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SOUTHERN NEWS

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ALEKS program yields mixed results

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor
Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

The DFW rate—the number of students receiving D's, F's, or withdrawing—for the first year of Math 100P, or ALEKS, resulted in high numbers.

According to data provided from the School

of Arts and Sciences, the DFW rate of ALEKS, a one-semester course and web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system, was set at 53 percent for fall '17, and 58.6 percent in spring '18.

In fall 2017, the success rate, or students receiving a letter grade of A, B or C, was 46.5 percent, and 40.9 percent for spring 2018.

"When you combine

Math 95 and Math 100 from years past, sadly the rates aren't that out of line from what you are seeing now in comparison," said Craig Hlavac, interim associate dean for the arts and sciences department. "So, this is not, I honestly don't think that this is a problem that Math 100P and the computers have created. I think that this is a larger problem that we have to

address."

In addition, the data stated the DFW rate for Math 100, the other math pre-requisite course students can be placed into, was 48.7 percent for fall 2017 and 49.4 percent for spring 2018. The courses had a success rate of 51.2 percent and 49.4 percent respectively.

"The data is the data," said Hlavac. "There [are]

some differences between Math 100 and Math 100P.

There are maybe a number of reasons of why that's the case. One has a human factor and one doesn't. So, one is being graded by a computer and one is being graded by a person."

The university, he said, does not find these DFW rates to be acceptable.

"We really want to improve these rates just like

anybody else," said Hlavac. One tactic the university is considering in order to fix these rates is providing "professional development" to professors teaching the course.

"There are best practices for what instructors in these courses should be doing," said Hlavac, "and we want to make sure that all the instructors who are teaching these courses are

See ALEKS program, Page 2

Iranian journalist fights for equality



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Iranian journalist Masih Alinejad with student Bailey Gartman, a senior and English education major in Engleman Hall.

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

In her book, "The Wind in My Hair: My Fight for Freedom in Modern Iran," an Iranian journalist, author and feminist, Masih Alinejad

talks about how she grew up to spark a revolution in Iran in her fight for feminism, equality and freedom.

Alinejad spoke to a small audience of students and faculty last Monday about what it

was like growing up in Iran and through to the present day.

Alinejad said at a young age she was not aware of what feminism and equality were. Her main goal was to have the same freedom as her

brother.

Her brother could play in a nearby river without an escort, ride a bicycle, sing aloud and show his hair, she said.

"He was allowed basically to be his true self," said Alinejad. "But

me? My body was a shame."

Alinejad said she envied her brother's freedom and other male relatives could enjoy.

Alinejad said she learned to empower herself and fight for her freedom from mother.

See Masih Alinejad, Page 3

MSA and CAIR host Voter Engagement Banquet

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

Asma Rahimyar, a sophomore, and community outreach chair for the Muslim Student Association (MSA) said she votes for the people and for their inalienable rights.

"I vote for my classmates, whose mother had to choose between sending her daughter to medical school and her son to law school," said Rahimyar, at the Voter Engagement Banquet, hosted by the MSA and Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). "I vote for the woman who brings her 2-year-old son to my math class every Friday, keeping him occupied. When I vote for politicians of color, I vote for my Nigerian friend who grew up being told that she'd have to work twice as hard to be taken half as seriously."

She touched upon the points of why one should register to vote, why voting matters and how compassion plays a central role.

She also said she was inspired by the election of former President Barack Obama.

"When I was 8-years-old, President Obama was inaugurated, and my teacher took us to see the inauguration speech, not knowing what to expect, and in it he talked about how he was a skinny kid with a funny name," she said. "That stuck with me, and that night I went home and in my journal, I wrote about that. If he can get as far as he got, then maybe I can too."

See Voter Registration, Page 3

Bronze owl flies in late

August Pelliccio
Features & Opinions Editor

One day, everybody is going to come out of Engleman Hall, said President Joe Bertolino, and there is going to be a big owl there.

Bertolino said the five-foot-wide bronze owl statue, set to be installed in front of Engleman Hall, arrived last week, and has since been undergoing a structural reinforcement and weatherproofing

process.

The thought of putting an owl statue on campus has been around as long as he has been president, said Bertolino, but considering the potential cost, it was never been a high priority.

"I was not inclined to have one commissioned," said Bertolino, "and pay astronomical amounts of money for something like that."

He found after researching, that commissioning a bronze

statue for a school mascot can cost as much as \$100,000.

Michelle Johnston, director of alumni relations, said the 125th Anniversary Committee—which she is a member of, began discussing the idea last spring—when planning for the anniversary began.

There was a search for the perfect owl, said Johnston, and even a wooden sculpture was being considered at one point.



PHOTO COURTESY | PATRICK DILGER

See Statue, Page 3

The bronze owl sculpture that will be installed in front of Engleman Hall.

Students fight back against the flu season

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

John McCarthy, pharmacy manager at the ShopRite of Hamden, said at a Wellness Center Health and Wellness Self-Care Fair, students are susceptible to getting the flu because of close quarters; some even continue to go to and from school while suffering from the flu.

“It’s nice to be able to come to campus and offer a nice, simple way [to get a flu shot] where people can just come,” said McCarthy, “while they’re on campus, instead of having to hunt it down at their doctors.”

The fair was a show of all the various services the university has to offer in regard to mental health, clean energy and sustainability, counseling services and the annual walk-in Flu Shot Clinic.

According to McCarthy, the clinic conducted earlier this October, had over 60 participants. He said in September, both this year and last year, the clinic got over 100 participants.

According to Wellness Center graduate intern Bianca Flowers, approximately 280 students received the flu shot between last year and this current semester.

She said they usually host two to three clinics in the fall: one in September for nursing majors and other health profession students; and two more for the general public.

McCarthy said he enjoys going into the community and providing access to flu shots. He said the benefits of flu shots are, “innumerable.”

McCarthy said students who wish to receive a flu shot need only to provide

either their insurance card or a prescription card at the walk-in.

People should not wait until the winter to get a vaccination, he said, as it takes two weeks for the vaccine to become, “fully effective.”

“It’s ideal to get it sometime before December, if possible,” said McCarthy. “Once the flu season is up and running, you’re already protected.”

“[The turnout] often depends on the weather or the location,” said Emily Rosenthal, coordinator of the Wellness Center. “Some students swipe in and some students choose not to; it’s also open to faculty and staff, visitors, anyone.”

Rosenthal said last semester another clinic was added in January because of the “flu crisis.”

“We did it in the [Engleman] rotunda and

people were – we ran out of flu shots,” said Rosenthal.

In a campus-wide statement put out in the spring 2018 semester, it was reported from the Center of Disease Control over 12,000 people were hospitalized due to the influenza virus, making it the worst flu season in 15 years.

Kyra Lawrence, a senior and public health major, said she believes people should promote healthy things, such as getting the flu shot.

“[The flu shot] helps keep us healthy,” said Lawrence, “and it especially helps vulnerable groups of people, who may not have the immune ability to fight off the flu, like infants, small children, the elderly; those are huge demographics in our community.”



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Spencer Brunson, a junior and marketing major, at the Wellness Center's Health and Wellness Self-Care Fair.

Spencer Brunson, a junior and marketing major, said he declined getting a flu shot because of the “stigma.”

“[The flu shot] is not really, like – it doesn’t really help,” said Brunson. “It does more harm than good.”

Senior and education major Rachel Knight said she gets the flu shot every year.

“It’s cold out and everyone else is getting sick,” said Knight, “you don’t want to be the one that gets sick too.”

ALEKS program

Continued from Page 1

aware of what those best practices are.”

According to Hlavac, the university is working to garner data collected from the ALEKS program to discern how to better address student’s issues.

“What we are trying to do is mine the ALEKS data to take a look at what topics and what areas are students struggling with at once,” he said.

By doing so, Hlavac said instructors can pinpoint which students need more help with specific topics, and then additional instruction can be offered to these students during the week.

In addition, the School of Arts and Sciences has asked a committee to review the math placement tests, he said.

“They are looking at how students are placing now into Math 100 [or] 100P or other math courses to determine if that’s the way it should be happening,” said Hlavac, “[and] benchmarking other institutions in terms of their placements and policies; looking at how we should use standardized tests to place [as well].”

Mathematics

Department Chairperson Leon Brin and Elizabeth Hart, math emporium coordinator, said they are looking to have all incoming freshman take an ALEKS placement test starting next fall semester.

“Having such a student body that’s so diverse,” said Hart, “which [is] wonderful, coming from so many different places really lends to the challenge of making sure that everyone who said they’ve done [a math course], has actually done that particular [course] and it means the same thing.”

The Mathematics Department is also reviewing the grading system for Math 100P.

In 2012, under Public Act 1240, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities institutions had to change the ways in which remedial courses were offered, according to Hlavac.

Prior to this change, students could be placed in a remedial non-credit math course, or Math 95, depending on their standardized test results, he said.

This course had to be taken to move onto Math 100, which then placed students into a university required math course, he said.

Now, state law requires only one for-credit



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Aleesa Martins, a freshman and studio art major.

intensive course may be taken by a student to access the college curriculum, he said—doing away with the non-credited course.

Math 100 or 100P and English 110 are the two courses a student may take to access the university requirements, he said.

However, Hlavac said some students are still enrolling into the university with placement and standardized test scores that show “deficiency,” he said.

