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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Custodial hiring freeze continues

By Jacob Waring
Contributor

Facilities operations and custodial duties have been affected by a two-year hiring freeze.

"We had one all last year and we will have one all of this year," said Mark Rozewski, vice president of finances and administration. "And what that means is that when positions become vacant because people have retired or took another job or left for some other reason."

The Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting & Facilities Robert Sheeley has admitted all departments had to adjust accordingly.

"I think what we all had to do is adjust," said Sheeley. "If you don't have all the resources that you previously have, you have to look at how you deploy the resources that you're left with."

Sean Gamble, a senior, said he has noticed a difference in the cleanliness of the restrooms over the years.

"When I first arrived here the bathrooms were a lot cleaner than they are now," said Gamble. "It does reflect that they're definitely understaffed. A lot of times, the restrooms in the main academic quad are independently kind of filthy, there are some you know you can go to that are not so bad."

Sheeley said Facilities Operations had to prioritize the responsibilities of the custodians with safety and good health in mind. Bathrooms are the department's number one priority as they are a health issue. So, they must be cleaned.

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PHOTO COURTESY| BROKK TOLLEFSON

The family with Dr. James Kearns working for dinner while Luke Wiess carves his paddle.

Student photographs trip to Amazon



Weekly stories highlighting students' summer work

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

With camera and journal in hand, Brokk Tollefson, a senior, joined chemistry professor James Kearns on his fifth annual summer trip to Ecuador to record observations and analysis of the plants in the Amazon.

"I decided to approach it from an anthropological perspective," said



PHOTO COURTESY| BROKK TOLLEFSON

A plant used for red face paint many of the tribes use.

Tollefson, a sociology major, "so I viewed myself as an anthropologist while I was over there instead of a journalist. So I was asking them as many questions as I possibly could."

Tollefson was the first Southern student Kearns took on this trip. Due to his military experience, amiable personality and photography skills, Kearns said he had the characteristics needed to

manage it.

The two of them travelled to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and eventually took a three-hour drive "as far as the

SEE PLANT, PAGE 3

Communication and media studies merge

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Communication and media studies majors will notice something different this semester; the two departments have been combined.

The new department title is called, Communication, Media, and Screen Studies.

"We had to consider the option of, we can stay comfortably where we are," said Micheal Bay, co-chairperson of communications, "or we can really bring these departments together and try to create something new for the benefit of the students."

Bay and Wesley O'Brien, co-chairperson of the media studies portion of the newly named department, said the decision to merge the two majors was a mutual decision as, "a result of a lot of meetings and votes."

The decision was not, however, made as a result of lack of students or financial issues in either department.

"It was just a matter of how much longer are we going to keep standing up in front of students and keep confusing them," said Bay.

Bay and O'Brien said it will benefit students and faculty with better access to resources and choices in both majors.

The media studies department had previously been located across the pedestrian bridge on the other side of campus away from the Department of Arts and Sciences.

Their offices are now located one wing down the hall from the Communication, Media, and Screen Studies suite.

"I think now being involved in every aspect of communications studies is

SEE COMMUNICATION, PAGE 2

Sexual assault policies to remain the same

By Michelle Shnyder
Contributor

Recently, the Trump administration proposed numerous rules that would expand the rights of college students accused of sexual misconduct.

According to a 2017 speech by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, the proposed rules would obligate schools to investigate sexual misconduct

complaints only if the alleged incidents occurred on campus. Similarly, DeVos stated, schools would only be liable for investigating a complaint if the complainant spoke directly to the administrator in charge of such cases.

Administration said they will not stop investigating any allegations of misconduct, even if the proposed changes are codified in law. Assistant Dean of Students Christopher Piscitelli said DeVos' proposals

could "allow schools to wash their hands of that" and Southern would not do that.

"What she is proposing are codified changes, which means they would be bonded in law," said Piscitelli. "However, as I've read, I do not see the need to institute any immediate changes to Southern's policies."

Jenna Retort, assistant director of student conduct, said the university weighs all the facts of a case, and will continue to do so.

According to Retort, Southern strives to make it as painless as possible for victims to report allegations of misconduct and seek out advocacy options.

"The university has a lot of options available to students," said Retort. "They can receive support, contact the university police if it is a criminal matter, and file a complaint with student conduct."

Piscitelli said regardless of

whether or not DeVos' changes become law, Southern has been granted more federal funding to continue battling sexual misconduct.

"We were awarded another \$750,000 from the Department of Justice to continue combatting sexual misconduct," Piscitelli said, "This amounts to \$1.5 million in funding over the course of six years."

This grant would allow the university to help students throughout all the stages of reporting and recovery process, Piscitelli said. In addition, it will help fight sexual misconduct on college campuses, he said.

Madeline Bergeron, a junior, anthropology major, said she is afraid of what these regulations could mean for victims.

"I feel like these changes put more power in the hands of the accused," said Bergeron, who

SEE VPAS, PAGE 2



PHOTO | MICHELLE SHNYDER

Madeline Bergeron, a junior, anthropology major

Search for graduate dean continues

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

Administration is in the middle of a search for a dean of their newly developed school, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

The search began early this spring, when the previous dean, Christine Broadbridge, agreed with administration to become the executive director of research and innovation, where she would focus on enhancing programs such as S.T.E.M. development and creativity and research on scholarships.

In a written statement sent over the summer, Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Prezant said the university's lead candidate chose to not accept the position, despite being impressed by the university.

Due to this, the search has continued into the fall semester.

The new schooling area, which evolved from the School of Graduate Students, Research and Innovation, aims to expand its graduate programs while also reaching out to adults in the New Haven area who want to further their education without necessarily fully enrolling in the

university.

"We wanted to focus it with a name that encompassed not just graduate education per say, but also professional development through continuing in adult education," said Prezant. "We want to make sure that as we move forward, there is recognition that Southern offers opportunities for surrounding communities to continue to learn, to continue to become educated around areas they are interested in, that are relevant to career development."

Those in the community can attend the school and update their career skills, said professor and Chairperson of the Computer Science Department Lisa Lancor.

"My job as chair is to assemble a committee, which I did with the provost," said Lancor. "It was a mutual decision, we wanted representation from all the different schools. From the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Business, Health, and Human Services. We also wanted someone in the dean position to serve on it to because it was crucial to get that perspective. We wanted a graduate student to serve on the committee as well."

After the move, Prezant made two decisions. First, he filled the

now empty dean position with Interim Dean Jose Galvan. The retired San Francisco University and University of California Los Angeles dean was chosen using a program out of Boston called, the Registry.

"Southern has a relationship with an organization called the Registry," said Galvan, "that works with retired academic administrators, like me, and they place us in positions as interims for universities looking for a permanent hire."

The committee search process works by first gathering a pool of candidates that applied for the position, each responding to the prospectus released. The candidates send in a letter of interest addressing the certain topics and qualities Southern is looking for.

The topics vary and range from, "a commitment to Southern's mission of academic excellence, access, social justice, and service," to "the potential to be effective in fundraising and community relations."

The search committee is purely for recommendations, said Lancor. They discuss who might work best and then the provost makes the final decision on who to hire.

"We want someone that is going to fit into the Southern



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Interim Dean Jose Galvan of the school of graduate and professional studies

family," said Lancor. "They have to understand that we are a public, comprehensive university in New Haven. They have to

understand what our students needs are."

Communication, media and screen studies merge completed

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

The new Communication, Media, and Screen Studies department in Engleman Hall.

good for students who want to break out, branch out," said Lisa Tedesco, a junior.

She and other media studies students had been hoping for the merger as their professors had told them the majors had been combined once before almost 20 or so years ago.

David Cardona, a sophomore, said he thought the two majors were already one.

Bay said that "further validated" the merger. As of now, there is no change to the curriculum of either major, just a new name.

"Now the work for us," said Bay, "is to find ways to creatively, you know, create those bridges between the two programs. We still want to maintain the two separate degree programs."

Cardona said he worries this would limit what professors can and cannot teach.

Tedesco said she believes this will instead "catapult the three areas into a more interested kind of field."

Media studies is described

on the school of arts and sciences webpage as a field that, "explores how the media shapes and constructs the world."

Communication stated, "explores the complexities of human interactions in interpersonal, relational, and organizational contexts."

