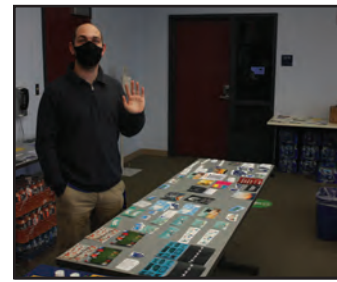




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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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## Students march for climate change Demands made at protest to end greenhouse gas emissions

**By Jose Vega  
Contributor**

Immediate climate action, implementing climate education, and increasing renewable energy sources across New Haven. These are all initiatives that the New Haven Climate Movement and others marched for. The march included

strangers passing by, fellow climate change oriented organizations and students from universities across New Haven, and members of the Geography, Environmental, and Marine Sciences Club.

"I've loved Planet Earth ever since I was a little child," said GEMS Secretary Leana Mauricette. "But it's more about community, the community that is united

together over one purpose, and that purpose is to save the earth and to take global climate action."

NHCM, the organizers of the march, is a grassroots organization which works towards mobilizing communities throughout the New Haven area in order to apply pressure on elected officials to take strong action on climate change and climate issues.

The march was also done in collaboration with Sunrise New Haven, the Yale Endowment Justice Coalition and CT Youth Climate Collective.

"We have already seen the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect New Haven's most vulnerable residents," said on the NHCM website. "Which is why we believe that New Haven must

take immediate action to address this emergency and why we must prioritize equity and justice in our solutions."

The goal of the march was that the New Haven mayor declare a state of climate emergency 120 days of passing the resolution, establishing a Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force that would work to stop greenhouse gas

emissions by or before Dec. 31, 2030.

The climate change march concluded in front of city hall with a Die Down; where a group of protesters sat on the stairs in front of city hall to simulate the effects that climate change will have on the global community.

**See Climate Page 2**



People who participated in the protest sit in front of city hall.

PHOTO | JOSE VEGA



Students walk in the New Haven climate change march in downtown New Haven.

PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

## Duff works to protect health and education

**By Idonia Thomas  
Contributor**

Students who are COVID-19 positive or exposed are given resources and contact information to ensure their education and health are protected. It is important to clarify any misconceptions, and this is where Erin Duff comes into the equation.

Duff has become COVID-19 coordinator for the 2020-2021 academic school year.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and is working towards her Master's. She is also the former Chase Residence Hall director.

This semester, Duff said she hopes to clarify the depths of COVID-19 and what health guidelines to follow. She works closely with departments such as Health Services, residence halls, Dean of Students,

and other offices on campus.

She said she makes the effort to hold students' health and education as the highest priority. She stays in close communication with anyone who is COVID-19 positive or had exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals.

"Every day is different," said Duff. "I coordinate the randomized testing on campus for the residential population, our nursing population, and our athletes. I am the first contact for anyone that's residential, staff, commuter, whomever is either around someone who's COVID positive."

With the qualifications she's gained from related positions, being a COVID-19 coordinator gives an opportunity for her work ethics to be displayed and capabilities on a larger scale.

Residence Life Director Robert DeMezzo, a colleague of Duff, works

with her daily and said he can see her dedication to not only this job but the standard that has been set for keeping health a number one factor on campus.

"I've known Erin as a progressive student, residence advisor, graduate intern, residence hall director, and now COVID-19 Coordinator. She always had an interest in the health-related field," DeMezzo said. "Erin has great knowledge of student affairs and students and she has a great knowledge about health and health education."

DeMezzo said she has a remarkable work ethic and will do whatever is necessary to get the job done.

Mariam Osman an alumni, said her experience working with Duff while they were students together was positive.

**See Duff Page 2**



Erin Duff, a graduate student, who was appointed as COVID-19 coordinator.

PHOTO | NEWS.SOUTHERN.EDU

## New check-out process implemented at library

**By Kenneth Baah  
Contributor**

The new campus-wide safety protocols have caused the Hilton C. Buley Library to move most of their services online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This has brought forth a new checkout process for books that now involves them being quarantined for 14 days before they are available for check out again.

"For the circulation desk and for book returns, we are no longer taking them in person. You would have to drop or return the book in the book drop that's outside of the library," said student worker Jurea McIntosh, a junior. "Also, students can't go into the stacks anymore because of COVID-19. They have to request the book that they want online, and it will take a day for the staff to pull them from the stacks themselves."

According to Adjunct Faculty Librarian Karla Jones, this goes along with the new social distancing stickers and plexiglass implemented throughout the entire building to make sure students and staff are safe once the building reopened in August.

Prior to the reopening, there was a curbside pickup service available for students to pick up books. Non-circulating books have also been made available for electronic delivery.

"They've also implemented a scanning service for reserves and

reference books and chapters in circulating books. Every library patron must wear a mask. All staff and other workers must wear a mask," said Jones.

She added that students enjoy the new scanning process because it does not require them to be there in-person.

History Graduate student Michael Brown said the recent changes have not affected any of his research negatively.

"They are quite manageable; I haven't been majorly inconvenienced; it all seems pretty fair and sensible," said Brown. "So, I feel both comfortable that there aren't any big risks to [my] health but at the same time I don't feel like its throwing off my research or the way I would normally do things."

Brown also described the new checkout process as "pretty smooth." However, he said he misses the convenience of being able to browse the various books in the stacks of the library.

"The downside is how I like to be able to go to a part of the stacks and just skim through a book to see what's relevant and what's not. If not, put it back or if it is, I will take it. I find that physically a lot easier than having type keywords do the whole thing digitally," said Brown.

Other changes include a chat tool on the library's website to interact with the library during open hours. They will also be issuing earbuds to students upon request to

keep instead of renting out headphones like in previous years. The same policy will also be applied to dry erase markers.

Study room reservations have also been extended to three hours in order to accommodate students with online or Hyflex classes according to the Buley Library website.

The Buley Library has also hired new student workers to work in person to help make books and other research materials available online. McIntosh said there has been more work to do in person to make the necessary content available for these students.

"On certain days, it just feels like there's no one in the library, but on other days it seems like everyone is coming to the library because they have a lot of questions or concerns about their books. It's also been a hassle to adjust to everything and find a whole new different flow," said McIntosh.

Jones mentioned that Buley Library will have reevaluate what services will remain online once the pandemic is over.

"I think we're going to have to make an assessment once there's a vaccine on what they want to do," said Jones. "There are a number of patrons that have requested that we continue the curbside service. So, they are going to have to make that decision eventually. And with checkout, some people like just being able to have everything set for them to get."

# IT faces new challenges with more online classes

By Abby Epstein  
News Editor

Going remote has caused new challenges that has forced IT to think of new creative solutions.

"Largely Southern has been an on-premises, on-ground kind of university, so while we did have online programs and they were growing and becoming more robust, we weren't ready for everything to go online," said Director of Academic Technologies, Trevor Brolliar.