“So, you’ve got a very wide range of folks placing into both of these areas,” said Hlavac. “Either with a writing deficiency or a math deficiency. So, if you

imagine you have some that may be struggling with a whole number of topics.”

Brin said the Mathematics Department did not think they could replace the two courses with a standard lecture course and achieve their goals.

He said there are three lines of teaching involved in ALEKS; the program, peer mentors and instructors, and the Academic Success Center.

“ALEKS is the teacher,” said Brins. “It’s not the student teaching themselves it’s ALEKS teaching them.”

Hart said the one-on-one, immediate feedback allows students to figure out sooner rather than later, “what’s going right, what’s going wrong.”

Hart said one thing students find most difficult about ALEKS is it can be a hard transition for students who are “used to sort of being led the whole way.”

Hart said students have to be proactive and take initiative to read through the rules and understand the structure of the ALEKS program.

Math Emporium tutor Keith Williams said he thinks the program is based on self-teaching.

“I think for some students this program is perfect because they’re more – they’re able to

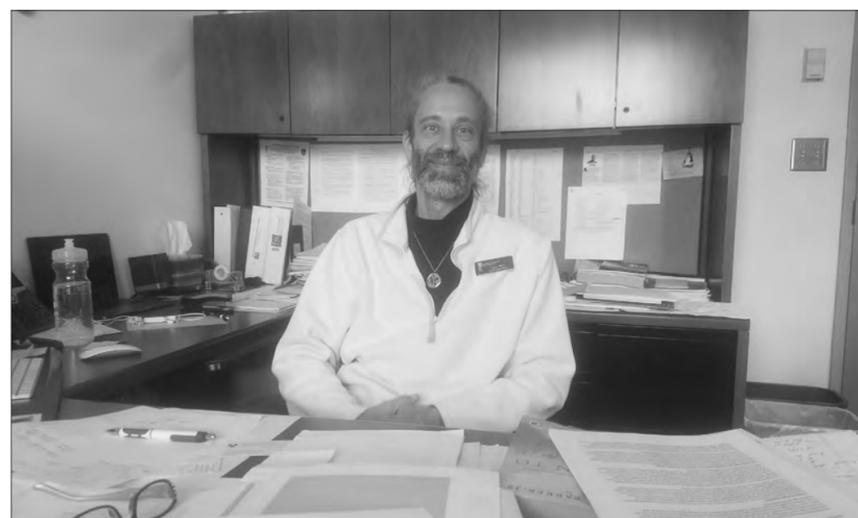


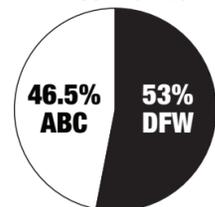
PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Mathematics Department Chairperson and Professor Leon Brin.

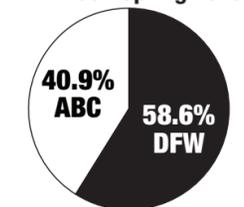
ALEKS

Last year, the Mathematics Department required students to take Math 100 or Math 100P, also known as ALEKS. Prior to this, Math 095 and then Math 100 were the required courses.

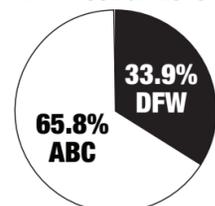
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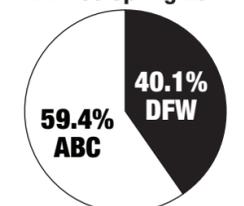
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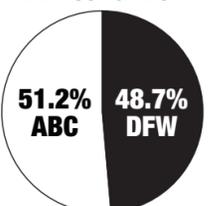
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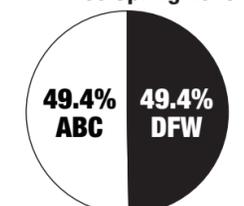
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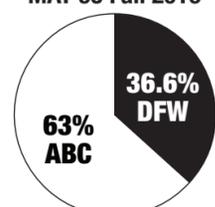
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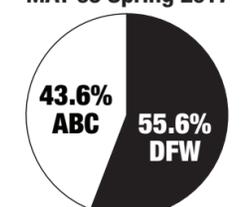
MAT 100 Spring 2018



MAT 95 Fall 2016



MAT 95 Spring 2017



DFW: A grade of a “D”, “F” or withdrawal from the class
ABC: A grade of a “A”, “B” or “C”

INFOGRAPHIC | SAMUEL FIX

Source credit: School of Arts and Sciences

teach themselves, at their own pace,” said Williams. “But for the majority, I don’t think it’s – it works out that well because if they’re here, chances are they’re already not that good at math, to begin with.”

Williams said there is a good combination of teacher involvement, but the primary teaching source is ALEKS.

Aleesa Martins, a freshman and studio art major, said she prefers being in a classroom with a teacher.

“I honestly feel like I haven’t really learned anything, it’s more like a

review,” said Martins.

Martins said with a teacher as the primary instructor it is easier to understand concepts. She said with ALEKS the explanations are more technical not simplified.

Freshman and pre-nursing major Beth Parys said she personally does not find the ALEKS program hard.

Parys said she finds the “self-learning” or “self-paced” style of the program to be helpful as she does not have to wait on classmates who may not move at the same pace as her.



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Ian Bergemann, SGA representative-at-large, in the Academic Success Center.

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Student Government Association (SGA) Representative-at-Large Ian Bergemann organized and set-up an online voter registration last week in the hopes of getting students to register.

"I used to [set up events]

in high school," said Bergemann, "and, you know, [doing it yourself] it's what works."

Bergemann said he currently does canvassing in Guilford for the campaign of Christine Cohen, who is running for the state senate for the 12th district. He said with all the volunteers he works with he is the only college

student involved.

"I would like to see more engagement," said Bergemann. "I would like to see more people out there advocating for what they believe in—it doesn't even have to be politics."

Bergemann said before starting his current volunteer work for Cohen's campaign, the results of Supreme Court Justice

Student hosts online voter registration event

Brett Kavanaugh's hearing pushed him to engage in politics.

"I've been compelled," said Bergemann.

He said he spent the entire day glued to the television screen watching the hearings unfold, even while at work.

"I was really hopeful that this would be a moment where America would listen and recognize a victim and recognize this is a serious problem," said Bergemann, "and we didn't."

Bergemann said as discouraging as the result was, he is not giving up.

"You don't get the privilege to forget that it happens," said Bergemann. Bergemann said

although turnout has been "extremely low," he has stayed hours after school the entire week in an effort to encourage others to register to vote.

He said people tend to forget that change can come from voting and often feel as if their vote does not matter in the grand scheme of things.

"This [is] my way of thanking Dr. Ford," said Bergemann. "This is my way of saying to her, that I can validate what happened to you and I'm going to do something about it."

Sarah Cook, a junior and interdisciplinary major, said she was not registered to vote because she was not yet of age to vote.

"I know that it's, like, a

privilege and a right to vote, so I figured that would hop along," said Cook.

Cook said now that she is registered, her next plan of engagement is to research each candidate

Amanda Japs, a junior and elementary education major, registered to vote when she turned 18 in 2016 but said voting is not "big" in her life.

Japs said she does not feel she is knowledgeable enough about politics to cast a vote. However, she does encourage others to register.

"If you have the right and freedom to do it, might as well just do it," said Japs, "because not everybody has that right or freedom."

Masih Alinejad

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PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Iranian journalist Masih Alinejad.

"I was never looking for a hero," said Alinejad. "Never looking for a - you know, somebody well known or celebrities these days or politicians to come and save me. I learned from my pain to be powerful."

Alinejad said the biggest argument people make against her cause is "this [is] not a right time to talk about women's rights."

"I said no several times in my life," said Alinejad, "and I got expelled from everywhere."

Alinejad said she was kicked out of high school for asking questions. She said she was jailed for creating and spreading pamphlets around with information that criticized the Iranian government and was kicked out by the Iranian Parliament for exposing corruption.

According to a LeanIn

article, Alinejad recounts a time she was interviewing a member of parliament who threatened to assault her for "two loose strands of hair" sticking out her hijab.

"Anytime when I was asking a question about politicians, about politics in Iran, guess what they would say to me? 'First, cover your hair,'" said Alinejad. "When you are a woman, they don't care about what you say, they care about what you wear. They care about your body. They care about your sexuality."

Bailey Gartman, a senior and English education major, said she had not realized compulsory hijabs were "still a thing."

"Social media has helped a variety of movements, like scattered across the world," said Gartman, "and gained so much

momentum."

David Notholt, a senior and political science major, said although he attended for a class assignment, his biggest take away from the event was equality.

"It's not just women that can work to fix this issue, it's everybody has to work together," said Notholt.

Alinejad - who has been living in exile since 2009 - said the most important thing she learned in exile was "you only have two options to be victim, homesick, miserable, isolated or to use the opportunity to be the voice of voiceless people."

Alinejad said Iranian women are teaching feminists worldwide how to resist.

Alinejad said in response to the #MeToo movement, the supreme leader of Iran said, "It is your fault. This is

the Western women's fault because you don't believe in Islam, because you don't try hijab."

Alinejad said this sparked a movement on social media called #MyCameraMyWeapon, in which Iranian women filmed their interactions with the morality police, officers who enforce Sharia law, and eventually inspired her to create her own campaign My Stealthy Freedom, an online movement which showcases women of Iran removing their hijab.