Students are currently able to earn three different bachelor of science in communication or a bachelor of arts in media studies with minors offered in communications, film studies, and/or media studies.

In the coming years, the department's biggest challenge will be streamlining the program to adequately include all relevant aspects of their respective majors.

This could involve the doing away with of certain classes and/or the merger of pre-existing classes.

Custodians stretched thin across campus

Continued from Page 1

Yet, depending on which part of the campus the restrooms reside, that can be easier said than done.

"Engleman Hall has 26 bathrooms," said Sheeley. "We can go in 8 o'clock in the morning and clean a bathroom. By noon time, that bathroom looks like we were never there."

Antuanett Azolas, a senior, biology major, said he does not believe the state of the bathrooms are bad.

"I'm a commuter," said Azolas. "So, I don't spend a lot of time in here. But when I've been in to the bathroom, I don't think they've been that bad."

She also said the bathrooms have never appeared to her to be dirty or nasty.

Facilities typically hear more complaints from faculty than students.

"There's a reason for that, you're a student, you come to the classroom, you use the bathroom then you leave. Or you move onto another building," Sheeley said.

"Who knows what the future will hold," said Sheeley, "But whatever the future is, the university is not going out of business, number one. Number two, we'll adjust to it as much as we possibly can. And we do have our thresholds, and we're not going to go below it. And so, we'll deal with it."

He said his threshold is essentially a safety net to



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Custodian cart in an Engleman hallway.

ensure certain critical elements of different departments are not compromised due to the freeze. For facilities that means if a certain number of people leave for whatever reason, and the number of facilities custodians or other staffers are not enough to sustain the proper level of safety and health precautions, then they'll hire replacements.

Sheeley said, "If I have five people retired tomorrow. And if I needed those five positions filled to maintain that threshold. I would request them to be filled, and my administrator, Mr. Rozewski, he would submit that request, and justify it to the system office."

Certain duties by facilities such

as vacuuming rugs less frequently or lower priority tasks will take less precedence over obligations to safety and health. During periods when there is not a hiring freeze, there is always a high turnover rate. Yet, it is not unheard of for facilities to have to shift through 600 applicants for a position or two. The hiring freeze makes the turnover rate more noticeable and impactful to duties.

Gamble does note that the Facilities Operation Department is doing their best despite the current difficulties.

"They're doing their best," said Gamble. "Things could be worse. I get that they're understaffed and they're really trying."

VPAS offers resources to students

Continued from Page 1

identifies with being a survivor of sexual assault.

Bergeron said nothing is more important than protecting and empowering victims. She said Devos' proposed policies take the focus away from that.

"Rather than empowering victims," Bergeron said, "the administration appears to be more focused on protecting the accused."

Maya Neil, a junior, and psychology major, said it is already hard for women to speak up as it is.

"The republican policies scare me," said Neil. "What if something happens to me at a party and the

party happens to be off campus?" asked Neil

Melissa Kissi, a sexual assault and violence prevention specialist, said she does not support Devos' proposed changes and they could potentially reinforce victim blaming.

"I think the proposed changes can definitely be harmful to survivors," said Kissi, "because in the culture we have, victim blaming is common, and these changes can further reinforce that."

Kissi said the university will continue to support victims and work to combat sexual assault.

"From my experience,

Southern is very unique in the advocacy and support we provide to victims of sexual misconduct," she said.

Kissi said students can reach the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support center anytime, day or night, and be listened to.

"As advocates," said Kissi, "we don't need details or proof to lend support and a listening ear to anyone who identifies as a victim of sexual misconduct."

Sustainability commitment continues

By Izzy Manzo
Contributor

Southern has been committed to using sustainable energy for the past decade, and through programs such as waste reduction and composting, the campus is doing its part to combat climate change and help the environment.

Dave Bakies, a senior, geography major, works with the food recycling program, as an intern at the Sustainability Office, and he has worked towards expanding programs around campus.

“We’ve really used Conn. Hall as a template to figure out what’s working and what’s not,” he said. “If we can incorporate representatives from other clubs and broaden our awareness we can reach more people.”

Bakies hopes to expand the recycling program, which would include remodeling recycling bins around campus. Most of them only have round holes fit for plastic bottles. Foods and plastics that do not fit in the bins end up getting thrown away.

“If you just fix the

equipment that’s already there and make it more conducive to recycling, I think we’ll have a high success rate,” he said.

Another way Southern reduces waste on campus is through composting.

Blue Earth Compost in West Hartford supplies the university with garbage cans for food scraps from Chartwell’s kitchen.

Heather Stearns, recycling coordinator said 45 tons of food scraps were collected in the first year.

The bins are collected and go to an anaerobic digester in Southington, where the food is processed into methane or used as a soil additive, which Stearns said is a “full circle.”

“We produce food in our community garden, utilize that food for Conn. Hall, and then it could get composted and made into soil that goes back in our garden,” said Stearns.

While most of the focus on recycling is in

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Solar powered truck used by the sustainability office.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Solar panels stretching across Lot 9.



spreading awareness.

“A few people making a difference, that has a ripple effect outwards, and now all of the sudden you’re seeing changes,” he said. “When we as individuals start adopting new behaviors, we start holding friends and families up to these standards.”

Stearns and Bakies both said the importance of student involvement, and they hope current programs become more widespread.

Students can reduce plastic waste by using refillable water stations located around campus, or they can use reusable bottles at places such as Dunkin’ Donuts or Starbucks and pay for the price of a small drink.

“I think students need to make good choices,” said Stearns. “We hope that students will take the time to make a decision about where things go.”

Plants studied during independent study

Continued from Page 1

road” would take them, said Tollefson. “It was so clear.”

Gone for two and a half weeks, Tollefson said they studied the medicinal purposes of plants such as agave, and most importantly, yoco—a woody vine which can be used as a caffeine alternative. By scraping the inner bark off the yoco plant and soaking it in water, the effects can be felt after drinking, Tollefson said.

“I had that a bunch of times and it was [drunk] cold,” said Tollefson. “They drink it similarly to how Americans drink coffee, which is like first in the morning. They do it and get on their way.”

During this trip, Tollefson and Kearns worked with the Secoya tribe of Ecuador to study these plants. The tribe is primarily “westernized” in their clothing and has access to small amounts of technology. Tollefson worked personally with one of the older tribesman, Delfin, when he was creating the yoco-based drink.

Ever since Tollefson knew he would be taking this trip, he said he has been looking forward to meeting him.

“Watching Delfin create the caffeinated yoco drink was, I think, one of the most fascinating things I saw there and I photographed,” said Tollefson. “In that moment, I was like this is completely authentic. This

is really not a product of westernization or anything like that. What I saw him doing was something they have been doing for thousands of years.”

Kearns said the yoco plant gives “hope and provides scientific knowledge to the Secoya people.”

“Other people can go there if they are interested,” said Kearns. “There is an opportunity to be a part of this process and part of the rainforest and this earth and people who are just like you, but are living in a different location.”

The yoco plant could, at some point, be grown and bottled into an energy drink, said Kearns.

“It could help bring resources to these people,” said Kearns. “They are not desperately impoverished—some of them are—but a lot of the villages are pretty organized.”

Of all the adventures he experienced while staying in the Amazon, Tollefson said he was most fascinated when his host, Luke Weiss, who has lived in the Amazon for 22 years, explained how children travel to school via a canoe.

“[They go] around,” said Tollefson, “picks up all these little kids [and] brings them over to school, teaches them, they leave school and stops by and drops them off from the canoe.”



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Luke and Yamira Weiss’ home along with Gerald, Luke’s father’s home to the far left.



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Kearns, Weiss’ daughters, Gabriella and Angella walking.



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

The rolling hills and mountains in Ecuador.



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

A view of Mount Chimborazo flying from Quito to Lago Agrio.



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Yamira, Weiss’ wife, washing dishes in the Amazon River.



PHOTO COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Yamira washing dishes in the Amazon River with Motayo and Angella playing near her.

The joy that free reading offers

By Joe Freer
Reporter

A college student's workload is often overbearing and rigorous, filled with so much reading that is easy to forget how to enjoy it. Just the thought of reading is associated with academic work, and seems to push students away. School indirectly puts a stigma on reading that it is mainly for research, studying and analytical purposes, but we can not forget the most important reason for reading: finding rich stories.

