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# SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

APRIL 18, 2018

VOL. 55—ISSUE 25

## Reflection on the horror of genocide



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

David Petigrew, a philosophy professor, speaking to students and staff at the Remembering the Holocaust Exhibition

### By August Pelliccio

Harry Weichsel said among his earliest memories is the sounds of shattered glass, as the Nazi's broke through his home's front window. Rosalyn Amenta said her father carried emaciated corpses through Dachau.

Last week, these two and many more came together to remember the Holocaust, and its horror and lasting effect on the Jewish people.

Deborah Weiss, communication disorders chair and Judaic studies co-director, said in previous years, she has invited her mother, a Holocaust survivor, to speak before her students. This year, instead, on April 9, Weichsel was given the stage.

"He was born in Marburg, Germany in 1933," said Weiss, "that was the year that Hitler took over the German government."

She said Weichsel is a long time part of Weiss' family and community, since her parents and Weichsel's all came to America as refugees, and found solace in connecting with one another. He was invited to speak of his experience from a young age, of being exposed to Nazi Germany and moving to America.

"I came to America at the age of almost nine," said Weichsel. "The only thing that I was interested in was becoming an American."

Weichsel talked about what he remembers as his first visual memory from when he was

three. He said he remembered following his grandfather down the stairs of their home, and watching him say his prayers, as he wore his traditional Jewish prayer cap and shawl. His second memory, he said, was Christmas morning, at the home of his other grandparents, who were Christian.

"From day one in this world, I had a dichotomy of an approach to life and people," said Weichsel, "and all my life, that's done me very well."

The third memory that Weichsel can recall was being comfortably resting in bed at his Jewish grandfather's house at the age of five, and hearing the sounds of shattering glass, and shouting. Rocks came through the front window, he said, and his grandmother came to grab

him and sheltered him under her bed.

"I was half asleep it was just part of what's going on," said Weichsel. "I didn't give it much thought."

Weichsel said his mother came to his grandparents' home that evening, packed his bag, and told him they were going to get him somewhere that he could be in a better school. Weichsel said that was the last night he saw his grandparents, who were later killed in the Treblinka extermination camp on Oct. 27, 1942, a date he said is deeply embedded in his mind.

Fast forward to when Weichsel was 9, he recalled finally stepping onto the boat that would bring him to the United States.

## DeMezzo disputes accusations

By August Pelliccio

Three students with varying observations of discrimination spoke about their applying as resident advisors. Robert DeMezzo, director of residence life, said it is completely false that any sort of discrimination would play a role in the hiring process.

Jaydon Caban, a junior, said he felt like his opportunity to be a resident advisor was cut short, because he had not been interviewed in a personable way. Caban said after working one semester as a desk attendant, he applied to move up in the ranks.

"I wanted to become an RA because I wanted to help people," said Caban. "My life goal is to help aid others on their journey, because I feel like I never had that help."

Caban said he speculated that his involvement in Iota Phi Theta played some role in the decision—that his interviewer had a predisposition against him because of a fraternity rivalry.

"They're not reading me," said Caban.

Instead, he said, the office of residence life "picks favorites," and that he would have been the right man for the job as a resident advisor.

DeMezzo said the interviewer does not have the final say in whether a student gets selected for a position rather a group of staff members get together and review all of the application materials after the interview, and decide based on a variety of factors.

"Anybody who doesn't get a position," said DeMezzo, "gets to meet with us and find out why."

Junior Guerschom Jean-Louis said after twice applying as an RA, he realized that the discrimination hypothesized is not true.

If a student does not have confidence, if they do not show diligence and if they cannot reciprocate respect, then Jean-Louis said they are not qualified to be a resident advisor. These are all qualities he said he exhibits, but he still does not believe he was discriminated against after being turned down for the job twice.

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## Khizr Khan speaks to educators at Board of Regents convention

### By Jeff Lamson

The value of kindness from instructors to students is something that Khizr Khan places an abundance of value in according to his keynote speech Friday, April 13.