She said from what she has seen, American feminists are "scared" to support feminist movements in the Middle East out of fear of being labelled Islamophobic.

"Never ignore your sisters," said Alinejad. "Feminism is feminism."

Statue

Continued from Page 1

"I have to give credit where credit is due," said Bertolino, "and that is with Roland Regos, in my office."

Regos, assistant to the president, found an owl statue already manufactured online, according to Bertolino, for a cost of roughly \$7,000.

Regos said the costs, including installation, construction of the foundation, shipping and handling totalled \$11,584.50.

"I was like, 'wow,'" Bertolino said, "what do we have to lose?"

Bertolino said at that point, he brought the idea to faculty and staff, "and everybody pitched in."

Johnston said the alumni association gave \$2,000 to this pool.

The low cost made the concept "perfect," according to Bertolino.

"If someone had said to me, for example, 'Joe I want to buy you a statue, and I'm going [to] commission an artist to do it for 100 grand,' my response to that would have been, 'why don't you give us the 100 grand for scholarships, and let's hold off on the owl!'"

Bertolino said he personally wrote a check for \$1,000 of the total cost, which, including

installation, totalled about \$10,000.

"The goal had been to unveil it at Homecoming," said Bertolino. "Unfortunately, the owl didn't fly here, and got delayed in transit."

During Homecoming week, he said, the statue was still en-route in Chicago.

Bertolino said in the spring, there will be a formal ceremony to dedicate the owl statue, and a plaque will be placed.

Johnston said she looks forward to school commencements and convocations in the future, when students can walk by the owl, and stop to take a picture or touch it for good luck.

"Hopefully," Johnston said, "we'll start a good tradition."

Hannah Molwitz, a freshman, and pre-nursing major, said if the installation is executed well, the statue will be a nice addition to the campus.

"I think the location is really good," said Molwitz, "I personally pass it at least three times a day, when I have class."

The other only concern she had was the upkeep as time goes on.

"Bronze will deteriorate

and go green over time," said Molwitz.

"I like the fact that they're putting a sculpture in, in general," said Molly Flanagan, a junior and interdisciplinary studies major, "but it's just such a random area."

She said she would have rather seen some element added to the middle of the quad, in the center of all the buildings, to add to an otherwise plain grass field.

Vittoria Cristante, a junior, and theater major, said she looks forward to walking by the bronze statue in the future; it is a welcomed new element.

"This is the first owl thing I'm seeing on campus," Cristante said.

Johnston said she thinks the installation will be beneficial to alumni as well. She is sure, she said, alumni will appreciate the sight of it when visiting campus in the future.

Johnston said having an owl cast in bronze will be a lasting image, considering how frequently the mascot costume and school logo have changed over the years.

"I hope it's a symbol of a positive direction," said Bertolino. "I hope it's a point of pride."

Voter Banquet

Continued from Page 1

If he can get as far as he got, then maybe I can too."

To ensure that people can act on their constitutional right to vote or know how to go about voting, the banquet had an information session hosted by Sawera Hussan, a community organizer of CAIR-Connecticut.

"CAIR-CT aims to protect civil rights, promote justice and advocate for Muslim Americans," she said,

"CAIR provides a voice by promoting civil rights, and advocate on the behalf of Muslims who experience religious discrimination and hate crimes. We're also actively involved in government affairs, and CAIR helps elected officials understand policy issues that affect Islam and Muslims."

Hussan educated those in attendance on how to fill out an absentee ballot, elaborated on people's rights as voters, and provide resources via online sources.

Keynote speaker, Alicia Strong, the former executive director at CAIR-Connecticut gave advice for people of color, and



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Alicia Strong, former executive director at CAIR-Connecticut at the Voter Engagement Banquet.

especially woman of color.

"Get rid of the imposter syndrome because I know my whole life I always felt like I didn't belong. Even though I come from the inner city. When I started out in high school, I wasn't in and I felt like I wasn't supposed to be here. This was an accident, and they brought me here to increase the diversity ratio. I'm not at the level to be in this space," Strong said, "I'm here to tell you that's not true. Despite what people want to make you

feel like, or what you might make yourself feel like. You belong in that group, you're just as smart as anyone else, you're just as capable of doing that work."

She also said not to forget anyone because your community may not be attacked now, but it does not mean they will not be attacked later in reference to why people should vote beyond times of communal attacks.

She said, "if they don't want to give you a seat at the table. Bring a folding."

OPINIONS

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Objecting to vote is a waste of an American right

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

Nov. 6 is just around the corner, and a lot is riding on this election for everyone. Whether a democrat, who wants the blue wave to cascade into the United States or a republican leaning towards the right, there is one clear way to sound your voice. The only way to make change or maintain the current status quo is by

voting.

Hey, I get it, people usually only care about the presidential elections. It is the Superbowl of American elections while the midterms are more like the pre-season games. Yet, they do matter. Presidents do not make the laws, congress does. Civilly speaking, the president just signs bills into laws. With that in mind, every vote does matter, truly.

Take, for example, the 2016 Arizona Republican

Primary of the 5th Congressional District. State Senator Andy Biggs was in the lead with 16 votes against challenger, Christine Jones. After a recount, it was found that Biggs was in the lead by 24 votes. That means just 24 people made a difference regarding who won.

I could go on, citing past elections that were decided in even closer margins. One vote does indeed make all the difference in an election. Your vote

could determine whether there are more restrictive abortion laws, determine state budgets, immigration and more. It matters, and by not voting, you are just a bystander of history rather than a participant.

I would not use the excuse of, "they're not going to win anyway," because such defeatism ensures the person you want to get elected, does not get elected. I have known some who were Bernie Sanders supporters, who did not vote for him (or in some cases at all) because they thought Hillary Clinton was destined to win regardless

If you are dispirited about a congressperson's politics, or their choices do not align with your political views, maybe the candidate running against them would be a far better choice. Voting is your true chance to usher in that change. Our election process is an ongoing revolution because we can regularly keep changing the fabric of congress if we are not satisfied with how the congress people are running our political institutions.

So, go vote on Nov. 6. Apply for an absentee ballot if you are too far from home. Get a ride from a friend to head to the polls. For some, it seems as serious as life or death: who becomes their



PHOTO | LAURIE SHAULL

2016 voting location, "vote here," in Washington D.C. representative in congress. It matters because the right to vote is a right that we continue to battle for in every generation.

The women suffragettes fought for this right during the suffrage movement. Suffragettes were jailed, and endured being force fed for three weeks during prison hunger strikes, all just for their right to vote. Rev. George Lee was assassinated in 1955 because he was trying to organize African Americans to register to vote. Indigenous people could not vote until 1924, Latinx people were not completely free from discrimination in regards to voting until an amendment to the Voting Rights Acts in 1975. Chinese were not able to vote until the Magnuson Act in 1943.

My point is that not everyone imminently got

the right to vote when our constitution was written. Many fought, some died, and people continue to fight just to maintain their right to vote. Voting is a right that can not be ignored or cast aside, because someone ignorantly thinks it will not matter at the end of the day.

So, please vote. Vote because you want a candidate who ideas reflects yours. Vote because you want the congressperson currently in office out. Vote because it is your duty as an American, and voting is what prevents this country from spiraling out of control or to correct when we end up mistakenly voting the wrong person in. Vote because it may be the difference between legislation that lifts us up or obliterates our rights.

For the love of whichever
Celestial body you may or
may not believe in,
VOTE.
Live on campus?
Get an absentee ballot.

PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Encouragement to vote, written on a whiteboard in Earl Hall room 114.

Harboring malicious energy leads to increased attacks

By Tamonda Griffith
News Writer

This past week adversaries of President Trump - CNN correspondent John Brennan, Hillary Clinton, former President Bill Clinton, former President Barack Obama, and former Vice President Joe Biden, to name a few - have received homemade pipe bombs by

mail.

At 10:52 a.m. on Friday, October 26th a suspect was taken into FBI custody.

Naturally, before any arrest was made many wondered who the next target was going to be and who was behind the mailings.

In a segment on his show the Rush Limbaugh show, Limbaugh said, "Would it make a lot of sense for a Democrat operative

or Democrat-inculcated lunatic to do it? Because things are not working out the way they thought."

Conservative political commentator, Ann Coulter tweeted the pipe bombings were, "a liberal tactic."

Limbaugh, Coulter, and other conservative public figures seem to think Democrats and liberals are scrounging for sympathy and support in order to win the upcoming November

2018 midterm elections.

Days after the bombing suspect was brought into custody, the President vowed to end the "political violence" that has plagued the nation. In that same speech, President Trump said the media has stoked the tension with "constant unfair coverage" and are using the incident to, "undermine healthy debate," between both sides of the aisle.

While I do not think this incident should blanketly define, supporters of the President as completely crazy, it does not look favorably upon them.

During his presidential campaign, then-presidential candidate Trump said to an Iowa rally, "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters."

As President, his words and/or tweets hold weight

to the world. Advocating violence in one way or another, and then being upset when one of your followers takes your advice is no one's fault but your own.

News flash: Mr. President, your words matter.

Star Trek character, Spock said, "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

Unfortunately, in this case, and others similar to it, the actions of one can represent/define the whole group.

Throughout his presidency, President Trump has expressed animosity against the media - especially when he is not looked favorably upon - as "fake news."

The President asking for the news to be objective when he himself seems to be incapable of such is hypocrisy at its finest.

