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# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

VOL. 63 — ISSUE 1

## Class of 2028 makes their way to campus

**By Brianna Wallen  
News Editor**

As the summer wrapped up, it was time for the launch of a new fall semester. On Aug. 24, the class of 2028 spread their wings onto campus.

At "New Owl Convocation", the university welcomed 1,136 students for the class of 2028, resulting in a 2.48% increase in enrollment from last fall.

594 of the new Owls are first-generation college students and 55% of the incoming class are students of color.

For full-time undergraduate students, there are roughly 5,573 Owls at the university.

The add/drop deadline has been extended to Sep. 9.

According to Alicia Carroll who works for the registrar office, Faculty Senate extended and improved the add/drop in the spring of 2024.

"This policy change will greatly enhance students' academic experience at Southern by reducing bureaucratic hurdles and giving them greater flexibility in managing their course schedules," Carroll said.

By simplifying the process for adding



Interim President Dwayne Smith and students assisting with move in.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

and dropping courses, students can better tailor their academic journey without unnecessary barriers while positively impacting their academic record and overall experience."

Starting from 9 a.m., the freshman halls, Chase Hall, Farnham Hall, Wilkinson Hall, Hickerson Hall and Neff Hall welcomed the new class.

Many freshmen packed their lives and memories from home

with them in storage containers and bags. Volunteers from various fall sports teams loaded their items into bins and wheeled them into their respective halls to make the move-in process easier.

Marketing major Tony Salerno, a freshman who moved into Chase Hall, said his move-in experience went smoothly.

Salerno said. "I met my RAs, and I like it here so far."

Computer science major Renei Hester, a freshman, said that departing from her parents was a "bittersweet moment."

"I now have the ability to establish myself on my own," Hester said.

Although freshmen are away from their families, they are not alone. Interim President Dwayne Smith was making his rounds, visiting each freshman hall. From floor to

floor, the president was introducing himself to the new freshmen.

"I want them to know that they have a new welcoming environment," Smith said.

This has been a longstanding tradition for Smith. The president said that his tours are an expression of what he himself needed during his undergrad years.

"We just showed up and felt disconnected," Smith said. "Now as an administrator, I think

it's important to establish that connection."

Nursing major Ngam Le, a freshman, said that she is excited to create unforgettable memories.

"I am excited for the 'New Owl Welcome Week,' and I look forward to new experiences and meeting new people," Le said.

Many other freshmen are also open to sparking new connections and attending events.

"In the little bit of time I've been here, there's already a lot of stuff going on, so I'm looking forward to all the events," Salerno said. "I'm also excited to meet more people in my hall and on my floor."

With a new and exciting chapter in front of them, these freshmen have endless opportunities to meet and connect with new people.

"I'm looking forward to the ability to be involved as much as possible," Hester said.

As the new Owls fully transition to college, the president said he hopes that the class of 2028 takes full advantage of their freshman year and the experiences they will have.

"I want them to be transformed by their experiences," Smith said.

## Alexis Holmes wins gold for USA

**By Solé Scott  
Editor in Chief**

Alexis Holmes has cemented her name in households and history books.

The 2024 Summer Olympics were held in Paris for the second time and were watched all over the world.

The university's own director of university access programs Dawn Stanton was in Paris cheering on her daughter, track and field Olympian Alexis Holmes.

Stanton described the energy of the Stade de France stadium.

"Electrifying, it was absolutely incredible. I think there were 80,000 or so fans," Stanton said.

This year's Summer Olympic saw 592 athletes

from around the country, including Hamden's own Holmes.

Holmes took part in the Women's 400-meter final in which she placed sixth.

Holmes saw much more success when she and Team USA Women's 4x400-meter relay team won gold.

Shamier Little started, then passed the baton to Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who then passed the baton to Gabby Thomas for the third leg. Thomas passed the baton to anchor Holmes, who secured the gold medal for Team USA.

"My time in Paris was surreal. To be able to fulfill a childhood dream of competing in the Olympics, with both my parents there to watch in person, it meant everything to me," Holmes said.



Move-in team made up of students helps freshmen move into the dorm halls.

PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL



Sgt. Peter Mckoy and physical education major Elijah Lewis, a freshman, with his family.

PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL



Gold medalist Alexis Holmes at the Paris Olympics.

PHOTO | NBC CONNECTICUT

# New Chief of Police settles in his new nest

**Brianna Wallen**  
News Editor

While there are new faces on campus and a new freshman class, there is also a new addition to the university Police Department. On June 7, Makiem Miller was sworn in as the fourth Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety.

Miller, who was born and raised in West Haven, retired in 2016 from the New Haven Police Department where he served 20 years.

As a new Owl, Miller spent his time last spring getting acclimated to the university setting.

