



Athletes find new ways to train
Page 5



Religion concerns with food on campus
Page 7



Reactions to Boseman's death
Page 8

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

VOL. 59—ISSUE 2

Virus data released to students University has launched a dashboard containing COVID-19 rates

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

As the reopening process on campus continues, information has been shared with students through the university website. Now, the COVID-19 rates are also available.

"It basically has links to the four-point plan which the university put together," said Patrick Dilger, director of Integrated Communications & Marketing. "All of the CSU system were required to do that, also it's a state public health department requirement."

The dashboard, which became available on Sept. 7, shows the weekly results of any COVID-19 positives on campus, including the testing in the residence halls occurring twice a week and also self-reported cases from faculty, staff and commuters.

It also shows the percentage of quarantine and isolation rooms that are in use in the residence halls.

The website will be updated weekly, as five to 10 percent of the residential population will be tested.

According to Southern's COVID-19 Coordinator, Erin Duff, the randomized asymptomatic testing combined with the symptomatic testing is a good starting point and will determine whether

testing on campus needs to increase.

"Five to 10 percent is surveillance data that helps to inform us and should give us enough to determine whether we need to increase our testing," said Duff.

According to Dilger, The Dean of Students office will be responsible for

compiling the COVID-19 data.

To make sure all the information is accurate, Dilger said there is a team of contact tracers, who are coordinated by Emily Rosenthal, the director of the Wellness Center. The university has also partnered with Griffin Health.

While testing is only done on residential students, Dilger said there is an area of the reopening website where students who commute can self-report.

Duff said when the COVID-19 positivity rates are available each week, there are more factors that come into play than the

rate alone that could be concerning.

"We have to take into account all the variables that would impact the community," she said. "How many students were impacted by one positive case and have to go into quarantine – it could be a large amount or no impact at all. It really varies on each case."

While transparency plays a role on behalf of the university, Duff said there is a need for privacy.

"We believe by having a dashboard on our website, this will help be as transparent as possible with our Southern community," she said, "but we also want to be sure that we are protecting the privacy of our students and staff who could potentially be COVID-19 positive."

The dashboard will give students a better picture of what the situation looks like on-campus, but Dilger said no one should be under the illusion that there are not going to be positive cases.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Students following the university's safety procedure of wearing a mask while walking around campus.

See Virus Page 2



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A bulletin board featuring different clubs and organizations that are on campus.

Involvement fair is held using virtual platform

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Involvement fair comes as a kick-off to a new semester, usually taking over the academic quad. This year, for the first time, the event was held virtually.

The virtual event, according to Daphne Alston, assistant director of the office of Student Involvement, still drew in 1,110 students and club members on the platform Airmeeet.

"That's really good for it to be a virtual program," said Alston. "I mean at any given time there were at least 300 to 350 that were there at the fair which is awesome."

The virtual fair consisted of "tables" that represented different student organizations on campus and students could go from table-to-table and

webchat with the leaders of different clubs.

Despite the event not being in-person, Alston said she has received kind emails from club leaders and first year students saying they had a good time and it was an interesting way of getting involved and meeting people.

Throughout the fair, Alston and Eric Lacharity, associate director of the office of Student Involvement, would check in with students, shout out organizations and do giveaways by asking students to be the first one to type an answer into the chat.

Some of the giveaways were geared toward first-year students because they are required to attend the fair, however, Alston said the content she prepared was made for everyone looking to getting involved. For it being the first time

using Airmeeet, Alston said it went smoothly and she heard from few students who were having technical difficulties.

Child specialist major, Tyla Narcisse, a freshman, said she had bad internet connection on her end, but she was able to see one of the live chats done by Alston and Lacharity.

"I want to get involved in the school since I was involved at my high school," she said.

Being a first-year student, she said it can be hard to get involved because she is used to being at a smaller school and Southern is bigger, but she is finding her way.

In addition to the involvement fair, Narcisse said her INQ professor helps let her know what is happening on campus and activities that she can get involved in.

See Fair Page 2

STAMP test goes online

By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

For years, the World Language Department has utilized the services of the Standards-Based Measurement of Proficiency, more commonly known as the STAMP test, to measure proficiency among students in a foreign language.

Despite numerous rumors around the campus that the exam had been eliminated completely, the STAMP test remains available, albeit with changes to the delivery, according to World Language Department Chairperson Resha Cardone.

Normally, the STAMP test is a multi-use test offered on-site in language labs, however, due to COVID-19 policies, that is no longer able to happen, for now.

"We offer the STAMP test to any student on-campus who wants to waive the [world language liberal education] requirement, and these are students who are already proficient and they want to take the STAMP test so they don't have to take a language class," said Cardone. "So, when the pandemic happened and our campus closed down, we no longer were able to offer STAMP tests in our open lab because nobody was on campus."

Normally, students who wish to test their proficiency in a foreign language and try and "test out" of the language

requirement could go to the campus bookstore and purchase an access code, where they could then go to a language lab and take the test with a proctor.

Now, the STAMP test is entirely remote in an online format, still available for students who wish to waive the LEP requirement, just not on campus.

According to Cardone, the department is working to bring the test back to campus, adapting to COVID-19 safety protocols.

"Even though we're back on campus, we have submitted a proposal to the administration to bring the on-campus version of the STAMP waiver test back to our open lab," Cardone said, "but our proctoring plan has not yet been approved. So, that's pending."

Cardone said the test would "probably be coming back to campus" as soon as the administration approves the department's proposal. The proposal, however, was submitted in early August and is still pending approval.

The STAMP test covers four areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Although students have returned to campus and are able to work in shared spaces with shared technology, headphones and microphones are required for the latter two portions of the exam, and shared use of headsets in a public lab is not currently conducive to health and safety guidelines.

"My assumption is that we're going to be able to offer the STAMP test

waiver exam [on-campus] sometime this semester, whenever the university finally approves the proposal," said Cardone. "What our administration has told me about our proposal is that it's not a real high priority for them because there is the alternative remote test that we can deliver to students."

The alternative use for the STAMP test is where Cardone said she thinks the confusion on campus regarding the test is coming from, and that is as the final exam for all 200-level world language classes. The test will still be available for 200-level students who want to take it, but it will not count for any portion of the class.

For 200-level students, the test will be available in a "case by case" system, according to a statement included on all 200-level language course syllabi. The tests will not be administered class-wide.

Cardone said it is based on financials, as the remote version of the STAMP test costs "more than twice as much" as the test administered on-ground.

"Due to the pandemic, the World Languages and Literatures Department will not use the STAMP test as the final exam in 200-level language classes this semester as we have in past semesters," the statement said. "If you are interested in taking the STAMP test, the Department will arrange for you to do so for free on a case by case basis."

