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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## VPAS is ready to 'Take Back the Night'

By Lexi White  
General Reporter

Many universities lack support groups for victims of sexual or domestic violence. Fortunately, the home of the Owl's has the Violence Prevention Victim Advocacy and Support center, VPAS, for those who need resources.

VPAS provides prevention education on sexual misconduct on campus. Because April is sexual assault awareness and prevention month, VPAS hosts "Take Back the Night" every year to support the survivors of violent acts.

Biology major Clarisse Aminawung, a senior, is a member of VPAS and said that their yearly April march draws a lot of attention. They usually order about 150 giveaway items for students who participate, and by the end of the event, all the items are gone.

"We want to provide a thriving community where students feel safe, and where we can educate people on sexual misconduct so people know what to look out for," Aminawung said.



PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

Special education major Taylor Wasilewski and healthcare studies major Gabriella Jordan, juniors, and biology major Clarisse Aminawung, a senior, at the VPAS tabling in Engleman Hall.

To promote "Take Back the Night," VPAS set up a table in the Engleman Rotunda and gave out flyers containing information on the event to students. VPAS also handed out an assortment of candy and stress balls to those who were looking at the table and seeing what VPAS stands for.

The organization hopes students will come to the event and see there is support for survivors on campus.

Special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a junior, is another member of VPAS who was helping to promote their march at the end of April. Wasilewski said that their

resource center can take a big weight off people's shoulders.

"We want students to know that help is available," Wasilewski said. "In our 'Take Back the Night' event, there is just a feeling of pure empowerment to know that you are not alone."

A student who took

notice of VPAS's display was special education major Addison Small, a senior. Small decided to volunteer at "Take Back the Night" later this month.

"This is an outlet and a safe space for people who need it where they are not judged," Small said. "To have a safe space is

another step closer to a safe campus."

Another student who was drawn to the message VPAS shared was collaborative special education and elementary education major Savannah Borrelli, a junior. Borrelli will also be attending "Take Back the Night."

"Their message is important for awareness, and they strive to have a safe place," Borrelli said. "They are a really good organization to have around, and they work really hard to make campus safer."

The event starts with a march at the academic quad and goes all the way to the residential quad. While marching, those attending make their concerns heard by chanting the whole way.

VPAS then gives student survivors a chance to tell their stories in an attempt to help others realize that they are not alone. For those who do not want to speak in front of everybody, VPAS provides notes for students to write their stories anonymously.

This year, "Take Back the Night" will be held on April 25.

## Students get together to watch solar eclipse

By Brandon Cortés  
News Writer

The solar eclipse, a cosmic spectacle where the moon perfectly aligns with the sun, captivating audiences worldwide, often evokes a mix of wonder, curiosity and scientific fascination.

Amongst college students, whose minds are already brimming with diverse interests and opinions, the solar eclipse serves as a subject of both academic intrigue and personal reflection.

For many students, experiencing a solar eclipse marks a rare opportunity to witness nature's grandeur firsthand. Healthcare studies major Hamza Bhuttha, a freshman, expressed his enthusiasm.

"The solar eclipse is like a live physics lesson," Bhuttha said. "It's a chance to witness the principles of celestial mechanics in action."

Indeed, for those studying science, the eclipse offers a tangible illustration of astronomical concepts learned in the classroom.

However, not all college students view the solar eclipse through the lens of academic curiosity. English major Mikaila Cinelli, a junior, finds beauty in the event beyond its scientific implications.

"The eclipse is a moment of poetic beauty," Cinelli said. "It's a reminder of the awe-inspiring mysteries of the universe."

Yet amidst the marvel and fascination, some college students remain indifferent to the solar eclipse.

"I mean, it's cool and all, but I don't really see what the big deal is," sociology major Chris



PHOTO | KAHIONA SENIOR

Owls gather outside the science building to watch the eclipse on April 8.

Kowalski, a junior, said. "I've got assignments and projects to worry about."

Beyond individual perspectives, the solar eclipse also fosters a sense of community and shared experience among college students.