Khan is a lawyer known for his speech to the Democratic National Convention in 2016 criticizing then candidate Donald Trump. He shared his own stories and accounts then as he did on Friday to make his point.

The keynote was part of the fourth annual Conference on Student Success and Shared Governance hosted by Southern with faculty from the other CSCU institutions. Khan stressed the effect that instructors can have on their students.

"Never underestimate the importance of your work," Khan said.

He shared a story of his time at Harvard when he did not have the money to pay for an important exam that he was otherwise prepared for. He appealed to a staff member who vouched for him. He passed the critical exam thanks to the instructor who had allowed him to take it.

Khan complemented Southern on having the five pillars of dignity, respect, civility, kindness and passion.

"These five pillars speak volumes about

you," Khan said addressed to the administration, teaching staff and students at Southern.

Khan also had praise for SCSU Veteran's Center, something very close to him. His son Humayun, a captain in the United States army was killed serving in Iraq in 2004.

"We acknowledge and salute your service," Khan said.

He and his wife Ghazala have since moved to Charlottesville to be closer to their other sons. There they became involved with the Army ROTC program at the University of Virginia, of which, their son, Humayun was a cadet while attending.

Originally from Pakistan, the Khan family immigrated to the U.S. from the United Arab Emirates in 1980. In 1986, Khan had earned a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School and also became a U.S. citizen.

In 2017, Khan had two books published, a memoir entitled, "An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Justice," documenting his journey. The other is titled, "This Is Our Constitution: Discover America With a Gold Star Father."

In the latter book, Khan writes about the U.S. Constitution, and its importance from his perspective as an immigrant and



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Khizr Khan speaking to faculty and at the fourth annual Conference on Student Success and Shared Governance.

Gold Star Father. A Gold Star parent is one whose child was killed in the line of duty.

In his 2016 DNC speech, Khan offered his own copy of the Constitution for Donald Trump to read. He said that President Trump's executive orders have been in violation of the Constitution. At the keynote, there were copies of the document on the tables for the crowd of over 300 to read.

"There's amazing wisdom in these

founding documents," Khan said Friday.

Khan said that he has learned a lot in his time at Southern, speaking with administration, Veteran's Services and others. He said that he will spread what he has learned here around the nation at further events. Khan said he has performed 176 speeches in 2017 around the U.S.

"I go from here enriched," Khan said, "having learned so much."



# Khizr Khan speaks to students and press at Veterans' Center

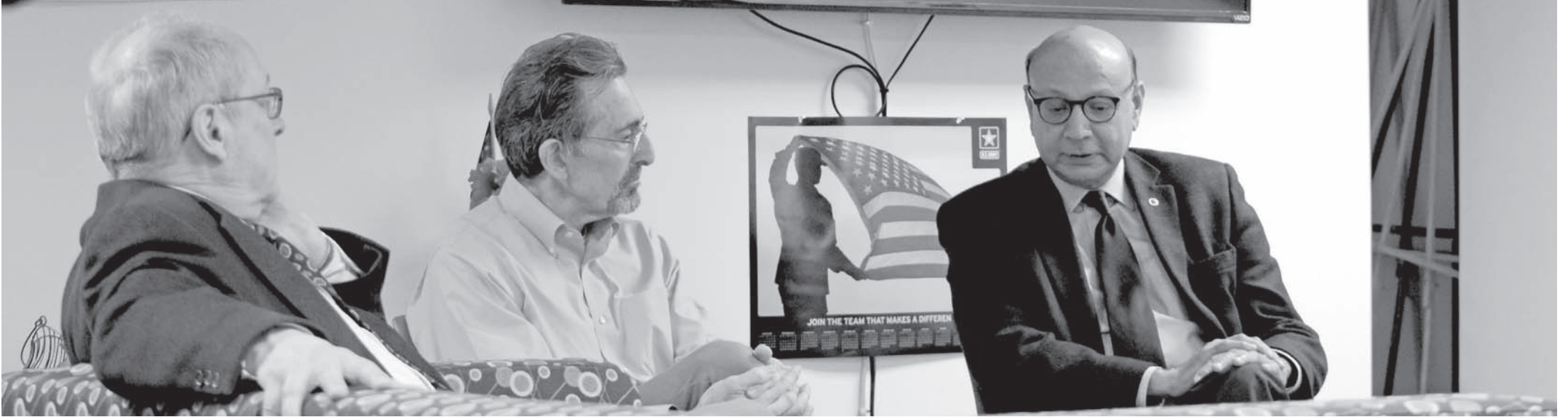


PHOTO COURTESY | AUGUST PELLICCI

Khizr Khan speaking to students and staff in the Veterans' Center.

