once again



PHOTO COURTESY | FREE-PHOTOS

tensed. If she wasn't the one rapidly breathing then who was? Light flooded the closet as the door was opened with such force that it was almost ripped from its hinges and she let out as a blood-curdling scream. She was silenced as a calloused hand grabbed her and the wind once again begun blowing with such ferocity that it seemed as though this time the wind was screaming for her.
Her mother pulled her car into the driveway early the next morning. From outside, the house seemed to be in order despite the debris that had been scattered by the storm. She

walked into the house expecting to find her daughter making herself breakfast in the kitchen. She was a bit surprised when she arrived in an empty kitchen, but she thought maybe her daughter had decided to sleep in so she thought nothing of it. When she walked upstairs and into her daughter's room, she found the door ajar and her daughter nowhere to be found.
That was when she noticed the puddles on the hardwood flooring, almost as if someone had been drenched when they walked across. Confused, she followed them to the basement door and down the stairs.
When she reached the bottom of the stairs, she let out a desperate cry as she discovered her daughter's body. Her daughter's eyes were wide open and her mouth was permanently agape, almost as if she had died of fright, mid-scream. Her body was waterlogged as if she had drowned.
An ancient mirror above her head dripped water onto the flooded floor below. She never remembered owning such mirror but in her state of despair, she didn't consider where it came from.
Inconsolable, she looked up and away from her daughter's body only to look into the reflection of the mirror and noticed another figure behind her. Confused, she looked around the room only to find there was no one else there. She looked back in the mirror and the figure hadn't moved.
Then the figure moved.
She too screamed only to be silenced by a pale calloused hand.

At home with monsters

By Jason D'Addio

Her favorite hiding spot – the old showcase room. Nestled up onto the third floor of the abandoned designer clothing store, it was a chilling step back in time. Most of the dusty furniture hadn't left it in over twenty years and rickety wooden chairs and couches reeked of mold and rot. Dilapidated crossbeams lined the ceiling and the walls were peeling off into dry strips of paint onto the creaky floorboards. In the center of the room stood a Halloween spectacle; life-sized mannequins of monsters in all shapes and sizes were bunched up. Werewolves, vampires, zombies, ghouls and even something resembling the Creature from the Black Lagoon had all been left behind by the last owner of the shop. Now, the only living thing left in Cabot's Clothing Store was a little girl of six years old – or so it seemed.
With trepidation, she tiptoed toward the dusty mannequins, unable to resist the childish excitement that came on the last day of October. Usually, the showcase room served only as a relaxing place of refuge in the midday but tonight, something more sinister lingered in the air. As the young girl approached the mannequins, she noticed one completely out of place. Instead of a hideous monster or devilish ghost, she stumbled upon a simple man dressed down in a tight, blue blazer and khakis. Brown dress shoes hugged the plaster feet and a leather cabbie hat placed over the artificial hair finished off the sheen outfit. Mystified and a bit disturbed, she made her way through the crowd of mannequins until she was standing right in front of the fake man at waist height. At that

moment, a chilling gust of autumn wind escaped the moonlit night and snuck in through one of the broken windows, sending a shiver up the child's spine.
"Shouldn't you be out trick-or-treating Lucy?"
Startled, she jumped backwards and was presented to a pasty, white face in humanistic motion with eyes devoid of life. The cracked lips curved upwards into a warm smile.
"How do you know my name, mister? And how are you alive?"
He replied in a soft and steady tone. "You come here all the time, Lucy. You've told us all your secrets. And we've stood quietly and attentively, listening to your every word. But tonight's a very special night. Tonight is All Hallows' Eve and we get to finally answer back."
A collective growl from all the mannequins reaffirmed his statement, and so he began sizing up the girl's odd costume choice.
"Those clothes look too big for you, Lucy. That outfit is for ladies, not little girls. Where's your costume?"
Lucy's uneasiness began to cease. "This is my costume, mister. I stole the shirt and pants from my mom. I'm dressed up as her."
A wicked grin grew over the mannequin's face. "Oh, I see." He paused for a moment. "Monsters come in many shapes and forms Lucy. Just look at me." Slowly, the mannequin's legs began to move.
Hours later, deafening sirens echoed through the small Pennsylvania town, even reaching the suburbs miles away where children were collecting candy. An anxious mother burst out of a police cruiser that had pulled up to Cabot's



PHOTO COURTESY | SEIKA

Clothing Store. Rocketing past the jack-o-lanterns that lined the front door, she entered and jogged up the flight of stairs to the third floor, knowing exactly where her daughter would be.
"Lucy! Where are you?"
She screamed in horror at the sight of her daughter, pale and plastic, frozen in place with a smile on her painted face.