Lack of access to hardware and software, lack of access to WIFI, and lack of access to certain applications are the three

main new challenges IT has had to overcome this semester.

"For hardware, we have computers on campus that we can loan out to faculty, staff and students," said Director of Support Services Vu Trieu. "We ship computers to students' site, students' homes or their best mailing address."

For software, a portal was created which started over the summer because of the response to COVID-19.

"A portal is a virtualized application portal that allows students, faculty and staff to get access to applications not normally available at home, such as the Adobe suite," said Trieu.

Students with mandatory

applications for classes could now have access to the portal and download the applications needed on their computer at no charge.

Computers are in high demand this semester with there being three types of classes that students can have this fall: synchronous, asynchronous, and Hyflex. Hyflex is when students can watch a live lecture recording from home.

"We did outfit 20 classrooms with high technology, including cameras, so students could view what is happening in the classroom synchronously from home or asynchronously by giving the instructor the

ability to capture their lectures and then put that in blackboard," said Brolliar.

There were several trainings held over the summer to teach and assist faculty on how to use the three programs: TEAMS, WebEx and Blackboard, according to Brolliar.

"We have a new training schedule coming out next week for faculty. We've also offered a larger amount of trainings to students to get them up to speed on how to use the tools and how to connect," said Brolliar.

Some students have not had problems with their online classes, but one student who has is graduate student Lesley-Ann Briscoe.

"The teacher uses a

different software for her videos, so they post, but my laptop doesn't have the software, so I have to find a computer lab on campus to watch them," said Briscoe.

Brolliar said one thing they have seen as a struggle is internet connectivity. Due to students being home with family members, and everyone trying to use the internet at the same time, it ends up crashing.

"With the university we have been coming up with a lot of creative ways to resolve certain issues," said Trieu. "We have worked over summer to get WIFI in the parking lots where students can park and use the WIFI there while on their laptops in their car."

Listed on the university's website under COVID-19, student support are more places around campus that offer WIFI access to students, which include the Academic Quad, Jess Dow Field, softball and baseball fields, Lyman Center, Residence Life Quad and West Campus Quad.

Students are able to reach out to the Dean of Student Services Jules Tetreault, who has been assisting students with getting internet.

"If there are any questions or concerns that students might have, to contact the help desk and we will have someone reach out and let them chat with them," said Brolliar.

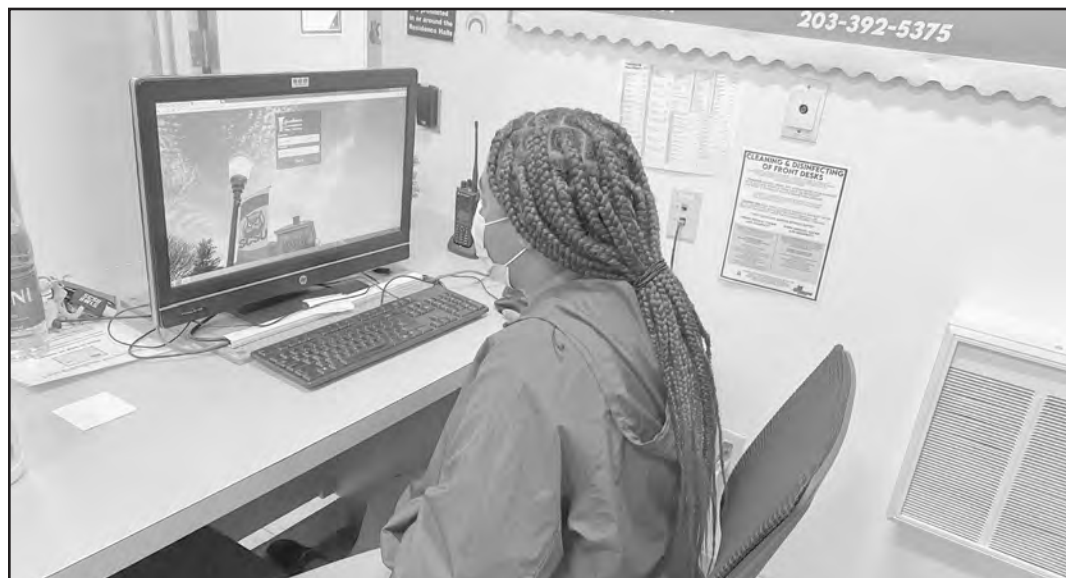


PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

Lesley-Anne Briscoe is logging onto blackboard for one of her online classes.



PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

The IT department, which is operating online and on-campus by appointment only.

## SGA prepares for election

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

At the Student Government election informational meeting, SGA Representatives discussed the demands and requirements for those interested in running for a position.

Daphne Alston the director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development said anyone looking to be a part of the organization is responsible for educating themselves on election guidelines.

"Make an impact," said Alston, "we need candidates who are dedicated to creating change for the advancement of all students."

There are currently four open positions for potential representatives of SGA and five open positions for student government at large.

"Everyone is welcome," said SGA President Sarah Gossman, a junior.

Gossman spoke about her experience as president and how it benefited her overall experience as a student.

"I've built confidence and it has helped me find my voice. It helped me find my fit for a professional career and through SGA I found

my passion for education," said Gossman. "SGA has made me a better writer and allowed me to be more confident in my abilities to work with people and helped tremendous with me accepting criticism."

Vice President of SGA, Madison Miceli, a senior, who is also serving as elections chair, said if anyone has questions regarding the campaign process or has any curiosity's about SGA to contact her.

Miceli said the ideal candidate should be someone who "is always ready to advocate, because advocacy is our main priority. They should also be actively pushing for change and using their voice as a tool to express problems faced by any student for all students."

For Miceli, she said her experience as an SGA rep has impacted her journey positively.

The goal of class governance is the ability to provide leadership to a class. Class boards members may plan and implement academic, social, and cultural activities for the benefit and enrichment of the student body and serve as the voice of their fellow students in SGA and the university.

All candidates must

be enrolled as full-time matriculated undergraduate students. They must also have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 or be in their first semester with no grade point average on record.

There is a process each candidate will have to successfully go through in order to achieve a potential position on the board. The first is to complete the election packet that can be found on Owl Connect by Sept. 28.

The same day the packet is due, there will be a meeting hosted by SGA to discuss the ins and outs of campaigning around campus, both physically and virtually.

The last day to run a campaign is Oct. 9. There will be no more campaigning after that day as the voting process will conclude.

The dates for students to place in ballots will be Oct. 6 through Oct. 9.

Results of the New Student Government board will be released on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

With COVID-19 now being prevalent, there has been a slight adjustment to how students' campaigns should run while abiding by social distancing rules, such as no handing out incentives.

## Cleaning procedures in place for student center

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

The COVID-19 landscape has caused the precedent of cleanliness to drastically increase, particularly in high foot-traffic areas like the Adanti Student Center.

Back when the university made the decision to reopen this semester, many changes were made. With this incoming change, the ways in which students eat in the student center, hang out and order have been morphed.