See STAMP Page 2

BOR President Mark Ojakian retires

By Jose Vega
Contributor

After a five-year term that included shepherding programs such as U-Pass, the Transfer and Articulation Policy, and pushing the Students First initiative, outgoing Board of Regents President Mark Ojakian announced his retirement.

From his time as director of government relations for the Board of Governors for Higher Education and as chief of staff to former Governor Dannel Malloy, President Ojakian has tried to prioritize student success and bring stability to the CSCU system.

"I think that he brought

what was needed at the time," President Joe Bertolino said. "I think the advantage to having President Ojakian in that role is that he worked in the state house for decades, he knew everybody in the statehouse, not only did people know him they admired him they respected him and they knew what they were getting."

The BOR often acknowledged President Ojakian for spearheading the efforts in advancing the CSCU system after being handed a difficult task; the consolidation of the two systems that made up the CSCU system into one.

"I think he was tasked with a difficult challenge," Interim Associate Dean

of Graduate Studies Jonathan Wharton said. "Mark Ojakian was not an educator, but he was a talented and very connected politico. I think he was tasked with a difficult challenge, the consolidation effort was something that he took on and tried to help address it and it's challenging for anyone, even for faculty or administrators."

Throughout President Ojakian's efforts to consolidate the CSCU system, he kept the goal of aiding student success front and center; making sure community college graduates can easily transfer credits to any Connecticut state university. Partnering with

Connecticut Department of Transportation and implementing the U-Pass program, he worked to cut costs for commuter students.

English major Chloe Lecy, a senior, who commutes from Springfield, Mass. said without the U-Pass program she would have had to stay in-state.

"Round trip without the U-Pass would cost me roughly around \$40 a day," Lecy said. "My sophomore year I did the commute two to three times a week, the following year I came about every day. It helps save a lot of money and makes sure people who aren't as financially well off as others are able to get an education."

Throughout President Ojakian's term, he has pioneered Student First policy implementations, such as the U-Pass and TAP, while also indirectly breaking stigmas pertaining to who can hold powerful leadership positions.

"I have a lot of respect for him on a variety of levels, not the least of which is that he and I come from similar generations in where we both came from a time that just the thought of an openly gay man being the leader of a university would've been unheard of," President Bertolino said. "The doors that have been opened and the fact that nobody thinks twice about it, says a lot. So I am grateful to Mark for helping

to open that door for folks like myself and others."

After creating TAP, after always prioritizing a Student's First initiative throughout his tenure, President Ojakian said it is time for a change.

"After more than 40 years in state government, it's time for me to move on," President Ojakian said in a statement. "I am proud of the accomplishments our team made over the past five years. It has been a tremendous honor to lead this organization, and while it is hard to say goodbye, I'm confident that the team we have in place will continue to move important ongoing initiatives forward."



PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

Interim Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Jonathan Wharton after an interview.



PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

The Southern shuttle is transporting students to locations around campus.

Virus

Continued from Page 1

Political science major Kobe Wiggins, a senior, said it is important to him that the university shares the COVID-19 data because there is a risk being on campus and in the dorms.

"I think it's really important for university to let the kids know at least what the rates are so they can just keep everyone safe," said Wiggins.

As a transfer student, healthcare studies major Talisa Barnes, a sophomore, said she is still new to how campus operates,

and seeing the university be transparent about COVID-19 makes people feel safe.

"Since it's such a huge thing, a global pandemic, it's very important to let people know and be transparent because students do go here," she said, "and we still have on-ground classes so it's important to let those people be notified."

Graphic Design major Tom DeFranco, a senior, said there has been speculation from his professors about when the university will shift fully online again, so he was interested to see what the data says.

He said everyone on

campus is already on edge, and they should have an understanding about what the current situation is on campus.

"It's not immediately visible when you walk out on campus," said DeFranco, "like who has symptoms and who doesn't, so [the dashboard] is a good way of measuring it."

Ultimately, Dilger said between the website and mask usage, what it really comes down to is shared responsibility.

"This is so important," he said. "A lot of our messaging and our signage and everything like that is encouraging that we're all in this together."

STAMP

Continued from Page 1

There have been numerous alternatives to the STAMP test that the department has looked into, and ultimately it is up to the professors to come up with a final exam to hold the place of the STAMP exam.

One of the new programs the department is experimenting with, although not an exam-based platform, is a program called Talk Abroad, a program that allows students to have full conversations with someone from another country who is fluent in the language being studied.

"[Working with Talk Abroad would] most definitely interest me,"

said psychology major Lorenzo Maldonado, a sophomore, who completed course work in Italian last semester. "I am a very listening-learner, so when you speak to me in a certain language, I can piece things together."

While the introduction of Talk Abroad to the department is a new opportunity, for now it is temporary. Based on financials, having both the STAMP test and Talk Abroad as parts of the curriculum are not feasible, according to Cardone.

"Honestly, I manage our lab budget together with our language lab director, and the truth is that we couldn't afford to do both things," Cardone said, "unless we were to raise our fees. And I don't see that members of our

department are going to want to raise fees on students."

As things currently stand in the department, everything surrounding the STAMP test as well as navigating alternatives is a wait-and-see scenario. Cardone said offering the STAMP test on-ground only during select semesters is among the realm of possibilities.

For now, the status of the STAMP test stands, as only an online-delivered exam that is no longer part of course curriculums for world languages.

"This is a temporary measurement we've put in place because of the pandemic," said Lisa Vitale, an associate professor of Italian. "It wasn't motivated by our curriculum, it was motivated by the outside parameters."

Fair

Continued from Page 1

Ariana Taylor, a sophomore, was representing ProCon at the fair, and said she was trying to bring students to her table by advertising the club in the chat.

While it was harder to get people to come to her table, once they did it was easier, but the face-to-face aspect

was missing.

"I think that it was the best we could do," said Taylor. "I don't know what other option there was that could have possibly done a better job of stimulating the involvement fair virtually, because obviously we can't have that many people in one place."

Still, Taylor said she was able to engage with students.

In the six years that Alston has done the club

fair, she said it always it sunny out, but the one year it rained it was virtual, which she said was crazy.

Even with limitations, she said Student Involvement is doing the best they can to make students feel connected to campus.

"The club fair is usually the starting point of 'alright let's hit the ground running,'" said Alston. "I'm excited to see what's going to happen after, that when clubs really get going."

Professors teach online

By Abby Epstein
News Editor

Adjusting, adapting, acclimating -- these are three words that can be used to describe the transformation to distance learning.