Michael Carbonaro nearly sells out Lyman

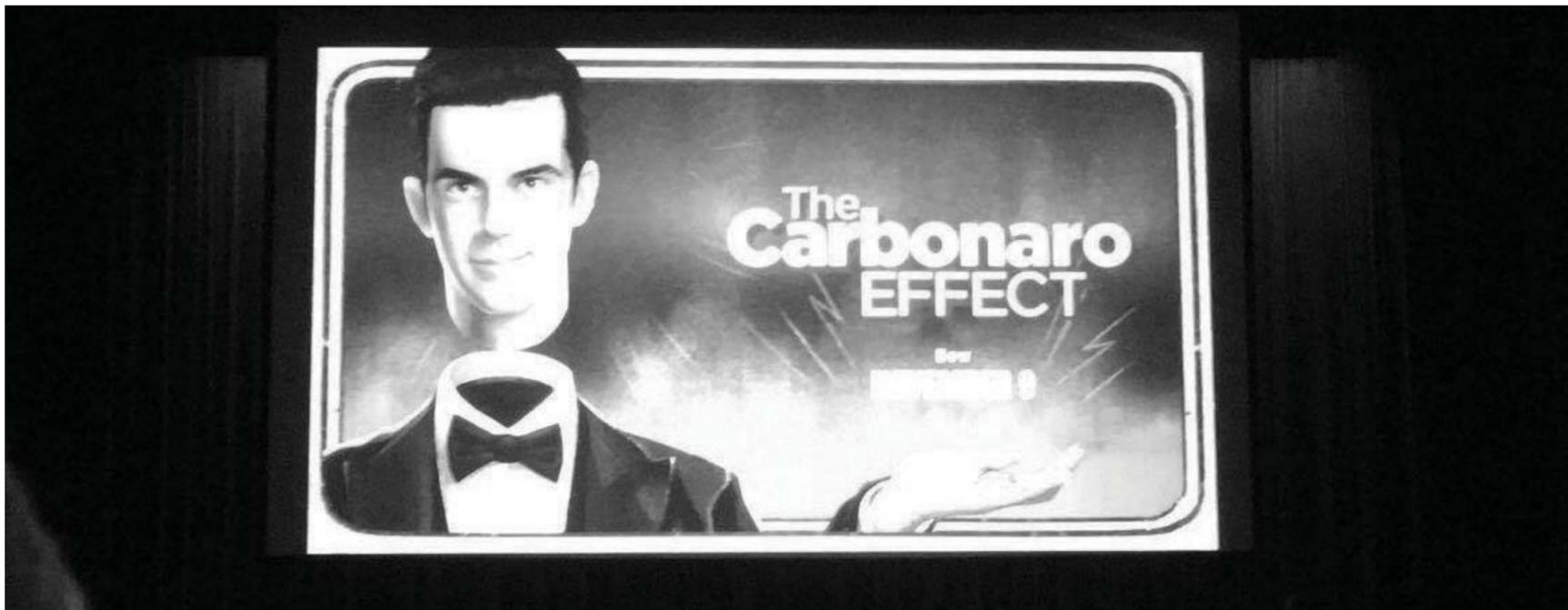


PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

The Lyman stage before Michael Carbonaro's performance.

By Jenna Stepleman

Michael Carbonaro combines comedy, magic and family friendly fun in his TV hit "The Carbonaro Effect." On Saturday he brought a similar show live to Lyman Center at SCSU.

At 8 p.m. on Saturday night, a sold out show "Carbonaro Live" drew mass attention. Students from Southern were intermittently seated in the crowd with many non students filling the seats as well.

"Michael is known for his unique acts of magic and outlandish stunts on late night television, including "The Tonight Show" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live." Michael has also appeared on shows such as "30 Rock," "CSI Miami," and "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit," according to the website posting on Lyman Center's website.

The show was made for all ages so when Shannon Ferris, a social work major and junior at SCSU heard about the show, she decided to take her whole family.

"I'm here with my brother and mom and everyone else,

and the show was really fun. When tickets came on sale I thought it would be a good idea to take everyone. It was certainly a good idea," Ferris said.

The number of tickets being sold were limited so there were no seats with a bad view of the stage and screen necessary to enjoy the show fully.

From the funny to the downright strange acts in the show, all ages had a good time. Even those who had never heard of Carbonaro before attended.

Cheryl Dwyer, a Stratford resident, came out to see the show with her longtime friend Terry Kneece, who also hails from Stratford.

"He was very charming and personable," said Dwyer. "That is much more important to me than the magic since I've never seen his act before, and all of it was very good and worth the time."

"I very much enjoyed the clip he showed from his show. That was very funny," Kneece said.

Carbonaro played a clip from the upcoming season of his show for the audience, one in which Carbonaro tricks a lady into thinking alien life had blossomed in front of

her with his illusions.

Of course there were audience participation aspects and interaction throughout as well as interactions between Carbonaro and Karen, the audience member with a laugh he noticed was louder and less well timed than others in the audience.

The close of the show began with Carbonaro signing a fish tank from his earlier trick and putting it out for sale where all the proceeds from that sale would go to Puerto Rico hurricane relief aid.

He closed the performance with a silent act he explained was a call back to his childhood obsession with special effects makeup and his father's shaving cream. He came back out on stage clad in nothing but a towel after removing his original formal suit.

He transformed his face into monsters, clowns and iconic characters with nothing but his hands and shaving cream, bringing the night home with a final "The End" written on his chest in shaving cream.

Local rappers rock the Sinfest stage



PHOTO | LYNANDRO SIMMONS

Wasionkey performing in front of a packed crowd at Sinfest.

By Lynandro Simmons

For the 14th year, WSIN radio hosted its annual Sinfest. Sinfest is a fall concert open to the public with intentions of bringing local talent to perform in the Adanti Student Center. This year, WSIN decided to take a different approach with the concert.

"We tried to get a bigger presence on Twitter and other social media platforms," said DJ Johnson, a senior journalism major.

Johnson, who was in charge of promotions for the event, said this year the focus was a larger online presence to attract students. From Instagram to Facebook, Johnson used every social media outlet possible to raise awareness for the event.

"We knew we were building from nothing," said Johnson. "So we wanted to make this year as good as possible."

Johnson said he has been with the radio station for three years, but this was the first year everybody was on the same page. WSIN radio also decided to change the musical direction of the performers at the event. In the past the acts were predominantly more rock oriented, but this year the radio decided to focus more on rap and r&b.