As people get older, it seems they forget about the joy reading books offered in their youth. Their mind paints a picture that television and computer screens can not. Think back to the elementary school days when children first start reading chapter books like Harry Potter, The Lightning Thief or A Wrinkle in Time, most of them were filled with relatable main characters

who go through epic journeys in unique worlds and made new friends along the way. All of these books featured heroes that many of us still remember even now in our adult years and many of us are still part of the fandoms as well. With Disney's 2018 adaptation of A Wrinkle in Time, all three of these series have hit the big screen in some capacity, which is amazing because it is another form of media that can carry on the stories, but movie versions will never outshine the authenticity of book versions. Movie adaptations create stunning visuals and can bring people's favorite stories to life, but those adaptations could mute the personal interpretations taken from reading. The way a reader imagines what a scene in a story looks like is completely individualistic and therefore gives a different understanding and reaction to each person.

The more I freely read, the more I workout my mind, the more I strengthen

skills applicable to much of the college career. Moreover, free reading is a stimulating way to relax after a stressful day of juggling the classes, jobs and internships. While free reading, the reader does not have to worry about memorizing information for tests, or interpreting the book like a literature critic. The only thing that should be on the reader's mind is if he or she is enjoying the story or not. It is one of the few truly judge free, individually catered activities a person can do. And there are so many great stories that are accessible right here on campus. Buley Library has a shelf next to the attendant's desk, wherein, suggested free read books are cycled, that are worth looking through. If none of those interest you, many staff members would be happy to point eager readers in the right direction.

I am an English major, and hopefully a future literacy teacher, so reading

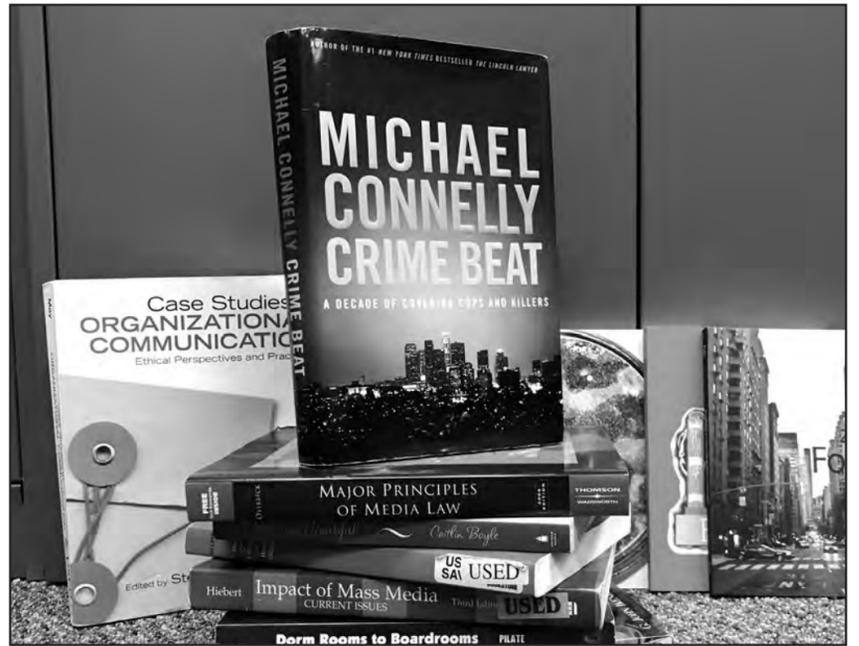


PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

An assortment of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books.

has been something I have always tried to keep up with. I, too am guilty with watching Netflix after long days, but for the last two years or so I have been actively trying to read

almost everyday. Since I have been doing this I have seen my productivity increase, my writing skills get better and my overall creativity in other interests like guitar playing have

increased as well. Not to mention, I discovered one of the most entertaining series I have ever read called Poet Anderson which you should all check out. It is worth the read.

Gaming with a disability: accommodations in progress

By Jacob Waring
Contributor

The disabled community often gets the short end of the stick. Videogame developers typically make accessibility to disabled gamers an afterthought.

Since the eight-bit early days, video games have considerably reached new heights, except in one area -- accessibility.

As a Deaf individual, I have experienced this since I started playing video games a child. I grew during a period where

many games did not have captions or dialog options for the deaf to understand what was occurring with the plot.

Games today do have subtitles for dialog, but usually lack indications of footsteps or other signifying noises, and directional audio. In addition, visually-disabled gamers must contend with not being able to fully experience the graphic beauty of their games, and gamers with mobility issues cannot utilize traditional controllers.

It is not all doom

and gloom for disabled gamers, certain companies are aiming for a more accessible gaming experience for all. Take Epic Games' Fortnite, arguably the most popular Battle Royal game out today. Being good at Fortnite requires the ability to hear, and while I may have some residual hearing, it is not enough to use the game in its intended form. The game relies on one's ability to pinpoint opposing players footsteps, gunfire and pulsing sounds of nearby chests that hold valuable combat items. It

just is not a deaf friendly game.

That is, until you go to the settings, and click the option to allow visual sound effects. It has given me the advantage to finally be on an even playing field against others. A circular indicator appears with symbols indicating footsteps, gunfire and treasure. Additionally, the developers have disabled all audio to prevent hearing players from utilizing the option to have an even higher advantage.

There is also a setting to adjust colors for those who are colorblind. Such an accommodation is crucial, because the game's visuals are very colorful.

An industry study conducted by Spil Games reports that 1.2 billion people play video games globally. Of those players, one in five have a disability that leaves them mentally, physically, or developmentally impaired according to a survey conducted by PopCap in 2008. Gamers who are affected by these perceived impairments routinely take the "dis" out of "disability" to cultivate their own unique abilities. This



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Fortnite gameplay with hearing impaired settings.

becomes especially self-evident when we "disabled" people play video games.

I recall years ago, a teen who was born four months early, rendering him completely blind. He utilized his own muscle memory, utilized sound cues, and got the timing close enough to play just as good, if not better than those who could see. One of his favorite games at the time was Mortal Kombat Deception, a fighting game.

It is always good when games like Fortnite puts forth effort to be as inclusive as possible for all gamers. There are even support organizations, namely, AbleGamers,

a charity that creates technology to help gamers with physical disabilities that make using a remote impossible. One example is The Eye Tracker 4C which is a spectacular piece of tech that utilizes one's own eyes to track targets.

Bottom line is that the gaming industry is slowly but surely catching up, and Epic Games is leading the way. We are still behind, however, in this unexplored gaming frontier, and the industry as a whole is still lagging. Games like Fortnite give me hope of a more inclusive gaming future for everyone.

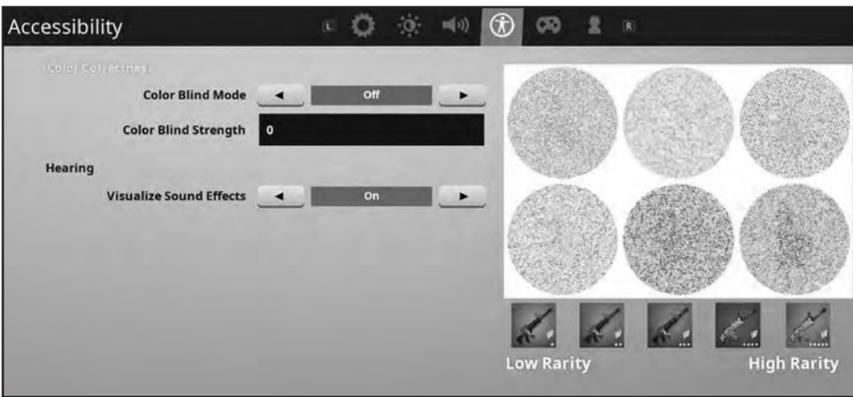


PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Accessibility settings for visually and hearing impaired players in Fortnite.

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To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

Looking back: Spring of 2005



Rising Gas Prices Pinch Commuter Students

Rising gas prices in Connecticut were a cause for concern for commuters in 2005.

Gas prices reached a record high in the country and some stations in the state had costs as high as \$2.49 a gallon. As the majority of Southern students are commuters, many were upset.