For some people, watching the eclipse with friends creates a sense of unity and shared excitement. It is a moment where we come together to witness something greater than ourselves.

Moreover, the solar eclipse offers an opportunity for reflection and introspection, prompting students to contemplate their place in the universe.

"The eclipse reminds us of our insignificance in the vastness of space, yet also of our capacity for wonder and curiosity," health science major Ana-Sophia Echeverri, a junior, said.

For many students, the eclipse serves as a humbling reminder of



The sun and the moon lining up on April 8.

humanity's place in the cosmos, sparking philosophical contemplation and existential pondering.

While some students approach the event with academic curiosity, others find beauty and inspiration in its poetic

significance. Yet, amidst varying viewpoints, the eclipse fosters a sense of community and shared experience, bringing students together to witness the marvels of the universe.

Whether viewed

through the lens of science, art, or philosophy, the solar eclipse continues to captivate and inspire college students, serving as a reminder of the awe-inspiring wonders that lie beyond the confines of our world.

## Flooding affecting Adanti

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
Managing Editor

On the crisp morning of Wednesday, April 10, when students were going to their early 8 a.m. classes, they were unable to grab their morning coffee because the first and second floor of the Adanti Student Center was temporarily closed due to broken pipes, causing flooding.

Director of Integrated Communications & Marketing Patrick Dilger notified students throughout the day about the status of the flood.

Most of the building reopened at 8:47 a.m. At first, Dunkin' Donuts and the bookstore were deemed closed indefinitely but were re-opened the same day at 10 a.m. for regular hours.

Students were unable to use the street level entrance doors which were covered by caution tape and signs saying that they were temporarily closed. Staff were cleaning up the mess as the student workers were beginning to start their shifts.

The only visible damage in the bookstore is a small section on the right side of the store which has been blocked off from students.

The following day, students would see high-powered fans being used to dry up the water stained on the carpets on the first floor and inside of the bookstore. The street-level entrance was re-opened to the public too.

As of April 15, the fans are no longer being used to dry up the carpets; however, the bookstore still has that section closed off from students.

# Pre-Health Society hosts grad dicussion

**Jack Abbot**  
General Reporter

Former Vice President of the Pre-Health Society and alumnus Perpetual Taylor visited campus to discuss her education path with current students who are pursuing careers in health.

Taylor is an alumnus of the university who graduated in 2019 and just graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She is a resident of Brown University and hopes to enter Pediatrics and Child Psychology.

She visited her alma mater on April 9 to educate students on their next steps in education. The event was hosted by Associate Professor and Chair of the Pre-Health Advisory Committee Jiongdong Pan and the Pre-Health Society.

"I was here not too long ago as a student, and we had people here who were in med school and PA school come in and talk to us about their experiences," Taylor said. "When I saw the opportunity to do that for students today, I was just really excited to do it because I got a lot of help to get here, a lot of support and mentorship."

The discussion was formatted as a Q&A with students asking



Perpetual Taylor speaks to students about her career path in health in the Adanti Student Center.

PHOTO | JACK ABBOT

for advice on their own paths. Much of the discussion focused on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

The MCAT is an exam that tests students' knowledge on general medical and scientific

principles and is used in admissions for medical school.

Taylor's advice was for students to spend a great deal of time studying and to try to turn it in earlier in the year, as turning it in later can make it

harder to be accepted, but not so early that you have not taken enough time to prepare for it.

"I actually ended up taking the MCAT twice," Taylor said. "For the second time around, when I was studying for

it, I was able to do an MCAT prep course that the UCONN Healthcare Opportunities Program provided where they supply students with free MCAT books and different resources to help prepare them for

the MCAT."

Taylor also recommended that students start to get medical experience while they are still attending the university. This can be done through volunteering at hospitals or other medical facilities.

"Just work hard, pray and make sure you have tons of support from family members and friends," Taylor said.

One of the concerns expressed by students was that they were afraid of medical school causing them to neglect their social life.