Wasionkey was one of the several acts to perform this year. The 25-year-old artist from Bridgeport said he was happy to be performing at Southern. Wasionkey has already garnered a large local following and his song "Nobody" currently has over a million plus on Soundcloud.

"You would think you hit a million and be happy," said Wasionkey, "but there's so much work to do."

"Castles," an R&B song, and "LMAO," a rap song, are two other songs by Wasionkey that have gained some traction.

Wasionkey said performing at Southern would provide a platform for his music to reach new ears. He also said performing in front of the audiences of other artists on Sinfest's bill were to his advantage.

"It'll help me connect with more people who weren't aware of my music," he said.

Gerald Isaac, the music director for WSIN radio, played a large part in gathering all the artists who performed at Sinfest. He contacted Kdos, the headliner, in addition to Wasionkey, Kenny Urban and Saykuro. Isaac's effort in gathering the artists and Johnson's promotional efforts led to a good turnout for Sinfest.

Nasir Smith, a freshman business management major, said he heard of the event through social media.



PHOTO | LYNANDRO SIMMONS

Kenny Urban performing at Sinfest.

"Instagram, Twitter, a lot of people were speaking about it," said Smith.

All of the artists performing at Sinfest drew Smith's attention, but he said he really came for the show's headliner Kdos, an artist from Bridgeport.

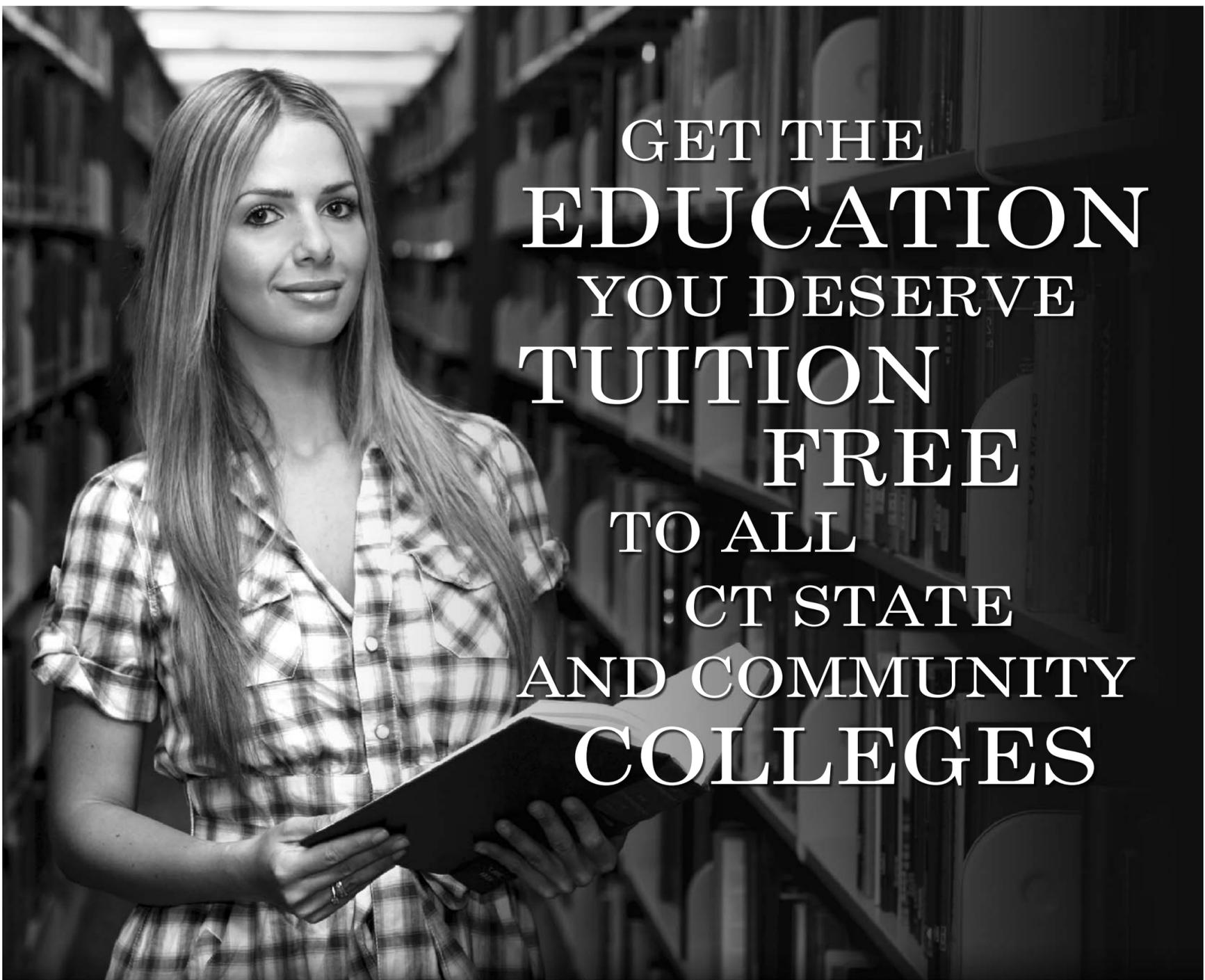
"He's from where I'm from," said Smith.

Sinfest was held Friday night and still was able to draw a crowd. Smith said having it on Thursday could possibly bring more students out.

"A lot of people don't be on campus on Friday nights," said Smith.

Despite this, the change in musical direction and focus on social media promotions created a successful event. Johnson said he was fortunate to be a part of these changes.

"It took an old generation to leave for a new generation to come in," said Johnson. "I just happened to be here when the new generation came in."



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Broadway classic finds home on the Lyman stage



Two performers on stage during the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's production of "Guys and Dolls."