The Adanti Student Center has, for a long time, had its very own cleaning company; Limpiex. It is the only building on the entire campus that has its own outsourced cleaning crew.

Limpiex was forced to significantly change its methods of cleaning. Before COVID-19, the Limpiex cleaning crew was mostly used to clean windows and other surfaces. Now, they focus heavily on any and all touch points. Touch points are any surface or object regularly touched by someone's hands.

"They had to come in on Easter morning," said Director of the Adanti

Student Center Brad Crerar.

That year on Easter morning, a pipe broke and Limpiex needed to come in. Bringing their own equipment, they were able to vacuum up most of the water.

Much like how the fitness center has functioned in the past, the cleanliness of the Adanti Student Center also relies on students to do their parts and clean their tables after use.

There is either surface wipes or disinfecting spray and paper towels strategically placed around the building for students. Crerar, among other Adanti staff members, have taken it upon themselves to clean as well. Anytime Crerar goes anywhere, he said he is sure to clean everything he touches. Whether that be elevators or railings or door handles or even windows, he said he wipes it all down.

Another new addition to the Adanti Student Center is a student who monitors the computer lab on the second floor. This makes sure that students clean their computer stations before and after use and place a sign signifying that

the computer is clean. If they fail to do that, the monitoring student takes care of those duties.

A new technology greatly taken advantage of is known as a hydrostatic sprayer. It is a machine that electrifies the disinfectant so it wraps entirely around the surface of whatever it's sprayed on.

When you grab something, you don't just touch the top. You wrap your hand around it. And this device helps clean all those germs.

"I know that sanitation is maintained regularly for the rest of campus," said English major Nathan McLallen, a sophomore.

There is deep nightly cleaning done every night after students leave. It is done everywhere, but specifically in the ballroom and all the study rooms. Engleman also participates in all the night time deep cleaning.

Lisa Kortfelt has also been creating hand sanitizer for the campus to help keep everybody's hands clean and germ free.

"They're cleaning a lot more than they did last year," said Interdisciplinary Studies major Sarah Lemere, a sophomore.

## Climate

Continued from Page 1

"I think about my future every day," said GEMS Treasurer Lauren Oken. "It honestly scares me just thinking about the sea level rise. I also think it's extremely important for everyone to be aware of climate change and how it is going to affect everyone."

Southern was the first university in the country to declare a climate emergency and begin protocols to help combat climate change at the local level.

According to a tweet from President Joe

Bertolino, the university has reduced its carbon footprint for campus buildings by 57 percent since 2008, switched to 100 percent clean renewable electricity, diverted more than 100 tons of food scraps by composting and installed 6,000 photovoltaic solar panels.

According to the GEMS President Shayla Peterson, there is still more to be done in terms of informing university students of the possible threat climate change poses.

"Getting the information out there and not just leaving it as a website is also important," said Peterson. "There are facets of climate justice and climate change that people don't readily

understand, like racial justice, food justice things along those lines are things

that Southern can do a better job of disseminating to the public."



PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

GEMS students march at climate change protest.

## Duff

Continued from Page 1

"During my time as Resident Advocacy chairperson in RHA during the 2017-2018 school year, I did have the honor to work with Erin because at time she was running the Weekend Warriors," Osman said.

She described Duff as a "good contribution" to the weekend.

During her time as a residence hall director she was also in charge of coordinating others and events.

Osman said she was key in helping to plan engaging events and

trips and her "ability to be a team player while contributing leadership skills helped to keep weekends on campus for residents to be more engaging but made weekends on campus more fun."

Duff said the position is not just about her, because without her team helping her every step of the way, it would be harder to achieve the successes they have accomplished so far.

"I have a great team behind me that has helped me every step of the way," said Duff, "and so I think with that I feel confident in the decisions that are made and in the overall job itself."

## Online classes and university efforts keep cases down



By Jessica Guerrucci  
Editor-in-Chief

These are the opinions  
of The Southern News  
Editorial Staff

It has been just over one month since we've returned to campus and online learning is in full swing, but many students still don't necessarily know how it all breaks down.

The university has constructed a four-point plan that we've followed during our return. Some may have read it while others may not even know at all. However, it paints a better picture of what our campus really looks like this semester.

According to the plan,

840 class sections, or 36 percent, are operating in an on-ground or hybrid mode. The other 64 percent includes 1491 class sections that are entirely online, synchronous or asynchronous.

Of those percentages, the College of Education has 72.7 percent of its classes online, the highest of the four colleges. That is followed by the School of Business at 67.6 percent, the College of Health and Human Services at 66 percent and lastly, the

College of Arts & Science at 58.6 percent.

What does this all mean? Can education students learn better online than someone focusing on arts and sciences? Maybe. Is one more applied than the other? I'm sure there's lots of factors that went into these decisions that are beyond me.

As for how room capacity is determined for on-ground classes, it had prototypes ready that were prepared with seating layouts to derive

an estimated space per seat for general purpose classrooms, lecture halls, labs and studios using the six-foot spacing requirements.

How much of this are students and professors actually following?

Plexiglas is placed in the Student Center where students cannot maintain six-foot distance, but no one is there to stop anyone from sitting on the same side of the table or other students pulling up chairs as far as I've seen.

The document also includes floor plans to direct one-way traffic in buildings that have heavy foot traffic, but you can watch several students entering through the exit door without a care in the world. Does it matter?

This university is doing everything they can and this plan and the division between online and hybrid classes has contributed to our lowering COVID-19 rate and working to ensure that we can operate in a somewhat normal way..

## No spring break will impact mental health

By Donovan Wilson  
Reporter

The decision to cancel spring break during next semester comes with both positives and negatives.

The choice was made by the president of the Connecticut Board of Regents Mark Ojakian on Sept. 18.

The decision extended winter break by a week, but canceled spring break to limit travel since the previous one greatly contributed to the spread of COVID-19.

I can see why the university would make such a decision. However,

it causes unneeded repercussions to some students, including myself.

This method appears to be used by the school in an effort to cut down on out of state travel from students. This makes sense in that it will do just that, but the university cannot entirely control students traveling during the rest of the semester.

However, I don't know if the idea of completely cutting off students is the better decision to follow.

To play devil's advocate, students will find a way to travel regardless. With classes being partially online, students can

do homework from anywhere. Therefore, there is more incentive for them to leave since most of them do not even have to come to campus in the first place.

While some students will admittedly abuse their power and go all around the world, there are regulations already put in place by the state of Connecticut to prevent the spread of the disease.

There is no need for a university to impede on a student's life by overstepping the state government's authority.

Also, students with plans just to go home and see their parents

should not be penalized. College has the tendency to cause people to become homesick and being homesick can affect mental health and in turn also affect class performance.

Students need a connection with home to stay happy and happiness is key, especially for a college student at this time we are in.

Breaks are also very important in a student's life. When you constantly put your whole 24/7 focus on school and are also accustomed to having break at certain times, the removal of that can cause burn out. This happening

can discourage newer students in terms of effort or even of finishing their degrees.