The university plans to keep students on campus until Thanksgiving break when the semester will be finished online, but many teachers are skeptical the semester will make it to Thanksgiving.

"I decided to go all online out of caution, because I think that there is a pretty good chance that might happen to more classes," said Charles Baraw, a professor in the English department.

WebEx, Microsoft Teams and Blackboard were some of the new connection tools that faculty and students had to familiarize themselves with for this fall.

"Last spring was more of a problem because it caught people off guard and the teachers were learning the system the same time the students were," said Gary Morin, professor and chairperson of Health and Movement Sciences. "This year so far seems to be a lot smoother since [professors] had time to prepare."

The Office of Online Learning has provided videos and extra information on how to navigate the new

collaboration tools.

Other than adapting to the new programs there are other problems professor have come across; seeing everyone on the screen depending on the platform and having students turn their camera on.

"I'm asking students to turn their cameras on as the default," said Baraw. "If something comes up or prevents them from doing that, I understand that they can't always have their camera on, but I feel it makes a big difference."

Baraw decided this semester to do individual meetings with his students in order to help create a community with his students while doing distance learning.

"Most faculty at Southern that I know, we all care very deeply about our students learning and not just their learning but their lives," said Baraw. "So, we all know how challenging it is for all of you and that is one reason why I like the individual conferences because that is when we connect on a human level."

Some students said they can tell their professors are trying to make online classes run as smoothly as possible.

"I had my first meeting for my lab on WebEx and she seemed like she knew what she was doing. It was pretty planned and pretty organized and there wasn't any trouble with people

getting on the call," said nursing major Cecilia Vess, a sophomore.

Prof. Betsy Goff was given the option on how she wanted to teach her class, whether she was in person, doing a hybrid class, or strictly online.

"I chose to do it at home because I am 72-years-old and had a bad health run recently and although I am very fit and healthy I don't want to be at risk, I don't want to go to a college campus," said Goff, a professor in sports management.

Other professors decided to go online because if the school is to go virtual there would be no change or adjustment made to their class.

"If we are not able to continue with on ground classes and everyone has to go online, I felt it would be better to already have students adapted to that experience instead of having the abrupt change we had last semester," said Baraw.

Professors have said they know this semester is an adjustment for students and it will take patience and being tolerant.

"It's just not saying patients and tolerance, it's actually knowing something about what each other are going through and when we do," said Baraw. "We don't have to tell ourselves to be patient or tolerant, we are, because we have empathy."

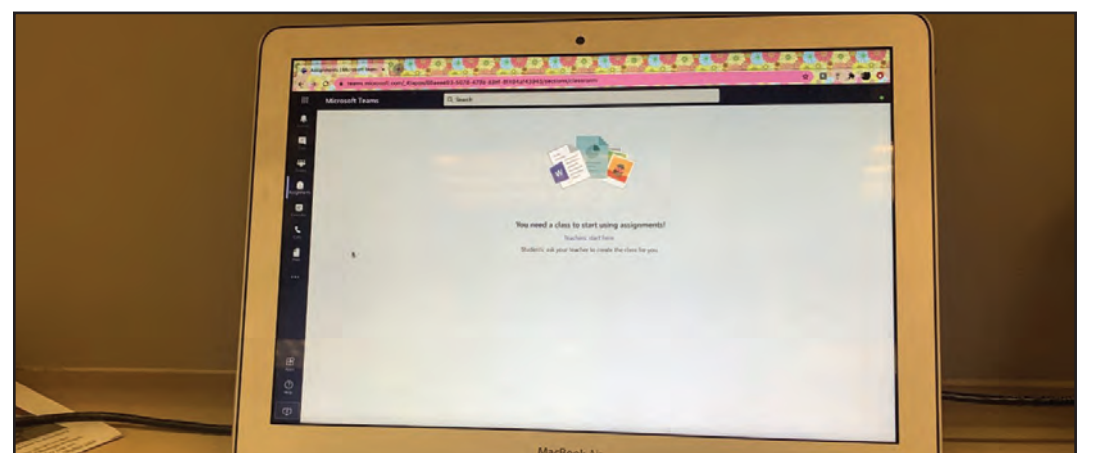


PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Microsoft Teams, a software professors are using to teach with this semester.

Adjusting to new campus lifestyle takes time



By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

These are the opinions of The Southern News Editorial Staff

On the first day of the semester while walking to my first class, I told myself: "It will feel weird for a few days."

Now, two weeks into the semester, it still feels weird, and it will be the new "norm" for months to come. Classrooms, simply put, are no longer what

they used to be.

Gone are the days where students can walk into a classroom and pick from any seat they like. We now all sit six feet apart from each other.

Now, classroom sizes have been thrashed and limited down to a smaller capacity number, and our 171-acre campus suddenly feels small and its rooms cavernous.

Blue dots now line

the floors of academic buildings to signify where it is safe for students to sit and every classroom now operates with "one-way traffic."

As classrooms with two doors now have a labeled exit door and an entry door, direction arrows lining the floor and one door classrooms are to be navigated single-file, as the term "social distancing" continues

to be etched deeper and deeper into our lives.

Students also must wipe down their desks upon arrival to ensure the space is clean.

Masks are always required everywhere on campus, meaning both indoors and outdoors, and while they help slow the spread, as a result, professors are being seen and not heard - literally. Voices are muffled and

it can be hard to follow what professors are saying at times.

It is no secret that masks make regular conversation with one-another much harder, and giving full 75-minute lectures to a class cannot be as easy as it once had been, but this is the price we pay to be back on-campus, to establish at least some sense of normalcy again is worth it.

Parties will be held despite COVID-19 regulations

By Essence Boyd
Online Editor

After signing contracts agreeing to keep the community safe by wearing masks and receiving countless emails about the consequences of large gatherings during COVID-19 parties did not seem like much of a concern.

However, once arriving back on campus it was clear this college tradition was not going anywhere despite how much trouble it could get one into.

Being honest the question was never, "will college students party?" rather than "how long would it take for a party to be thrown" and

more importantly, "how would the university react?"

With a lack of face-to-face events on campus, a lack of in person classes and even a lack of connection; a sense of normalcy is something every college and university student is in desperate need of today and for some, parties seem to be the solution to this issue.

The idea of campus parties being a "super spreader" and a breeding ground for the virus was always a concern.

Even prior to students being on campus however, it was not until universities such as the University of Alabama and the University of Connecticut reported numerous COVID-19 cases in students, faculty and staff that the actual damage these

large gatherings could do was revealed.

In addition to infecting many healthy people with COVID-19, campus parties could also bring the current long-awaited semester to an end sooner than expected.