"It really sucks," said Southern student Laura Nevard. "I spend about \$25 on gas each week. That's why I'm living on campus this semester because I can't afford to drive back and forth. It's gotten to be too much." Students such as Anna Aquila said they used websites like Gas Buddy to "lessen the pain of pulling the gas pump each week." Advice the website gave were driving slower, keeping windows up on the highway and anticipating breaking and accelerating early.

The average price for a gallon of gas was \$2.24. In July of 2008, gas prices in Connecticut ran as high as \$4.49.

More from Spring of 2005

March:

* Southern men and women swim teams win the Metropolitan Conference swimming and diving championship.

* The SCSU Anti-War Coalition holds counter recruitment next to the Connecticut National Guard. The National Guard leaves two and a half hours early after the coalition recruits people to protest "an illegal and unjust war."

* Construction starts on \$64 million renovations to Buley Library.

* Chartwells workers hold protest to cuts in health care in below freezing temperatures.

* Southern creates the position of provost.

April:

* A proposed tuition freeze made by Governor Jodi Rell died in committee.

* Steve Hager, editor-in-chief of High Times, spoke in favor of legalized marijuana at Southern.

* Southern loses power for nine hours after a faulty power switch catches fire.

* Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was the speaker at the seventh annual Mary and Louis Fusco Distinguished Lecture Series. She called the then current war in Iraq a war of choice, not necessity.

May:

* Southern News publish an article on students being addicted to a new website known as the "the Facebook."

* A Southern News investigation discovers the prevalence of students abusing and making counterfeit handicap parking permits.

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

Taekwondo community sticks together

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

The air in Pelz Gymnasium was hot and stagnant, but that did not stop members of the SCSU Taekwondo Club from shouting, punching, and delivering some high-flying kicks.

Taekwondo has become a sport on the global level, and is featured in the summer Olympics. It is also featured at Southern Connecticut State University.

Senior physics major and Taekwondo instructor Paul Nicholas said he has been practicing the sport for 14 years, and has earned his way to become president of the SCSU Taekwondo club.

During Nicholas' sophomore year at Southern, he said the club was on hiatus. It had previously been active on campus, Nicholas said, but temporarily had been cancelled.

"The club was around before [I got to Southern], but they discontinued it," said Nicholas, "and then I came when they were trying to bring it back."

Former president, now graduate and teacher, Nicole Labrecque serves as the co-adviser to the Taekwondo Club. Nicholas said the co-adviser practiced at the same facility as himself, and when looking to start the club again, Labrecque looked to him for help.

"The first president was Nicole and she made a table at one of the club fairs," said Nicholas. "I met up with her and since we did Taekwondo at the same place, I was definitely down to help her get it started again."



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Members of Club Taekwondo practicing drills, led by co-adviser and former president, Nicole Labrecque (center).

Since returning, Nicholas said the club has gained 16 regular members, including six new members from the start of this semester.

A junior, anthropology linguistics major, Jasmine Brown said she joined the club when she first arrived as a freshman at Southern, and had no experience with Taekwondo beforehand. Inspired by her older brother, Brown said she decided to take on the challenge of learning something new.

"The club is small so everybody knows each other," said Brown. "We're very open and accepting so that was a big part of my

learning process."

Brown said she became acclimated to the club and Taekwondo quickly grew into a large important passion for her.

"Taekwondo, and the club in general, has definitely become a part of my life," said Brown.

Brown said at one point, she broke her foot while practicing Taekwondo, which put her out of practice until it healed.

"Taekwondo really helped me balance my life, as a good meditative outlet for me," she said. "When I didn't have that, things became more focused and I couldn't focus as well."

The club is lead also by nursing professor Kimberly Petrovic, who said she encourages any and all students, no matter what level of experience, to come to one of their practices and try Taekwondo.

The club, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in Pelz Gymnasium, Nicholas said, competes in World Champion Taekwondo tournaments around the area and allows club members to advance progression in Taekwondo belts.

"I think this club is an opportunity to learn something that maybe some people never really got to but want to," said Nicholas.

Typically the sport is an expensive passion, according to Nicholas, between the training and equipment.

"Here, it's a lot more accessible," said Nicholas, "especially for college students, where you don't even have to pay anything."



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Members of Club Taekwondo practicing drills, instructed by club president Paul Nicholas (center).

Living in Connecticut is not ideal for everybody

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

The state of Connecticut, while relatively small, offers a variety of landscapes and opportunities for living situations. From roaring hills and dense woodlands, to the busy and bustling city streets, some students say there is a place for them; others, not.

It is high time for students who are looking to start their own careers, to decide about where to live after graduating.

A sophomore, nursing major, Korinn Chelednik, who was born and raised in Waterbury, Conn., thinks that the weather would be the ultimate decision maker.

"Winters in Connecticut are just too much for me," said Chelednik, "between the snow and the freezing temperatures, living here in the winter is just not fun."

Chelednik said she wants to be a traveling nurse, working wherever her work takes her. She said she may work for as little as a few months in any given location, but plans

to live in many states across the country.

Jonathan Morris, a sophomore nursing major who is a resident in the city of New Haven, would also like to leave Connecticut after getting his diploma, but for a different reason than staying warm.

"Connecticut is not the ideal place to live," said Morris. "The taxes are way too much and there are so many other places that would be a good home."

While freshman Marline Fabela, double majoring in technically theatre and studio art, agrees with Morris about the high taxes, she believes staying in Connecticut would be a good career move.

"I plan to start working anywhere where I can create concept art, graphic designing, and work with companies creating advertising," said Fabela. "When you live in New Haven, and you start really early, you can get contacts."

Fabela said she already has connections with people working in the Yale University Art Gallery, and plans on applying to internships there. She said she would like to work with them after she graduates.

"Living in a place like New Haven really opens up the door as far as networking goes," said Fabela.

A junior, biology and philosophy double-major, Sophia Rokas said she has lived in Hamden, Conn. since she was five-years-old and is sick of it.

"I haven't lived anywhere else in a really long time," said Rokas, "so I just want to broaden my horizons."

For these three students, choosing a place to reside largely relies on job availability, and travelling for their careers, but for Peggy Moore, alumna of the class of 1984, that was not on her agenda.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Jonathan Morris, a sophomore, nursing major.

"I was born in Illinois and got married and moved to Connecticut with my husband," said Moore. "My husband had a job here so after I graduated, it made sense to stay here."

Along with the family necessity, Moore said the school districts in Connecticut were very progressive in terms of education reform.

"I think that is something you must have," said Moore.

According to the data from the Southern's enrollment offices, the university had reached 9,719 students as of fall 2017, all of which may have different plans when concerning their futures.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Sophia Rokas, a junior, biology and philosophy double-major.

Club promotes acceptance of neurodiversity

By Alexandra Scicchitano
Reporter

Having an Autism Awareness and Advocacy Club (AAAC) promotes inclusion and allows acceptance, said Jimmy D'Elia, a senior, sports management major.

D'Elia has been a member of the AAAC since roughly a year and a half ago.

"[AAAC] makes everyone feel welcome," said D'Elia. "That's what this club does a very good job of."

The club's purpose is to participate in volunteer opportunities in the autism community, and raise funds for corresponding organization, according to the e-board's message on Owl Connect.

"As a club, we plan to support those with autism, their families," the message reads, "as well as organizations, local and national, that advocate for all those affected by autism."

Rachel Iassogna, a junior, communications disorders major and president of AAAC, said she joined about a year ago, because her professor was promoting the club. She said she liked the atmosphere

greatly and that everyone acted inclusively.

"It definitely sparked my interest," said Ledia Fazo, a junior, communications disorders major. "I know I want to study development disorders and cognitive science in grad school, that's my main focus."

Fazo said she joined the club two years ago, and has since become vice president.

Much like Iassogna, D'Elia said that he joined because of recommendation, but this time from a friend. D'Elia said his friend Lauren thought joining would be good for him.

"I have a disability, its not autism," said D'Elia. "With Autism Awareness, all that anxiety and those feelings go away."

Iassogna said fundraising is a big part of the club's focus.

"We have two to three bake sales a semester," she said. "We all bake and sit in the Engleman rotunda and we raise money for programs with individuals with autism and their families."

The club also does other events, Fazo said, focusing on sensory imagery.