By Josh LaBella

Khizr Khan told veterans in the Southern Connecticut State University Veterans' Center that the country is better and safer because of their service.

Khan, a Pakistani-American Gold Star father who entered the public sphere when he gave a speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention and questioned whether then presidential candidate Donald Trump had ever read the Constitution, visited Southern's Veteran Center on Thursday afternoon to talk with students who had served in the military about their service and the Constitution. Khan spoke about his support for veterans running for office.

"I have been supporting many veterans that are running for various offices – especially for Congress," said Khan, speaking on April 12. "The reason is that it's a continuation of the service. It's continuing to serve the nation. Who else is more suited than those who have proven their metal? Those who have served with courage and dignity and amazing valor."

Khan said supporting veterans running

for office is close to his heart because they wore the same uniform as his son Humayun – who was killed in Iraq in 2004. He said the "phenomenon" of veterans running for office was really positive.

"The more veterans we have in our government, in our system of government and our Congress," said Khan, "we are better served."

Throughout the dialogue, Khan answered questions and spoke about the Constitution. He said no other country in the world has written their constitution the way the United States has. He said his favorite parts are the First and the Fourteenth Amendments.

"It's an amazing document," said Khan, "look at the result of it. We have so far been a beacon of hope to the rest of the world."

When asked whether immigrants have more appreciation for the rights granted in the Constitution than citizens who were born in the United States, Khan said there is a natural lack of appreciation among those who enjoy their liberties from birth. He said when he first read the document he could not imagine that one day he would become part of the nation that has those liberties guaranteed.

"When I went to take the oath of citizenship, I paused outside the courtroom before I entered and I reflected on what is about to happen," said Khan. "What was about to happen is I was about to become a dignified human being. It is that that the rest of the world aspires to have in their life."

Jack Mordente, director of Veterans' Services, said while Khan had thanked him and the other veterans there for their service, he wanted to thank him for his service and for the sacrifice he made. He then gave Khan a stole that Veterans' Services give to graduating veterans to wear with their cap and gown.

"As you can see, it reads 'Valor and Respect: United States Veteran,'" said Mordente. "And I would like to give this to you – on behalf of your son."

Khan said he would place it in a spot in his living room dedicated to his son's books, medals and other items. Afterward, Khan was asked if President Donald Trump adequately advocates for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

"I don't think so, but anything coming from me would be considered political," said Khan. "But I must say as a parent that

this careless attitude toward deploying our men and women in harm's way, it should not be such. It should be as our military leaders, senior military leaders, are doing. They're making announcements, they're not tweeting, they're not issuing statements and threats. Because they know the cost."

Brokk Tollefson, a senior sociology major who served four years active duty in the Marine Corps, including a tour in Afghanistan, said he did not think that the event would be a big deal but wanted to stop by. He said when he found out it was Khan who was speaking he decided to stay. Tollefson talked with Khan about how he had lost friends while he was in Afghanistan and said he wanted to ask him about his perspective on losing someone.

"I feel like his experience and my experience may intersect at some point but I thought it was a very appropriate question," said Tollefson. "Honestly, I thought that's why he was here today too. He could have delved into some of the political stuff – maybe some stuff about our current president. But he was really here today to talk about veterans and their service and loss."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Guerschom Jean-Louis, a junior, who previously served as a summer associate for the office of residence life.

## Accusations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"When it came to the group process," Jean-Louis said, "I was a bit unprofessional."

After both interview processes, Jean-Louis said that because staff members with the office of residence life were available to give feedback, he realized the true decision factors.