PHOTO | JEFFERY LAMSON

By Jeffery Lamson

A production of the Broadway classic "Guys and Dolls" by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra at the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts came complete with a cameo from President Joe Bertolino as Angie the Ox. Conductor William Boughton and director Wendy Morgan Hunter were able to put on a wonderful show at the Lyman Center that made the whole audience cheer.

The cast was both enthusiastic and charismatic in their performances capturing the spirit of the original while also being unique. This was due in no small part to the NHSO performing all of the music live on stage along with the actors. The vocal performances were all

very energetic and enjoyable. The cast was also very much able to adapt, react and improvise along with the audience responses as well as some technical hiccups. The actors' performances in tandem with the instrumental performances made for a great show that was absolutely worth seeing.

Elaine Carroll, CEO of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and also General Cartwright within the production, said that "Guys and Dolls" was great pick to follow NHSO's production of "My Fair Lady" last year. NHSO has been attempting to appeal to a wider and more diverse audience with Carroll saying that "Guys and Dolls" is, "a lot of fun for a lot of reasons." She goes on to note that "Guys and Dolls" appeals to a lot of people due to the diversity of music styles and musical

theater format itself. She also mentioned that having SCSU students performing and using the Lyman Center as a venue was a perfect opportunity to attract fans of musical theater that may have otherwise not seen the show.

Marketing Director Katie Bonner Russo, also mentioned how Guys and Dolls is a part of NHSO introducing more outside of the box programming. Bonner Russo also said, "The show 'Guys and Dolls' appeals to people who both like musical theater and are really into other musical art-forms."

It was also important to hold the show at Lyman over other venues in New Haven due to its capacity of 1,500 people. It was important to have a space that seated over 1,000, but not as much as 2,600 which is the capacity at Woolsey Hall where the New Haven Symphony Orchestra usually

plays. Bonner Russo also said that Lyman was, "really interesting because of the thrust stage." This layout gives listeners a "totally different listening perspective," than they would have had by just sitting in the middle in front of the orchestra, said Bonner Russo.

President Bertolino's cameo went over well as the crowd laughs and applauded his appearance just as Elaine Carroll predicted they would. The New Haven Symphony Orchestra put on a great show as a whole and the Lyman Center was a great venue for the production. The acting, singing and musicianship were all professional and on point while being able to capture the fun and light-hearted musical romance that is Guys and Dolls.

Talent does not go unnoticed at Engleman concert



A jazz ensemble performing at the Small Ensembles Concert in Engleman.

PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

By Jenna Stepleman

Jazz and blues bands made up of SCSU students took to the stage Wednesday night to show off the songs they have been working on since the beginning of the semester.

Jazz standards, Latin jazz and blues ensembles all performed for about 30 minutes each, each with their own sets of songs, performers and sets.

Holly Izzo, a music major and junior at SCSU, was in the performance that night.

"I really think we have a talented group of people here and everyone works so hard to make the shows come out just right," Izzo said.

She also detailed that it is required music majors at some point do an

ensemble performance.

"You don't have to do any specific one ensemble, but at some point in your southern career you will be in one if you're a music major," Izzo said.

These ensembles actually count as a 1 credit course and one or more can be taken in a semester. Students do need departmental permission to join, but anyone, even a non-music major, is welcome.

Mikayla Hickman, a junior music major, was involved in last years ensembles and this year has decided to work the door handing out flyers and watching her classmates perform.

"The class credit aspect of it is nice, but even though we get non-music majors the majority is music majors. It makes it feel like a

real community, and we do a show every semester so it's non-stop work but also fun," Hickman said.

The crowd was small but encouraging of the performing ensembles, mostly made up of family and friends of the performers.

Once it was over, the performers from one ensemble came off stage and talked to the crowd and sat amongst the family and friends who had shown up in support while the instruments and equipment were taken down and reset.

Daniel Papa, a freshman music major, was there to support many of his classmates and friends. He sat in the front row and cheered as his friends sang and played.

"I'm here to support everyone but especially my friend Ryan. The show was great. I don't usually enjoy

jazz and blues, but they played some interesting songs and it really had me interested," Papa said.

After posing for pictures and a short thank you to the crowd the show was over shortly after 9 p.m.

"The talent cannot be denied, but they also looked like they had so much fun doing it, and that's way more important anyway," Papa added.

A similar event, The Art of the Trio - Intimate Jazz will be held in Engleman C112 as well on Nov. 1.

This same event is also being held again on Nov. 30 as well as in the spring semester with similar ensembles, and the music department encourages students to attend as admission is free.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Running back Paris Crawford and a teammate celebrate during Southern's 28-9 win over Merrimack.

Vander Vos marking his place in Southern history



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Vander Vos swimming during a week where he was named Northeast-10 swimmer of the week.

By Michael Riccio

During his four years as a swimmer at Southern, Tyler Vander Vos has etched his name in the record books. He currently holds the all-time record in the 500 freestyle and is a member of the all-time 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams. Additionally, Vander Vos ranks in the top 5 in the 100 and 200 freestyle, 800 freestyle relay and 400 medley relay.

To go along with his storied accomplishments, Vander Vos was also awarded the Northeast-10 Conference Freshman of the Year in 2015.

Vander Vos, however, said he does not currently think about his accomplishments because he thinks there is a chance he breaks them.

"Maybe when I graduate they'll mean more," Vander Vos said. "It could mean I left a mark on the program, but right now I just need to keep focusing on swimming."

Although he excels in swimming, it did not always come easy for Vander Vos. In his senior year of high school, Vander Vos said he was not allowed to swim because of low grades.