The extension of winter break is nice, but going all the time after it without seeing family is hard and drain

However, I do understand the overall good impact. It is better to sacrifice and take precautions for the greater good but it does undoubtedly have its cons. With much mental health for it to affect us in the long run do think that we should heighten mental health support and its readily availability during the spring break

and even beyond that.

We should find other ways besides a week long break to incorporate throughout the semester to give students that mental break, but also keep them safe.

Without it, students might be more burnt out than ever before and that will wear down on them immensely and honestly, that's concerning. We need to be proactive based on our decisions.

Spring break should still be in rotation, or even some other variation of it, however if it's not, the school needs to take responsibility for that and act accordingly.

## Climate change has long lasting negative effects

By Sofia Rositani  
Arts & Entertainment Editor  
By Roma Rositani  
Photo Editor

The world has seven years before climate change cannot be reversed.

The university ranks high for being an ecofriendly campus under the category. A major contributor to that title is the GEMS club, the club has implemented compost and recycling bins in the Adanti Student Center and residence halls and also raise awareness about local New Haven events such as the climate march that happened Friday, Sept. 25.

The club has annual beach cleanups, student

takes part, you are allowed to walk the beach and pick trash up. Though it might not seem like relative to what is happening globally, the clubs entire view is making an impact no matter how small the actions are.

The purpose of the strike is to raise awareness on the global climate issue of today as well as the Geography, Environmental, and Marine Sciences club on campus.

There are multitude key factors of climate change. Believe it or not a major contributor is our meat production and consumption (animal agriculture), if you want to learn more about this topic, Cowspiracy is an eye-

opening documentary.

Before seeing this documentary, I personally believed deforestation was one of the leading causes of climate change, but I was wrong. It completely explains how terrible animal farming is to the environment, whether that be cutting down trees for soy to feed the animals, or fast-food chains contributing to mass animal production farms.

By reducing your meat consumption, you reduce your carbon footprint, you waste less water, less food and you aren't contributing to farms whomst raise their cattle and or soy on land that has been connected to deforestation, which has also been connected to

climate change. Everything connected to climate change is connected to meat production.

Climate change has been affecting the world since most of us were born. As of now, we have seven years until the effects of climate change are irreversible, according to a Forbes article that shows a "climate clock" in New York City.

"Earth has a deadline," the LED screen flashes every few minutes. "And of today, Sept. 25, that deadline is about seven years and 97 days," said Forbes.

Because climate change is such a hot topic with college students of our generation, it is no

surprise that the campus offers multiple different resources associated with raising awareness about earth climate change.

This does not only affect the world, but also our health. India is the second most overpopulated country in the world, and due to the over population in rural areas, many of them have small shacks they live in with no toilets or electricity. According to Environmental Defense Fund, 70 percent of those who live in rural areas use stoves that burn firewood and dung.

"These stoves release smoke into Indian homes contributing to greenhouse gas pollution and putting the villagers at risk of

diseases including lung cancer and pneumonia," said the Environmental Defense Fund.

This organization is one of many that is trying to help join the fight against climate change.

A few ideas that are helping places in India include building solar paneled lights, changing the stoves they use, and showing them ways to ethically farm so it will not harm the land.

While there are ways that Southern is helping with the impact of climate change, there are so many other helpful ways they can work to create a larger community that is safe, clean, and can improve the land it is on.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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# PHOTO

## The transition from summer to fall on campus



Leaves starting to change color from green to scarlet red.



Leaves changing color outside the student center.



Yellow, green and red leaves beginning to change.



A student walks across the bridge bundled up in a hoodie.



Students walk around campus with sweaters and long sleeves for the fall weather.



Students wearing sweaters as they prepare for the colder weather coming to Connecticut in the next few weeks.



Pumpkin Spice Latte with a pumpkin donut from Dunkin'.

**By Roma Rositani**  
Photo Editor

As the days start to succumb to the fall weather, so do the leaves. The leaves are vibrant, from an amber orange to an auburn red.

If students or faculty find themselves looking

for a sweet autumn treat, Dunkin' offers pumpkin flavored donuts and muffins. They can also buy a pumpkin spice latte, a coffee or a chai tea latte for non-coffee lovers.

Students who find themselves bundled up for the fall weather, can buy a Southern sweater from the bookstore to keep warm.



Amber, auburn and crimson colored leaves that have fallen.



Leaves changing colors on East Rock Mountain. PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

## Athletes return to practice for phase one Teams adapt to restrictions implemented due to COVID-19

By Sam Tapper  
Managing Editor

It has been about six months since COVID-19 put a stop to all sports on campus and across the Northeast 10 conference, now student-athletes have returned, but with several modifications.

Despite practices resuming, there remains a long way to go before the university or the NE10 is able to host athletic events again. The first week of practices that began on Sept. 14 was just one part of phase one of the plan to bring back athletics, which means there were limitations of what the teams could do during practice.

"It was definitely different than what we're used to," said women's basketball forward Kiana Steinauer, a graduate student. "It was just cool to be around people and be back in that basketball

atmosphere. There's nothing really to complain about – it's better than nothing, we're just grateful for the opportunity to do something, even if we have to wait until January to play."

One of the biggest changes during week one of practices for Owls Athletics was that no equipment could be used, so the bulk of all teams' practices were spent on conditioning.

This meant the basketball teams could not even shoot a basketball. For Steinauer, despite not playing in a game since December of 2019 after redshirting last season, she said just being able to step back out onto the court "felt great."

"It felt amazing to be able to participate in practice and do the drills, we're not doing contact or anything yet," she said. "Just in general, it's been great to be back

in the SCSU women's basketball vibes, playing with everyone, it felt great because I was missing it a lot."

Another key difference in week one was the introduction of "pods" or "bubbles" of athletes. Per social distancing guidelines, teams now have to be split up to reduce the number of athletes together in close contact.

Pods also apply to coaches. In the case of women's basketball, Head Coach Kate Lynch has been placed in a pod herself, meaning only one pod of athletes practices with her at a time, and the other pod of players cannot practice with their head coach present. However, Steinauer said that all these new variables have not affected the toughness of their practices.

"We got right into it – ease off isn't really our style of play," said



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Kirsten Cowell (left) Krishnalei So'oto attending a practice in the Pelz Gymnasium.

Steinauer. "We definitely have potential to be great this year and I think that easing into practices wouldn't be the best start. I think [Lynch] definitely pushed us to our limits." The volleyball team is in

a situation not unlike the basketball teams, as the inability to use equipment during practices meant no volleyballs could be set up – two essential things the sport.

It is true however, that Head Coach Lisa Barbaro used the time to focus on getting her team back in shape. To her players, this is uncharted territory.

See Phase One Page 6

## Athletes adjust to online schedule

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

While the entire campus community has had to adjust to a switch to a predominantly virtual schedule due to COVID-19, and athletes have had to balance training and academics in this new environment.