These bombings just continue to assert how divided we are as people, as a nation.

There are no gray areas; you are either for something or against it. Bi-partisanship is a thing of the rapidly forgotten past.

You can support whoever you so choose: President Trump, former President Obama, Bernie Sanders, Taylor Swift, but blindly taking marching orders without consideration for the consequences of your actions is the job of a robot, not a human being.

If the President truly encourages "healthy debate," then he needs to show not tell us he vows to end the political animosity that plagues the country.

No more "falsehoods." No more encouraging protestors be dragged from your rallies. No more "loving Trump's hate."



TWITTER PHOTO | DAVID VIDECETTE

Pipe bomb sent John Brennan of CNN office on Oct. 24.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

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

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
Student Center Room 225
New Haven, CT 06515

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Essence Boyd

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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.

Looking back: Fall of 1987



Guaranteed loans cut, drastically reducing aid

In the fall of 1987, of the 1,210 Southern students who received \$2.6 million through the Guaranteed Student Loan programs the prior year, only 21 would be eligible for aid that semester.

The decrease was the result of changes in federal regulations determining who is eligible for GSL. The changes came into effect when President Reagan signed the changes into the Reauthorization of Higher Education Act of 1965.

"Before the that time the government looked only at the student-parent income to determine eligibility for a GSL," said Assistant Director of Financial Aid John Giordano. "Now they look at what assets the family has as well as how much money they are getting from other sources."

More from Fall of 1987

September:

- The campus radio station, WSCB, broadcasts for the first time in 6 years since their transmitters had broken.
- The construction of the Jess Dow Athletic Field is delayed after setbacks in the planning process.
- Southern students attend a rally in Hartford in support of better access and public transportation across the state for individuals with disabilities.

October:

- Rinaldo Petrignani, Italy's Ambassador to the United States, visits Southern to speak about Italian foreign policy, Italian-American relations and current affairs in Italy.
- The University Curriculum and Instructional Committee begins examining a proposal to create an interdisciplinary major.
- The Founder's Gate was formally named and dedicated at a ceremony by university president Michael Adanti.

November

- Sources tell the Southern News the removal of cancer-causing asbestos from Buley Library is a safe process and will not effect students.
- Jane Hamilton-Merritt, associate professor of journalism, is honored by the Connecticut United Nations Associations as one of the 110 outstanding women of the decade.

December

- The men's soccer team wins their first national championship.
- Rocco Pannella, assistant dean of student affairs, dispels the rumor that students can leave class if a professor is 15 minutes late.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Josh LaBella, Managing Editor

Students show off shawls and scarves

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

As the leaves change colors, and the season transitions from summer to fall, students' apparel follows suite. A common fashion choice for combating the fall chills are scarves.

Whether an infinity scarf, classic scarf, cowl or shawl, students are beginning to break out these garments.

Elise Ryan, a senior, English major, said she is a proud owner of about twenty scarves. According to her, since she has so many scarves, she matches to the outfit she wears, and has enough to match all her outfits. Ryan said that the scarves she wears to school are both a fashionable choice, and a warm one.

"Today, I'm wearing two scarves," said Ryan, "both are kind of thin, so I combined them. They matched my outfit pretty well, which I like. So in that sense it's for fashion, but it's pretty cold out today so I decided to wear scarves."

She said that scarves speak to her from the rack. Once she sees a scarf she adores, she will

buy it on the spot. She said that all her scarves are both functional and fashionable in a way that they are visually appealing and provide warmth, but would layer up with two if it is a particularly cold day.

Jess Minty, a senior, education major, said she picked her scarf because she was battling a looming cold.

"I feel myself getting kind of sick," said Minty. "I wear scarves when I'm not feeling well."

She said she likes getting ahead of becoming sick, and battles by dressing warm. The scarf she was wearing was an infinity scarf, she said, the most popular variety that she has noticed on campus. She sometimes wears scarves for fashion, but typically only does when wanting to feel warm out in the frosty temperature.

"I don't have any like, summer-y and spring-y scarves," said Minty. "They're like big, wool, functional scarves mostly. Most of them serve a function, they are also cute as well. So, like multifunction."

Minty has said that sometimes when she is in New York City, she



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Jess Minty, a senior, education major, wearing an infinity scarf.

will get cold and will buy "one of those five dollar vendor scarves."

According to Minty, she does not go out of her way to buy a scarf unless she needs one. It is with that mentality, she said, that she has accumulated such a collection of scarves over time. She also said that they do not look like cheap scarves, but they indeed are.

Lauren Brady, a junior, psychology major, said that she was wearing a stylish infinity scarf, and her scarf is not really for warmth. At the time it was 50 degrees out, and she said it was just part of her outfit.

"Well, I knew it was going to be sunny," said Brady, "so, I knew it wouldn't be that cold. It is nice because it does cover my neck that's

exposed. Because it is windy, and I picked this one because it's lighter and I have a darker outfit on."

According to Brady, she has two scarves for fashion, and two to three for warmth, she estimated to owning about six scarves. Brady said when it is closer to winter, she will change from a fashionable scarf to a warm scarf.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Lauren Brady, a junior, psychology major.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Elise Ryan, a senior, English major, wearing double-layered scarves.

Students fight for smiles across the world

By Hunter Lyle
Copy Editor

Members of Operation Smile on campus said they are dedicated to raising funds to help save children's lives across the world.

As global organization, Operation Smile is dedicated to helping children with cleft palates, cleft lip and other facial or dental conditions, receive treatment and surgery.

While the official organization may be stationed in third world countries, that does not stop Rachel Lassogna and the rest of the members from

supporting and contributing towards the cause. Lassogna, a communication disorders major, is vice president of this university's chapter.

"[I wanted to join] because it helps people with cleft palate and I think that it is really important that we fundraise for it," said Lassogna. "We're able to help give everyone the opportunity to have the surgeries because they're so expensive."

As the message spreads, more chapters of Operation Smile have been opened across the world. From the Georgetown

University chapter, to the chapter in University of Wasit in Iraq, Operation Smile has gained support from many high school and colleges across the world.

Christie Abreu, a senior, communication disorders major, is treasurer of Operation Smile, who said she joined the organization because of what they do for children.

"I was just really interested in the programs about helping kids and adults with cleft upper palate and what it stood for," said Abreu. "I started getting interested in cranial anomalies and that is actually my focus with what I want to do when I finish grad school. I want to do a mission trip with Operation Smile once I get certified and everything."

Cranial anomalies, such as cleft palates and cleft lip, are life threatening conditions, especially to young children. According to the Operation Smile national website, "as many as 93 percent of children with untreated cleft conditions will not survive to reach their 20th birthday."

Operation Smile has multiple events on campus during the year to help fundraise money for the organization, including a pumpkin painting event that was scheduled for last Wednesday.

"We have fundraisers

throughout the semester, so we have bake sales and we are going to have a toy drive at the end of the semester," said Lassogna. "All the proceeds either go to surgeries in Connecticut or third world countries."

Lassogna said that the organization's biggest event on campus was their annual 5K during the spring semester.

"We have a lot of faculty come and students and families. I believe it's \$25 to join the race and then you get a T-shirt and food for it," said Lassogna. "It's just a 5K all around campus and I believe all the money goes to third world countries. So, it's a big fundraiser, we raise a lot of money then."

Ledia Fazo, a junior, communication disorders major, said she joined the club because of the organization's inspiring mission statement.

"It's really empowering to know that you are doing something to help such a big population," said Fazo. "Plus knowing that I could be personally involved with this somehow in the future, I know I want to work with kids and teenagers. I just want to be involved with that."

According to Operation Smile's website, a donation of \$240 could help a child get a potentially life-saving surgery.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Hayley Mocker (left to right), Rachel Lassogna, Ledia Fazo, and Christie Abreu, members of Operation Smile.

Auditions showcase art for the sake of social justice

By Lexi Scicchitano
Reporter

Auditions for The Expressions of Social Justice Talent Show put on by the Multicultural Center were last week. Taking place Nov. 7, the event used to be under a different name, said Dian Brown-Albert.

"We used to have International Talent Show, from International Talent Show, the name has changed several times," said Brown-Albert, coordinator of multicultural affairs. "But, I know I changed it to Expressions of Social Justice Talent Show several years ago, and it was because it was around Social Justice Month."

Monique Harriott, a senior, exercise science major, auditioned for the talent show reciting a poem she wrote herself. She said that the event is important for college campuses because it lets students' voices be heard by other people.

"I feel that social justice, in general, is important," said Harriott, "even though it's really put out there in November, but at the same time on a college campus, I feel like it is very important, that one: the university actually cares and I feel that this is giving students the opportunity to share their talents, their perspectives on social justice, whether

they experienced it or not."

Brown-Albert said that they "wanted to take it to another level" for the talent show, and they want to engage the students more and have them "learn something a little deeper."

"The difference between this talent show and the talent shows in the past is that each student that signs up and performs, they pick a social justice issue that they're passionate about and they have one minute before they perform to talk about why this social justice issue is meaningful to them, impactful, and they also get a chance to educate the audience," said Brown-Albert.

Having written from a young age, Harriott said she has never written about experiencing racism, she used to internalize the experience. She said she was coping with it rather than dealing with it, but now she writes about it and has started reading it out to people because it is important to share to let people know that they are not alone in these experiences.