"I tried appealing it, but they said I can't swim," Vander Vos said, "but I kept practicing and started swimming again in college."

Vander Vos said not being able to swim his senior year has been the biggest obstacle of his career and is one of his biggest regrets as an athlete.

He said his coaches have had the biggest impact on his life.

Home sweet home

The men's football team picked up their first home win of the season, bringing their overall record to 2-5.

By Kevin Crompton

Sporting fresh uniforms, with Southern's new owl logo on the side of each helmet, football defeated Merrimack College last Saturday with a final score of 28-9, marking their first home win of the season.

The homecoming crowd, packed in shoulder to shoulder and bleeding blue, filled the bleachers itching to see their school come away with a victory.

"Every day in practice we preach three picks," said senior defensive back Kyle Armour, who had an interception on the day for the Owls. "If we don't we

got consequences. We do this every day in practice so once [Spears' interception] happened it felt good, like coach said it's all technique."

"We knew what we had to do and we came out and performed well on both sides of the ball."

— Kyle Armour, defensive back

The Owls dominated all day on the ground totaling 254

rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns.

Quarterback Ray Catapano posted the first points of the day by putting his head down and falling forward into the end zone on a two-yard run touchdown run. On the pursuing drive, Merrimack quarterback CJ Scarpa's pass was intercepted by Junior linebacker David Spears. Spears was sitting it the passing lane, jumped and bobbled the football, before securing it and taking it up the sideline for the 32-yard defensive score - giving Southern an early 14-0 first quarter lead.

Head Coach Tom Godek was very pleased with the

way his defense played and had high praise for Spears who finished the game with four tackles, one sack, one forced fumble, one interception, and one touchdown.

"Anytime the other side of the ball scores points for you, you got to be happy," said Godek. "David Spears has been a force for us all season and we're expected to see that all the time from him now. He's really a good player and we're looking forward to him being the leader of this team shortly."

The Spears pick-six set the tone for the rest of the game as Southern possessed the momentum from there on out.

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 11

SEE VANDER VOS PAGE 10



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

The volleyball team getting pumped up before their game.

Volleyball's incredible season continues

By Matt Gad

At 18-5, Southern volleyball is having one of their most successful seasons in recent memory. After defeating American International three sets to one last Tuesday the team has just seven regular-season games remaining.

"It feels really good [to get back in the flow of winning]," junior Alyssa Gage said. "We really needed this win to boost our confidence and overall mentality."

This season Gage has played in all 23 matches, as of Oct. 22, having started them all. She has also participated

in 82 sets and is averaging 3.10 points, 2.65 kills and 0.16 assists per set.

In the first game of the season Sept. 1 Gage recorded a 1.000 hitting percentage—meaning she limited her miscues—and thanks to a solid statistical foundation, she has managed an average percentage of .363.

"I think the girls were really focused for this one. Conference games are very important," head coach Lisa Barbaro said. "Everybody's good. AIC won the East Region last year so they're a really tough team and I think the girls were really focused to execute our gameplan and to

win [the match]."

American International, based out of Springfield, Massachusetts, is 14-9 this season, with a .609 winning percentage. They've gone 7-2 in conference play and managed a winning 5-3 mark at home. After losing to Southern they won against Bentley Oct. 21 three sets to one. Their next game is tonight against Le Moyne College.

"Really it's just about us executing what our game plan is and staying true to that. We want to have high energy and high emotion regardless of what the result is from each set.

SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 11

Vander Vos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Not only have they taught him how to swim, he said they have taught him life lessons he has not learned elsewhere.

"My coaches would tell me be 15 minutes early to everything, be prepared, properly manage your time," Vander Vos said, "those are lessons I haven't been taught anywhere else."

Time management, though, is what Vander Vos said is the hardest part of being a student-athlete.

"You're in the pool 20 hours a week, and that doesn't include showing recruits around. You probably end up spending 40 hours a week on it, and then you're expected to do 40 hours of class or homework a week," Vander Vos said. "It's like trying to balance full time jobs so it's hard."

Vander Vos said he is not the best at being productive with his homework at away meets.

"I always bring it, but I normally don't do much of it," Vander Vos said. "If we have to read a chapter I can do that, but I'm normally pretty tired."

Vander Vos said swimming has impacted his life more than he could have imagined. He said swimming is the reason why he is at Southern right now.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Vander Vos getting ready to compete against other schools during a meet in his career.

"I've been swimming for more of my life than I haven't, so it's been a constant factor throughout my life," Vander Vos said. Vander Vos is also having a successful senior

season at Southern. Just last week Vander Vos placed second in the 200 medley relay during a meet against the College of New Jersey.

On top of that Vander Vos

had a first place finish against Shippensburg in the 200 freestyle. The meet was about two weeks ago. Vander Vos already holds many records at SCSU and as his senior season

moves along he will look to break more records for SCSU swimming.

Women's soccer searching for answers in 2017



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Junior Juliana Santos during a game against New Haven.

By Matt Gad

At 2-10-3 after senior night, it has not been a great run for Southern women's soccer in 2017, removed from a nine-win season last year and six the year before.

"We set goals," head coach Adam Cohen said. "Change, evolve, adjust; we want to see the type of drive they have to compete to win. We're a very young team."

This year's team includes eight freshmen, eight sophomores, three juniors and five seniors. The team graduated eight seniors, including Caroline Staudle, after last season.

"We are a team and we support each other despite the wins

and losses that we experience throughout the season. Together with the coaching staff, we look to improve on things each game," senior Victoria Buonanni said.

Cohen, who has been the coach of the women's team at Southern since 2004, has experienced an up-and-down ride. Entering this season, his career record stood at 103-86-28 and right now it stands at 105-96-30.