"I just have to work on my interpersonal skills," said Jean-Louis, "because that's very important when you're a resident advisor."

Jean-Louis said he was hoping to be viewed differently, especially when interviewing for the second semester in a row, but that he believes the right people are chosen for the job.

"I used to convince myself that there was politics and subjective reasoning involved when hiring RA's," said Jean-Louis. "That's not the case; they really just want the best of the best."

Sarah Joseph, who is currently a desk attendant, said, conversely to Caban, that when she applied to be resident advisor,

her interviewer was so concerned with candidate behavior that real world qualifications came second.

"They're looking for the personality," said Joseph, "as opposed to the people who can actually do the job."

DeMezzo said there is not a perfect skill set that can be found in a student's resume, but the synergy in an interview plays a chief role.

Being diverse is important for the office's mission, according to their "Guide to Living on Campus," available on the residence life website.

"You have the right to live in a clean and safe environment," reads the guide, "free of harassment, discrimination and intolerance."

This attitude, DeMezzo said, is what they are looking for.

"I won't lie," said DeMezzo, "the most important thing is having student who is willing to work with a variety of different students from a variety of different backgrounds."

## Genocide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was the middle of the war," said Weichsel, "and the main concern on that boat was that we would get torpedoed."

Such ships, he said, would come from America to deliver ammunition to England and bring back refugees. Because of this, Weichsel said there was a fear of Germany attacking American ships.

Weichsel said when he arrived in America he was most concerned with beginning the journey he described at the beginning of his lecture -- becoming an American.

Weiss thanked Weichsel for sharing his story, and for making himself available to come to Southern to speak to her students in the Judaic studies department.

She invited each member in the audience to attend a future event, again remembering the Holocaust. On April 23, she said, world-renowned clinical psychologist David Senesh, who lives and practiced in Israel, will host a lecture. He is commonly known for his aunt Hannah Senesh, whose diaries from the time of the Holocaust were later published.

"Dr. Senesh himself was a prisoner of war, during the 1973 Yom Kippur War," said Weiss. "He will discuss the parallels and differences between his captivity as a prisoner of war, and his aunt's captivity during World War II."

Later that week, April 13, Weiss again got together again with her students, this time with David Pettigrew and Miriam Glenn. The two, and others, shared stories to celebrate the opening of the Holocaust remembrance

display previously reported by the March 28 edition of Southern News.

Pettigrew, professor of philosophy, opened the afternoon's reflection by citing a statistic he found reported by the New York Times.

"Sixty-six percent of millennials," he said, "don't know what 'Auschwitz' means."

He said that if remembrance programs are especially important today, so we do not lose touch with the horror that happened during World War II.

The Holocaust remembrance display is available to view in Buley Library currently.

Pettigrew invited a couple of key contributors to speak about the work they have donated or loaned, the stories they and their families have.

First, Zvi Goldman spoke about an original wooden sculpture that he loaned to the exhibit. He said the entire piece, whose medium is carved oak, took about 40 man-hours to produce.

"Typically artists are asked what were their thoughts during this specific piece of art, and what does it mean," said Goldman. "This was done in memory of the Holocaust and the revival of the Holocaust."

The six pieces rising from the base of the sculpture, he said, are there to represent the six million Jews whose lives were taken from them. He said the "revival" portion regards what he calls the miraculous feat that the Jewish people recovered, and remained culturally rich.

Next, that afternoon, Rosalyn Amenta, professor of women's studies spoke. Amenta loaned to the exhibit, a photo album with a collection of pictures from the

Dachau concentration camp. She said the album came from her father, a unit of the 45th army infantry that was assigned to liberate torture centers. Amenta said she was happy to share the album with Southern, and that it has had a lasting effect on her family.

"My father raised us teaching us the horror of the unspeakable inhumanity that he had to experience there, with his other fellow soldiers," said Amenta. "My father had to carry out emaciated survivors; my father had to carry out corpses."

The photo album was a documentation of the concentration camp, and Amenta said her father wanted to make sure his family and others knew what happened there. She said the photo album served as a textbook to her, growing up.