"I think it's important because sometimes people can - I feel like it's a good idea to bring people together and to make them feel good," said Curits Smola, a freshman public health major, who performed, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," by Elton John for his audition.

Brown-Albert said that the talent show lets students see different students perspectives and learn about the variety of different social justice issues.

Ninety percent of those who audition move

forward, and there are two sections for people who audition. One group is for students performing as an individual, in a duo or band, and the other category is for clubs. First place winners get \$300, second place gets \$150 and third

place gets \$50 for both groups, with clubs having the option to get it in their fundraising accounts or in gift cards, said Brown-Albert.

"It brings people together, that's one of the things about a talent

show," said Brown-Albert. "When you walk into the ballroom, it brings everybody together, and they're really coming together to just appreciate and enjoy the evening, the music, the dances, the spoken word, it's kind of magical."



PHOTO | LEXI SCICCHITANO

Monique Harriott, a senior, and exercise science major auditioning to the Social Justice Talent Show.

Students say that pocket change does add up, big time

By Jessica Guerrucci
Contributor

When it comes to coins, people save them up or toss them out. For some students at Southern, saving up their coins is how they pay for their everyday expenses, or to others, it is just some extra cash.

For Valentina Rrapi, an undecided student, saving up coins meant paying for part of her car, and she said it took her four years to do it. Rrapi used to work at MacDaddy's, a macaroni and cheese restaurant, where she collected most of her coins from the tips that she received.

Whenever Rrapi cashes in her coins, she said she spends it quickly. She said she would change her coins into dollars whenever she ran out of money. She also said that it helped her avoid asking her parents for money.

Unlike the rest of her coins, Rrapi said that she has one coin that is worth five-hundred dollars, and she has no plans to cash it in any time soon.

"My dad says the longer I hold it then it will be

worth more," said Rrapi. "I'm probably going to pass that down."

Michael Rider, a political science major, sees saving coins from a different perspective. A penny might just be worth one cent, but to him, it is worth more than that. Rider said that he specifically saves dimes and pennies because of their copper content. He has saved up over a thousand pennies in hopes that the value of copper will increase.

"Copper is worth money," said Rider, "and I'm hoping that one day there will be a need for more copper, and I can transition those pennies into larger amounts of money."

Rider said that his grandmother strips wires for copper, which is why he understands the value it may hold in the future. He also said that he believes pennies will eventually become non-existent, because in his opinion, they cost too much to make.

"Someday people might start paying two or three cents for them," Rider said. If Rider ever does cash

his pennies in, he said that he hopes to spend them on a cruise or a vacation.

Patrice Tsopanides, a sociology criminology major, had a similar idea of what she might do with the few hundred dollars that she has saved up in coins when she cashes them in. She said if she saves up enough, she would like to spend her coins on a vacation, or just something special. On the other hand, Tsopanides said that she saves her coins for things she might need in the future.

Tsopanides said she has been saving up coins for quite some time. It all started when she was younger, she said. Then, she began the practice of throwing coins into a piggy bank, and she has been saving coins since.

Even though coins are worthless to some, she said that she looks at coins the same way she looks at any other currency. She said it is weird to her that people could just throw their change away.

"I feel like growing up a little less off, I value it more, so I see it as money," said Tsopanides. "I feel like it's silly to throw it away."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Patrice Tsopanides, a sociology criminology major, who saves her coins.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Michael Rider, a political science major, who saves coins for the copper.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Valentia Rrapi, an undecided student who bought her car with coins, in part.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A small collection of U.S. coins.

Theater major calms down with art

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

For many students, at any age or grade, the stress of the school year, along with everything that comes along with it, may seem overwhelming and hard to deal with. There are various outlets and valves of relieving and relaxing. For Melanie Byron, her process is through the use of art.

"I have severe anxiety and once I go on to the stage, it goes away," said the sophomore, theatre major. "Sometimes, my anxiety will stay away once I'm off. I'll feel better."

Like many ambitious folk, Byron's passion for theater and arts began at a young age.

Byron said the arts have always been a part of who she is, and who she wants to be.

"I've been writing songs with my cousin since I was about four, then I went to theater camp when I was 10," said Byron. "Then I was in my first full production when I was 13. Ever since then I haven't not been in a show."

Since her first performance, Byron has done shows in and out of school, at a variety of different levels. She performed in shows at Shelton High School in all four years she attended.

Byron said her biggest roles during high school were when she played Danielle in "Bring It On," Ursula in "The Little



PHOTO COURTESY | MELANIE BYRON

Pieces of Melanie Byron's art.

Mermaid," and Abuela in "The Heights."

After high school, Byron chose to continue to pursue her passion for theater at Southern.

"Theater fulfills me because really like to embody a bunch of different personas," said Byron. "I like to entertain. I like to take everyone to another world because that is what I'm doing myself."

In her latest performance, Byron played Morticia Addams in "The Addams Family," which premiered at the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts earlier this month.

"The Addams Family was my favorite show that I've been in," said Byron. "I just had a great time. Loved my cast, loved my

director. It was a great time."

Byron and the rest of cast will be performing the show once again in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This annual festival is filled with performances from around the country, later in the year. She also plans to audition for "Doctor Faustus," in the future.

Alongside her love for the theater, Byron also has a passion for drawing and painting, which she also finds therapeutic. She said that drawing acts in the same stress and anxiety removal way that being on stage does.

"That's what my sketchbook is for. It's for when I have anxiety and I have to draw how I am feeling," said Byron. "It's



almost like a subconscious thing at this point. I'm not like, 'I must make myself feel better,' it is just what I do."

When she graduates in two years with her theater degree, Bryon said she just wants to be happy.

"I don't think I should plan out my life, because that's just setting yourself up for disappointment," said Byron. "I'm just taking it day by day."

Dollanganger's Heart Shaped Bed finishes strong despite slow start



PHOTO COURTESY | NICOLE DOLLANGANGER

Nicole Dollanganger.

By Jeff Lamson
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Nicole Dollanganger's "Heart Shaped Bed" can be a little sonically monotonous at times, but when one is in the right mood for it, there is nothing else like it.

Dollanganger's music has always been unique, both in terms of lyrical content and the sound itself. Although "Heart Shaped Bed" sticks out of the crowd, within itself, it comes across a little stale in parts, especially on Side A.

The first half of the album was released in March this year and served as a decent preview of what was to come. The second half was released last Friday. Unfortunately, Side A starts sounding a bit formulaic and unadventurous as you work your way towards the title track. The second half feels a lot more diverse in terms of the lyrical and sonic mood, making the whole album feel more like two loosely related extended plays slapped together.

Listeners looking for something to dance to or put them in a good mood should look elsewhere. Dollanganger's singing barely ever reaches over a whispered falsetto covering uncomfortable content.

The lyrics themselves read like something off of a poetry blog, a little edgy and, without context, cringey. But, the sincerity in Dollanganger's performance sells the messages about lust, the toxicity of relationships, self-destructive behaviors and in some instances, self-worth.

"Make something gross feel romantic," Dollanganger sings on the second verse of the title track, "Make me so no one will ever want me again."

The track does a fantastic job as a thesis statement for the album, which is exactly what a title track should do, definitely elevating the tail end of Side A and probably should have closed the whole project.

The actual closer,

"Lacrymaria Olor," is one of the less exceptional cuts on the album and feels more like a filler track, not leaving the listener as much to think about as some of the others.

Although it is still a good track, one major problem with Side B is track six, "Snake." Dollanganger's vocals are way too loud in the mix. It is an overbearing and jarring transition from "Heart Shaped Bed," and might prompt some listeners to actually turn the volume down a notch or two. Listeners of any album ever should be able to listen to the entire piece on a single volume comfortably.

A stronger moment on the album is the rerecording of the 2016 single, "Chapel." The production and synth instrumentals sound stronger and more in sync with the rest of the album that the original version would have. Like other tracks on the album, this one comes with a strong sense of imagery, but this is perhaps the strongest.

Track nine, "Only Angels Have Wings," is a definite favorite. It comes off a little sweeter than others in terms of lyrics, but there is still an acknowledgement of the dangers of devotion. Dollanganger sings about sacrificing freedom and independence to be with someone, limiting lofty pursuits to meet someone on their own level.

"Heart Shaped Bed," is overall a strong album, but not without lulls in engagement at points. It does not cover the same diversity of topics as Dollanganger's previous full-length, the fantastic, "Natural Born Losers." Side A has good moments, but Side B comes off as more enjoyable due to a larger sonic and lyrical diversity, experimenting at times to mostly strong effect.

While not her best work, Nicole Dollanganger continues to prove with "Heart Shaped Bed," that she can be a talented songwriter, singer with a special something that very few have, but very many should experience.

Culbertson brings funk to Lyman

By Austin Elliott
Contributor

A sold-out performance in the Lyman Center Saturday night from Billboard charting jazz and funk artist Brian Culbertson and his band.

The band immediately opened with energetic funk, filled with fancy work on keyboards and saxophone, followed up by an incredible solo from Norris Jones, Culbertson's guitarist.

The set, being the second in Lyman's ongoing jazz series, gave vibes of Earth, Wind and Fire or Gerry Rafferty.

The band jumped into funk tune, encouraging the audience to clap along. Audience participation was a key point of the show, as the band encouraged the crowd to join in with the choruses or just to clap along.