"We do powerpoint presentations, we

do hands-on activities, games," said Fazo, "connecting that back to our main cause."

A lot of the activities have to do with understanding the situations that individuals with autism have to deal with, such as not being comfortable in social situations and reading social cues wrong, said Iassogna.

"We try to be very informative" she said, "but make them very interactive."

The club is hoping to have a seminar this semester about autism and they want to collaborate with other clubs such as Best Buddies, according to Fazo.

"We are trying to get a panel to come and talk about different topics each time," Fazo said. "We want a student with autism, and parent of a kid with autism, and a speech pathologist, or special ed. teacher."

It's good to have the AAAC to help educate people about the real picture that individuals with autism have to deal with, said Iassogna.

Fazo stressed that the motivation for club events is to educate students on how to support all classmates, including those who are affected by autism and those with any developmental disorder.



PHOTO COURTESY | OWL CONNECT

AAAC's 2018 logo.

"A lot of people don't know how to make them comfortable," said Fazo, "or how to help them out."

D'Elia said this mission has been helpful to his college experience.

"People accept me for who I am."



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

AAAC members (left to right): Rachel Iassogna, Ledia Fazo, Kylee Vitka-Lainey and Jimmy D'Elia.

New movie White Boy Rick falls short of greatness

Jeff Lamson
Arts and Entertainment Editor

White Boy Rick has a great premise, but falls short of greatness in practice despite best efforts.

"In 1980's Detroit," the poster reads, "Ricky Wershe Jr. was a Street Hustler, FBI Informant and drug kingpin - all before he turned 16."

That is a fantastic set up for a fun, action and drama packed story with darker tones and a glorious 80's aesthetic. The film does reach for these, but somehow miss the peaks of other films.

There is much context to cover in the true story, but not enough time in the film to create it. So, maybe for the sake of pacing and fleshing out each point of the

story, it would have worked better as a mini-series on Netflix or HBO.

The story follows Rick Wershe Jr. (Richie Merritt) from his first arms deal at 14 all the way up to his incarceration at 17. He has highs and lows that cover the same amount of diversity as you would hope and expect.

On a technical level, the film masters making Detroit feel cold, even without snow on the ground. It is in the colors and the way people walk. It feels desolate, unwelcoming and isolated which makes Wershe Jr. ask Wershe Sr. (Matthew McConaughey) why do not they leave resonate strongly.

The acting is also strong, McConaughey's performance, while still very McConaughey felt genuine even if not his best. Newcomer, Merritt, sold his role to the audience too. He very much

sells the kind who had to grow up way too fast. The acting is also responsible for many subtle, but genuinely funny moments of banter.

The sound and score are not very memorable, but there is one particularly good use of silence to subvert the audience's expectations that works to great effect.

The main problem, it seems, is that the film does not commit to any of the ideas or problems it raises. There is a number of different aspects touched on from committing crimes, to being the victim of crime, to family issues and the whole FBI informant thing, but one leaves with the feeling of wanting a bit more of each of them.

It leaves the feeling that there is more to be explored in each individual topic and all of its different modes, but there

is only so much that can be done in the runtime, just shy of two hours. Not that this film needed to be hours long, but needed more plot lines to be carried out to a fleshed-out conclusion.

The highs and lows did have their intended effect, and only lacked in overall potency and staying power.

The overall theme seems to be pointing out the futility of impoverished people's efforts to get ahead in life and that any success achieved is fragile and can be taken away. People in the same situation as you will pull you down to get ahead and those above will push you down to stay on top.

A powerful message that one fears may be lost in the ether as a solid identity of the film fails to form. It is not even that these things should be cut. I just want more.

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Contact August Pelliccio and Victoria Bresnahan at pelliccioa1@southernct.edu and bresnahanv1@southernct.edu for more information on Crescent.

Just Dance! class makes working out fun

By Austin Elliot
Contributor

A group of four students gathered in the aerobics room of the SCSU Fitness Center on Thursday to participate in the second session of the new "Just Dance!" class.

The class, instructed by senior Megan Baker, is the most recent addition to the Fitness Center's schedule and the only dance class this school year. When asked about the program the political science and history major explained that it was the removal of the Zumba program that led to her start the class.

The "Just Dance!" name came from the popular video game series of the same title, which she used to play with her father. While she herself has had over fifteen years of experience dancing, this is her first time instructing others on how to dance at the college level.



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Megan Baker leads the Just Dance! class in the SCSU Fitness Center, Sept. 13 2018.

She said that she hopes that her class can "give an alternate workout that doesn't feel like a workout" and that she wants students to be able to relax.

"I want you to have fun," she told the students before beginning the night's program.

The class is supposed to be more of a fun event than a grind; the class began with a warm-up set to Justin Timberlake's "Summer Love", where they mostly stretched in preparation for the workout, which included moves such as

the "flutter kick", a butterfly-like motion frequently used by swimmers.

Baker then began the actual workout, leading the group into a choreography set to "God's Plan" by Drake. Baker went step by step through the motions - both with and without the music, using the standard "5, 6, 7, 8" method - until the students were generally comfortable with the part of the routine they were working on before she moved onto the next section.

On occasion she would turn and watch the students to identify where they may be struggling and used this to help them improve. She also routinely checked on the students, asking them if there were any parts that they would like to go over again.

The class went for a little under fifty minutes before stopping for a brief break to get water, after which they began

the cool down portion of the workout. This part, set to Ed Sheeran's "Perfect", involved more stretches, this time in the form of a slow dance focusing on the legs.

"You want to feel [your hamstring] stretching, but don't hurt it." Baker instructed, making sure that the students did not strain or injure themselves.

It was short, however, and the class was soon adjourned. In the end, all participants showed improvement compared to their first attempts earlier on in the class. All involved agreed that it was fun, and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it.

For those who are interested in joining the class, the Just Dance program happens every Thursday from 7 to 8 pm at the Fitness Center inside the Adanti Student Center. Anyone wishing to participate must have an active membership.

Resident Theatre Company

By Alexandra Scicchitano
Reporter

The Elm Shakespeare Company has had a long relationship sharing resources with Southern, that was just recently made official.

"We've had a long standing, informal partnership with Southern Connecticut State University for those 23 years," said Rebecca Goodheart, "that was made official 3 years ago when we became the professional theatre in residence at Southern Connecticut State University."

The having company workers teach at Southern,

said Goodheart, the producing artistic director. They come to help, and it is great for the students, according to Goodheart.

Along with being teachers to students, the company just started offering internships last year, said Goodheart. The company had seven students that they employed over the summer, said Goodheart. There were paid professional opportunities granted to seven students this year.

"It's an opportunity, again, for student to take what they're learning in the classroom and bring it into the real world," said Goodheart. "Whether that

be marketing or development, or arts education, these are all internships."

The company is doing local initiatives as well. Year around, the company does education and community-based actions, that builds communities, strengthen communities and according to Goodheart they work with up to 500 kids each year, as young as seven, all the way to elders.

Jacob Santos, a senior double major in theatre and business administration took an internship in Spring 2018.

"I learned so much about running a theatre that I wouldn't think about," Santos said.

The first half of his internship Santos said he facilitated interviews and helped get

everyone who had interviews checked in and the second half of his internship he did theatre management.

"I went to board meeting, which was really awesome," said Santos.

Anyone who wants to be in this industry can have a behind the scenes look with the internship opportunity the Elm Shakespeare Company has to offer, said Santos.

There are people absolutely taking advantage of the company and what they have to offer, said Goodheart.

The amount of people who can get an internship at the time depends on the project, said Goodheart.

The internships aren't just offered to theatre majors

or minors, the process is the individual express their interests then sets up an interview to make sure that the individual knows what the person is getting themselves into, then they send in their resume and a one-page paper about what they have to offer to the company and what the company to offer to them, and why the person is a good match said Goodheart.

"It is competitive," said Goodheart.

"There are probably several education internships, we can take about two or three," said Goodheart.

"I would be very interested," said Goodheart about having a non-major or minor apply for an internship at the company.

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Censorship and politics of musicians

By Michelle Shnyder
Contributor

Music is a powerful and influential art form ever since the dawn of media, and there has been a debate about whether or not popular music should be censored, and if so, what kinds of words and topics should be off limits in popular music.