"This is what a human being can do to another human being," said Amenta, "if we don't speak up and fight and stop it."

After these community members shared their stories, Pettigrew spoke briefly about how the exhibition was put together. He said it could not have been done without two students of his, and a former student. Respectively, they are Melissa Lewis, Alexis Simons and Glenn. Each of the three read excerpts of poetry from Holocaust survivors and family members, and invited the audience to view the display cases up close.

"Part of the program today, in a sense, is reaching out, fostering and celebrating our community," said Pettigrew, "at Southern, and beyond."



# Southern hosts another successful Student Appreciation Day

By Michelle Tewksbury

SCSU's Program Council holds Student Appreciation Day every spring, said the group's commissioner Rachel Mouris.

Mouris, a junior therapeutic recreation major, said it is the council's biggest event of the year and has the largest turn out by far.

Mouris said she estimates that around 2,000 students will take part in the celebration. She said students can expect to enjoy rides, games, food trucks, balloon animals, music, and other novelties provided by campus organizations.

"Last year we had 500 t-shirts and they went in 30 minutes," said Mouris. "We got more food this year to accommodate for more students."

Mouris said the Commuter Commission will be giving out novelties prizes from t-shirts to car chargers, and the Office of Student Involvement will be giving out bags of candy.

She said Programs Council gets all the ideas for the day from the student body. The council planned for Student Appreciation Day for about two months in advance, and tried it's best to make sure that everyone's ideas were heard.

Mouris said their budget started at \$10,000, but they soon realized in order to have everything that students wanted they would need more funding. She said the council asked the student government to give them more money, and they were granted additional funding. Mouris says the final budget was between \$15,000 and

\$20,000.

The Programs Council's owl connect page said the group host numerous programs throughout the semester, programs for the entire student body. "DIY Pinterest nights to free PB&J Thursdays, movie nights to dance parties," their office is located in the Adanti Student Center room 228A.

Jeremy Douglas, a senior biology major, attended student appreciation day and said he really enjoyed the free food.

"I got a taco, some snacks, candy, and went on all the rides," said Douglas.

Public Health senior Emmanuella Nwagboli also attended and said she has gone to Student Appreciation Day for the past three years.

"Everything is pretty good," Nwagboli said. "I got free food, and I went on the swings."

Nwagboli said she misses the pizza truck and ice cream treats from last year, but enjoyed this year's selection.

Anastasia Wilson, a junior Library Science major, said she went on every single ride. She said she also attended last year's Student Appreciation Day with friends.

"I won a purple poop Emoji toy prize from playing one of the games," said Wilson.

She said she really enjoyed the swing ride and all the free candy.

Cavoto said she was thrilled to be at the event. She said she went on all the rides and won several prizes.

"It is good to see my tuition money going to something that I like," she said.



PHOTO | MICHELLE TEWKSBURY

Anastasia Wilson (left) and Alexandra Scicchitano (right) hold the prizes they won at Southern Connecticut State University's Student Appreciation Day.

New York University has found in a study of stress and living well that stress is the number one impediment to academic performance in college students. The NYU report says to help these students and their concerns universities should increase opportunities for social support.

Douglas said student appreciation day

is the opportunity for students to enjoy their time during a stressful end to the semester.

As the semester comes to a close and finals begin, Douglas said for him it is a good day to enjoy time with friends.

"At this time of the semester you probably don't get that kind of time," said Douglas.

# Officials say this Saturday's concert took careful planning

By August Pelliccio

April 9 was the formal announcement to students that Jacquees would be Southern's performer for this Saturday's spring concert. Dan Emmans said the booking process kept him on the edge of his seat.

Emmans, secretary of the Student Government Organization, and student representative for the special events committee, said the planning for the spring concert began in the fall semester.

"The first couple of meeting were just us spitting out names of artists," said Emmans, "that either we liked, or that we have heard buzz about on campus."

He said by the time of winter break, the committee had a list of names they had narrowed down, for artists they were willing to pursue.

"Once we got it down to the final six or so," said Emmans, "from there it was

submitting our choices to Southern [Police Department]."