However, Taylor claimed that her social life became better in school, and that she found community both inside of the classroom and outside of classes through her church.

"I absolutely love Southern. Although I studied hard, I had so much fun, met so many fun, 'down to Earth' people, and I wouldn't have chosen any other experience," Taylor said.

Many of the students expressed that they enjoyed the event and were happy to attend.

"Once you do get that point where you get into med school or you get into residency, make sure to look out for those who are in the same shoes as you were once," Taylor said.

## Students attend insightful seminar on the process of writing a book

**Brandon Cortés**  
News Writer

Renowned author Jenny Torres Sanchez recently conducted an engaging seminar at the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

The seminar offered attendees a glimpse into the writing process behind her acclaimed novel, "We Are Not From Here."

The seminar provided an insightful exploration of the challenges faced by Guatemalan youths as they embark on a perilous journey to seek refuge in the United States.

With the auditorium

abuzz with anticipation, Torres Sanchez captivated the audience with her firsthand accounts and meticulous research that shaped the narrative of "We Are Not From Here."

Through a blend of personal anecdotes and literary analysis, she illuminated the complex emotions and societal pressures faced by her characters, who navigate the treacherous path across the Mexican border in search of a better life.

Attendees were treated to a candid discussion as Torres Sanchez peeled back the layers of her overall

writing process.

She provided great emphasis on the importance of authenticity and empathy in crafting her characters' experiences.

Drawing from her own encounters with immigrants and marginalized communities, she underscored the need to amplify their voices and shed light on their many struggles.

"Writing this novel was a deeply personal and emotional experience for me," Torres Sanchez said. "I wanted to honor the voices of those whose stories often go unheard, to shine a light on the humanity

and resilience that define the immigrant experience."

The seminar served as a platform for Torres Sanchez to delve into the thematic depth of "We Are Not From Here," addressing issues of identity, resilience and the pursuit of the American dream.

From the challenges of cultural assimilation to the resilience of the human spirit, she encouraged attendees to engage with the novel's themes and reflect on their own perspectives.

The interactive nature of the seminar allowed for a vibrant exchange between Torres Sanchez

and the audience, with attendees posing thought-provoking questions and sharing their own insights.

Discussions ranged from the novel's portrayal of the immigrant experience to its relevance in today's socio-political climate, sparking meaningful dialogue and introspection.

As the seminar ended, attendees left with a new appreciation for the power of literature to foster empathy and understanding.

"We Are Not From Here" stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and

the universal quest for belonging, encapsulating the hopes and struggles of those who dare to dream of a better future.

In offering a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creation of "We Are Not From Here," Torres Sanchez has provided readers with a deeper understanding of the immigrant experience and the complexities of navigating an uncertain world.

As the novel continues to resonate with audiences around the globe, its message of empathy and compassion serves as a beacon of hope in an increasingly divided world.

## Owls attend "Connecting Students and Professionals of Color" event

**Brandon Cortés**  
News Writer

The university recently hosted their third annual "Connecting Students and Professionals of Color" event. The event, aimed at fostering diversity and collaboration in STEM fields, brought together students and industry professionals for a day of networking and discussion.

Attendees from various academic and professional backgrounds converged at the Adanti Student Center Ballroom to participate in workshops, panel discussions and presentations centered around promoting diversity and inclusion in the bioscience industry.

The event served as a platform for attendees to engage with each other, share experiences and explore opportunities for career advancement.

Panel discussions highlighted professionals of color that provided insights into the challenges and triumphs faced by underrepresented groups in STEM fields.

Attendees had the chance to learn from successful professional

experiences and gain valuable insights into navigating their careers.

Interactive workshops focused on emerging technologies and skill development, offering attendees practical experience and knowledge relevant to their fields of interest.

Companies and organizations in the STEM sector also participated in the event, highlighting internship opportunities and engaging with students interested in pursuing careers in STEM.

Chaka Felder-McEntire, the executive director for Higher Heights, emphasized the importance of events like these for promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM.