At last year's BET Awards, rapper Eminem called President Donald Trump everything from "Donald the b----" to a "racist grandpa" in a freestyle rap that caused controversy. In his song, Eminem said that his fans had to choose between him and the Trump administration.

"And any fan of mine who's a supporter of his," he said, "I'm drawing in

the sand a line/ You're either for or against/ And if you can't decide who you like more, and you're split."

Students and professors at Southern were asked if they believe popular music, or music that is intended for a mass audience, should be censored. Students and professors were also asked if it is appropriate to speak out against politicians and other powerful figures in popular music.

"It depends," said Michael Rusack, a junior, and philosophy major, "I don't think music should be censored while it's being made, but for radio stations and tv, there should be some sort of monitoring."

Rusack, a junior, and philosophy major added that no one should be



PHOTO | MICHELLE SHNAYDER

Jonathan Irving's Music History: Western World course, September 2018, Earl Hall.

prevented from making songs but that it is up to parents to monitor their kids and for stations to monitor the songs they are playing.

"I listen to music a lot, and sometimes the curses help convey the message of the song," said Zach Nunnink, a sophomore. "Some rappers now go too hard though, because I don't think that it's cool to talk about hurting women or killing people, even in rap."

According to Walter Stutzman, an adjunct professor in the Music Department, this complicated issue that is not black and white.

"This is something I ask my Music 110 students when I teach the course," said Stutzman. "It is a difficult question for me, because I am a free speech person, but some things should not be promoted in

popular music." Stutzman said that the derogatory slurs used towards women in some popular music should not be considered acceptable. According to Stutzman, the hip hop industry is most guilty of using this derogatory slang.

"One of the things that I don't understand is why all the terms that demean women are popular in rap music," said Stutzman, "I don't understand why that is acceptable entertainment, and I don't understand why people ignore it."

As for political motives, Stutzman said that this is well within the rights of artists.

"I think that is perfectly acceptable, because that is the free expression we all cherish here," said Stutzman. "Celebrities just have a bigger audience, so they are targeted when

they speak out against people in power."

Jonathan Irving, music professor and chairperson of the music department, said that he believes musicians should have freedom to create and sell what they want, unless it involves hate speech.

"I believe that you should not censor art," Irving said. "Artists should be allowed to express themselves. For musicians that is important, and it is how we do good work."

However, I never endorse hate speech. Things like racism and fascism have no place in music intended for a mass audience."

Irving's Music History class was surveyed about the topic of censorship in music. When asked if they believe music should be censored, 28 out of 35 students voted against censorship in

music. Seven students voted that censorship, to some degree, should be implemented in popular music.

Irving's class was asked if they think it is appropriate to criticize or insult politicians in popular music. 33 out of 35 students voted that it is appropriate to speak out against politicians, and two students voted that it was inappropriate.

Irving agreed with the majority of his class. He said that he has no qualms with popular music speaking out against any political administration, both past and current.

"Especially now, it is important for artists to have a voice," said Irving, "This is still American and everyone has the right to free speech."

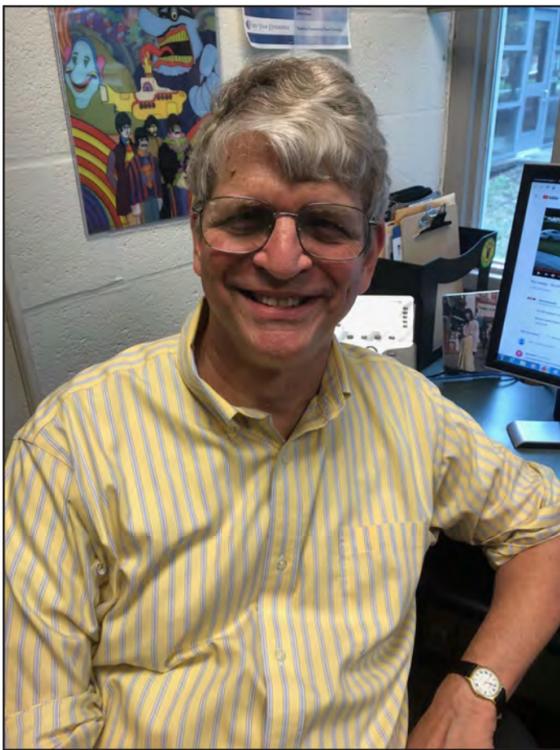


PHOTO | MICHELLE SHNAYDER

Walter Stutzman, an adjunct music professor September 2018 in Earl Hall.

Should the Oscars recognize blockbusters?

By Tyler Fisher
Contributor

2018 has been a big year for blockbuster movies. So far this year, movies like Black Panther and Avengers: Infinity War have taken over mainstream media, and in many ways have influenced large parts of the film industry. Earlier this year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that is responsible for organizing the Oscars, discussed the possibility of an additional award for "Outstanding Achievement in Popular Film." Although the introduction of this new category has been suspended, the mere mention of the addition of this category, along with the dwindling views that the awards have been receiving as of late, has been seen by many as a desperate attempt to recapture an audience that seems to no longer be interested in watching award shows.

In addition to this, the category has muddled the understanding of which films deserve to be awarded for their popularity, and which films should be celebrated for being the year's "Best Picture." Along with this addition, the Academy is also making two other changes to 2019's show. Next year, the show will be aired two weeks earlier than 2018's award show. According to the Academy on Twitter, they are planning a "more globally accessible, three hour telecast."

While talk of this new award has been controversial as it may be seen as an unfair advantage to popular films, some see it as a welcome addition to the program.

"I don't think of it as having an advantage," said Danny Thomas, a freshman, "if you have the top grossing film and it's popular, then you deserve to be recognized."

Despite the controversy, 2018 is set to be a very successful

year for the film industry. The superhero trend is alive and kicking, as aforementioned Black Panther and Avengers: Infinity War have been this year's cash cows, with both films grossing over \$3.3 billion between them.

"I'm excited to see Venom because the portrayal of the character looks interesting" freshman, Declan Donnelly said, "The movie Predator is another movie I really want to watch because the action looks good and I like the cast".

As the Oscar season approaches many studios have begun promoting their Oscar bait. The last few months of 2018 brings a wide variety of films to choose from. Operation Finale is a thriller starring Oscar Isaac, in which a Mossad (Israeli Intelligence) agent tracks down and captures a top Nazi official.

There are also more light hearted films releasing later this year, including a spinoff of the Transformers franchise with the movie

Bumblebee, starring Hailee Steinfeld, as well as the long awaited sequel to Creed; Creed II, starring Michael B. Jordan which is set to release in November.

2018 will undoubtedly spawn many films worthy

of recognition, as of now the Oscars will not include their controversial category, but that is not to say that it will not be introduced in the near future. As film seems to continue to influence the

masses more and more, every time a new film releases, it is hard to see a version of the Oscars where popular films are not acknowledged for their influence on society.



PHOTO | YAWEN AVEN CHEN

The 73rd Annual Academy Awards on Mar. 25, 2001 in Los Angeles.

Men's rugby drops first game of season

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The Black Attack, the campus men's rugby club, began their fall 15-a-side campaign last Saturday night at Jess Dow Field against Quinnipiac University's New Blue, losing 34-22.

They opened with four tries and a successful conversion to lead 22-0 before they allowed the New Wave to score 34 unanswered off five tries, three conversions and a penalty.

"The first game of the season was our first real test to see not only where we stood as a team but also to see if we could apply the techniques we've been practicing," Beckett McEwen said. "The game itself was personal because

everyone on the field was playing their hardest."

The team has a five game regular-season planned before the conference playoffs. Their next game is Saturday at Sacred Heart at 3 p.m. Their next home contest will be Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. with the University of Hartford.

"The team is definitely different this year. After not graduating anyone for two years we graduated a whole portion," McEwen said. "It was definitely a change but it opened up spots for younger guys to step up and show they deserved a chance on the starting roster."

They have two captains this season, a junior, Andrew Goggin and a senior, Palmer Piana. Goggin said it's "always a challenge" to lose so many athletes in the span of one

year.

"The upperclassmen of the team are stepping up and holding one another accountable, making sure we are the best that we can be," Goggin said.

McEwen also said the seniors are working to create a "well-oiled" team on-and-off the field and that, this year, they are focusing a lot on "bringing the team closer off-the-field."