"I got time to meet a lot of the faculty and staff, so it was a lot easier to move around, learn the campus, attend some events, attend some meetings," Miller said. "It was at a much lower pace, which gave me time to adjust a little better."

Despite his recent arrival, Miller is ready to get the ball rolling.

"From the inside, we're looking at hiring. We're looking to add about three or four men and women to the force, and some promotions from officer to sergeant," Miller said.

These plans also include adding entry-level officers to the police



Police Chief Makiem Miller in his office at the university Police Department on Aug. 6.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

academy and hiring a few lateral officers to the force.

Miller also has external plans to enhance the community events.

"We have a big Trunk or Treat event and sports team events coming up, so we'll be setting up some community tables, a lot of

stuff for just our presence, also for recruitment

purposes, and just having that interaction with the community," Miller said.

The university chief places high emphasis on community, as he said that he wants staff and students to have

a connection with the department and be aware of their presence on campus.

"We want to be invited to things," Miller said. "We see the same people every day, just like you all see each other every day, so we want to be part of that."

After learning about a new police chief, students are open to meeting him at upcoming events.

Business major Juwell Clay, a sophomore, said that she trusts the department regarding her safety.

"I haven't met the new chief yet, but I do. I feel

secure that campus police will keep me safe," Clay said.

As Miller adjusts to campus, the department must be acclimated to a wave of change, too.

Administrative Assistant for the university Police Department Tonya Nelson is not new to change. Nelson has been in the department on campus for 37 years and has seen many position changes.

Nelson said that the department is still in the transition process.

"We're getting used to how he likes things, and he's getting used to how things run here," Nelson said.

The administrative assistant said that she hopes the department continues to flourish under the new chief.

"I hope the department continues to grow under his leadership because we've come a long way from when I first started working here, and we're going in the right direction," Nelson said.

With confidence from Nelson and Miller, it is exciting to see what the future holds for the department and university.

"I feel very confident that it's going to be a good year," Miller said.

# New construction project is underway at Chase Hall

**Brianna Wallen**  
News Editor

As the Owls returned, they observed a notable change on campus. There is construction being done behind Chase Hall.

Beginning in the first week of August, the university underwent a project to correct the water pipes for the residence halls near the residence quad.

"The pipes that are in the ground, we can't use that right now because they're broken. They're cracked, so they had to do a big project on that," Chase Residence Hall Director Juwan Givens said.

The pipes are inoperable, so the trailers located near the residence halls are their primary source of heated water.

"Once the pipes are fixed, everyone will be able to have hot water and everything from them," Givens said.

Despite the construction site's location, the project benefits all the halls surrounding Chase Hall. This includes Wilkinson Hall, Farnham

Hall, Neff Hall and Hickerson Hall.

Their goal is to solve the ongoing water temperature issues that derived from the damaged pipes.

"Last year, we noticed there had been a couple issues. Sometimes, the water would be cold, and it would just be a struggle," Givens said. "I think that's when they noticed that this is a deeper problem."

Nursing major Simone Dwyer, a sophomore, was a resident in Chase Hall last semester.

Dwyer said that while living there she had experienced multiple problems with the water.

"At times, the water was great, but then there were times when there was cold water for 2 to 3 days," Dwyer said.

Dwyer, who is now a resident of West Campus Residence Complex, said that she is proud that the water issue is now being solved, as she used to be frustrated with her living situation.

"I had to walk to Farnham or Wilk to shower in warm water, and I feel like I shouldn't

have to do that," Dwyer said. "It is an inconvenience to bring my shower caddy and towel to another hall when I should have hot water in the building I am paying a lot of money to stay in."

Residents currently in Chase Hall face similar issues with the water.

Sociology and criminal justice major Jashaun Lee, a freshman, said: "Sometimes, it would be way more cold than hot while I'm in the shower."

With many complaints from residents, it is no surprise that they are eager for the new pipes to be put into action.

"Once the project is complete, residents will be able to enjoy some nice hot showers and won't have to worry about cold water," Givens said.

The project is estimated to be completed by January of 2025. Until then, Givens recommends that residents alert their hall director if they face any issues.

"If you have any issues with your water, just let your hall director know, and they'll fix it right away," Givens said.



Construction project located behind Chase Hall on Aug. 6.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN



Trailer located beside Chase Hall.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT  
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## TV streaming services are over saturated

By Solé Scott  
Editor in Chief

Cable is said to be a thing of the past, but it was just repackaged as streaming.

Streaming began in the 1990s with RealNetworks and Microsoft, yet did not take off until YouTube was created in 2005.

Netflix was launched in 1997 and was a mail order delivery service that distributed DVDs. Netflix's current online platform was launched in 2007 and had numerous TV shows and movies to choose from.