With phase two set to begin on Sept. 28 and the fall semester well underway, student-athletes have now had a couple weeks to get used to the new conditions.

"It's definitely been

a little slow. We can't have the whole team at a practice, so it's been really weird that I haven't been able to see all my teammates together yet. If we do any full team thing, it's on a Zoom call," said gymnast Emily Balasco, a senior.

However, this is only the athletic component of this unprecedented semester. Academically, Balasco said it has presented some of its own challenges.

"I personally have all online classes so it doesn't feel like I really leave my house and I used to go to school every day and see

my friends in the hallway and meet people, and now you just can't do that," said Balasco. "It's hard to have those personal connections with teachers too."

Balasco also said it's been harder to stay on track with a virtual schedule, including keeping up with deadlines, and feels that the workload is heavier with online classes.

Not every athlete has had a hard time adapting to the new normal though. Field Hockey player Jessica Maier, a senior, is currently taking all online classes and is training away from the team for the time being

because of it.

"Return to training has been really good. I am all virtual, so I haven't been to the campus to do any of the practicing so what I do is bring a computer out to a field by my home. It's been great to continue to be a part of the team and still get access to all the workouts that we are doing. It's been a really good experience for me so far," said Maier.

Although it remains a smoother process than it might be for others, Maier said it has not come without complications. Maier is a captain this year and has been keeping in touch with the rest of team through virtual meetings, which makes the role of a leader more of a challenge, but she said she has made it work.

"I'm in communication with my coaches all the time outside of practice and during practices to make sure if I can't see something that they're doing or I can't hear them because they aren't close enough, that they're able to get better and have more communication with us."

Maier is not the only one who is strictly virtual, as five of her teammates are completely remote.

One thing that Maier said she does not prefer, is the amount of time she has had to spend in front of her computer screen between athletics and academics.

She said needed to get special glasses because of the headaches she was experiencing from being in front of a screen all day.

"I'm a senior so I feel like I've been doing this for three years now," said Maier. "It's still just getting my homework done, then going to classes and practice after that, but instead of being in person, it's just virtual."

## Popsugar features Owls' track coach

By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer

The vast majority of college athletes face a challenge that regular students do not have to experience once graduating and that is maintaining their identity after not being able to continue playing their respective sports.

"In college you're known as the track and field athlete, you seem a little different than regular students. It's kind of your identity," said Assistant Track and Field Coach Georgette Nixon. "After college, I feel as though a lot of athletes are finding their new identity. I was used to so many challenges, overcoming things and having big goals, how do I find that same motivation in the real world?"

Nixon is an alumna and ran for the track team for five years, securing All-American honors four times, all while walking on the team as a freshman.

Nixon began her track career her junior year of high school and because of this, she said she had a lot of fuel in the tank when it came to training.

Popular media blogging site Popsugar.com featured Nixon in an article and it revealed how she transitioned into the real world after college and track; they chose five women to highlight in a series of stories, Nixon being one of them.

Popsugar is also working alongside Under Armour when collaborating these stories.

"It was amazing to be chosen. They reached out to me actually in January and I was one of the five

women picked. It was amazing that they found me out of everyone in the country and I ended up being one of the five," said Nixon.

Her college career saw her collect many accolades and they came early on. She secured a spot on the 4x400 relay her freshman year at the New England Championship.

After school, Nixon was at a crossroads and needed to figure out what was the next step in her life. She decided to continue being an athlete and is now a strength trainer and assistant coach to both the track and field team.

Nixon said she enjoys being a mentor to young women and her goal as a coach is to help them grow into the person they're meant to be.

"I wanted to help other young adults' kind of find their niche in the world. I want to pour back into the same environment that poured back into me," said Nixon.

When it comes to coaching at her alma mater, Nixon said she couldn't be happier to have the chance to put her time and effort into the one where she was once a student athlete.

Nixon is not the only alumni to be coaching for track, assistant coach Brian Nill, who is also an alum, said its beneficial to have coaches on staff who are familiar with the programs expectations.

"One thing with our program that is kind of nice is that we're all alums except for Coach Stoll," said Nill. "It's nice to all be on the same page and have an understanding of the ins and outs of the program. It's easier when you're born and bred in the program."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Jessica Maier playing versus Saint Anselm College on Oct. 26, 2019.

# Volleyball, family both staples of Benson's life and career



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Benson greeting teammates in a 2019 game.

**By Edward Rudman  
Sports Writer**

The volleyball team will look to improve upon their 2019 season when they potentially play in the spring semester.

If the season is to take place in the spring, middle blocker Erika Benson, a junior, will look to be a big part of the team's progression and success during this semester when it comes to training and for the upcoming season, whenever that may take place.

"It's been a little different so far because of COVID but it's been good to get back in the gym and be back with everybody and having some interaction with the freshman since we hadn't

really been able to before," said Benson.

Most of Benson's life has circulated around volleyball, as she started playing when she was in fifth grade. Even before taking up volleyball, she was familiar with the sport and for that she thanks her older sister.

"My sister played volleyball before I did so I kind of watched her play as I was growing up," said Benson. "I kind of fell in love with the sport when she was playing and then once I started playing, I fell in love with it all over again. It's a fun way to hang out with my friends and be in competition."

Benson grew up in Long Island and attended Kings Park High School in New York, where she received

All-State and All-Long Island honors and was her team's MVP. She was also a stalwart in the classroom as she was a member of the National Honor Society, according to Southern's Athletic Website.

She realized around her junior year in high school that she was good enough to play at the next level and began to think about which university she wanted to attend.

"I knew I wanted to play volleyball in college and I also came in undecided with what I wanted to do academically. It was between physical therapy and nursing, and Southern was just a good mix of both majors so it was a perfect fit for me in the end," said Benson.

Offensively, Benson recorded 182 kills and scored 212.5 points last season and notched 32 digs and 54 total blocks defensively as the team finished 14-16 overall and 7-6 in Northeast 10 conference play.

Benson's favorite moment so far in her first two years on the program was when the team won the NE10 conference championship her freshman year, beating American International College in three sets.

"It was so fun," said Benson. "We had all been looking forward to it the whole season so when we finally won it was just everything, we wanted that season and it happened for us."

## Netflix documentary exposes dangers of technology design

**By Jessica Guerrucci  
Editor-in-Chief**

The trending Netflix documentary "The Social Dilemma" paints a horrifying, overdramatic, and slightly true, picture of how tech giants are controlling an entire generation of smartphone users, but in the end, it is unlikely to change anything.

The documentary, created by Jeff Orlowski, explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations.

The warning comes from former tech giants themselves, mostly featuring Tristan Harris, a former Google Design Ethicist who is now the co-founder for the Center for Humane Technology.

While people usually bash others for their smartphone addictions, this documentary takes a different approach, pointing to the tech giants as the ones to blame for how they design their platforms to be addictive.