Emmans said police did not want to screen who could or could not play, but rather had interest in researching the musical act to make sure there was not a history of issues with their crowd.

"We started to submit offers, but it was kind of a challenge," Emmans said. "The weekend of our concert is Coachella weekend."

Emmans explained that between the widely popular music festival and the general demand for musical acts to perform at college spring concerts, not every act was as readily available or affordably priced as the committee would have liked.

"We had a couple offers rejected right at the end," said Emmans. "Our budget situation was good, but not great."

Eric LaCharity, interim associate director of student involvement commented that he has been part of this

process for years, and can not recall the decision being so difficult.

"There were the Jesse McCartney rumors swirling around campus, I know that kind of got out," said Emmans, "and he was a part of our conversation for a while."

Emmans said McCartney's availability changed unfavorably for Southern, just before the committee put in a formal offer for him to headline the spring concert.

Emmans said student reaction to the prospect of featuring Jesse McCartney was more polarizing than usual. He said most acts they considered should have warranted some type of hype, but for McCartney the feedback was either wildly positive, or considerably negative.

One other option the committee seriously considered before deciding on Jacquees was T-Pain, but Emmans said his show price was recently inflated due

to a new album release.

The committee finally submitted an offer to Jacquees, American singer and songwriter. According to The Famous People, Jacquees is an "R&B star," who drew early inspiration from the Jacksons and the Temptations. His first claim to fame, according to the website, was working on rapper T.I.'s 2010 single, "Krazy."

Emmans said there was no reason to keep the secret very long, and as soon as the committee knew for sure, they worked on getting the word out. He said the committee was not sitting on the information; they did not know for sure whether the prospect was even possible until Jacquees accepted the offer.

"The gap between when the offer was accepted and the announcement," said Emmans, "was maybe two days."

# Discovery Day designed for accepted students to learn about Southern

By Tyler Korponai

Accepted Students Day this year was revamped as Discovery Day, which encompasses a spring open house session for prospective students.

Alexis Haakonsen, director of admissions, broke down the day's events.

"It's a day to dive a little deeper," said Haakonsen, "to come to Southern and see a little more about who we are. We connect with them with the deans in each of the schools in the majors that they have told us they're interested in."

An important component of the day according to Haakonsen is to provide a sense of what education means at Southern.

"They attend a mini class with a faculty member," said Haakonsen, "maybe not specifically in their intended major because we know sometimes that can change, but just to have an experience in a classroom with a faculty member. This is what academic life is at Southern."

In addition, prospective students get to interact with different university resources and organizations.

"There's a student club fair, student resource fair, different offices from around campus, tours, students have lunch in the dining hall, see the residence halls, important things," said Haakonsen.

On the day of April 15, prospective students and their parents were gathered in Lyman Hall for performances from student groups such as singing group NOTeorious, who performed a medley of music by Hozier.



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

The Blue Crew welcomes students and parents in the Adanti Student Center.

Afterwards, President Joe addressed the audience highlighting Southern's values, vision, and future. He cited the expansion of Southern facilities such as a new building for the Health and Human Services Department. He made a point to emphasize that Southern is a social justice university committed to diversity, compassion and the agreement to disagree during conversation.

However, for Kiley Burrows, a special and elementary education major who also assists during the day's events, it is business as usual.

"This is my second or third time," said Burrows. "I've done it so many times. Today I am leading students and

parents around to classes and leading mini classes after, basically just helping everyone find their way around. I love seeing how many students come out."

Burrows finds the day to be a great time to start forming relationships with prospective students.

"I already talked to a girl who said she committed to Southern," said Burrows. "She just wanted to come and see, and that's awesome. I love to hear that. Today is the exciting day to hype up the students and parents about coming here, and you want to make them feel at home."

Friends from their hometown, Ally Moss and Carmen Bellonio are two of

these prospective students who came to see what Southern had to present.

"Well I want to stay close to home for starters," said Moss. "Southern was right for me. They have my major—speech pathology so I thought it was the perfect place to come. But now that I'm here, I kind of want to go in undecided to see the other fields that they have."