Streaming was introduced as the internet became more prevalent and accessible to the masses.

Over time, streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Peacock, Max, Apple Music and Spotify have increased their rates so much that customers are still paying cable prices or more.

The CEOs of these companies have completely ruined the concept of watching shows, movies and listening to music on the go.

Customers now have to buy multiple services just to watch their favorite programs. It does not help that cable channels such as CBS and AMC created their own paid streaming apps.

Controversially, the Baltimore Ravens vs. Kansas City Chiefs game that premiered Thursday, Sep. 5 is the first of its kind to be exclusively shown

on Peacock and NBC. Peacock Premium with ads cost a staggering \$80. The premium plus package that is mostly of ad-free cost \$140.

On Friday, Sep. 6, Green Bay Packers went against the Philadelphia Eagles in São Paulo, Brazil. The game was exclusively shown on Peacock.

Don't even get me started on the loss of free trials.

Streaming services used to offer a month-long free trial before a customer committed.

Now, most trials are a week long, which is not nearly enough time to make a long-term financial decision like that.

The point of streaming apps was to eradicate the rising cost of cable and limit ads, yet the opposite happened, and now apps cost more.

Music streaming apps are not exempt from this conversation, as they are run by a bunch of greedy capitalists.

Listeners must pay for Apple Music in order to listen to all music. Spotify has a free plan with ads that cost \$11.99 a month, yet not all artist catalogues are available.

Soundcloud has a free plan with ads but again not all artists catalogues are available unless you upgrade to premium and pay \$4.99 monthly plan.

This is unacceptable. Streaming companies need to stop price gouging. I do not know how much longer I can hold on to all my services, but I know is that I cannot afford to keep them all.

## Kanye West album dissapoints

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
Managing Editor

Kanye West and Ty Dolla \$ign released the second album to their Vultures series titled "Vultures 2" on Aug. 3.

The album featured 16 tracks and unfortunately did not meet fans' expectations despite there being two delays within a five-month period.

The original plan for the Vultures series was to release three albums one month apart from each other, but that never happened.

The first part of the series, "Vultures 1," released back in February, became an overnight success, topping the charts at No. 1 for several weeks.

Songs like "CARNIVAL," "BURN" and "TALKING" made the first installment exciting, yet this new project lacked that same excitement.

The first track on the album titled "SLIDE" could

easily misdirect fans. This was the introduction to the project and is arguably the best song on the album.

The deeper fans got into the album, the quality of most of the songs grew lackluster, almost as if they were made with little to no effort.

"FRIED" seemed to be part two to the hit "CARNIVAL," but it sounded like West was not even trying.

He gave fans questionable verses with little to no substance, almost sounding like he did his verse in one take and left all the mistakes in the song.

The mixing quality on songs like "PROMOTION," "LIFESTYLE" and "RIVER" was terrible.

Some parts had certain artists' vocals louder than others, creating an unbalanced production.

Most of this album was a huge disappointment and not worth the wait.

The only redeeming quality of this album was its various features, from artists like Lil Wayne, Playboi Carti, Future, Don Toliver and others.

But even with the star-studded list of features, West somehow managed to put out an entire album that felt unfinished.

The song "530" had potential to be a good song. However, the quality of the uncleared sample makes the beat feel like it was produced not by West but by someone with little to no experience in beat production.

Another aspect of this album that was a disappointment was the use of artificial intelligence.

On the song "FIELD TRIP," West is not even rapping on the track. Another artist, Vory, had his vocals used and intertwined with AI to make it sound like West.

The fact that West did not even take the time to come up with his own

vocals for a track feels lazy.

"MY SOUL" was the questionable final song on the album. The beat sounded unfinished, and the song ended abruptly, making for a terrible outro.

Overall, West showed he could not live up to his former title of "creative genius."

It is unfair to fans that once received "The College Dropout" to now get this monstrosity of an album from him.

Fans are saying that West should retire from music since he already made his impact instead of further tarnishing his musical reputation.

"Vultures 2" is the worst Kanye West album to be released by far.

Fans are now questioning if the third installment of the Vultures series will ever be released and if the quality of music will be any better than this.



"Vultures 2" cover art, featuring Kanye West holding a picture of Ty Dolla \$ign's incarcerated brother.



Kanye West and Ty Dolla \$ign during a listening party of the album.

## Up-and-coming artist spotlight: Samara Cyn

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
Managing Editor

Serving looks and vibes, Tennessee native Samara Cyn is one of the best up-and-coming female rap and hip-hop artists in the scene right now.

Cyn began releasing music on Spotify in 2022 and has released eight full-length tracks since then. She has also released various freestyles on social media showcasing her lyrical abilities.