"By bringing together students and professionals from underrepresented backgrounds, we are creating a supportive community that empowers individuals to succeed in STEM fields," Felder-McEntire said.

The event, which has become a cornerstone of the university's commitment to inclusivity and excellence, drew participants from various academic disciplines and professional

backgrounds. Attendees hailed from diverse communities, united by a common passion for advancing STEM and promoting diversity in the field.

The event also provided a platform for companies and organizations to highlight their commitment to diversity and recruit top talent from the pool of aspiring students.

Representatives from leading companies in the STEM sector engaged with attendees, offering insights into mentorship programs and career advancement prospects.

As the event wrapped, participants left with new knowledge, invaluable connections and a renewed sense of purpose in their pursuit of excellence in STEM.

The third annual "Connecting Students and Professionals of Color" event proved to be yet another milestone in the journey towards a more diverse, equitable and vibrant STEM ecosystem.

The third annual "Connecting Students and Professionals of Color" event underscored the university's commitment to promoting diversity and excellence in STEM fields.

## Owls speak with freelance writer Taylor Crumpton

**Brianna Wallen**  
News Editor

At the university, there are ample times that well-known guest speakers talk to students.

However it is not often that students have the opportunity to ask burning questions.

On April 8, Taylor Crumpton had a Q&A session with students. Crumpton is a writer from Dallas that specializes in music, politics and pop culture.

Recently, the writer was recognized by Beyoncé for her latest article from TIME, "Beyoncé Has Always Been Country."

Over the past years she has racked up a notable resumé by being a guest speaker on Netflix-produced podcast "You Can't Make This Up" and served as the guest editor for Them's 2020 Black History Month editorial package.

Through this virtual experience, students were able to learn firsthand the ins and outs of the media industry from a freelance journalist.

Political science major Ryan Williams, a sophomore, said that he

enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the writer.

"I feel like it was educational and good to get insight on a black woman pursuing journalism," Williams said.

After hearing from Crumpton, Williams said that his eyes were open to the injustices that are present in the industry.

"Journalism does not treat everyone the same, specifically people of color," Williams said.

As a black writer, Crumpton highlights the inequalities that she has faced in the industry. These inequalities include her story pitches being taken by editors.

"A lot of theft goes on in journalism. Make sure they never do it again," Crumpton said. "Always keep that secret sauce to you."

For this reason, Crumpton said that it is important for writers to protect their voice and advocate for themselves, especially when it comes to editors editing writing for publication.

"The brunt of it is on you as a journalist. Are you comfortable with this piece? If you can't say yes, then you either have to kill your piece or curate another one,"

Crumpton said.

Since Crumpton has been in the industry for seven years, she shares her experience and lessons that she has learned.

"It allowed me to develop a muscle of no," Crumpton said, "I know my worth; I know who I am."

Crumpton also shared advice to maintain mental health and restrict burn out.

"Make sure you do something every day that brings you peace," Crumpton said.

Regardless of if students are aspiring writers or applying for jobs in the workforce, Crumpton said that it is important to be mindful of social media posts.

"Whatever you're doing right now is going to be a reflection of you," Crumpton said. "Don't let your social media block your blessings."

The writer who experienced her own set of challenges in the industry leaves aspiring writers with inspiring words.

"You are going to have periods of highs and periods of lows," Crumpton said. "It's how you navigate through that and get to the end."

## The Crescent Players' 'Murder Mystery Party'

By Kahiona Senior  
Photo Editor

On April 11, the Crescent Players got students together and held a "Murder Mystery Party". The night entailed students acting out characters to find out who was convicted of murder. The theme was Roaring '20s; many students used funny and dramatic accents for their characters. Students put their acting skills to the test throughout the night to catch the murderer.

Photos: Kahiona Senior



Students acting and serving drinks.



Psychology major Grace Jordan, a sophomore, and theater major Jaylen Pope-Durant, computer science major Alana Parris and nursing major Tykena Baker, freshmen, about to begin the party.