While the ticket and advertising primarily

mentioned Culbertson as the act, all of the band members each took turns taking the spotlight. From incredible guitar solos to funky bass riffs and even vocal effects reminiscent of Peter Frampton. Culbertson shared the role of vocals the whole time as well with one of the keyboardists and the saxophonist.

The show had many highlights ranging from guitar solos that take your breath away to fantastic trombone-saxophone duets and rapid-fire keyboard playing from Culbertson himself. Culbertson's playing was a major factor, including playing the keyboard with his back to the audience. Culbertson synced his movements to the music, putting his face closer and closer to the keyboard as he slowly hit key after key, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

Culbertson also took some time to talk about his

twenty-four year career, his eighteen albums, and his recent tour to promote his "Colors of Love" album, including a Vegas concert which will be released on Blu-ray next month.

"We've been all over the place this year, but there's nothing like playing on the east coast," Culbertson said to the audience. "You guys have great energy. You know, you go some places and they just sit there like 'That's nice.'"

The set-list was well done as well, featuring original songs dating back to Culbertson's early work in the 1990s including "Always Remember," his only song to chart on Billboard. They also performed an as near perfect covers of Kool and the Gang's "Hollywood Swingin'" and Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music," finishing a spectacular total blackout of the venue.

"I could end the show

right there," Culbertson said after the blackout, "but I'm not going to."

While the covers were perhaps the most popular songs with the crowd, Culbertson also premiered a new song, titled "Through the Years."

"I like it already!" a woman down near the front rows yelled, causing both Culbertson and the audience to laugh. The new song, a piano ballad with a slow build, should be out next month according to Culbertson.

The sold out concert was a massive success. The band returned to the stage for an encore of "Our Love" when they really gave it their all.

They could not stick around for long. The band played their next show on Sunday in New Brunswick, NJ, their last until a series of seven straight shows in London, England. They did promise, however, that they would be back at the Lyman Center next year.



PHOTO | AUSTIN ELLIOTT

Brian Culbertson and his band performing at the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts last Saturday.

OLAS honors Argentina at Noche de Gala

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

The annual Noche de Gala started off the evening with the hot food and fast-paced music from Argentinian culture.

The event is hosted by the Organization of Latin American Students in the Adanti Student Ballroom. For the first time ever, the event focused on the culture of the country, Argentina.

A junior, chemistry major and president of OLAS, Alba Turcios, said that in the past, OLAS has featured countries like Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Brazil at their event, and this year the group voted on Argentina.

"[Noche de Gala] was made to just embrace a specific culture, a specific Spanish country in which we can educate people on," said Turcios. "It's pretty much just a night where people can immerse themselves in a different culture and really embrace it overall."

The event attracted people from all over dressed in semi-formal attire, whether they were a member of the OLAS organization or not.

Sophomore, education and English double major, Ianaliz Riveria, said she came to support her friends involved with OLAS.

"My friends are in OLAS

and I like learning about culture," said Riveria. "The food is really good, tasty, sabroso, as we say in Spanish."

Noche de Gala, which went on from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., brought in people who do not attend Southern, like Breyanna Lesperance, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University.

"My closest friend, best friend Jamie, she's the secretary so I had to come support," said Lesperance. "I think [Noche de Gala] is really nice, we don't have anything like this at Eastern."

After the hosts and hostesses from OLAS thanked the crowd, the night also featured performances of the official dance of Argentina: the tango.

The partnered dance was performed first by Southern's dance team, who were followed by a couple who are professional tango instructors from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Riveria said she was very impressed by the dancing and the performances by both the dance team and the couple was the highlight of her night.

Part of the purpose of this event, is to help fund and give out scholarships to students, said Turcios.

"After the years, we decided to start giving out scholarships. We started seeing some money come



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

OLAS members open festivities at Noche de Gala - Argentina in the ASC Ballroom last Thursday.

back from these events," said Turcios. "Once we saw money coming in, we said, 'we should not keep any of this, we should just give it all away.'"

Turcios said OLAS are partnered with Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education, to help fundraise for scholarships for incoming Latino and Latina freshman.

"CALAHE is an organization off campus, and we give them money and they match to help pay for scholarships," said Turcios, "and then they

give out the scholarships in our name."

After the second and final display from the SCSU Dance Team, the dance floor was eventually opened up for audience members to get their boogie on.

"What I hope, personally myself, is that people can break out of their comfort zone," said Turcios. "I want people to not be afraid to be uncomfortable. I want people to feel free to understand the country, feel free to break those racial boundaries."



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

SCSU Dance Team performing at Noche de Gala.

A cappella group hosts Kostume Karaoke

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

NOTEorious, Southern's a cappella club, held their first Kostume Karaoke last Tuesday in which students were invited to sing their favorite songs, dress in spooky costumes and watch the group perform.

Upon entering Earl Hall, students followed bloody footsteps to room 114 where they were treated to Halloween refreshments, and available seating to watch members of NOTEorious, and each other, sing a variety of songs. At one point the entire room sang in unison to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," and listened to NOTEorious member Benjamin Yamboa's rendition of Oogie Boogie's song from the film "Nightmare Before Christmas," and "Calling All The Monsters," by China Anne McClain, performed by Chibuihe Dike, dressed as a Slytherin witch kickstarted the karaoke festivities.

"It's a running joke between me and my friends, it was really popular when we were younger on Disney Channel," said Dike. "It was one of the music videos from one of the Disney stars which they would make outside of their shows."

Dike was also the lead soloist for the first



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Benjamin Yamboa's singing Oogie Boogie's Song.

song that NOTEorious performed at the event, 21 Pilots' "Heathens." She said she really liked the song, so she was thrilled to be the soloist and hoped to have done the song justice.

"Lyrics first, really getting down the lyrics and then, personally what I do, is sing to myself in the mirror. I record it, and I watch my facial expressions, I watch how I sing, watch the vibe I'm giving off and I work off that. I guess on the day, I just go for it, and see how it comes out of my mouth," Dike said.

President of

NOTEorious, Emily Velidow, dressed as Dorothy from, "The Wizard of Oz," said the so she was thrilled to be the soloist and hoped to have done the song justice. "Lyrics first, really getting down the lyrics and then, personally what I do, is sing to myself in the mirror. I record it, and I watch my facial expressions, I watch how I sing, watch the vibe I'm giving off and I work off that. I guess on the day, I just go for it, and see how it comes out of my mouth," Dike said.

Velidow went into, as she said, of the decision-making process of which

songs the group would sing.

"One of the songs we had from the previous semester, we thought it fit well with the Halloween theme. The others, we sort of felt would fit, but were also Halloween themed," she said. "The first song we sang was 'Heathens' by 21 Pilots, I believe. The second song was 'Thriller' by Michael Jackson, and the third song was 'I Put a Spell on You' from the movie 'Hocus Pocus.'"

Velidow said NOTEorious has karaoke nights every semester they have been running, but

been has been doing so through Residence Life. Kostume Karaoke was the first time they have done it on their own. She also said that she hopes this becomes a tradition that gets carried on for the next few years. She also said that people would audition for the soloist part, and the group as a whole vote on who gets the part.

Vice president of NOTEorious, Danae Sawchyn, dressed as Shaggy from "Scooby-Doo," is the said she was surprised at the number of people who attended Kostume Karaoke.

"It was amazing," she said. "We honestly didn't expect this many people, and I'm thrilled with how many people came and sang karaoke. It was a really, really good turnout."

Kimberly Sullivan, a music major in attendance she said that she learned about the event by always being in Earl Hall and being friends with a few of the members of NOTEorious. She also said that she was surprised by the turnout.

"It was more popular than I expected because the music department is a pretty small department," Sullivan said, "but it was a great turnout and there's good sense of community, everyone was singing together and it was really nice."

Southern's favorite horror films

By Alexandra Scicchitano
Contributor

Having grown up on films, being babysat by his aunts, communication professor, Jay Forsyth said that he grew a special attachment to horror films.

"A lot of what I grew up on was horror," said Forsyth. "It's the fabric of my upbringing."

He said that the "Halloween," franchise is one of his favorites and that the original 1978 film is a perfect horror movie built on suspense and anticipation. The film, he said, is not as much about the blood, guts and gore but more about building suspense and tension for where Michael Myers will show up. He said that Myers is a horror icon along with other slasher movie antagonists like Jason Voorhees, Freddy Kruger and Chucky and that he was looking forward to the new film in the "Halloween," franchise.

"It's just the iconic figure that you know - 80's and horror are really indicative of each other," said Forsyth.

See more on:
thesouthernnews.org

Parks wrapping up historic senior season



Running back Eli Parks, a senior, carrying the ball during a game earlier this season. PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

Eli Parks, senior running back for the Owls, “fits right in” with “a long line of great running backs” that have been at Southern, head football coach Tom Godek said.

Parks leads the NE10 with 1,013 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns and became the first Owls running back since John Moscatel in 2013 with at least 1,000 rushing yards in a season. However, Parks said he does not pay attention to any statistics he is compiling this season.

“I see it now on social media a lot,” Parks said. “But every week I just try to shy away from looking at that stuff and just take it week-by-week.”

Parks began playing football in sixth grade and always had an interest in playing because of his father, Billy. Billy Parks played running back for University of Connecticut in the ‘80s and led the Huskies in rushing yards in 1983 and 1984.

“My dad really instilled hard work into me and made me who I am today pretty much,” Parks said.