Bellonio agrees, "I feel that staying close to home is important," said Bellonio. "It's sort of nerve wracking. I want to meet new people and try new things. And I feel what the president was talking about before, that there's so many different things you can do here."



## Student relationships and infidelity

By Victoria Bresnahan

Sara Gaccione, a junior accounting major, said cheating is doing something one would not want their significant other to do to them.

"You can be friends, but don't cross the line," said Gaccione.

In addition, Gaccione said she would not feel comfortable with her partner texting someone else either.

Gaccione said it is not cheating when her boyfriend likes another girl's photos, but she does get upset by it. If it is a photo of his friend, she said she does not mind, but photos of women scantily dressed do bother her.

Gaccione said she has never cheated on a partner.

Collin Dunn, a junior accounting major, said he has been cheated on. He said he was with his now ex-girlfriend on and off for five to six months and found out after the fact. He said the experience was "really bad."

"I am way past [forgiveness], so," said Dunn. "Maybe if it was somebody else. I think it was just that specific girl, but if it was somebody else, maybe. But it happened a couple times [with this one person.]"

Dunn said since he has been cheated on he would proceed with caution if he discovered someone he was interested in had cheated on someone else in the past. If someone likes the person enough and trusts them, then he said they could move past that.

Mike Burek, a junior accounting major, who has never cheated or been cheated on, said he would still date someone if he found out they had cheated on someone else in the past. He said everyone deserves a fair chance.



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

A staged photo of two people holding hands.

"Can't judge what is in the past," said Burek. "People change and sometimes people don't. I feel like if you like the person you take the chance and find out."

According to a 2017 Trustify survey, a business which connects clients to private investigators, stated in over one third of marriages, one or both partners have cheated.

In addition, 22 percent of men and 14 percent of women have admitted to cheating on their partner.

Will Hendrick, a sophomore computer science major, said looking at someone or hanging out with other

people is not cheating unless a line is crossed.

"If they went out and a chain of events kind of happened and they ended up hooking up or doing something with someone else," said Hendrick. "I don't know if I would be as upset if it was just like they knew what they were doing and went out of their way to cheat on them."

Amy Boswell, a sophomore computer science major, said using social media to view someone else's photos or sending inappropriate messages could be considered cheating.

Boswell said with the creation of social media, people can accuse their partners of "stalking" if they are looking at someone else's photo.

However, she said for some people "liking" a photo is nothing more than that.

During her previous three-year relationship, Boswell said she was unfaithful. She said they did end up breaking up, but for different reasons.

"I mean, it was just like a kiss," said Boswell. "It was not intentional, like what I wanted to do. But it happened, and I told him."

## Students reflect on career goals

By Alyssa Rice

Some people think he was born a CEO. He was a mail sorter who dreamed of doing better, said Clemons.

On March 28, Erik Clemons was a guest speaker at the SCSU Career & Internship Fair, where he spoke about working hard to become successful.

Erik Clemons is the executive director and president for the Center of Arts and Technology.

Clemons said over the years he has found much success for ConnCAT and that he wants people to know they can find success as well.

Clemons said after high school he was not prepared to go to college, he went for a semester and ended up not doing well so he found a job instead.

On the path to becoming the executive

director of ConnCAT he faced many obstacles. Clemons worked as a postal worker in the Stamford Post office for 16 years.

While Clemons work at the post office he got married and fathered four girls.

"I worked early in the morning at 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Stamford, picked up my girls from school and went to class in the evening," said Clemons.

After three years of the same routine Clemons started to realize that he had done nothing to contribute to his community. As a result, he decided to go back to college and pursue a degree in sociology.

"I always wanted to teach and work with young African American boys since they grew up living in the same conditions I grew up in," Clemons said.

Clemons quit his job at the post office and with the permission of his wife begin working as a student teacher at Language Enrichment Arts Program. A few years

later he was promoted to become the new executive director.

"What was important to me was that the children and young people saw someone who looked like them, who had a profound and intense love for them and who they ultimately could become," said Clemons.