Although there is not a set number that will send students home, an unexpected surge in cases could.

After being stuck in quarantine for months on end it is no surprise that once on campus students automatically gravitated towards the remaining sense of normalcy left, but temporary happiness is risking the safety of the people around them.

Since opening back up two weeks ago, there have

been many parties on and off campus in which many students have been attending in secret.

Although students are to blame for their own actions, the same rules students were needed to sign and abide by are being broken without any consequences. At this point the issue is no longer selfish residents but a failure to keep students safe by the university.

I understand partying is rooted into college tradition and to think students would not try to party would be naïve. However, I did expect students to be more caring for not only their own lives but the ones around them.

According to an email sent to students by President Joe Bertolino, "Southern is deeply

committed to protecting our community and our neighbors in greater New Haven.

So I want you to be aware that any student, student organization, athletic or club sport team hosting a large off-campus gathering will be subject to both law enforcement action and an immediate interim suspension - leading to possible suspension or expulsion under our COVID-19 enforcement policy."

To my understanding numerous people have tried to report parties on and off campus with the intention of doing the job of the university but have not been given the assistance and protection that was promised.

Callers have been told by university people that they cannot do anything about off campus parties as they are outside of their jurisdiction.

However, what about the parties taken place on campus? Or even the cases taken place inside of Southern's very own residential halls?

Even though "my mask protects you and your mask protects me," the irresponsible actions of few can and will affect the lives of many.

As stated in a campus-wide email, "simply put, all of us have invested too much in the success of this new semester to see it thrown away by the actions of an uncaring and selfish few."

The virus has changed the campus atmosphere

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

The days of a music filled academic quad, free food buffets and crowds of students walking the halls of campus are gone. While being on-campus gives students much needed interaction, the atmosphere has undoubtedly changed.

With classes shifting online, some students will not even have the chance to come to campus and will continue working from their bedrooms at home.

For some it is a choice, but for others it can be mentally draining. Of course, COVID-19 had to change the way people experience college if we

are all to stay safe, but what is interesting is how the university is trying to help those students still who may feel disconnected from campus. The Office of Student Involvement held their first virtual club fair and they have successfully held on ground events in a socially distanced manner. So it is not to say campus life is dead, it is just changed.

I cannot speak for them, but it is hard to imagine being a first-year student too because the loud welcome events are all done at a distance.

It is not easy to feel connected to any college right now and when we are all so separate. However, whatever campus life

is now, students should be glad it exists to some capacity. It is not easy to be a college student right now and we all need the little things, whether that would be a Kahoot trivia night or a giveaway to feel connected to something.

Even if the harsh reality of the current situation the world is in hits you every time you have to put your mask on before you leave your car, try and stay positive.

Though everyone on campus may be having their lunches with a plexiglass divider between them or sitting six feet away from each other rule in the classrooms, not having that at all makes students, myself especially, value just

being able to be part of a community.

Even in the WebEx or Zoom calls, no matter how awkward, sometimes everyone having their cameras on and engaging with each other makes it feel like both students and professors are trying to get through this together.

Online classes were loose and unstructured, and having set times and something to do - even if it is dreadful homework - created a needed sense of normalcy in life.

So even though campus is not what it used to be, and while safety comes first, sitting six feet away from each other is better than sitting alone in your bedroom.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Empty setting at academic quad due to online events.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928

Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:

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

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

Follow Us on Twitter: @Southern_News

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thesouthernnews](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernnews)

Visit us online: [TheSouthernNews.org](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org)

View print edition at: [OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern](https://www.OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern)

Jessica Guerrucci

Sam Tapper

Section Editors

Abby Epstein
Bernadotte Sufka
Sofia Rositani
Mike Neville
Roma Rositani
Essence Boyd
Vacant

Staff Reporters

Vacant
Ed Rudman
Donvan Wilson
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Copy Desk

Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Business/Ad Manager

Sam Tapper

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor

News

Opinions & Features

Arts & Entertainment

Sports

Photo

Online

Layout

News Writer

Sports Writer

General Assignment

General Assignment

General Assignment

Photographer

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

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

Web Exclusive

"Bright future ahead for Owls volleyball"

"Students react to VMAs"

See more on www.TheSouthernNews.org

PHOTO

Students keeping occupied during a pandemic



Outdoor games such as cornhole have been placed in the residential quad.

**By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor**

As the first couple weeks of school fly by, students are finding it harder to keep themselves occupied due to COVID-19. ProCon held an event in the residential quad on Aug. 24. If attended, students were able to receive an owl to represent our mascot, Otus the Owl.

If students find themselves with free time, the residential quad now has cornhole and spikeball, as well as a volleyball court and hammocks to keep students occupied.

The fitness center is now free to all students. If students aren't able to workout with their team, they can go to the fitness center to workout.

If class is over and students have nothing to do, Owlconnect can be used to look up events on campus or online to fill up some free time.

Last week the Office of Student Involvement held a virtual involvement fair. Students were able to talk to different representatives from each club. The students were able to have a one-on-one conversation.



Elementary Education major Rachael Radwill, senior, relaxing on a hammock in the residential quad.



Elementary Education major Abby Gregory, senior, relaxing after an event in the residential quad.



Student swiping their hoot loot to get a free stuffed owl during an event in the residential quad.



'Stuff an Owl' event held in the residential quad on Sept. 4.



Students stuffed their own owl at 'Stuff an Owl' event that was held in the residential quad.



Alaina Pierce, freshman, walking from Earl Hall after an art class.



Interdisciplinary studies major Sarah LeMere, sophomore, spending time at the hammocks after attending an event in the residential quad.

Athletes train off campus due to COVID-19 Some student athletes opt out of training with team on campus for the fall 2020

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Colleges all over the United States have had some of their student athletes decide to opt out of training on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Southern is no exception to this ruling.

“The NCAA came out and said every student athlete in the country has until Oct. 1 to let their schools know that they want to opt-out of athletic activities and by doing so, they will ensure they still get to keep their scholarships for this academic year,” said Matt Letkowski, associate director of athletics and compliance officer.

If a student athlete were to decide to opt out and it was past the deadline of Oct. 1, then a university would be allowed to take their athletic scholarships away.

At Southern, if a student decides to opt out past the set date, the university will continue to honor their

scholarship, according to Letkowski.

The university is going to take a “student athlete friendly” approach to this situation and Letkowski said he does not see the school taking away any athletic scholarships during these times.

In terms of a student athlete deciding to opt back in for any reason, the university will allow them to rejoin their respective teams upon making that decision.