Still, nine games under .500, he still believes in his team: "We have a high group of character with our seniors and have two regular-season games left after senior night."

The women are 14th out of 15 NE10 schools in the women's soccer rankings, which are currently being led by Adelphi,

who are 11-1 in the conference and 13-2 overall. The Owls trail only Saint Michael's, who are 7-11 in conference play and 3-8-2 overall.

"Frustration comes with losing but we go into each game with a positive attitude, staying motivated and willing to work together," Buonanni said.

After their senior night double overtime draw versus Southern New Hampshire University, the team's third consecutive two overtime game, they have away games tonight and Saturday with Le Moyne College and Franklin Pierce University, respectively.

Southern's senior night game was one of many festivities during this year's Homecoming Weekend, which included games for football

and field hockey, an exhibition contest for the baseball team, the Bob Corda 5K, an alumni basketball exhibition and open practice for men's basketball and several other events. The game can be used as a way to churn up some more motivation for a team, regardless of their record.

"Senior Night is always a night, despite our record during the season, to honor the seniors and thank them for four years of hard work and dedication to the program," Buonanni said. "As a team we will work hard and compete to the best of our abilities."

With a .233 winning percentage, Cohen said this year, beyond all else, has just been a teachable moment: "We're

teachers," he said. "We see this as an opportunity to motivate us further."

Last year the team played a senior day, a 5 p.m. start, with Saint Michael's and won 1-0. That game was highlighted by a Victoria Conde goal in the 69th minute. Later that week, on Oct. 29, the Owls strung together back-to-back victories when they defeated Bentley, 2-1.

That was their last win of the season but they were good enough to reach the NE10 Tournament, falling to Pace University 1-0 on Nov. 1, 2016.

Astros headed to fall classic

By Matt Gad

Houston, devastated by Hurricane Harvey, has been picking up and making the best of a truly devastating situation. But I am not coming to write a hit piece on President Trump; rather, I am coming to you to dish on those mighty Houston Astros, led by their late-season acquisition of Justin "MVP" Verlander and stellar play all around the diamond.

Their manager, A.J. Hinch, gets to celebrate an American League

pennant for the first time, and their bench coach, Alex Cora, who will be named the next manager of the Boston Red Sox after the Astros season draws to a close, has his last chance (for the foreseeable future) to win a World Series ring as an assistant coach.

The ALCS was a home series. The Yankees won at home and Houston won at home. After the Astros went up 2-0 headed to the Bronx, people came out declaring the Yankees season was finished and that Joe Girardi's time in New York was drawing to a close;

however, that was not the case.

Coming back with a vengeance, the Bronx Bombers and all their young stars, like power hitter Aaron Judge, future All-Star catcher Gary Sanchez and first baseman Greg Bird, made it a series. Their fans were through the roof. They said, "This is like watching the old Yankees all over again." New York went up 3-2 headed back to Houston Friday night. And then the train stopped there.

Thanks to an epic pitching performance from Justin

Verlander, who was later named the series' most valuable player, the Astros climbed back, tying the series up at three games apiece and forcing a decisive Game 7 Saturday night at Minute Maid Park.

But that was all she wrote. Charlie Morton dominated on the mound and then he handed the ball of to his bullpen and Houston eliminated the Yankees with a statement: a 4-0 victory.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Football

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With four and half minutes to go in the first half, Catapano took the shotgun snap and sprinted 64 yards on the quarterback keeper for the longest touchdown of the game. Following the touchdown run, the Owls defense quickly got their offense the ball back when Spears' blind side hit on the quarterback jarred the ball loose.

Nine points is the lowest points allowed all season by the Owls. Junior linebacker Jhaaron Wallace lead the team with ten tackles. Catapano, doing his usual thing, lead the team in rushing with 164 yards and scoring with three total touchdowns.

"It feels pretty good, said Armour reflecting on the team's first home win. "We practiced pretty hard all week. We knew what we had to do and we came out and performed well on both sides of the ball."

Southern is now 2-5 following the homecoming victory.



Quarterback Ray Catapano has been the leader for the Owls in what has been a down year.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Volleyball

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PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The volleyball team celebrates during their win over American International.

The big difference tonight [last Tuesday] was, even after losing the first set, the girls were able to bounce back and really sustain a certain amount of focus and energy."

On Monday, the team took on Molloy College and on Friday, they will be in North Easton, Massachusetts to take on Stonehill College. The Owls will return home for Caldwell University Nov. 1 and Franklin Pierce November 4 before finishing the regular-season on the road with Adelphi and Saint Michael's College Nov. 7 and 11, respectively.

Said Gage: "We were struggling in the middle of the season but now that we've pulled out this win I think it's just gonna boost our momentum and I think we're gonna do really well. It would be so great to [make the playoffs for the first time]. The reason I transferred here was just to change the program and make it something better because we are so good, we are so talented and we have potential and just making it to the playoffs would be a dream come true."

The last time the Owls reached the postseason was in 2012. They went 24-11 in the regular-season and won an NE10 Quarterfinal before losing to the University of New Haven in the conference semifinal three sets to one.

Cross country competes at NE-10 Championship



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The women's cross country team finished 13th at the NE-10 championship.

By Matt Gad

The Southern men and women's cross country programs competed in Northeast-10 championship action this past Sunday in Westfield, Massachusetts.

As the teams were preparing for the meet, assistant coach Brian Nill said: "We've had a pretty good season so far, especially on the men's side, and I've been very, very happy with how the guys have run. We've done a really good job of pack running and it's going really well. We got bit a little bit by the injury bug this year so it's not exactly where we wanna be but we'll be OK; we still have plenty of guys to fill the void."