"Just getting to know every guy on the team on an individual basis and making a real lasting bond has a huge impact on our field chemistry," he said.

The team has benefited from a large freshman class on-campus this year, saying that some have come that do not even have much past experience with the sport.



Steve Butler fighting through a tackle during the game against Quinnipiac.

PHOTO | ALEXIS DELIA

SEE RUGBY PAGE 11



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Sanzaro running the ball during the loss against University of New Haven on Saturday.

Owls downed by New Haven in quest to Elm City Trophy

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The Owls (1-2, 0-2 NE10) came into last Saturday's match up with New Haven (2-1, 2-0 NE10) having lost to Bentley at home, 24-22, last week despite holding a 16-0 lead at the half.

In their matchup with the Chargers, it was more of the same. The Owls got on the board first off a 24-yard Jose Conde field goal before Ryan McCarthy put New Haven on the scoreboard with a 79-yard dart. A little later, the Owls would go up 10-7 thanks to a two-yard rushing score by quarterback Matt Sanzaro but they would not

score again until a late-game touchdown connection of four yards from backup quarterback Matt Sapere to wide receiver Julian Chung.

"In the first half we left some points on the board from the offense, for sure," head coach Tom Godek said. "And you just can't do that down here. It's a very good football team we played. Every time we have the opportunity to score touchdowns that's something we need to do."



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jose Conde lines up for a field goal during Saturday's game against University of New Haven.

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 10

Soccer squeaks past Bentley



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Senior captain Jhony Gonzalez.

By Joe Freer
Reporter

The men's soccer team defeated Bentley Saturday afternoon with a final score of 2-1. The Owl's first goal came from freshman Daniel Utgaard, following a deflected pass off to a Bentley defender that found its way into the back of the net for Southern's second score. The own-goal came in the last two minutes of regulation. A Bentley defender kicked the ball back to his goalkeeper, who was looking the other way when the ball rolled past him giving Southern a late lead. A four save performance from goalkeeper Jake Davis also helped to secure the Southern victory.

Utgaard's goal came on a corner kick from Ignasi Perez Cerelos, with 13 minutes left in the first half. The goal was the first of Utgaard's Southern career and something he said he strives to continue doing to help give the Owls' offense a boost.

"It was fun," said Utgaard. "[There will] hopefully be more to come."

The Owls took on a

Bentley team that came into the game with a 2-1-1 record. Two yellow cards were dished out early as a result of overly physical play from each side. There was a scuffle early in the second half that drew "oo's" and "aw's" from the crowd after two players dove for the ball near Southern's goal. There were no fouls on the play and the game continued with a 1-1 tie.

Assistant coach Paul Templeton said that the game, "wasn't for the purists in terms of attractive soccer," but that "it's important to win games like these" to help climb up through the conference standings.

Templeton also said Bentley presented a physical challenge for the Owls, and if it was not for a self-goal late in the second half, the game would have ended in a tie.

"Bentley made the game difficult," said Templeton. The Owls only had six shots on goal in the entire first half and five in the second.

Bentley only managed to record five shots on goal in the second half — none of which were successful.

SEE SOCCER PAGE 11

The Toughest Decisions



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

No coach wants to mess with team chemistry and personal feelings. An entire team has an entire team's back, and beyond that there are a lot of smaller, really tight groups. But sometimes the tough calls are what makes you trusted more as a head coach. While everyone is cherished, it is about winning at the end of the day and you need moxie if you want to be a successful coach in any sport.

Coach Godek has an interesting situation on his hands. Does he stick with Matt Sanzaro under center as the Owls try to avoid losing three in a row or does he switch things up and go with the redshirt freshman Matt Sapere, who could possibly be the next great Southern quarterback? The thing is, everyone pretty much gets their two years as a starter. Even in Division I, it is rare to get a true freshman sensation that is named a starter right away. So, yes, even as a redshirt freshman now in his second year with the program, starting Sapere would be bold and open to criticism. But what happens if it is the move to be made?

Coming in for an injured Sanzaro last Saturday, Sapere was sharp in his limited action. He had some success on the ground and he found Julian Chung for a four-yard score for his first career touchdown as an Owl. He is been receiving playing time on the special teams unit and he is been awarded with being the next man out of the gate for Chris Bergeski's offense.

But Sanzaro and Sapere only make up two out of the six arms the Owls currently have on their roster. There is senior Brian McNeill and then Godek and company have three true freshmen in Chris Elias, Ralph Gonzalez and Joe Bernard.

There's the option to go with someone for the future now or to stick with Sanzaro, who is certainly earned his opportunity in terms of talent and seniority as a redshirt junior. He learned under Ray Catapano and this is still his team so there is also a valid point that he deserves the chance to turn this year around, starting Saturday night with Stonehill at Jess Dow Field

D'Amico making an impact in freshman year



Freshman midfielder Kaitlyn D'Amico passes the ball.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

At the start of the second half against Queens College, the Southern Connecticut State University Women's Soccer Team was tied, 0-0. Freshman Kaitlyn D'Amico knew she was going to change that.

In minute 48 of the game, after being fed the ball by junior Kelly Lamb, D'Amico rifled a shot past the opposing goaltender, scoring her first ever official collegiate goal.

Although Queens College eventually tied the game up later in the half, the Owls went on to win the game 2-1. For D'Amico, the game would forever hold a memory of more than just winning.

"Everyone was like 'you're going to score Kate, you're going to score, it's going to happen,'" said nursing major D'Amico. "So, I wanted to score and I did and it was just so surreal, and I looked at my captain, Mikaela and it was just the best celebration. It was crazy, I didn't even know what to feel. It was the

best feeling ever."

D'Amico started her soccer career in her formative years, fueling her passion by playing for any team that would take her.

"I have been playing since I was six," said D'Amico. "I played for rec teams, obviously when I was younger, and then I played for travel and then a premiere team out of Middletown called Sporting."

Before coming to Southern Connecticut State University, D'Amico attended Middletown High School where she was a three-season athlete playing soccer, tennis and lacrosse. During her high school soccer career, D'Amico was a two-time All-Conference select and helped the Blue Dragons win three conference titles.

Arriving with an impressive resume, long-time coach Adam Cohen looked to personally recruit D'Amico to the team.

"[I recruited her because] Kaitlyn is a fighter," said Cohen. "She is athletic and she has a very high soccer IQ."

Soon after arriving, D'Amico earned a starting spot on the roster, just before the team's second game of the season.

"During preseason, I really pushed for the starting position that I wanted," said D'Amico. "I wasn't coming in here thinking that I was going to get it but I worked really hard and now that I have it, for now, I am just going to keep working hard for it."

D'Amico understands that she has to work for that starting spot every day, said Cohen, a lot of her teammates are very good players as well, so she knows that she has to bring her best effort every day.

"[Being on the team and starting] feels really good. It feels like I finally got that reassurance that what I am doing is good," said D'Amico. "I love all the girls, they are really supportive and I feel that on and off the field."

The team used the momentum from the win against Queens College to go on to win their next two games against Saint Michael's College, 3-1, and the University of New Haven, 1-0, before losing 3-0 to The College of Saint Rose on the road.



Kaitlyn D'Amico boxing out a defender in fight for possession of the ball.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Football

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For the second straight game, Sanzaro, who came out late due to injury, struggled through the air, going just 9-for-16 for 111 yards and an interception. He did have some productivity on the ground, though, going for 41 off nine carries and the early touchdown.

After starting the year 1-0 off a signature win at Gannon, where running back Eli Parks totaled a career-best four touchdowns, the Owls have sputtered, falling to Bentley and now the Chargers. However, Godek still has confidence in the team he has out on the field.

"Players are working hard and just trying to grind it out. We've got to get the ball in the end zone consistently," Godek said. "There's some plays out there, still. We just need to be more consistent and work on our tackling. We had some very costly penalties that kept some New Haven drives alive."

Last season, the Owls

began with a 55-22 blowout loss at home with Gannon before getting on track for a big week two victory over Stonehill, 45-26. They then lost four in a row, to Assumption, American International, the Chargers and LIU Post, before going on a four-game winning streak to end the season at 5-5, during which they defeated the likes of Merrimack, Bentley, Saint Anselm and Pace.