“We’re trying to do what’s best for the student athletes with their athletic career and if it’s COVID related, we’re not going to question anything,” said Head Athletic Director Jay Moran. “We’re here to work with the students on this and they’ll be a lot of questions as we move forward.”

New York resident and outside hitter Gabriela Gaibur, a sophomore, recorded 158 kills and 228 digs last year as a freshman and was a valuable piece of the

volleyball teams’ young core.

However, she will not be returning to campus this semester to train with the team.

“I knew that it would definitely be a smarter decision for me to stay home since all my classes are online and financially it definitely helps me and my family a lot especially since this whole pandemic had a huge impact on us,” said Gaibur. “It was definitely a really hard decision, but I knew that the smart decision in the end was to stay home.”

Gaibur is not the only athlete opting out of being on campus, as track and field athlete Dan Labbadia, a senior, has made the same decision to forgo attending in person.

Labbadia finished fourth in the javelin at the Northeast 10 Championships his freshman year, but has not competed since due to Tommy John surgery and said it would make more sense to continue



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Gabriela Gaibur striking the ball in a game at Bentley last season.

recovering on his own.

Training on his own time since March, he said he has been able to use all the necessary equipment he needs to continue progressing throughout this time.

With the limited training program that Southern will put into use in order

to try and keep their athletes safe, Labbadia said it wouldn’t benefit him as much as continuing to train on his own.

“I was originally planning to train with the team but once it was announced that training was going to be different because of COVID and the

phases being put in use, I opted out,” said Labbadia. “As a thrower, my primary practices are to lift and to throw and to work on technique and I felt if I was not going to get the chance to do that there’d be no point to train with the team for this season.”

Hilkert ‘grateful’ for time as an Owl

By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

The choice to make the journey from her home country of Germany to the United States to compete in soccer was an easy one for Nadine Hilkert, a senior on defense.

“One of the main reasons I came to Southern was because of the coaches and the program for psychology,” said Hilkert.

Those coaches, like head coach Adam Cohen did extensive research on Hilkert and was a key part in bringing her to the states.

Cohen said recruiting foreign athletes is far

different from recruiting in the U.S., as highlight videos are the main way coaches view athletes.

“We used to be able to travel overseas to meet the athletes, now we have to do diligence on video and making connections over video,” said Cohen.

Starting her career in Germany in 2011 at 12-years-old, Hilkert started playing competitively for TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, helping the team win the Volkswagen Cup and the Energy Baden-Württemberg League.

In addition to winning championships in cups, Hilkert also helped her

team reach the semifinals in the U17 German Championship.

The way athletic rankings are set up in Europe is different than in the United States in terms of playing for schools.

“In Germany we don’t have school squads, it is a totally different culture compared to what it is like in the U.S.”

Coming from across the world, Hilkert said it was a culture shock when she first arrived at Southern, but not in a negative way.

“It was exciting to learn another culture, to get thrown into it and adjust, we adopted, and it was

interesting,” said Hilkert.

Coming to a new country has its own trials and tribulations, and being uprooted and starting a new life, is a sacrifice according to Cohen.

“She’s willing to come to another country to a university she’s never seen takes a lot of courage,” said Cohen.

Being no stranger to championships throughout her career, Hilkert said one of her most memorable moments was reaching the Northeast 10 finals.

Hilkert said “The whole road leading up to it was so emotional, especially since we had a bad season the year before.”

Hilkert said to see the transition from what the whole team was able to do from the previous year was great to see.

Team chemistry is what Hilkert attributes for the team’s success.

“I think that is what enabled us to get so far, soccer is a team sport and we were all working together, everyone put their best effort in,” said Hilkert. Coach Cohen gave great praise to one of his senior players, describing Hilkert as being ‘the whole package.’

“You’re getting an international student athlete, she’s improved, a much better overall athlete, it shows her work rate,” said Cohen.

Cohen said when you get someone coming from a different culture, it complements the team’s culture.

With just under a year left at Southern, taking some time to reflect Hilkert said she is grateful for having the opportunity to compete in soccer over the last four years and make lifelong companions as a Southern Owl.

The mental health of student athletes

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Southern will largely be occupied with containing the spread of COVID-19 between its athletes in the fall semester, however it will also be keeping a close eye on the mental health of its student athletes.

“We’re really centered around how do we support our student athletes’ mental health and well-being during this unprecedented situation,” said Nick Pinkerton, director of counseling services. “I’ve talked to coaches, Jay Moran and sent presentations to the coaching staffs.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone’s lives and the daily routines they have become accustomed to, but, athletes have lost a part of their identity due to the loss of competition and regular training, according to Pinkerton.

Nearly 25 percent of collegiate athletes reported clinically relevant levels of depressive symptoms, according to researchers at Drexel University and Kean University.

Southern will primarily focus on figuring how to encourage its student athletes to feel connected with one another, to the institution and to their sport; a task in which Pinkerton said will ‘not be easy.’

“We’ve invested quite a bit of time because it’s really got to be a priority before any physical considerations. We understand that there’s quite a bit of anxiety, confusion and stress,” said women’s soccer head coach Adam Cohen

Cohen and his staff have been in touch with their players through weekly online meetings but have found that it is difficult to make a good connection that way. Cohen said the importance of athletes bonding together as teammates while they train and compete and admitted that online video is not as effective as in person interaction.

“This purpose and meaning for the athletes come from the routine of doing their training, competing and being together. It is a major part of their life and their identity so how can you continue to keep routines going,” said Pinkerton. “How can we connect with each other? Things like synchronous online connection is a little bit challenging because some people feel fatigued by it and it’s not the same as being in the room with each other.”

Senior track and field athlete Begotty Laroche, the 2018 Northeast 10 Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Rookie of the Year, has been conscious of the mental health challenges that will present themselves through the fall semester and has been in contact with her teammates over the issue.

Laroche said she is living off campus now which is different and is taking online classes, but it has just been hard for her to find the motivation to train when all of this is going on.

“I was talking to one of my teammates the other day and she did say she was feeling a little discouraged because cross country season got cancelled.”



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Hilkert chasing after the ball in a 2019 game vs Bentley at Jess Dow Field.

No fall sports season has some financial impact

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

The university will not see as much of a financial loss with the cancellation of fall sports compared to larger universities who regularly generate millions of dollars in revenue annually off college athletics.

"The Alabamas of the world are losing all that revenue they're earning at sold out football games. We're not losing that much because we don't charge at many of our venues," said Athletic Director Jay Moran. "We see some cost savings; we have less competitions

as of right now."

The only sport that charges money for tickets is football, which means the university will not see as much of a fiscal change.

However, if all goes to plan and it is deemed safe for all the sports to compete in the spring at the same time, then expenses will go up for the university.