This is true of course, especially with apps like TikTok where you do not even have to follow anyone to spend hours on the "For You" page which is carefully curated and made quite literally for the user. Every time you refresh there is a whole new stream of content.

While we hear from former top executives of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, the documentary also shows a tech-addicted family, except for one girl who prides herself on not



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Introduction screen of "The Social Dilemma" on Netflix.

having a phone.

The dramatics come when they all lock up their phones for dinner and the youngest daughter smashes the glass container keeping her phone from her after what seems like two minutes.

This scene leads to the son's phone screen being smashed and the mother saying she'll buy him a new screen if he can go a week without his phone. Naturally, he fails this challenge, as would many people in the smartphone generation.

Upon having his phone taken away, he experiences withdrawals, supporting the statement made saying "only two organization call their customers 'users' - illegal drugs and software," as they both are extremely addictive.

Some say the documentary is a wakeup call, but is it? It isn't like the whole world is not aware that they are addicted. Very few people are going to boycott smartphones and

take a stand against the tech industry.

People spend five or more hours a day on their phone and they are not necessarily bothered by it or some do not even realize it. While the film makes valid points about the addictive nature of these platforms, we all signed up for them, didn't we?

While the documentary flashes images and stories told that highlight the negatives surrounding social media, it does not present a balanced case for the good side of social media and the connection that it can bring.

Solutions are proposed as to what these tech giants can do to make their products more ethical, but if it is all about money, and it is, nothing is going to change without actual laws or restrictions placed on these companies.

There certainly is a social dilemma, but let's be realistic, no one is going to leave their smartphones behind.

## Phase One

Continued from Page 5

"[Practices] definitely were pretty weird, Pelz [Gymnasium] isn't very big, and then my [pod] is all the newbies," said middle hitter Kirstin Colwell, one of two seniors on the roster. "I miss high-fiving people - that was kind of sad. There was one time I literally had my hand up and I was just like 'put it back, you can't touch anybody.'"

Colwell said all her team's huddles are now socially-distanced at 12 feet apart and that every player must wear a mask - even during a drill - if staying 12-feet away from teammates is not possible.

"We focused on getting our conditioning back to where it needed, especially more jumping movements, because not doing that for

a while can result in injury and stuff like that," said Colwell. "Footwork is really important for us too, so we did a lot of footwork."

Barbaro's squad has a lot of new players this year, and Colwell said that some practices are much slower than others, so the new athletes can learn the system. Starting in week two of practices, teams will be able to use equipment. An outlier during the first week of practices was football. Despite being one of the biggest teams with around 100 players as well as a larger coaching staff, the entire team was able to practice together at once, according to quarterback Jackson Ostrowsky, a sophomore.

"For our team workouts, we were able to get on the field and have the whole team out there," Ostrowsky said. "We're all separated by more than five yards, we were able to utilize the

whole field so I'm nowhere near anybody, we have an exit protocol, an entrance protocol, I think we're handling it okay."

Ostrowsky said despite being separated by at least five yards - far more than the standard social distancing protocols - masks are always worn while players and coaches are on the field.

So far, according to Ostrowsky, the football team has only done body weight work, not yet having the ability to run through game drills or even run sprints, the latter being because of social distancing. However, with other teams, as phase two of resuming athletics begins, equipment will become available.

"We're doing what we can," said Ostrowsky, "we're getting good workouts in, and sweating and being together, so it's good."



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Krishnalei So'oto warming up for practice while wearing her mask.

## Want to get involved in campus media?

The Southern News meets Monday's at 1:00 p.m. outside the Adanti Student Center and Earl Hall (weather permitting).

Check out our social media for more information.

IG: @thesouthernnews Twitter: @southern\_news

## Interested in magazine writing?

Crescent Magazine meets bi-weekly at 1:00 p.m. in Morrill 205 or online via Webex.

Be sure to check our social media to see when meetings are and the location.

IG: @crescentmagazinescsu Twitter: @crescentmagSCSU

## Students are embracing the fall weather

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

Tuesday, Sept. 22 commenced the beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and students are excited for new fashion trends, pumpkin spice flavored drinks and the holiday season countdown.

Fall, also referred to as autumn, marks the transition from summer to winter, where the duration of daylight becomes noticeably shorter and the temperature cools considerably.

A student who is looking forward to getting dressed in the fall outfits is sociology major Hannah Gates, a freshman.

"Fall is my favorite time of year because it's the only time I can wear a mix of summer and winter clothes combined. I love to wear skirts with stockings and dresses with sweaters," said Gates.

She expressed her love for fashion and drive to

match her outfits with the upcoming weather and season.

"I recently bought burgundy boots with the sole purpose to wear them in fall," said Gates. "I have a whole section of my closet dedicated to earth tones like green, yellow, orange and burgundy."

While Gates is welcoming fall fashion, other students are more interested in the food and drink selections that are only available limited time from restaurants during this time of year.

"I am excited to eat the pumpkin donuts at Dunkin' Donuts with an iced apple cider. Best combination ever," said biology major Allen Reed, a junior. "I wish they had it all year long."

As for the Dunkin' versus Starbucks fall drinks debate, Reed said Dunkin's fall products are better even though he prefers Starbucks regular menu items.

Another student who is a fan of Dunkin's fall promotional items is biology major, Susan

Lee. She said, "I feel everything just tastes and smells better in the Fall."

Lee said her favorite part about fall is the changing of the season.

"I love to see the leaves fall and change to an array of warm colors," said Lee.

"Dunkin's pumpkin spice latte is the best thing ever made after toilet paper," said Lee.

While discussing her favorite meals, she included that her favorite thing to eat in the fall is "anything pumpkin flavored and roasted apples."

While some students are caught up in the fall's primary and popular food choices, others are happy that they can countdown the days to the major upcoming holidays.

"I am most looking forward to visiting my family back in North Carolina for the holidays," said computer science major Jared Henry, a senior. "I just bought my flight, so looking forward to going there to see them, it's

been a long time."

Due to COVID-19, Henry's contact with his family is put on strain but now fall brings happy memories and gives him hope that they will all be together again soon.

"The best part about fall for me has to be Thanksgiving, the food, the family and just all the comfort you feel while spending quality time with your loved ones," said Henry.

Another student looking forward to family bonding time is communication disorders major Samantha Enders, a senior.

"Every year me and my family visit the local pumpkin patches and it's honestly the highlight of my year," said Enders.

"We normally all drive up there and spend hours walking the fields, going on hayrides, petting animals and taking photos," said Enders.

"Last year we got to take a few home and we carved them and used them as decoration for Halloween."



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Leaves start to change color as fall arrives on campus.

## SAGE Center recognizes Bisexual Awareness Day

By Bernadotte Sufka  
Opinions & Features Editor

The end of September brings forth people who are bisexual. There is a celebration to promote Bisexual Awareness week which happens from Sept. 16 through Sept. 23. The Sexuality and Gender Equality center helps promote the annual celebration for all students on campus.