She seamlessly blends the ability to tap in-and-out of different genres, taking listeners on a journey with every song. The best way to describe her is as a neo-soul hip-hop artist.

Her unique voice and rap style reminds listeners

of Doja Cat, Smino, Erykah Badu and many others. But she sets herself apart from all of them because she is unapologetically herself, often laughing and just having fun on tracks.

In an interview with the Southern News, Cyn revealed that most of her influences are artists listeners often compare her to, saying she makes music that she wants to hear.

"I just go in and do what comes naturally based on my influences and experiences," Cyn said. "The creative just goes to those places."

She raps with a seemingly carefree approach. But she always delivers quality music with deep meanings.

Her ability to flow over diverse beats and deliver

thought-provoking verses is what sets her apart from other current female artists. Instead of talking about her looks, money, or drugs, she becomes a true poet, sharing stories with intricate rhyme schemes.

She released "green eyes freestyle" which gained over 2 million views on Instagram. Showing basic visuals and creative lyrics on the freestyles go and check out her full-length releases.

This marketing scheme of short form songs and music videos is unlike what other artists do. It is a unique way to get people to wonder who she is, and when listeners dig deeper into her work, they are never disappointed.

Some of her best songs are "Moving Day,"

"Magnolia Rain" and "Chrome." Her melodic hooks and rap flow are what captivate listeners. It is a similar approach seen by other artists, but it feels fresh and unique every time she releases.

Her visuals always coincide with the topic of the song. She co-directs all her music videos, showing she's thinking creatively on how to present the music rather than having good songs with poor visuals.

"Most times, I can picture a visual while I'm writing the song. I can normally start off with that though, and it'll go from there," Cyn said.

She compared her music videos and songs to phases and lessons learned in her life, saying they serve as "visual

representations" of those experiences.

She also said her music videos often show symbolism, surrealism and ideas pulled from other art forms such as movies, paintings and other iconic music videos.

For example, the music video for "Katana" highlighted many ideas pulled from art and a visual representation of lessons she learned.

"Katana's video came about from a few different paintings from René Magritte and Frida Kahlo," Cyn said. "There was a lot of symbolism for duality and authenticity in it, which seemed to keep coming up in my life at the time."

She recently was featured on two different music YouTube channels,

one being "On The Radar Radio" where she did a two-minute freestyle. She was also featured on "A COLORS SHOW" where she did a live performance of her song "Chrome."

With her rising popularity, listeners should delve into her discography and experience her artistry flourish. She is planning on releasing a project titled "The Drive Home" at the end of October. She said the project is focused on acceptance and identity.

Before the project releases, she is planning on releasing a few more singles and a few more visuals to go along with them.

"The year is far from over. When 2025 hits, we going to do it all again, but better," Cyn said.



Samara Cyn showcasing her expressive personality during a photoshoot for her song "Katana."



The cover art for "Magnolia Rain," which features Samara Cyn crouched down with magnolia tree leaves surrounding her.

## New students settle into campus dorms

By Carly Russell  
Photo Editor

New Owls arrived on campus to move into their dorms. Athletes, residence life and other students already on campus flocked to help their fellow Owls settle in. Families were given warm welcomes by students and staff who had snacks, drinks and activities set up in the residence quad. Interim President Dwayne Smith made an appearance to welcome the new students. The day was a great way to kick off the new academic year.



Undecided major Giselle Delutri, a freshman, and her mom.



Otus the Owl made an appearance to cheer on incoming Owls.



Computer science major Anthony Solberg, a freshman, moving in with assistance from pre-special education major Hakim Dembele, a sophomore, and environmental systems and sustainability major RJ Faessler, a freshman.



Communications major Spencer Lane, a senior, alongside Coordinator for Veteran, Military and Adult Learner Services Brit Conroy and psychology major Jae'la Rivera, a senior.

## 'Involvement and Resource Fair' held on campus



Students at "Involvement and Resource Fair" in the academic quad.

Student clubs and organizations gathered to table on Wednesday, Sep. 4 for the "Involvement and Resource Fair." Representatives laid out goodies, information and sign up sheets, posters and more so that students could get a feel for the organizations. Students roamed around, visiting each table to learn more about the variety of clubs and organizations the university has to offer. The day was a huge success. The fair, which took place from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., saw a huge turnout.



Special education major Sydney Grenet, healthcare studies major Mikayla Szostek, juniors, and nursing major Alexis Serafin, a sophomore, representing the Dance Club.



Studio art major Aedy Vanhouten, a junior, representing the Makerspace in Buley Library.



Marketing major Anna Vilenski, a junior, representing the SCSU Reading Club



Communications major Trey Jones, a junior, representing SCSU TV Club.