"We've just got to finish games out and play all four quarters," senior inside linebacker Brandon Pelzer said. "We start out fast and then in the second half we slow down or we start off slow and then we finish strong. Our heads aren't done and we're gonna come out strong next week."

For the game against Stonehill (1-2, 1-1 NE10) Saturday night at Jess Dow Field, Godek expects to keep his same starting lineup out there on the field.

"We're gonna look at the film and make sure the best guys are out there," Godek said. "We just need to make sure that we continue to execute and not let the other team beat us cleanly."



Freshman receiver Julian Chung lines up at the line of scrimmage prior to a play against New Haven.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Rugby

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Said McEwen: "There has always been an interest in rugby because it's a low-time commitment so it's a great way to stay on-track with school and also meet new people. The numbers of freshmen we bring in has grown exponentially every year since I've been here so it's definitely an exciting time to have new guys come on."

Also new this year is that the team is switching from the Rugby Northeast, where the women's club team is still a part of, to the New England Wide Collegiate Rugby Conference. This season, in

addition to the Black Attack, the conference has added Vermont, Sacred Heart and Boston University on the men's side.

"We're looking forward to progressing as a team and winning our conference," Goggin said.

McEwen added that the goal is to "make the season fun for everybody."

"Rugby is such an awesome sport and our focus is not only to grow it at Southern but also across the states. The more people that come and enjoy it the faster the sport will grow," he said. "We've seen it at Southern for the past four years and I don't think it's stopping anytime soon."



Senior Benjamin Rochester scoring against Quinnipiac

PHOTO | ALEXIS DELIA

Assessing the football team through three weeks



By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

The football team lost 37-18 against the University of New Haven on Saturday, their tenth straight loss to UNH. The Owls have now been outscored 61-24 over the last six quarters of play, dating back to last week's second half against Bentley.

This is after the Owls began the season outscoring their opponents 51-32 during their first six quarters of the year when you combine the season opening game against Gannon and the first half against Bentley.

With a lot of question marks coming into the year with so much change in players on offense, it seemed those questions were going to be answered. Running back Eli Parks ran for 221 yards during those first six quarters of the year. However, during the Owls' last six quarters of play, Parks has only ran for 107 yards.

Quarterback Matt Sanzaro has done a good job running the ball this year during his first three career starts, as he is averaging 5.6 yards per attempt with three touchdowns. His passes, though, have been inconsistent. During the game against UNH, Sanzaro started the game 9-10, but ended the game 0-6 with an interception.

Sanzaro's offensive line has not given him too many favors this year either. Against UNH, Sanzaro was constantly scrambling and escaping the pocket to avoid being sacked. Although he looked much more comfortable and relaxed throwing the ball, his offensive line struggled against an experienced UNH defense.

Late in the game after Sanzaro left due to an injury, redshirt freshman Matthew Sapere came in and completed all three of his passes for a touchdown and ran for a first down. The touchdown pass was the first of the season for the Owls, first of Sapere's career, and first of freshman Julian Chung's career, who was on the receiving end of it.

It should be fascinating to see what direction the Owls go in the rest of the year. Even though they were not expected to be title contenders, they were expected to compete with teams and finish in the middle of the pack in the conference.

The questions heading into the year, replacing Ray Catapano and their five leading receivers from last year, remain unanswered. Eli Parks is still the conference leader in rushing yards, but with Sanzaro still getting accustomed to the starting quarterback role, and Sapere looking solid in a small sample on Saturday, it will be interesting how the duo is used.

It might still be early to have a quarterback change. A switch at quarterback might send the wrong message to Sanzaro and the team, who showed a lot of confidence in him by naming him captain before ever getting a start.

At the wide receiver position, Hunter Fluegel is enjoying a solid breakout senior year. But with so many underclassmen eligible for next year, like Chung and Izaiah Sanders, maybe they need as many reps as possible to build for next year.

It is still too early to know how the Owls' season will turn out. They looked like one of the best teams in the conference in the years' first six quarters, but the opposite can be said on both offense and defense in the last six. This week's game will be intriguing, as they play a home game against a weak Stonehill team that is 1-2 and being outscored by opponents 83-115.



Ashley Betts during the Ted Owen Invitational in New Britain last year.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Betts focused on senior campaign

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Ashley Betts is one of just two seniors competing for the women's cross country team this season, along with Alexandra Russo, and being in her fourth year she knows what is expected of her and the team.

"I think we're stronger than last year. We have two really good freshmen and we have another one who's just a little ways behind," Betts said. "We have a good, solid top five."

Betts ran to a 26th overall finish at the team's first meet of the year back on Aug. 31, when the women's squad placed third at the Adelphi Panther Invitational. She finished first for the team and ran to a time of 20:31.6 in the women's 5K.

"We were just tempoing [the first meet]," she said, "trying to see what we could do for a 6K since last time it was just a 5K."

For the first mile of the race the team "pack ran," a tactic teams use so no one goes out overly fast and you can run off the speed and skill set of your fellow teammates. After that, Betts said she was able to pull ahead and see what she had left for the last few miles.

Brian Nill, who works with the men's and women's distance teams, described the tempo process as something he uses for athletes to get work in since you cannot score points in September and also to get athletes used to running longer races. The men run a lot of eight-kilometer races while the women primarily go off 6Ks.

"The only meets that really do anything for you are the regional meet and the conference meet so we're gonna train to those," Nill said.

Junior Meghan Delaney said she has known Betts since joining the team and that, even with the freshmen, it does not take long for everyone to get familiar with each other and build up a successful team chemistry.

"We reached out [to the freshmen] and we made a group chat," Delaney said. "We're very connected and text about more than just track and cross country."

Nill has not named any official captains because Betts is actually a redshirt so she will have one more season to compete and because Russo only walked onto the team last fall.

"This is the best chemistry we've had out of the four years that I've been here," Betts said. "We're just gotten a lot closer this year



Ashley Betts running during the Panther Invitational earlier this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

because we've been running together every day."

In addition to Betts, Russo and Delaney, the team is comprised of freshmen Elizabeth Gray, Christina Gubetta and Emilie Noreika and sophomore Brittany Post.

At the Division II Challenge in Kutztown, Pa. last weekend, the team finished in eighth place and Delaney led the group, finishing number 32 overall with a time of 26:44.8.

There are three more meets before conference championship weekend Nov. 4: the Paul Short Invitational, in Bethlehem, Pa. is Sept. 29, the James Early Invitational is Oct. 6 in Westfield, Mass. and the Bruce Kirsh Cross Country Cup is in Hopkinton, N.H. Oct. 20.

"I definitely wanna get a 6K PR (personal best) and I wanna be All-Conference," Betts said. "And then for the regionals I just wanna see but the goal is to just place well."

Soccer

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Davis who let up one goal throughout the 90-minute contest, gave credit to the defense and the team's performance, saying that their play "gave us a chance to win," and that any win is "a team effort." Davis has only appeared in two games this season, the second half against Mercy College and against Bentley. His save percentage increased by 17 percent between those games. He has an overall 50 percent save rate

thus far this season.

He also said that Zak Wright, Jhony Gonzalez and Nicolas Ruiz Colodrero provided solid efforts on the defensive end.

Davis said his focus is already on improving on his play for next game. "[Coach Lang] always wants us to play better."

After Saturday's win, head coach Tom Lang and his team will face Stonehill on the road this Thursday. Stonehill will enter the game with a 2-1-1 record and will advance to 3-1-1 bearing a win against the conference opponent."



Senior captain Zak Wright.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Programs Council hosts Mystery Monday

By Palmer Piana
Photo Editor

The Programs Council started their tri-weekly Mystery Monday event on September 12 2018. Every third week they are hosting a surprise event in Englemen room B 121.

This week their mystery event consisted of arts and crafts, refreshments, and a polaroid photo booth to promote self-love.



Kelly Bickell, a senior, taking photos of sophomores Megan Saunders and Sydney Kmetz at the Mystery Monday event.



Three freshmen, Jarixa Colon, Leyda Colon and Daniella Masciola crafting their props to hold up in the photo-booth.



Kelly Kmetz, a sophomore, psychology major drawing "SCSU" into her heart.



A table decoration encouraging self-love.



Close up of a polaroid print out.



Jarixa, Leyda, and Daniella holding their props in the photo booth.