Southern will actively be conscious about saving money now so that there will be a sufficient amount once the spring does come around, according to Assistant Director of Athletics and Fiscal Affairs Giovanni D'Onofrio.

"The difficult part of this year is we really don't know

what the spring is going to look like. We're spending on a need only basis right now in anticipation that we will have sports in the spring and that we do have to reserve funds for the events in the spring," said D'Onofrio.

There will be other challenges besides balancing the budget, including the fact that the schedule for the spring is not final yet and there are still decisions to be made, the budget mandated by the state could change from now to the spring and the university has never had to deal with such a situation before, according to D'Onofrio.

The NE10 is currently trying to come up with a plan that would effectively help universities when it comes to having all sports compete in the spring.

"They're trying to make deviations to the previous schedules where there might be more savings or a more efficiency to the seasons, so that we're not sending two teams to different places on different days. They're trying to streamline seasons and limit the number of competitions," said D'Onofrio.

The NCAA guidelines, prior to COVID-19, capped the number of games at 26 for a college basketball

season, but many teams would get around 30 due to some of those games not counting. Now, the cap has been moved down to 22 to help universities out financially when it comes to sports later on in the academic year.

"The NE10 has already built in and lowered the caps because they understand some schools might not have the financial resources in which to play the max and they also want to maintain competitive balance across all the schools," said Matt Letkowski, associate director of athletics and compliance. "They didn't want some schools to be

able to play as many games as they could if they're in a better situation than other schools."

Moran said the scheduling for this year will be more regional, meaning Southern would play closer schools such as the University of New Haven and Pace University more than in a regular season to avoid overnights and traveling to save further costs.

"Every institution across the country right now is looking to save every penny because of COVID," said Moran, "because the reality is enrollments are down and revenues are down, so we have to cut expenses."

Big Sean marks his return with new 'Detroit 2' album

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

"Why Would I Stop?" Big Sean asks as the opening lines to his first album in three years.

After establishing himself as a capable rapper with the album "I Decided" in 2017, Big Sean was set to embark on a tour and celebrate his 10 year anniversary of being a rapper.

Suddenly, tragedy struck when his best friend died and the tour was cancelled and Sean went radio silent for years despite two singles dropping last year.

Three years later, Sean breaks his silence with an album sequel to his 2012 mixtape Detroit, Detroit

2. "Deep Reverence." The lead single off the album starts off with a feature from the late Nipsey Hussle and ponders ideas of fame creating anxiety and discovering one's capability to have suicidal thoughts.

These themes continue on songs like "Harder Than My Demons" where Sean explores the concepts of overcoming the aforementioned anxieties and coming out on top. "Everything That's Missing" is a somber song that shows Sean in a place of weakness but with a glimmer of hope towards what's coming.

A new soulful approach to the composition and backing tracks can be seen woven throughout songs like "Body Language"

and "Guard Your Heart." In these more soulful moments, we see Sean being more vulnerable about love than ever before, admitting he needs protection from his dark thoughts.

In contrast to these moments of vulnerability and openness, we have songs like "ZTFO" and "Respect It" pop up where Sean raps over huge hard hitting beats. However, this time around, people no longer sense a need from Sean to prove himself but rather he is telling the world to sit down and listen, he's on top now and this is why.

"Full Circle" and "FEED", among other songs on here, abandon hooks all together for Sean to just speak to

the listener and push everything that's been swimming in the back of his head for three years straight into the deep end.

Honesty is one of this album's strongest points as Sean's thoughts are as naked and exposed as they have ever been.

As the last hurrah on the album, Sean busts out "Friday Night Cypher," a verse from every famed Detroit MC from Tee Grizzely to Eminem. The song lasts a whopping 10 minutes and shows off the ability that this city has amassed and why you shouldn't mess with Detroit.

Strewn throughout this thematic journey are interludes where Dave Chapelle, Erykah Badu and Stevie Wonder

essentially pen love letters to the city of Detroit.

Spiritually, that's what this album is; Big Sean once again confessing his love for this city as it pulls him out of a dark place and back into the sunshine once again.

A marching band roars to life on the closing track "Still I Rise." After a long winding story of every hardship Sean faced over the last three years and how he pulled himself out of those experiences, he says that it's time to look to the sky, get back up and see where we go next.

This album is a beautiful story of having no idea where you are going but finally being okay with that. "Detroit 2" is a celebration of having nothing to celebrate.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRUCCI
Phone showing Big Sean's new album on Spotify.

Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) has entered into an exciting collaboration with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center and Fair Haven Community Health Care to enhance primary care for patients. As part of this collaboration, the following healthcare services are scheduled to move to a newly renovated medical office at 150 Sargent Drive, New Haven, on October 19, 2020:

- Adult Primary Care Services, Pediatric Primary Care Services, and Women's Services currently provided at 789 Howard Avenue, New Haven (York Street Campus)
- Adult Primary Care Services and Pediatric Primary Care Services currently provided at 1450 Chapel Street, New Haven (St. Raphael Campus)
- Pediatric Primary Care Services currently provided at 2080 Whitney Avenue, Hamden (Chapel Pediatrics)

These services will be available at their current locations until they move to Sargent Drive in October. After the move to Sargent Drive, Adult and Women's Services primary care will be provided by Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center and Pediatric Services will be provided by Fair Haven Community Health Care, each in their own new space at 150 Sargent Drive and each providing enhanced access to behavioral health services at this same practice site. Your doctors from the YNHH Adult, Women's and Pediatric primary care centers are also moving into the new facility where they will continue to provide your care.

Yale New Haven Hospital provides imaging services and a blood draw station at 150 Sargent Drive, and these services will be available to patients of the community health centers. The Women, Infant, Children's Clinic (WIC) at the York Street Campus will move from its current location to 150 Sargent Drive. The WIC at the St. Raphael Campus will remain in its current location.

For an appointment or more information about these services, please call Yale New Haven Hospital at 203-688-5555.

Regarding women's reproductive services, contraceptive counseling and management (including birth control pills, injections, and intrauterine devices), annual exams and visits, and counseling about options for pregnancy will be provided by Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center at 150 Sargent Drive.

These services, plus pregnancy terminations, will be offered by Yale New Haven Hospital at the following locations:

- Yale Family Planning, 40 Temple Street, New Haven
- Yale New Haven Hospital, 20 York Street, New Haven
- Yale New Haven Hospital, 789 Howard Avenue, New Haven

For an appointment or more information regarding family planning and reproductive health services, please call Yale New Haven Hospital at 203-688-5555 or Yale Family Planning at 203-737-4665.