The event occurred at the SAGE Center, located on the third floor of the Student center, about on Bisexual Awareness Day. There, students deconstructed bi-phobic ideas by answering a trivia question and earning a candy bag. All are welcome, even if the student does not consider themselves bisexual.

"It's definitely something important to bring awareness about on campus," said SAGE Center Graduate Intern Aaron Morabito.

"I think bisexuality is often times forgotten or could be mixed within and outside the LGBTQ+ community," said Morabito.

"I think for some it can be a sensitive topic depending on what you're discussing. But I don't think in its nature it is something to censor when we talk about it. I think when discussing sexuality and sexual identity should be more open to discuss with others on such. Just even bringing awareness and breaking down the misconceptions surrounding it is important," they said.

The university has programs such as SAGE to help promote groups



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

SAGE Center graduate intern Aaron Morabito

like this on campus to earn equality and through supporting them as well. It is a diverse topic as many students have their own feelings on how they label themselves and create their knowledge extent.

"I would not consider this a sensitive topic at all," said communications disorders major Echo Durrschmidt, sophomore.

"I do celebrate bi-awareness week through social media. The university has made me comfortable by making me feel welcomed and accepted and the LGBTQ+ community club and events."

The university typically offers such events relating to this diverse group. This week promotes events where students can attend and learn what the SAGE Center has to offer. They advocate for many groups on campus including any within the LGBTQ+ spectrum of individuals.

"It is a sensitive topic for me as I am a member of the LGBTQ+ community,"

said computer science major Emmett Riddick, sophomore.

"I do not celebrate Bisexual Awareness Week. I haven't gone to any of the events that were around this week, but I did see a lot of posts on Instagram about events that happened and that they all went well."

Everyone on campus has their preferences for how they label themselves and which communities they wish to affiliate with. Nonetheless, the university's SAGE Center is here to provide support.

It is a growing topic and each promotion that is set forth on campus takes on a deeper meaning, relationship towards the topic and clearer understanding for the Bisexual Awareness week.

"This is definitely not something new to campus in general," said Morabito.

"It happens every year and we are trying to bring more light to it as a whole and in general and get more students talking about it."

## Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates Latinx students

By Bernadotte Sufka  
Opinions & Features Editor

To bring awareness to members of the Latinx LGBTQ+ community, students gathered in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.

There are many groups on campus and individuals that add their unique mix for celebrating their heritage's month. The Sexuality and Gender Equality Center, Organization of Latin American Students, and the Multicultural Center are some of the places where students can enhance their awareness among the university and for themselves.

"Latinx is the gender-neutral version of Latino or Latina, anyone of Latin American descent," said SAGE Center Graduate Intern Aaron Morabito.

Morabito said he created the Latinx LGBTQ+ Voices event on campus to help promote this group. A poster of Latinx LGBTQ+ figures was on the event table and a friendly and welcoming atmosphere was created to encourage students to come forth,

whether if they identify themselves as Latinx or not.

"This is the first time we've done something like this. We wanted to bring awareness to some Latinx LGBTQ+ figures throughout history and as well as some current ones to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. I'm sure there's a higher percentage of Latinx students on campus as they can be of any race, they're a wide diverse group. Doing programs such as this helps brings awareness and supports Latinx students," Morabito said.

Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Students can be seen participating in many events surrounding this month. All can take part within these events as they continue to take place on campus and virtually.

"It's nice to see just how much of an impact our Hispanic culture can influence the community around us and give everyone yet another reason to appreciate our diversity. It even opens up opportunities for people who aren't very

connected to that side of their culture kind of like myself," said computer science major Isaiiah Torres, a sophomore.

Students said conversations about diversity are a positive thing.

"I think it's a great idea because this world deserves equality and some people may feel as though they're not treated with respect," said Film TV and digital production major Marie Kane, a sophomore.

"I got a few emails and saw some signs but other than that I wasn't too aware. Southern did still do a great job promoting though," she said.

The various organizations, clubs and individual students offered and on campus promote one of the most populated groups on campus. With the many changes and precautions brought onto the university, students can still have access to the multiple activities, both in person and virtually. COVID-19 may have limited some things, but the Latinx group still continues promoting their heritage and individuality.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Multicultural Center, Simon McIntyre, SAGE Center graduate intern Aaron.

## Vision board helps students create goals

By Desteny Maragh  
Reporter

Leadership week on campus offers many different events and opportunities to sharpen students skills in being a leader.

As part of leadership week, the graduate interns in the Office of Student Involvement put together different online activities and events to connect student leaders.

Since COVID-19 is still prevalent, the interns were looking for a way to host an in-person event while abiding by the university's regulations.

They decided to organize an event dedicated to creating a vision board

where students could come and choose from different backgrounds, cut out photos, pick quotes and draw with coloring supplies to help create a board full of potential goals.

"Speak it into existence," said education TESOL and bilingual education major Chelsey Cerrato, graduate student. The main goal for this program was to document "how you see yourself as a leader in the future and what you aspire to be. The board is a visual representation of what you'd want in life."

"I wrote on my board 'accept failure,' because life's not it's always easy and accepting failure is a big part of becoming a

successful leader," said Cerrato.

Cerrato said she hosted an event like this one in the past with the Organization of Latin American Students during her undergrad, so she was familiar with the creative process.

"I personally made one towards my life goals and where I want to be, I'm an Education major so I geared my board towards that," said Cerrato.

"In order to lead you must be a follower first," said Cerrato. "It helps put things in perspective. Like, these are your goals, this is what you need to focus on."

She said she feels vision boards can be used as a motivational tool and can

serve as a daily reminder of long-term aspiration. "I'm going to hang this in my office," said Cerrato.

Another intern in the Office of Student Involvement who organized the event is student development major Amandre Alexis, graduate student.

"One of the biggest things that pushed us to do this event is to give people a chance to visualize and create what they want to see in themselves and the people around them," said Alexis.

"They can literally see and touch what they want," said Alexis.

Alexis spoke about a vision board he made recently for a class which

was based on envisioning one's self 10 years in the future.

He said he began to think expandingly about it.

"What exactly do I want to see," said Alexis. "I was trying to be very honest with myself. I asked myself, what do I want, what is definitely going to be there, what can I control, what can't I control. Putting that all on a board, it's a soothing thing," said Alexis.

He said he has made several vision boards and each one holds a different message and meaning.

"No matter how many times you do it, it always looks different," said Alexis. "I can do a vision board again today, and it would be totally different from the

one I did last week."

"That just speaks to the fact that as a person, you're always changing. Your dreams, hopes and goals are always changing."

Another intern who hosted the event is Student Development major Michael Lauer, a graduate student.

"We were looking for something to do in-person that was lowkey and wouldn't bring a crowd of people because of COVID-19," said Lauer.

He said that goals are important to have when making the boards.

"To envision was one goal, but another was to connect students to leaders and leadership and what that looks like," said Lauer.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Graduate intern Michael Lauer hosting the vision boards event for leadership week.