At St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, Parks graduated as the all-time leader in rushing yards. In his senior season, Parks ran for 2,305 yards and 35 touchdowns in 11 games in 2014, according to hudl. Parks was not named to any All-State teams, though, and said his biggest obstacle was overcoming those who doubted him.

“I had a great year,” Parks said. “I didn’t go All-State and that was one of my goals. I used that fire to bring me here.”

Godek said Jack Cooper, the Owls recruiting coordinator in 2014, noticed Parks at a couple games. Parks’ head coach at St. Paul’s, Jude Kelly, was a former player at Southern in 1972 and 1973.

“There was a little bit of a connection there to help us get him into the mix,” Godek said. “We were very happy he came down for his visit and shortly thereafter he decided to come to Southern Connecticut as a student-athlete.”

Park said Southern’s atmosphere stood out to him on his visit, and although two other schools looked at him, he said he was very interested in Southern.

In Parks’ freshman season, he only appeared in four games and did not have any rushing attempts. In his sophomore year, he ran for 451 yards and four touchdowns while splitting time with Vochan Fowler, who ran for 666 yards.

SEE PARKS PAGE 11



Defender Nadine Hilkert, a sophomore, during a home game against Le Moyne last Wednesday. PHOTO | PAMER PIANNA

Soccer shut out on Senior Day by Franklin Pierce



Midfielder Juliana Santos, a senior, during a home game earlier this season. PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Matt Gad
Contributor

On the last day of the regular-season, the nine-win women’s soccer squad fell to No. 11 Franklin Pierce, the top seed in this year’s NE10 Tournament, 2-1.

“We wanted to compete to win,” head coach Adam Cohen said. “That’s where any momentum comes from; you want to put yourself in a position to try to win a game. We liked that in the second half the chances evened out. We probably had as many quality chances as they did.”

After a defensive opening to the game from both sides, Franklin Pierce’s Sophie Cousineau hit a left-side cross, assisted by Bruna Tavares, in the 22nd minute. Then Tavares scored her fifth goal of the season from 20 yards out just three minutes later and suddenly the Ravens held a 2-0 advantage.

But with 17 seconds left in the game, freshman Greta Brunello put the Owls on the board with her second score of the year to prevent the shutout and cut the disadvantage in half to 2-1.

“It was really great to see the team compete today,” senior captain Mikaela Magee said. “It was a nice way to end the [regular] season with all my friends on the team and now we’re getting focused moving forward to play in the playoffs.”

The Owls, who finished the regular-season 9-9, and 8-6 in conference play, were seeded seventh for the NE10 Tournament. They played at No. 2 Southern New Hampshire, which went 13-3-2 in the regular-season, and 10-2-2 in NE10 competition, yesterday in quarter final action.

“We’ve made it to the NE10 [Tournament] three out of the four years I’ve been here,” Magee said. “We always compete, we always come to compete and we’re excited.”

Magee, from New Fairfield, Conn. was one of the team’s three seniors that was honored before last Saturday’s action. Juliana Santos, from Newington, Conn. and Allie Smith, a goalkeeper from Danbury, Conn. who is expected to start for Kate Lynch’s women’s basketball squad this season, were also honored for senior day.

SEE SOCCER PAGE 10

Sapere much more than a backup for Owls this year



By Kevin Crompton
Editor-in-Chief

The redshirt freshman, Matthew Sapere, is back at the helm. In Saturday's overtime loss to Pace University, starting quarterback Matt Sanzaro suffered a shoulder injury and is likely to be sidelined for the remainder of the season. With two games left on the regular season schedule, Southern will look to Sapere to lead the team.

Sapere already has two wins under his belt as a starter for the Owls. When Sanzaro suffered a concussion in week three at the University of New Haven, it was Sapere who stepped in and threw for the Owls only passing touchdown of the game, and the first passing touchdown for Southern all season.

Fast forward one week to Southern vs. Stonehill. Sapere throws for three touchdowns en route of a 42-point scoring barrage. How does he fare the following week? Completions to six different receivers, 200 total passing yards, two touchdowns and spearheading the Owls 43-7 win over Saint Anselm. Two starts. Two wins. When Sapere has started and played all four quarters, the Owls average 42.5 points per game. Of course, just two starts should be taken with a grain of salt. A much larger sample size is essential to fully evaluate any quarterback at any level. However, Sapere shouldn't be looked at as merely a backup quarterback. In fact, Sapere was in the conversation as a potential week one starter during spring practices. Sanzaro rightfully won the quarterback battle in the spring, but it's worth noting that a redshirt freshman was taking snaps with the first offense.

What does this mean? It means an inexperienced quarterback is exceptionally talented. It means an inexperienced quarterback learns and understands plays and schemes quickly. It means an inexperienced quarterback has the attitude that he can be a leader. His weakness — well, inexperience.

Last Saturday, Sapere and the Owls offense had the ball with 25 seconds to go in regulation. In attempt to put kicker Jose Conde into field goal range, Sapere's shot down field was intercepted. In overtime, more of the same from Sapere. After a quick score from Pace, Sapere is eager to tie the game and throws a game ending interception. Sapere has the gunslinger mentality. In this instance, that mentality hurt him but it's evident he wants to win and wants to contribute to each victory.

It's unfortunate Sanzaro got injured. He's a great athlete and a talented quarterback, but that's the harsh reality of football. Players get injured and the next guy up gets opportunity to prove himself. Sapere's opportunity is here for the second time this season. Don't be surprised to see a gunslinger with a chip on his shoulder as Southern closes out the 2018 season.

Southern takes victory at Bruce Kirsh Cup as four Owls finish among the top 10



Christopher Lebeau (left to right), Terrell Patterson, Steven Cugini, and Jake Mattei competing earlier this year.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Matt Gad
Contributor

The men's cross country team coasted to a first place finish at last weekend's Bruce Kirsh Invitational, their first win of the year.

"I've been pretty impressed with everybody so far this season," assistant cross country and track and field coach Brian Nill said. "The biggest thing we talked about was just staying on point and following the plan. We really haven't had many issues this year at all."

The team began the year second at the Adelphi Panther Invitational, third at the Division II Challenge and 13th at Paul Short Invitational.

In their victory at Bruce Kirsh, sophomore Chris Lebeau finished second overall, followed by fellow sophomore Terrell Patterson and junior Connor Shannahan. And also inside the top 10, freshman Jake Mattei took seventh place.

"It's a confidence booster," Shannahan said. "We went into the meet pretty relaxed. The idea was to tempo it, going close to racing it and everyone PR'd or came close. We all knew we were in really good shape."

Redshirt senior Steven Cugini was 13th overall, sophomore Gavin Woodward, in his first race of the season, finished 17th overall and Dan Perusina, a junior, was 29th.

"It's just a matter of getting used to all the new things and trying to do the best that you can," Mattei said. "I'm definitely surprising myself and relying on the other guys to get me through the races and the workouts."

The team will race again Sunday at the NE10 Championships and will then move on to regionals after that. They will need to finish within the top three places at the regional meet to qualify, as a team, for nationals, which will be Dec. 1 in Slippery Rock, Pa.

Currently, they are second in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country

Coaches Association, or USTFCCCA — and in regional rankings and they received two votes towards the national poll.

"We didn't even talk about [the ranking]," Nill said. "I'm not gonna talk about it at practice. Just seeing that on paper doesn't do anything unless you actually get it done. Last year we were ranked fifth in the region and we finished way back."

A lot of the reason for the high ranking the Owls have can be attributed to that performances they have gotten out of the younger runners.

Jon Warren, who finished 67th last meet, is one of two freshmen on the team this year, joining Mattei. The others are sophomores, starting with Lebeau, the team's top runner right now, who only ran indoor his freshman season and was a high school soccer player.

"The two freshmen have done a great job

so far this year," Nill said. "They've just gotta stay healthy and locked in."

Mattei comes out of an Amity program with a storied distance running history, having just been coached by former Owl Jon Faitsch. Warren joins the squad out of Naugatuck and Sacred Heart High School.

"We do place a lot of emphasis on [the conference meet] but the regional meet is what we're really focused on," Shannahan said. "At the end of the day you get accolades for doing well at conference but everyone goes there."

He said that if the team does not finish in the top three at the regional meet they will have to hope for an at-large bid into nationals.

"We got a lot of points from doing all the smaller meets," Mattei said. "If we beat another team in a different region that gives us a lot of points going in."



The cross country team after the Bruce Kirsh Cup on Oct. 20.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Soccer

Continued from Page 9

The Ravens won 12 regular-season games overall and hosted 9-8-1 American International last night.

"We have a belief in what we're capable of so we're gonna see what we can do [in the playoffs]," Cohen said. "We're focused on this conference tournament."

Coming into this tournament, the program has not won a playoff game since 2014. Then, they lost 2-1 to Franklin Pierce in the NE10 Quarterfinals but qualified for the ECAC Tournament and went on to defeat Newberry College, 2-1, and then outlast Adelphi in the final 6-5 on penalty kicks.

"There's a possibility after NE10s we can get into ECACs," Magee said. "And then NCAAAs is always a possibility."

The conference tournament winner will receive an automatic bid through to the NCAA Tournament. Otherwise, teams must be selected outright based on it is overall season performance.

The Owls, who won five consecutive games from the end of September and into October, have wins against five seed Saint Anselm and eight seed AIC.

The team has also recorded four wins on the road, their most wins away from Jess Dow Field since the 2015 season.