Getting to 150 Sargent Drive

150 Sargent Drive is easily accessible from major highways and downtown New Haven and has plenty of free, onsite parking. For those using public transportation, 150 Sargent Drive is serviced by CT Transit Bus Route 274 and 274C.

If you have concerns about transportation to your appointment or have mobility issues that would make it challenging for you to get to 150 Sargent Drive, YNHH will offer a ride share program for eligible patients. Please call 203-688-5555 or visit ynhh.org and search for Primary Care Center to see if you qualify for transportation assistance. The eligibility requirements can be found on the Primary Care Center webpage at ynhh.org

Financial Assistance

While Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center and Fair Haven Community Health Care each provide financial assistance according to their own policies, a patient financial assistance fund is also available for current Primary Care Center patients who qualify for the Yale New Haven Hospital free care or discounted care programs. Patients and their children who received care at one of the locations moving to Sargent Drive within three (3) years of the move on October 19, 2020, may be eligible to receive full or partial financial assistance at the new location. Details on the criteria for eligibility for this fund can be found on the Primary Care Center webpage at ynhh.org.

Additional Resources

Similar primary care services to those provided by Yale New Haven Hospital, Fair Haven Community Health Care and Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, are available throughout the New Haven area. A list of these services can be found on the Primary Care Center webpage at ynhh.org.

Questions? Call us.

We are available to answer any questions you have about our upcoming move to 150 Sargent Drive Please call the Yale New Haven Hospital Primary Care Center at 203-688-5555.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new site at 150 Sargent Drive in New Haven this Fall!

Sincerely,

Cynthia N. Sparer
Senior Vice President, Operations
Yale New Haven Hospital

Suzanne Lagarde, MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Fair Haven Community Health Clinic, Inc.

Stephen Huot, MD, PhD
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, YSM
Director, Graduate Medical Education, YNHH

Michael R. Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation

YaleNewHavenHealth
Yale New Haven Hospital

Fitness Center reopens free to students

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of campus, this includes the fitness center, which now is free for students this semester.

On Wednesday June 17, gyms all across Connecticut started to reopen.

However, per regulation, none of them operated at the same capacity that they did before and the campus fitness center is no exception to that rule.

"We are making sure to keep up with all state guidelines of

social distancing" said Ish Fernando, facilities manager at the fitness center.

All equipment at the fitness center is being cleaned and properly stored every hour on top of the fact that there is only a certain amount of people allowed in the area within the hour. The staff also deep cleans all the equipment at the end of the day.

Like in the preceding years, but more so than ever, students are responsible for cleaning all of the equipment they use after they are done using it.

Unlike in previous years, for any stretching or yoga-like activities, students must bring their own mats or towels to use. The cleaning supplies available to the students have also had an upgrade as there are now alcohol wipes and a new spray more designed to kill COVID-19.

The idea of social distancing in the fitness center is new and one of the precautions put in place is the use of the app "ATLETO."

The app allows students to reserve certain times at the fitness center within specific zones of the gym to

cut down on the amount of people in one place at one time.

Halfway through the fitness center, there is a new second desk so that students can be monitored better. There are also a number of machines shutdown to encourage social distancing.

"The inability to do more recreational activities left us with enough extra money to offer the fitness center to students for free" said Jessica Scibek, head supervisor at the fitness center.

About a year ago, the fitness and recreation

departments merged.

COVID-19 has made it extremely difficult to operate recreational activities so the fitness and recreation department have decided to take that money and use it to offer the fitness center to all students for free. This is the only time in the fitness centers 14 years that this has happened.

Scibek said she hopes to introduce some limited recreational activities within this semester, possibly as early as next week. These activities would include certain classes where students bring their own mats or

towels to places like the residence life quad or stadium stairs rather than performing these classes inside like in previous years.

"The fitness center being free is a great thing, for it gives every student on campus the opportunity to work out with no financial limitations," said exercise science major Cassidy Girolamo, a junior.

Scibek said she is hoping these new changes will make the fitness center more accessible so "all students have a place to help their mental and physical health."



Caution tape is lined on gym elliptical machines to be cleaned.

PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI



Treadmills without caution tape cleaned and ready for use.

PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Religious restrictions impact food selection

By Sofia Rositani
Arts and Entertainment Editor

With many diverse groups on campus, that comes with many different religions with different dietary restrictions such as halal and kosher food.

Sodexo, the new food service on campus took over for Chartwells this summer, and according to general manager of Sodexo, Tony DeLuca, he said the switch from Chartwells to Sodexo was quick. Typically, he said it usually it takes 60 days minimum, but they had only four to five weeks to prepare for everything.

"We have a very good system in place to meet the needs of those students," DeLuca said regarding student's food needs in terms of their religion.

He said in the prior job he worked at there was a large population of students who wanted halal food, so he was able to get those products for them, but due to DeLuca only being on campus for five days he has not been able to get to know the student population yet.

However, once more time goes by he feels that if it is necessary, Sodexo can provide those specific foods to students.

"We have the resources to get halal products and if we have a big enough need for them, I can bring those in both a retail environment and the resident dining program," said DeLuca.

Marketing Manager of Sodexo Elizabeth Floyd said the ways she will be marketing the different foods and drinks they offer at Connecticut

Hall and other places on campus is through emails, social media, and having students contact her regarding different ideas they want to see on campus.

"Our biggest asset is our partners on campus so like Reslife those sorts of partners are really great at helping us spread the news because word of mouth really is so effective especially on a college campus," Floyd said.

For organizations like Hillel Jewish student organization it has been harder to get kosher food for students during events due to the lack of Jewish stores, restaurants, and bakeries in New Haven, according to Rabbi Barbara Paris, Hillel adviser.

"Now for me and a lot of moderns I will eat salads and cold things because then I don't have to worry if its kosher or not," said Paris. "I know it doesn't have pork in it or any animal products I know I am not mixing milk and meat. So, if I have salad or egg salad, I will eat that at the Southern cafeteria."

Paris said she would consider herself "modern" many others may not be so they would not even buy anything from Southern's cafeterias due to not knowing how they cook their meat, or what they make it on.

"For the people who don't keep [kosher] it's no different if you are eating a cupcake it's a cupcake but for the people who keep kosher it's important to them to know that the cupcake has nothing in it that they can't eat," Paris said.

Even though she has yet to get a student complaint about the lack of kosher food, she said it should still be something they look into.

"When we're a minority it's a little hard to demand something for the minority so I think you just do the best you can," said Paris.

According to FindLaw, it states that schools do not have any requirements for students who have religious dietary restrictions. While they have several rights such as the right to speak to their peers about their religion, and wear religious clothing, it does not say that the school must be held accountable for their religious dietary needs.