## The Black Student Union welcomes new E-Board

By Lexi White  
Features Editor

You know what they say: new semester, new E-Board! Quite a few members of the Black Student Union, BSU, graduated in the spring, so the organization elected new leaders for the 2024-2025 academic year at the “Soulful Social” event.

On Sep. 3, new and familiar faces filled Room 217 in the Adanti Student Center to meet everyone who will be a part of BSU this year.

The new president of the BSU is political science major Ryan Williams, a

sophomore.

As president, Williams oversees the other members and guides them in the right direction while also letting them shine in their own unique ways.

Williams said that he wanted this event to draw new members to the BSU.

“I hope today can start to build a foundation for them to continue with BSU and maybe pursue a leadership role with us,” Williams said.

Williams said that BSU is “working on a rebrand, making sure everybody feels included, and having

fun, but also making sure that they are able to take something away from it.”

E-Board members learn new skills and utilize the techniques from their roles in their future careers.

Another student with a leadership position in BSU is sociology major John Alston, a senior. He oversees the fundraising portions of the union.

This role gives Alston the responsibility to come up with ideas for fundraising events and figuring out the cost of each event.

“BSU is a place

for people of color on campus to come together, to have a home and to talk to people who look like them,” Alston said.

Alston said that becoming a part of BSU was a great way for him to make friends.

“I think our event is benefiting students already,” Alston said. “There were a lot of freshmen and transfer students who were a little shy at first. But I feel like people are starting to come out of their shells.”

One of the potential new members of BSU was health-care studies major

Teranisha Woodstock, a sophomore.

Woodstock transferred to the university this semester and wanted to join BSU to feel a part of the community and to experience; “the family environment that the Black Student Union creates.”

To help new students adjust to the university, BSU provided dinner and icebreakers so all the members could become acquainted.

As a new student to campus, Woodstock said, “We are used to being in our rooms and not knowing

anyone. I think this is a group where everyone can come together.”

In addition, nursing major Vicky Louis, a freshman, was interested in seeing what BSU was all about.

She said that it is important for students to find an organization where they feel welcome.

Louis said, “This can help students balance academic stress because everyone needs a break sometimes.”

The BSU is always looking for new members, and they host their meetings on Mondays at 1 p.m.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Students socializing at the “Soulful Social” event at the Adanti Student Center on Sep. 3.



BSU President Ryan Williams, giving his opening speech at the new E-Board event.

## Sabrina Carpenter or Olivia Rodrigo?

By Lexi White  
Features Editor



“Sabrina Carpenter because I do not listen to Olivia Rodrigo that much.”  
- Healthcare studies major JoJo Louis-Fin, a junior



“I have to go with Olivia because I do not really know the other girl.”  
- Social work major Monique Gunn, a sophomore



“Olivia Rodrigo because I love her album “Sour.” That one really hit hard.”  
- Healthcare studies major Kisha Francois, a senior



“I think Olivia has a lot of really good songs that she has been coming out with lately.”  
- Healthcare studies major Kristalee Santiago, a sophomore



“Sabrina all the way because we are both blonde, and I grew up listening to her.”  
- Nursing major Mia Palumbo, a junior



“Sabrina because I just feel like her music is a little bit better.”  
- Hospitality management major Maurice Fountain, a sophomore

# Guiding Eyes for the Blind is putting its best paw forward

By Avery Martin  
Contributor

For an individual who is blind or partially sighted, a guide dog can bring independence and new opportunities.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind raises puppies to become guide dogs, and now students are getting the chance to help.

The university chapter of the Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy-raising club has recently started holding meetings.

The club aims to raise guide dogs and fundraise for the foundation.

The club president, English major Ella Bernegger, a sophomore, is also the club's founder. Her mother was a handler of a narcotic detection dog who once trained with Guiding Eyes, and Bernegger was inspired to assist the group in raising a puppy.

"I got in contact with the coordinator from Guiding Eyes, and I got this whole process set up starting in January. I finally got it to Southern this semester," Bernegger said.

Bernegger is raising Justice, a puppy who she hopes will eventually become a guide dog for someone who has a visual impairment.

"He is a 6-month-old yellow Labrador retriever. He's super friendly. He loves people; he loves dogs. Super quick learner. He knew everything that he knows already by 4 months old," Bernegger said.

Of the club members, Bernegger is the only one currently raising a puppy. However, this is not the only way to get involved.

Nursing major Sydney Crockett, a sophomore, is the vice president of the club and helps Bernegger

with raising Justice.

"I'm training to be his sitter right now. Anyone in the club or anyone involved can train to watch Justice," Crockett said.

In less than a year, Bernegger and Crockett will send Justice off for further training and placement.