Refreshments and scripts were given to attendees acting out the murder mystery.



Theater major Charitee Cecil and biology major Daniel Brown-Patricelli, freshmen, introducing their characters to the party.

## Buley Library Makerspace button making



A button press was used to make pins. They were easy to use and let students put whatever they want on pins.

By Kaylee Blake  
Photographer

On April 11, students were welcomed to the Makerspace on the ground floor of Buley Library to make buttons and magnets. The event allowed students to be creative and use coloring sheets, magazines or draw their own designs for buttons. The Makerspace offers resources and materials for students and gives them a space to be creative. There are events held there often, teaching students new skills while using their creativity.

Photos: Kaylee Blake



Materials given to students to create magnets and pins.



Nursing major Kiomi Rincon, a freshman, displaying the pins she made.



Students coloring and creating designs for their pins and magnets. Some students used coloring books or magazines, and others created designs from scratch.

## Students share literary work at Folio 'Open Mic Night'

By Jack Abbot  
General Reporter

Students gathered in the fireside lounge on Friday April 12 to share their literary work in the monthly Folio "Open Mic Night."

This event acts as an opportunity for students to share the work they are proud of with their colleagues and to hear the work of others and learn from them. Works presented include poems, short stories, excerpts from essays and even song performances.

"Everyone wants to be heard," Fiction Editor for Folio and English major Christopher Durand, a senior, said.

Durand chose to present three separate pieces at this event, including a short story he had written for a class, a personal story and an excerpt from "A Grimace Shake in Fortnite" by Sam Temple.

Folio is a campus organization that acts as a platform for students to present their creative works.

According to Editor-in-Chief French and Spanish major, Ethan Sabetta, a junior, Folio is the largest organization dedicated to art and literature on campus.

On top of their monthly "Open Mic Night," they also publish a literary magazine every year

that features the creative works of students on campus.

"It is an opportunity for students to be published in an actual magazine, which they can put on resumes for free," Sabetta said. "There's a lot of hostility towards the arts and towards creativity, so I think it's important that there is a group on campus who gives students a creative voice."

Sabetta noted that this can be an opportunity for students who are interested in the arts but unable to take classes on the subject.

"It's like a safe space where everyone can come and share their thoughts, opinions, feelings, and it's

really fun to hear from everyone," marketing major Anna Vilenki, a sophomore, said. "It broadens your perspective. You learn a lot more about different students."

Vilenki was one of many who chose to attend the event to listen to the literary work of others without presenting anything themselves.

"A lot of people, when they write something, it feels very close to the bone and very personal for them and setting that work free takes that weight off of their shoulders," English major Lydia Sekscenski, a senior, said.

Sekscenski chose to read a poem called "Funeral," which was

inspired by a bad breakup. She also read a sonnet about eating cheeseballs and a poem about a middle school crush.

Sekscenski believes that Folio is important because it provides a space for students to freely express themselves in literature.

"The easiest way you can improve in anything is to hear others and to see their perspective," Sabetta said. "It's very difficult to improve your creativity in a void."

The members of Folio expressed gratitude towards the university for providing them with the opportunity to publish their magazine every year

at no cost.

However, several members noted that there has been some uncertainty in terms of resources, as they had their office taken away some time ago and have been operating out of a temporary office available to them during production season. They also lack consistent storage space.

"They have repositioned our former office into- I believe it is a Zen Den currently," Sabetta said. "We are effectively nomads."

The next edition of Folio is set to come out soon, and they will be hosting a release party open to all on May 3.



PHOTO | JACK ABBOT

Psychology major Rowan Ellis, a freshman, sharing during the event.



French and Spanish major Ethan Sabetta, a junior, hosting the open mic as attendees talk and enjoy snacks.

## Commuter Services hosts luncheon for all students

By Lexi White  
General Reporter

Students were lined up all the way down the Adanti Student Center hallway to get a free lunch. Commuter Services provided free tacos, churros and beverages to all students who wanted to indulge in a zero-expense meal.