The men's season started Sept. 1 with the Adelphi Panther Invitational in Garden City, New York, where Southern finished third out of 10 teams and freshman Gavin Woodward led the Owls with a 16:12.2 5K finish. Freshman Terrell Patterson, sophomore Connor Shannahan and senior Steven Cugini ran to times of 16:24.1, 16:50.3 and 16:30.5, respectively.

Two weeks later, at the Kirsh Cross Country Cup, Southern finished second and Woodward took home eighth place with a 27:03.2 8K race time. Shannahan, Cugini, sophomore Dan Perusina and sophomore Troy Stegman were also part of the Top 20 finishers at the meet.

At the Paul Short Invitational Sept. 29, Southern took home first place and was again led by Woodward, who ran 26:37 and placed 24th overall. The other two meets the men competed in, the MSMC Knight Invitational and the New England Championships, took place September 30 and October 7.

"Our top three runners had little dents along the way which made life a little bit harder so I sat them for the New England meet and we were just waiting for the [injuries] to heal themselves," Nill said. "We were runner-ups in 2011 [at the NE10 meet] but other than that we haven't had a top five finish since."

At last Sunday's Northeast-10 Championship, the men finished ninth and were highlighted off performances from Shannahan, 26:10.7, Cugini, 26:13.93 and Perusina,

26:54.67.

There are only four juniors and three seniors on the team so there is definitely a window for success over an extended period of time, as Nill has alluded to time and time again. Woodward, their top runner, is just a freshman and is one of 10 they brought in with the most recent recruiting class.

On the women's side, junior Ashley Betts felt confident in the abilities of her and her teammates, saying they were looking to finish in a good place and have that build on their confidence for the regional meet.

"Last year we finished fifth in the NE10s and ninth in the regionals so we are just looking to improve," said Betts. "We are only losing one girl this year; it's a young team and we have a good atmosphere to stay positive about."

The women placed 13th at NE10s. Senior Laura Morrison led the way for Southern with a time of 22:26.00 and Betts crossed the finish line at 24:14.83. Sophomore Meghan Delaney ran in 59th place overall and had a time of 24:15.97.

The Rockets are for real

By Phil Zoppi

The Houston Rockets are the biggest threat to the Golden State Warriors and they proved that on the NBA's opening night.

Houston traded blows with the defending NBA champs all night long and eventually pulled out a thrilling 122-121 victory. The reason the Rockets can hang with the Warriors is not because they can stop them defensively. No one can stop the Warriors defensively. What the Rockets can do is keep up with the Warriors offensively

because of their dynamic and unique offense.

Whenever you start a conversation about Houston's offense, it has to start with the MVP runner up James Harden. Harden does a magnificent job of scoring at a high clip while still involving all of his teammates in the offense. I like to call him a mini-LeBron because he does not possess the skills that LeBron does defensively but plays very similar to him offensively.

Houston was not able to knock off the Warriors last year but the addition of Chris Paul

changes everything. Last season when Harden went off the floor the Rockets did not have a legit floor general on the floor. Patrick Beverley tried to be that player but he simply could not create enough for himself and teammates to pose much of a threat to opponents.

Now that the Rockets have Paul that means their head coach, Mike D'Antoni, can have either Harden or Paul on the floor at all times. That is a serious weapon that the 2016 Rockets did not have. Paul is a great distributor of the ball and will have no problem finding

Houston's prolific three point shooters as he has averaged 9.9 assists per game during his career. On top of that, Paul has always been a big time scorer that can single handedly keep a team in the game.

With other solid players like Trevor Ariza, Eric Gordon and Clint Capela, the Rockets have the offensive firepower to take down the Warriors. I am not saying they will do it, but if there is a team out there that can, it is this team.



Phil Zoppi - Sports Editor

SCSU volleyball vs. American International



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

The Southern volleyball team stands for the national anthem before the game.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Alyssa Gage trying to place the ball over the defender's arms.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Players try to set up a return shot as the rest of the team watches.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Alexandria Jurgens tries to set up her teammate for a spike.

Northeast-10 Standings

MEN'S FOOTBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
ASSUMPTION	6	6-0	1.000	7	7-0	1.000
LIU POST	6	4-2	0.667	7	5-2	0.714
NEW HAVEN	6	4-2	0.667	7	5-2	0.714
BENTLEY	6	4-2	0.667	7	4-3	0.571
STONEHILL	6	3-3	0.500	7	4-3	0.571
PACE	6	2-4	0.333	7	3-4	0.429
AMERICAN INT'L	6	2-4	0.333	7	2-5	0.286
MERRIMACK	6	2-4	0.333	7	2-5	0.286
SO. CONNECTICUT	6	2-4	0.333	7	2-5	0.286
SAINT ANSELM	6	1-5	0.167	7	1-6	0.143

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NEW HAVEN	10	10-0	1.000	22	15-7	0.682
AMERICAN INT'L	9	7-2	0.778	23	14-9	0.609
SAINT ANSELM	10	7-3	0.700	22	14-8	0.636
SO. CONNECTICUT	9	6-3	0.667	23	18-5	0.783
BENTLEY	9	6-3	0.667	22	15-7	0.682
ADELPHI	8	5-3	0.625	20	9-11	0.450
PACE	9	5-4	0.556	24	11-13	0.458
STONEHILL	8	4-4	0.500	18	7-11	0.389
LE MOYNE	8	3-5	0.375	20	10-10	0.500
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	9	3-6	0.333	18	7-11	0.389
ASSUMPTION	9	3-6	0.333	18	5-13	0.278
FRANKLIN PIERCE	9	3-6	0.333	20	5-15	0.250
SAINT ROSE	7	1-6	0.143	22	10-12	0.455
MERRIMACK	7	1-6	0.143	21	4-17	0.190
SAINT MICHAEL'S	9	1-8	0.111	14	1-13	0.071

A student's take on where to learn



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

The Hilton C. Buley library

By Lynandro Simmons

Location can be very important when it comes to learning. In order to study and get work done, I always needed a place of seclusion and silence. For many students at Southern, this location would be Buley Library. For me, one of these places is the newsroom.