"You have them until they are around 13 to 16 months. From there, they go take their big test up at Guiding Eyes at their location at Yorktown Heights, New York. They will run a series of tests with him, and they will determine if he's good to continue in the Guiding Eye program," Bernegger said.

Dogs who do not pass behavioral tests either become their raisers' family pets or are trained to be working dogs in fields like bomb-sniffing, narcotics detection, or emotional support.

The club aspires to raise awareness for all service dogs while providing an outlet for members to do community service.

"We decided to make a club out of it at Southern because we thought a lot of people would be interested," Bernegger said.

There is also the added benefit of getting to spend time with Justice and other service dogs.

"I decided to join because personally I have family members who work with the Guiding Eyes foundation. Also, I love community service," social work major Grace Huber, a sophomore who is the co-chair of fundraising, said.

The club plans to expand to more dog raisers and sitters on campus in the coming months and grow their fundraising efforts.



PHOTO | AVERY MARTIN

Justice enjoying his time at the "Involvement and Resource Fair" on Sep. 4.



PHOTO | SYDNEY CROCKETT

Justice as a puppy.



PHOTO | AVERY MARTIN

Theatre major Dakota Willette, and social work major Grace Huber, sophomores, at the "Involvement and Resource Fair" on Sep. 4.

# OSI hosts free breakfast event for commuters

By Lexi White  
Features Editor

Some say the best kind of food is free food, but the commuters on campus think the best free food comes from the "Good Morning Commuters" event!

Commuter services, an organization that is a part of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, OSI, hosts a free breakfast event for all commuters.

From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday morning, commuters line up to get their delicious

breakfast sandwiches.

This morning, students started waiting at the door 15 minutes early because they were so eager to get their hands on some free food.

Biology major Craig Huydic, a junior, is a commuter assistant who helps organize and host events for the commuters on campus.

"We give out items like toothbrushes, deodorant and hand sanitizer in case you forget it," Huydic said.

Huydic has been a part of commuter services for a year and said that he feels "honored to be able

to experience and see the changes be put in motion."

Student development in higher education major Ashley Perez, a graduate intern from OSI, was helping to host this fulfilling event.

"The whole point of this is having that positive impact on students and being able to support them," Perez said.

While noticing that some students grab their food and go, and others stay a while, Huydic said, "We know this is something that people really enjoy, and by the amount of people that stay in the

room after they get their sandwiches, I know we have set up a great environment."

By attending the free breakfast event, commuters can save money and meet other commuters like them.

These students also have an opportunity to figure out potential ways that they can travel to and from campus.

"If you meet another commuter, and they are from the same area, you might be able to carpool and even possibly save money on gas," Huydic said.

Psychology major Alex Cruzelasquez, a junior, was one of the commuters who attended the event.

Cruzelasquez did not have a good breakfast and said this event was a "Godsent."

"I am just so grateful that this was available," Cruzelasquez said. "It makes all the difference because I have three classes straight today."

Another commuter student who attended the event was business administration major Jayden Carty, a freshman.

Carty arrived halfway through the event and was

shocked that there was no more food available.

"People must really like the food for it to go so quick, and it makes me think that the school cares about us by doing this," Carty said.

Huydic and the rest of the commuter crew want all commuters to feel welcome while they are here.

"It is great to put a change in our school because so many commuters think that there is no event for them, or they don't want to have to stay too late," Huydic said.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

A student eating the free breakfast provided by commuter services.



A student doing homework while eating a meal provided by commuter services.

## Men's soccer win home opener

By Matt Cain  
Contributor

Men's soccer is underway, and the Owls jump out to a soaring start to the season. The first home game was played perfectly, as the Owls took a 3-0 win against Bloomfield College.

As the Owls played perfect defense, the three goals came from newly acquired forward Jose Clemente, a senior. This is the first hat trick from an Owl since 2022.

Clemente is a transfer from Saint Rose University who came over at the start of the offseason.

"When you have a natural goal scorer and you put him in the box with the ball, this is what happens," Head Coach Kevin Anderson said.

Clemente, known for his hard work and grit on the field, is joining a team who made a run in the NE10 Tournament last year. With this new addition, the Owls have one thing on their mind.

"I am very grateful to be a part of this team," Clemente said. "Three



Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scores a goal.

PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

goals are results of hard work."

In the first half, the Owls got out to a slow start, losing the ball and missing on their first two shot attempts. However, at

the 20-minute mark, the owls adjusted on the fly, implementing ball security and ball movement.

"We need to see more of that this year. Playing our game is what we need to do, not theirs," Clemente said.

The Owls played their game and eventually scored late in the first half and two more in the second. With Clemente scoring all three goals, his teammates worked to assist those goals to put the Owls on top.