President of Muslim Student Association Asma Rahimyar said always making sure her food is halal is a way of law and because of that she cannot eat certain foods.

"Halal food meets the dietary restrictions delineated to us by way of Islamic law; consuming any form of alcohol or meat from an animal that wasn't slaughtered according to our standards of humane treatment, for example, is haram," Rahimyar said, "It is also haram to cut down a tree that provides shade to passerby, just as it is haram to talk about someone in their absence."

Even though Rahimyar said she has been able to find snacks on campus labeled Halal, she still has issues finding a meal on campus.

"I rarely eat full meals on campus, and this is because of what I

mentioned regarding the need to seek out options as opposed to having them offered wherever it would be most convenient."

"My experience might not be representative of other students' experiences, but I do know

that many of my friends leave campus if they're looking for a full meal in between classes," Rahimyar said.

Rahimyar is a commuter but she is on campus for classes and club meetings so she said it would be

helpful if they could get more options that are halal so she does not have to eat late once she is home.

"Something as seemingly mundane as our dietary choices connect me to a profound tradition."



Health Science Majors, Erika Araujo and Cheyenne Michols having a meal at Conn.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN



Prepared and plated meals behind plexiglass screen at Conn.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Boseman's death impacts Black community

By **Essence Boyd**
Online Editor

The death of multi-award-winning actor Chadwick Boseman was an event that was felt through many communities around the world, the Black community especially. "The death of Chadwick Boseman has impacted the black community - because he was one black actor that was on the come up and really contributed to a referable movie; "Black Panther," said public health major Randall Rissing, a graduate student. Boseman's death came as a surprise to many as he did not share his struggle with colon cancer

to anyone outside of his family. According to social work major Amoy Austin, a freshman, the death of Boseman has left his audience to reflect on how they conduct their everyday lives. "It is making us think more about how our lives are supposed to be," said Austin. "If something is going on in your life, you have to speak up because you never know what can happen." For Rissing, Boseman's death made him reflect on his own health. "The death of Boseman has impacted me due to hearing that he died from colon cancer," said Rissing. "Black Men are at a higher

risk of developing colon cancer - so in perspective this was a wakeup call to take one's health serious." From his early television roles in shows such as "Lincoln Heights" to more historic roles such as Jackie Robinson in "42: The True Story of an American Legend," Boseman filled whatever role he was in. However, his biggest role came from when he played son T'Challa in the 2018 record breaking movie Black Panther. The film became the top-grossing superhero film of all time in North America, becoming one of only seven films to earn \$600 million or more according to the Hollywood Reporter. It also gave the Black

youth - both boys and girls - much needed positive representation. "He taught them to have strength and to speak up for what they are and who they could be," said Austin. "He taught me to always love my culture and who I am." English major Maaliyah Burgess, a sophomore, said the death of Boseman will be one the black community will grieve forever as he inspired many people. "When people see him and ask about him, they will be impacted by the loss that the Black community had," said Burgess. Some such as Rissing are hopeful that more positive roles will arise giving the

Black youth someone more positive to look up to in the community. "I would say that Boseman has set the bar high, but I am very hopeful that the legacy of black men in comics will continue to prosper," said Rissing. "I hope that more men will stray away from acting in violent roles and be inclined to pursue protagonist roles in film." According to Britannica, the Black Panther was one of the first Black comic book heroes in the United States; making its first appearance to the public in July 1966. However, Boseman brought the character T'Challa to life. "Power. That is the biggest adjective I can use,"

said Burgess. "There was a lot of culture in the movie it was rich and the people and the characters in the movie they were firm in what they stood for and proud of who they were essentially." Boseman's roles will continue to live on with the help of his fans and family. Rissing said the most important lesson people can take away from Boseman is "strength is needed no matter challenges is faced." "To take health serious, and to follow one's passion," said Rissing. "I believe this unfortunate event has really woken up the black community - to not be complaisant and aim for the stars."



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

English major Maaliyah Burgess, a sophomore standing in the residential quad.



PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

Social work major Amoy Austin, freshman, standing in the residential quad.

Lyman plays to be broadcasted as radio shows

By **Sofia Rositani**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

By **Romanya Joseph**
Contributor

As the future of Hollywood and Broadway hangs in the balance with many film, television, and theatre productions having been put on hold, the theatre community on campus has managed to come up with a way to continue their school and production work under the new COVID-19 guidelines. In accordance with the new safety rules, this semester's first production, "An Enemy of The People," directed by Benjamin Curns, a Professor of Theatre, will be put on as a radio show. "The actors will play the scenes with one another through the use of microphones and headphones and those performances will be professionally recorded, edited, and made available for the SCSU and surrounding community to listen to from their own homes and devices," said Curns. The story centers around a scientist named Thomas Stockmann who discovers the presence of dangerous bacteria in the water. "If Stockmann makes his discovery public, he will save lives but doom the

town's economy and his reputation. If he remains silent, he knows that people will die," says Curns. "The play is over 150 years old but has an eerie connection to our current health crisis." The production leaders are still deciding on which streaming platform to use. There's talk of using Facebook Live and Southern's radio station. And audience members will be encouraged to make comments in the chat box during the broadcast. There are currently no plans to have a live audience in place for any theatre productions out of concern for audience safety. Crescent Players President Leah Herde said she is looking forward to recording the new radio production. "An Enemy of the People is an amazing show," said Herde. "I've seen a couple renditions of it, and I can proudly say our cast has some extreme talent. During a read through of the first acts, I got chills from so many of the actors. It's crazy that people have the capability of moving others just by their voice." While there are no plans to have an actual play on campus with an audience, there are still thoughts of doing a live performance and streaming it, according to Chairperson of the Theatre Department

Michael Skinner. For auditions, the Crescent Players held a virtual and in-person, masks required, audition for those interested in being casted for the play "Enemy of the People." "The thing about the radio show is great," said Skinner. "So we are building isolation booths so that every actor that is cast can go into their own booth with their own microphone that we will give them, and that way they can take off their mask, they will be completely surrounded and won't be across from anyone else so we can do good clean recordings." Skinner said they have lightened the schedule for this semester for students because in the past students have not been able to commit to their practice schedule, so now it is four nights a week rather than five or six. Even though there are negatives to shutting down Broadway and other theatres, Skinner said there is a positive side to it as well because now they have a new perspective on things, such as racial justice and how that has been a hot topic in the world of acting. "We are fighting for it," said Skinner. "My personal feeling is I think things will definitely change it will take a long time to get all the changes that we want, it's going to be a slow process."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts where plays are usually held.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

The lobby of the Lyman Center and box office where tickets can be brought.