As a student journalist, I am often on the move looking for stories between classes. Having a central location to get away from other students is key to my writing. Whenever I need to do extensive studying, the newsroom is my go-to place. Though a library is quiet, for a person like me, having people around me still serves as a distraction. Whenever I decide to study or do any homework, I need to be isolated so that I am forced to focus only on my work.

Every student in college will have to find a spot that works best for them. When I started doing my work in the newsroom I immediately saw results. In college, a student finding a successful studying habit can go a long way for their college career. Similarly, when I started seeing how seclusion helped me to focus, I started using the study rooms in Buley library.

These study rooms are another location that have been helpful for me. Whether I was doing my work alone or in a group, the study rooms were a useful location. Although the newsroom is my first choice, these study rooms can be helpful to students who may not be as fortunate as a student journalist like me.

Finding a place to study that fits a person's own personality type can be difficult. I did not find my own personal space until I was deep in my major. But before the newsroom, there was another place that I liked to go to: the benches on the side of Morrill Hall.

On a sunny day, these benches provide a great way to get some air, clear my mind and still get some work done. Also, this location is not a place with heavy traffic since not many students are usually walking this path. When I first arrived at Southern, this location provided a balance of seclusion, being outside and not being stuck in a classroom.

Where a person studies can really contribute to how much work gets done. Students should pay attention to their study environments. Some people like to listen to music out loud or do other activities while they work. Others need to limit their distractions as best they can in order to focus. So finding a location that provides a suitable atmosphere for a student is key. As stated before, the best location I have had at Southern was the newsroom.

Finding a location that works best is entirely dependent on the person. There are some who like the library, others who like to study in large groups and students who rely entirely on their own dorm rooms. Even small things like temperature and lighting can affect a student's study habits. Whatever suits a student's habits best varies by the individual, but there is a plethora of places at Southern.

Media education without the fear

By Melissa Nunez

It is hard to deal with fear of technology when it is so rapidly evolving and especially when young people sometimes interact with it inappropriately. When parents and teachers encounter young people cyber bullying, sexting or engaging in other threatening cyber behaviors, it is impossible not to feel fear for their safety and fear of the unknown. What can be even harder is not impressing that fear onto the young ones they are trying to educate and protect.

When Katherine Fry, co-founder of New York's The Learning About Multimedia Project (LAMP), is called to run educational programming about these conflicts, she says one of LAMP's core principles is to establish media education programs that explore the concept of media, to focus how messages are shaped by media and how these messages are interpreted by their users as well as how they affect how users understand each other.

While the comprehensive approach aims to cultivate curiosity and educate, rather than instill a sense of caution and fear, educators who call on the LAMP for programming at their schools and conferences do not always agree with their approach. In that, their own misunderstanding of media inhibits their students from learning in an environment where they are allowed to think of technology as a safe place to explore and ethically learn how to interact with it.

One example outlined in "Developing Media Literacy: Managing Fear and Moving Beyond," was a case the LAMP was invited to, when it was discovered that some students were making threats digitally at the Brooklyn Parochial



PHOTO COURTESY | LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE BY SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLEE CLARK

School. As they began to explain to school administrators and police the comprehensive media education program that would work with both parents and students to help them establish healthy cyber relationships, they were immediately shut down.

"No," the policeman said, as he slammed his hands on the table, "We want you to scare the s*** out of them," according to the, "Developing Media Literacy: Managing Fear and Moving Beyond," article.

Ultimately, the LAMP did not run a program at the school as they could not come to an agreement as to what program should be run. In a threatening situation, it was understandable that the administrators felt fear—but to willingly go against properly educating their students, to rather have

their students assume "the Internet and [forms of] digital [communications] are dangerous across the board," gets lost in a bigger, cultural problem of misunderstanding and fear mongering.

Fear can also isolate certain types of media from an overall media literacy program, as was such with Fry's second case, when high school students at New York Public University reached out to the LAMP to run a program at their news literacy summit. In response, they wanted to run a workshop that would focus "on the economics of news, teaching high school-aged participants about the constraints put on news by advertisers," according to the, "Developing Media Literacy: Managing Fear and Moving Beyond," article.

This workshop was ultimately rejected because organizers believed it did not accurately fit into the realm of "news literacy." Here, the fear that traditional journalism is fading due to the impact of social media is forcing educators to isolate news literacy from overall media literacy, when news as a medium actively ties into media literacy education.

The news media, like any other medium, is expanding and evolving; these changes can seem threatening, especially when educators are unsure how to handle the threat. But, as educators, the primary responsibility is to learn and then teach to their students, not to cultivate and encourage a culture of fear.

Fear does not encourage curious minds. Fear inhibits them and stops them in their tracks. If students are not interested in actively learning to ethically engage and communicate with media, then they will go on to cultivate a media culture of misunderstanding and abuse.

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



Cheer team performing at the opening of the pep rally.

Pep rally gets Owls hootin'

Photos: Palmer Piana



Swim team taking center stage at the rally.



Step team performing in front of crowd.



Otis high-fiving students at the event.



Men's track team ripping off their shirts during their spotlight time.