Defender Edward Mensah, a freshman, got his first assist of the season, and mid-fielder Kasper Murzinski, a freshman, also picked up an assist in his first minutes on the field.

This Owl team is hungry. Anderson knows what it takes to win and instilled the value of hard

work day in and day out into the team.

Anderson played for the Owls in 1991 and 1992 and led the Owls to the 1992 NCAA National Championship.

"The goals didn't come from luck. It was being

more clean on the ball and playing forward," Anderson said.

The Owls are now 1-0 on the season and have momentum going into their next game. This win gives them confidence to play their own game and make the opponent play into the Owls play style.

The Owls held the shut out through the second half.

Goalkeeper Juan Devin, a senior, picked up a save and stopped the Bears from getting on the board.

There is no stopping these Owls as they look to carry over the momentum into their next game over the weekend.

Coming into the season, the Owls were ranked No. 5 in the NE10. Their first three games are outside of the conference.

The Owls will be back in conference play at week four of the season; the outside competition can make them a stronger threat to the NE10 Competition and even move them up in the rankings.

It is clear that this season will be built on executing and staying focused.

## Column: NFL Schedule



By Dillon Flanigan  
Sports Editor

For the fourth season in a row, each team in the National Football League, NFL, has played 17 regular season games. This change brought about the reduction of preseason games from four to three, although the season is longer.

The fourth and final preseason game, a yearly rivalry game that changes location year after year, was replaced with a bye-week as the season was extended by a week in January. With the new format in place, the home and home continue with some teams but is not as guaranteed as it once was.

In March of 2020, a new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the NFL Players Association and the owners instituted the length of the season. This was just one of several new changes that included an expanded playoff format, from 12 teams to 14.

According to Jacob Camenker of 'The Sporting News,' and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, the reason was financially motivated.

The 17-game schedule, an increase of the standard 16 game season, would go into effect for the 2022 season. However, due to the pandemic, teams lost revenue as the public health emergency kept fans from filling seats.

An additional regular season home game will generate millions of dollars in gate receipts. This does not even include the television contracts that bring in an additional several million per game.

In theory, a trade of one additional regular season game for one less preseason game may not be a bad idea. Historically, many starters and backups have not played in the final preseason game, allowing teams to rest players before the games count.

But are more games better? Football is a violent sport; injuries can happen without taking a hit. By extending the season even by one week, we are putting the players at a greater risk of injury.

Over the last decade, there have been great strides in the research of chronic traumatic encephalopathy. There is no real way of knowing who has this until after one's death. Nevertheless, in 2022 the NFL allowed teams to wear Guardian Caps.

A Guardian Cap is a soft-shell pad that covers the outside of a football helmet and reduces the impact of a helmet-to-helmet collision. The restrictions on these caps are being loosened to allow the players to wear these in games.

In a story published last week by the New York Times, Indianapolis Colts tight end Kylan Granson stated wearing the Guardian Cap was a "no-brainer."

The attempt to protect players' long-term mental health is skewed by the increase of games.

For more on this story, visit [thesouthernnews.org](http://thesouthernnews.org)



Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scores a goal.



Mid-fielder Samuel Nagy, a junior, kicks the ball.



Defender Edward Mensah, a graduate, dribbles past a defender.



Mid-Fielder Umberto Catale, a senior, takes the header vs. Bloomfield College.

## Owls Spring Sports Recap

### Men & Women's Outdoor Track and Field:

According to the Owl website, the team hosted the NE10 Conference Championship on May 3-4. However, no information has been released.

They also participated in the NCAA D-II Outdoor National Championships hosted by Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas on May 23-25. However, no information has been released.

### Softball - Overall Record: 19-24

NE10 Tournament - Apr. 30 - @ Franklin Pierce University - W 13-3

NE10 Tournament- May 2 - vs. Southern New

Hampshire University - W 3-2

NE10 Tournament- May 3 - @ Adelphi University - L 3-1

### Lacrosse - Overall Record: 8-9

Apr. 30 - vs. Bentley College - L 17-9

### Baseball - Overall Record: 25-22

Apr. 30 - vs. University of Bridgeport - W 5-2  
May 3 - vs. Pace University - W 6-1  
May 4 - vs. Pace - GI L 6-2 / G2 L 5-4

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.

## Owls Fall Sports Recap

### Men & Women's Cross Country:

According to the Owls website, the teams traveled to the Nassaney Invitational in Smithfield, Rhode Island on Saturday, Sep. 7.

The men's team placed seventh as the women's placed sixth out of eight.