Ashley Perez, a graduate intern for the Office of Student Involvement, loves to help host these once a month lunches for students.

"This is just a place for all students to just get together, talk and eat," Perez said. "I know some commuter students do not have the commuter meal plan, so this is also a good way for them to get food in between classes."

Commuter Services can host this endeavor every month thanks to the funding from the

student government.

They then reach out to Sodexo Catering and create a menu that can feed about 150 students. Finally, Sodexo arrives on campus with a truck full of delicious food and sets up the event an hour before it begins.

"This benefits all students because college students love anything free, and they can build a community on campus," Perez said.

Psychology major Heather Rae Gaydowe, a sophomore, is a commuter assistant for Commuter Services. Gaydowe is a commuter herself and thinks that events like this help other commuters navigate life on campus.

"I like to help encourage other commuters to stay on campus as long as possible because there are so many opportunities for engagement and

connection," Gaydowe said.

One commuter who attended the luncheon was communications disorders major Payton Pelletier, a freshman. She thinks there are many positive and negative sides to being a commuter on campus.

"I think the biggest pro is saving money," Pelletier said. "The biggest con is the hour commute that I have and how that alone time in the car can really take a toll mentally."

Like Pelletier, many commuters think about the financial aspect of schooling, whether that be with housing or even meal plans.

"Being able to come here and not spend money on lunch takes a weight off my shoulders and makes the transition of coming to college a little bit more stress-free," Pelletier said.

## WrestleMania 40 results and reaction

By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
Managing Editor

### WrestleMania 40 Night 1 results:

Rhea Ripley defeated Becky Lynch to retain the Women's World Championship.

Awesome Truth defeated DIY, A-Town Down Under, The Judgement Day, The New Day and New Catch Republic for the Raw Tag Team Championships.

A-Town Down Under defeated DIY, Awesome Truth, The Judgement Day, The New Day and New Catch Republic for the Smack Down Tag Team Championships.

Rey Mysterio and

Although the crowd showcased little to no energy, the night of entertainment was action packed.

The best match on the card was Sami Zayn versus GUNTHER by far. Both performers delivered a great underdog storyline throughout the previous weeks up until the match.

GUNTHER was expecting to continue his reign as the longest intercontinental champion in history, but Zayn defeated all odds, winning his fourth intercontinental championship.

Jey Uso versus Jimmy Uso was disappointing. Usually, brother against brother matches hold up well in the history of WWE, but this match was poor because their move sets are the same.

Many super kicks and splashes were done, and nothing impressed viewers as the crowd was silent for most of the match.

Jade Cargill, Bianca Belair and Naomi defeating Damage CTRL was the best women's match of the entire weekend.

Andrade defeated Santos Escobar and Dominik Mysterio.

Jey Uso defeated Jimmy Uso.

Jade Cargill, Bianca Belair and Naomi defeated Damage CTRL.

Sami Zayn defeated GUNTHER to become the Intercontinental Champion.

The Rock and Roman Reigns defeated Cody Rhodes and Seth Rollins.

### WrestleMania 40 Night 2 results:

Drew McIntyre defeated Seth Rollins to become the World Heavyweight Champion.

This match proved to fans why Cargill was a great signee for the company, being one of the most dominant talents fans have seen in recent years.

As her WrestleMania debut, it was a star-studded performance. Fans are anticipating a future feud between Cargill and Belair since they are both extremely good in-ring talents.

The main event saw The Rock making an in-ring return, which was amazing to see. He proved that he could still go in the ring and did not disappoint.

The overall match was good, but it was not anything that shocked fans. No cool spots happened, and the ending was predictable. However, it did serve as a good lead-up for the next night, where each competitor was involved in other matches.

Night two exceeded wrestling fans' expectations, being the better show of the action-packed weekend.

Cody Rhodes finished the story, ending Roman

Damian Priest defeated Drew McIntyre for the World Heavyweight Championship via Money in the Bank cash-in.

The Pride defeated The Final Testament.