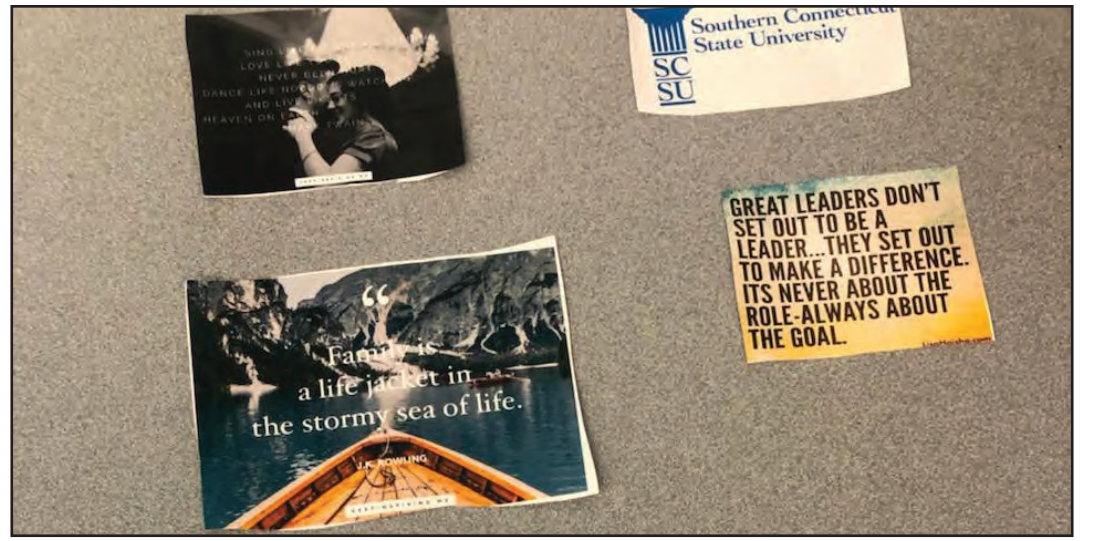


PHOTO | DESTENY MARAGH

Quotes for students to use to inspire them while making their vision board.

## Students react to Ellen scandal | ProCon holds gaming event

By Ellis McGinley  
Copy Editor

In a pair of July 2020 BuzzFeed articles, former staffers stepped forward about a "toxic work culture" on the production of "Ellen," the self-titled show of comedian, host, and executive producer Ellen DeGeneres. The allegations ranged from sexual harassment complaints to racial insensitivity. Furthermore, the production company opened an investigation and found evidence of misconduct.

To students, though, DeGeneres has been less than relevant.

"The only thing I really know about her is lately, the accusations of her anger management problems," said sculpture major Izina McBride, a senior.

Communication major Leo Palumberi, a junior,

said "I don't know a lot about her. I know she doesn't treat her workers well and that's about it."

And, what students do know isn't exactly positive.

Theatre major Samhain Perez, a freshman, said "I don't like that she said a lot of insensitive and awful jokes and turned the anger towards the people she publicly embarrassed instead of taking responsibility. The point I found [her behavior] to be inexcusable was outing Mariah Carey as pregnant before she was ready to announce it to the world."

This is not the first time DeGeneres has come under scrutiny. Allegations about her behavior have persisted for years. In 2016, comedian Kathy Griffin said she "has a mean streak that all of Hollywood knows about" in her book "Celebrity Run-ins: From A-Z," according to the Huffington Post.

Kevin T. Porter, a comedian and writer, tweeted asking for stories about DeGeneres and received over 2,000 replies with different anecdotes from behind-the-scenes, like a Personal Assistant to return his Christmas present from the producers after he found a new job.

Another reply from an artist claimed that she sent a portrait of Oprah she created and, although it was featured on the show, she never received credit.

Some other segments of "Ellen" have also been criticized for mean-spiritedness towards guests, particularly after asking about singer Taylor Swift's dating history, imitating actress Sofia Vergara's accent and teaching her an "English Word of the Day."

Vergara has since denied any hostility.

This is also the first

time that DeGeneres has made such a public apology, which aired on the Sept. 21 episode of "Ellen." There she claimed responsibility for what happened on the show's production and apologized for mistreatment that "never should have happened."

As for allegations of her behavior off-screen, DeGeneres said she isn't a good enough actress to "come out here every day for 17 years and fool you."

Philosophy major Romeo Rivera, a sophomore, said "I saw her apology and I think it was really insensitive how she kind of turned herself into a victim and made jokes about it," referencing some of the humor DeGeneres attempted to put into her apology monologue.

DeGeneres was accused of having the crew hold her chewed gum and not allowing them to make eye contact. Jokes from her monologue included

"I'm excited to see all of my staff and my crew; please don't look me in the eye" and DeGeneres saying she would be "passing gum out for everyone."

"I'm really disappointed. She was one of the first people, first real celebrities to come out as LGBT I've heard accusations of just horrible mistreatment of her employees and just general awful behavior," said English literature major Madeline Scharf, a sophomore.

"I've heard rumors before, but now they're continually proven."

By Donvan Wilson  
Reporter

In an effort to digitally bring students together in a socially distanced world, a Call of Duty competition was held.

The Programs Council held a Call of Duty gaming competition on Tuesday Sept. 22. The competition ran from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and was helmed by Christopher Caron and Luke Sampson, members of the ProCon night-time council.

The game was played by students in teams. The game mode used was domination and using the professional rules of the Call of Duty esports league. All of the students had gamer tags that displayed their screen names, which helped to connect teammates to each other through the world of video games.

"I finally got the whole set up," stated Sampson during the stream.

Sampson and Caron ran the stream entirely with their own equipment. There have been streams before, such as last year's FIFA stream.

"This was not based around the hype from Cold War, but we do hope the new game is fun," said Christopher Caron.

Call of Duty is a war based first-person shooter game series that started in 2005 with a long standing history of having annual new releases. In November of this year, they will be releasing the new title

"Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War." This one has excited fans as the last few titles have suffered from immense criticism. This title continues to use many of the concepts that made the older titles so popular amongst fans.

The event was not in-person, as many events tended to be in the past due to the current COVID-19 landscape and was instead streamed online. It was uniquely streamed through YouTube, unlike other events that use WebEx and was run through Sampson's personal YouTube channel titled "\_\_\_Sampsonzz\_\_\_"

The main competing teams in the event were called Coalition and Allegiance. Both teams gun of choice seemed to mostly be the MP5, which is a submachine gun, the entire Allegiance team ran MP5's at one point. Coalition ended up beating Allegiance three times during the event.

There were a total of nine players who participated in the competition itself. This is something that is normally done among specific friend groups, but this event helped to link some on-campus groups and introduce people to each other.

"We are trying to do a mixture of in-person and online events during this semester even though the online ones are still pretty difficult," said a member of ProCon, Kimberly Roig.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Ellen apologizes in video that has been criticized by both celebrities and students on campus.