### Men's Soccer - Record: 1-0-1

Sep. 8 - @ The University of Bridgeport - T 0-0

### Women's Soccer - Record: 1-0-1

Sep. 6 - @ Queens College - W 2-0  
Sep. 8 - @ University of

Bridgeport - T 0-0

### Women's Field Hockey - Record: 0-2

Sep. 7 - @ Mansfield University - L 2-0  
Sep. 8 - @ Kutztown University - L 7-0

### Women's Volleyball - Record: 0-4

Sep. 6 - vs. University of Bridgeport - L 3-0 / vs. Goldey-Beacom College - L 3-1  
Sep. 7 - vs. Queens College - L 3-0 / vs. Post University - L 3-0

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.com

## Future Schedule

### Football:

Sep. 13 - vs. American International College - 7 p.m.

### Men's Soccer:

Sep. 14 - @ West Chester (PA) University - 4 p.m.

### Women's Soccer:

Sep. 14 - @ University of New Haven - 1 p.m.

### Women's Field Hockey:

Sep. 11 - @ Saint Thomas Aquinas College - 3 p.m.  
Sep. 14 - @ American International College - 4 p.m.

### Women's Volleyball:

Sep. 13 - @ Jefferson University - 2 p.m. / @ Holy Family University - 7 p.m.  
Sep. 14 - @ Wilmington (DE) University - 11:30 a.m.

# Football drops season opener to Shepherd

By Dillon Flanigan  
Sports Editor

On Thursday, Sep. 5, the Owls fell in a one-sided affair 23-0 versus the Shepherd University Rams of Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

In the fan-filled season opener at Jess Dow Field, the Owls dropped their third straight head-to-head game to the Rams in a sloppy offensive performance that left the team with no answers.

“So, these guys are always ready. Great coaching staff for those guys,” Head Coach Tom Godek said. “I thought our players were prepared. I just think we just gave some things away that normally we wouldn’t do.”

Facing the Rams has been no easy task for most teams over the last four decades. Since 1981, the team has had only four losing seasons with the most recent in 2003. Excluding 2020, in the last four seasons the Rams have made a deep run in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

“When you play Shepherd University,

they’re a perennial NCAA playoff team,” Godek said. “They’re a playoff team that advances in the tournament more than the first round. So, these guys are always ready.”

After a blowout loss in 2022 which was handed to the Owls by future Chicago Bears quarterback Tyson Bagent and a nail-biting defeat a year later, the university showed no match to their opponent this time around.

The Rams won the toss and elected to defer to the second half. The Owls went three and out with their first possession as the Rams drove down the field only to punt inside the Owls’ 30-yard line, pinning the Owls to their own one. Soon after, the Owls’ long snapper snapped the ball over the head of punter Andreas Picarella, a sophomore, out of the back of the endzone for a safety.

The Rams would score two touchdowns in the second quarter and would go up 16-0 at halftime. In the first half, both teams punted in a combined 10 drives for three of the ten and turned the ball over

on downs on four of the remaining seven drives.

The Owls offense kept hitting roadblocks in the second half as Ridley completed 17 passes on 29 attempts, throwing for 111 yards as running back E’lijah Gray, a senior, led the team with 54 yards on the ground and 31 by air.

Gray said, “We just got to execute a little bit more. I just feel like we just left a lot on the field. Shot ourselves in the foot a couple times on the offense, but that’s a great opponent over there. I can’t take anything away from them.”

As the last quarter started to wind down, defensive back Quinton Haughton, a junior, jumped the Rams receiver’s route in the endzone for a touchback.

An extraordinary read and playmaking ability from Haughton jolted the crowd into a frenzy. The Owls delayed their taxing fate for a moment but were too late, as they could not transform the momentum offensively.

“I didn’t see the interception,” defensive end Ray Magliozzi, a senior,



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Owls enter the field for the home opener versus Shepherd Rams.

said. “We have a great defense, even great group of guys, work their ass off every week. But end of the day, it’s a team game. There’s no offensive-defensive split. So, we should come together and put in the prep this weekend.”

The Thursday night

battle was tough, and an injury and illness bug left the Owls concerned for their next game against the American International College as they left the field.

“I’m always concerned about that. We are not the deepest team out there,”

Godek said. “Got a couple kids out with some illness that’s running around campus a little bit, and couple kids with some nagging injuries that didn’t play, so we didn’t have the full contingent out here tonight.”



University cheerleader poses during a cheer.



Quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, set to pass.



Owls defense tackles the Rams running back.

# Snapshots of Owls volleyball tri-meets

By Lily Rand  
Photographer



Middle blocker Sarah Stark, a sophomore, attempts a block.



Owls Celebrate versus Goldey-Beacom.



Libero Jalie Miller, a freshman, goes for the dig.



Outside hitter Julia Jaworowski, a freshman, goes for the kill.



Libero Emily Sartell, a junior, serves the ball.



Post University and Owls shake hands after the game.