LA Knight defeated AJ Styles.

Logan Paul defeated Randy Orton and Kevin Owens to retain the United States Championship.

Bayley defeated Iyo Sky for the Women's Championship.

Cody Rhodes defeated Roman Reigns to become the Undisputed Universal Championship.

Reigns legendary 1,316-day title reign. It was one of the craziest wrestling matches ever. Guest appearances were made towards the ending of the match by John Cena and The Undertaker, which made the audience erupt in excitement.

The United States Championship match was another great match that shocked fans. Although the ending was not the most exciting, it had cool sequences of moves and a fun cameo from famous Twitch streamer IShowSpeed.

Damian Priest cashing in his Money in the Bank briefcase was unexpected by fans. He won the briefcase back in July 2023 and never did much with it even though it is a guaranteed title match at any time.

So when he cashed in, fans were shocked that he pulled it off successfully.

Overall, WrestleMania 40 was an amazing show. It will be remembered as one of the best shows of all time, serving as the starting point of the renaissance era fans claim.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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Visit [www.TheSouthernNews.org](http://www.TheSouthernNews.org) for more.

## UAP is here to care for students in need

By Solé Scott  
Features Editor

This campus is made up of students from all different backgrounds that needs support throughout their educational years and beyond.

University Access Programs, UAP, help first generation and low-income students with school, as the program offers resources for the betterment of students.

Dawn Stanton is the director of UAP and has 30 years of experience in student accomplishments.

“So, we have a few different programs that we are trusted to care for,” Stanton said.

Southern Education Opportunity Enrollment was created in 1972 to help underrepresented students achieve success while being motivated. There is a Summer Academy which lasts for five weeks and offers residential and academic support for first year students.

Academic Year Initiative continues the progress of the Summer Academy. To be eligible, students need a high school diploma or state equivalency diploma.

Southern Promise Scholars focuses on supporting local communities and nearby communities such as New Haven, Hartford and Waterbury.

Pathways to Academic Success and Career Empowerment, also known as PACE, is a support system to help foster children whose goal is to earn a college degree. Students can arrive early before Fall and meet with UAP mentor professionals, amongst other resources.

Students of color with a 2.0 GPA who are on academic probation can qualify for Promoting Academically Successful Students, PASS. A limit of 50 people can have access to book loans and laptop loans, which is first come, first served.

According to the university website, 67% of PASS students were able to get out of academic probation.

Another program UAP cares for is TheDream.US Scholars. This program provides scholarships to youth immigrants that want a college education and cannot afford to do so.

Right now, there are about 500 students that UAP caters to.

Environmental science major Shyhiem Jones, a senior, is currently part of the UAP.

“It helps us find who we are, and not just like the academic world but just personally,” Jones said.

University Access Programs is in Engleman Hall B018.

“We are really growing as a department, and so some of the areas in which we feel proud about is the work that we’ve been doing to illuminate first generation scholar identity on campus,” Stanton said.



PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Director of university Access Programs Dawn Stanton in her office in Engleman Hall B018.



Environmental science major Shyhiem Jones, a senior, on the first floor of the Adanti Student Center.

## Owls decide: What is your favorite planet?

By Solé Scott  
Features Editor



“Venus because Mitski has a song where she’s like, ‘Venus, planet of love, was destroyed by global warming.’”

— Computer science major Atticus Johnson, a sophomore



“My favorite planet is Neptune because of king Neptune from SpongeBob.”

— Math major Giovanni Bautista, a sophomore



“My favorite planet is Venus because it is the planet that represents love, and I think we all need love in our lives.”

— Nursing major Matt Cabahug, a freshman



“Mars because it’s big and has a bunch of moons, and I did a project on it when I was little.”

— Marketing major Jake Sobolisky, a freshman



“My favorite planet is Earth because I live here.”

— Theater major Troy Griggs, a freshman



“My favorite planet right now is Venus because it is almost the size of Earth.”

— Finance major Stefan Ladson, a freshman