If the Owls win their game against SNHU, they would play on Friday, Nov. 2 against the winner of six seed Assumption or three seed Stonehill. The Owls beat Assumption 3-2 on Sept. 22.



Goalkeeper Abigail Allen, a freshman, during a home game against Le Moyne last week.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANNA

Field hockey shut out by Saint Michael's

By Matt Gad
Contributor

The Owls, who are now 0-15 overall and 0-10 in NE10 action, fell to two-win Saint Michael's last Saturday, 2-0.

"We definitely had a chance to pull a win," senior Amanda Oberly said. "It was just who had a full 70-minute game. We had a few breakdowns and couldn't pick back up from them."

The Owls and Purple Knights played to a scoreless first half with Brianna Craft only allowing two goals in 18 saves. After halftime, Morgan Johnston scored both Saint Michael's goals, her sixth and seventh scores of the year.

"As a whole defensively we played well," assistant coach Sarah Williams said. "We had a couple of little let-downs and some things we missed, which resulted in those corners, which ultimately resulted in the goals, but each day we're learning and success isn't linear; it's about fighting and not giving up."

Saint Michael's hit 33 shots, with 22 on goal, compared to the Owls' six on goal and eight in all. The Purple Knights took 10 corners, six in the first and four in the second, and neither team committed a foul.

"[Success] is about making mistakes and still trying, it's about coming back for more when you're exhausted and that's something we're doing each day," Williams said. "We have a good attitude given the circumstances. We

come to practice every day wanting to get better and we keep fighting. We keep fighting -- we want wins but we're learning a lot."

The Owls, at 0-15, will be looking to get in the win column in one of their final three games this season. Yesterday they played future Division I opponent LIU Post, who is nationally ranked. Saturday they will be facing off on their senior day against Stonehill at 5 p.m. and then Nov. 6 they have another home game to take on Adelphi at 7 p.m.

"We just had some breakdowns that we didn't pick back up from," Oberly said. "We've definitely had a full 70-minute game before. We're just gonna keep working together for our main goal and that's a win."

Inside the NE10 conference for field hockey Pace has a perfect 10-0 conference record, Merrimack is in second at 9-0, and 13-1 overall, and then there's LIU Post at 10-4. The Owls are in 14th place with no conference wins, just one worse of the University of New Haven Chargers, who are 2-12 overall and just 1-9 in NE10 play.

"On any given day anybody can win a game," Williams said.

The team went 2-16 last year, despite recording an 0-12 conference mark: 2008 was their best season to date. After a 12-6 NE10 record, they defeated Franklin Pierce, 6-3, and lost to Bentley, 1-0, in the NE10 Tournament before advancing to the NCAA Tournament to face a former NE10 school in the University of Massachusetts Lowell.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Defender Amanda Oberly, a senior, during a game against LIU Post earlier this season.

Men's basketball filled with talent in 2018



By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team is loaded this year.

Whether it be from returning players, incoming recruits, or transfers, the Owls have talent at every position.

Two returning players that stand out the most are senior guards Isaiah McLeod and Joey Wallace. McLeod was an All-NE10 selection in last year, as he averaged 20.4 PPG, 5.7 RPG, 2.4 APG, and 2.0 SPG. In two conference tournament games, he scored 53 points and helped lead the Owls to a win against Southern New Hampshire.

Wallace returns to the team after playing just three games last year because of an injury. However, as a sophomore he averaged 10.6 PPG, 5.7 RPG, and 4.6 APG. During his freshman season, he was named to the NE10 All-Rookie team while averaging 7.7 PPG.

The NE10 Rookie of the Year, Ulyen Coleman, also returns. He averaged 13.2 PPG and 5.4 RPG last year while shooting over 40 percent from beyond the arc. In a game against New Haven on Jan. 31, Coleman went 9-12 on three points shots on his way to scoring 29 points. With a full year of experience playing at the college level after adjusting from high school, he should continue to develop into a star.

On the transfer market, head coach Scott Burrell snagged Kealen Ives from Rider University and C.J. Seaforth from Iona College, both division I schools. Ives averaged 4.1 PPG during his three years with the Broncos. Iona went 53-45 in Ives' three years and won the MAAC regular season last year.

Seaforth, a Hamden High School alum, averaged 2.3 PPG in his only year at Iona, and played against Duke in the NCAA Tournament. Iona went 20-14 and won the MAAC Tournament in his only year. Ives and Seaforth bring not only depth and a new skill level, but also valuable experience of playing high pressure division I games to the Owls.

Isaac Grant, a transfer from DII Queens College, averaged 10.0 PPG and 5.1 RPG as a sophomore. He also improved his three-point percentage from 9.1 percent as a freshman to 35.7 percent as a sophomore. Combined with his size and improved long-range shooting, him and Coleman can be key players this season.

The Owls also nabbed Isaiah Boissard from Western Texas College, where he averaged 7.2 PPG. Luke Beesley, who returns for his senior year after transferring, averaged 5.4 PPG and 5.6 RPG last season. He was one of the best offensive rebounders in the conference last year, as nearly half of his rebounds came on the offensive side.

After missing the NCAA Tournament last season, the Owls were picked as the preseason favorites in the NE10 Southwest Division. With the additions and returnees to this year's squad, they should be among the best in division II this year.

Football

Continued from Page 9

Parks saw an uptick in playing time as a junior last year. He led the team in rushing attempts, with 139, and rushing yards, with 756, for the first time while adding eight touchdowns. Parks said Fowler made him work hard to become better and more consistent as player.

"He made me compete every day," Parks said. "We still compete every day, so he definitely helped me through the years."

Godek said because of the rotation of running backs the last few seasons, Parks has been able to remain durable even though he takes "a lot of beatings back there" as a running back.

Even though he was not starting until this season, quarterback Matt Sanzaro, a redshirt junior and captain, said Parks had a big impact on him as a teammate and has always been a leader on and off the field.

"I was pretty close with Eli throughout all my years here," Sanzaro said. "I knew him before coming here actually and we were just tight. We would always lift together, workout in the offseason together, and we've been good friends since coming here."

Parks began his senior season by rushing for 127 yards and four touchdowns at Gannon University, including the game-winning touchdown with 55 seconds left in the game. It was the Owls first win against Gannon since 2007, and in the process, Parks became the first Owl to rush for touchdowns in a game since Moscatel in 2013.

"It was crazy," Parks said. "The atmosphere there, being away on the road, especially in Pennsylvania, it was a great feeling. The team was energized. It was a crazy, crazy game. It's definitely one of the games I'll remember the most at Southern."

Parks then ran for 135 yards against Bentley, therefore becoming the first Owls running back to rush for at least 100-yards in back-to-back games to start a year since Brandon Toles in 2007. Two weeks later, Parks ran for 140 yards in a win over Stonehill, this third 100 yard game in the season's first four games. Parks then added two touchdowns in a win against St. Anslem before the Owls headed into their bye week.

Godek said before the bye week, Parks had suffered a lower body injury. He said he had to work hard to get himself ready to play

against Assumption, the defending conference champions, after the bye week.

"He found time during his day to go to the athletic training room twice a day to get treatment to get himself ready to play the following week," Parks said. "If any young player is wondering how to do it right, all you need to do is look at Eli Parks. From the weight room, from taking care of himself with his school work, taking care of himself with his personal life, he's a great example of what we're trying to recruit here and the big picture."

Even though the Owls lost in overtime, Parks ran for 150 yards. Then during the Homecoming Game against American International, Parks again scored four touchdowns while adding 161 rushing yards during an Owls win. During Saturday's game against Pace, Parks ran for 146 yards during an overtime loss, his sixth 100-yard game of the year and third straight game with at least 140 rushing yards.

Parks became the first Owls running back to rush for at least 140 yards in three straight games since Rashaad Slowley did so from Oct. 22 to Nov. 12, 2011.

"He's worked his tail off, so he deserves this," Sanzaro said. "It really comes as no surprise that he's doing all this."

Parks said he has been able to elevate his game this year because of his work in the offseason.

"It started back in the winter right after the season," Parks said. "I got right back in the weight room and went into the spring, studied film, what I can do better. Summer came, I did field work every day after work, weight room every day, and then went into the season and this is how I am now."

Sanzaro said he is "extremely comfortable" when Parks is in the backfield with him and it helps make his job easier. He said he opens the passing game up and makes it easier to have a balanced offense because defenses are so focused on him.

"The defense packs the box and for play action passes there's four defensive backs," Sanzaro said. "We're running concepts that it's easy to beat those four defensive backs and leaves guys wide open. It just opens up play action greatly."

With the Owls next game being Senior Day an against LIU Post, the no. 17 ranked team in DII, Parks said he is looking forward to it.

"I'm hoping to have a good game," Parks said. "Looking to end this tenure here at home with a win."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Running back Eli Parks, a senior, during a play-action in a game earlier this season.

Although Parks said he has no regrets as a student-athlete, he is sad it is coming to an end. He said the family atmosphere that was created during his four years stood out to him the most, especially his class.

"All through freshman year to now, our program has changed," Parks said. "I feel like we changed it for the better, and the older guys above us leaving it better than they found it and we're going to leave it better than we found it."

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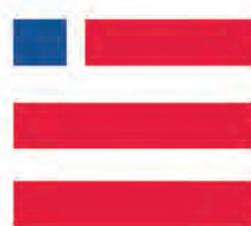


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