Senior Wijante Holden is a communication major, he also attended the speech. He said after listening to Clemons story it motivated him to be better.

"Being that I am African American, I have to work much harder than my peers just because I am black," said Holden.

He also said he inspires to be as successful as Clemons one day.

In June 2011 Clemons was hired to become executive director and president of Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology.

"Being that I am the first African American executive director of any branch

of Center for Arts and Technology" said Clemons, "I want to hire people who were unemployed."

"I wanted to help prioritize social entrepreneurship, help create jobs, and help unemployed adults," said Clemons.

According to Business Insider, Oprah Winfrey was publicly fired from her first television job as an anchor in Baltimore. As of today she is worth 3 billion dollars.

Clemons said it did not matter how many times he failed, it pushed him towards his goal even more.

Andrew Parzyck is a communications professor at SCSU, he is also on the committee board for Career Services.

Parzyck said this year the board wanted to do things differently, they wanted the students to walk away with something they would remember and could relate to.

"As a whole," said Parzyck. "We felt the career fair was the perfect opportunity."

## Free hugs make students smile

By J'Mari Hughes

Katherine Granke said it was a good feeling when students, some of which she did not even know, happily ran to her for a hug.

As the school year goes on, students experience stress of registration, stress of the end of the school year. To help students with this pressure, Granke and other members of Active Minds opened their arms to them with a series of free hugs in front of Buley Library on April 9. They displayed colorful signs labeled with none other than "FREE HUGS" in bright letters eager for students' attention.

"We do it in order to boost people's moods in the stressful times of the year," she said.

Granke, a junior majoring in psychology, is the vice president

of Active Minds, an organization at Southern that focuses on mental health issues on campus. She said Active Minds members do a lot of work to de-stigmatize mental illness and raise awareness of it. As well as free hugs, they also host movie nights, coloring socials, and the Chair Project: an event that recognizes the amount of college students who commit suicide every year.

According to Granke, members have been partaking in the event of embracing every semester for the past five years.

"It's just nice to get a hug," she said.

The idea was brought to Southern by Prevention and Outreach Coordinator Denise Zack as a part of Southern's Acts of Kindness, an initiative suggested by Peter Troiano, who wanted lift students' spirits and encourage more kindness on campus. Kindness, she said, is one of President Joe's five core values for the Southern community.

"Free hugs was one of the events we organized to engage students, make them feel good, and help them de-stress," Zack said. "We want to let them know that Southern cares about them as students."

Previously, Zack advised Active Minds, and when the group heard about the free hugs, members wanted to take part in it, and are now doing an "amazing job," Zack said.

"I love that we do this event because it's like good environment to be around," said junior Maddy Feshler. "I love being a part of a club that supports and celebrates all individuals and spreads good vibes and positivity."

Club secretary and senior Brianna Cully said some students are usually very excited to receive a free hug, while others are more comfortable high-fiving or simply smiling and waving.

"Even if you don't wanna give a

hug or get a hug, there are just like good vibes all around," said Feshler, a psychology major, "and I love being a part of that."

Juliana Thomasson is a psychology major and self-declared hug-lover who said students are glad to receive them.

"Even if a stranger were to give me a hug, I would be so happy," she said. "It's just one act of kindness for the day."

Granke said 10 hugs a day can increase a person's mood. According to Mercola, a health website, hugging releases the "love hormone" oxytocin, which is beneficial for stress levels and heart healthiness. It also said hugs can reduce harmful effects of stress and may fight infections, help depression, and lessen fatigue.

"Hugs make me feel good," Active Minds sophomore Michelle Raccio said. "It makes [other students] feel good. They always leave with a smile."



# What students do for self-care

By Victoria Bresnahan

For Emilie Johnson, meditating and yoga help are a part of her self-care routine to take her mind off her tribulations.

"I wake up in the morning and I meditate," said Johnson, a junior bilingual elementary education and Spanish double major. "It is more preventative, so I don't get stressed."

After working in a yoga studio in Greenwich, Johnson said one of the owners taught her how to meditate. At first, she said it was difficult, but through practice and guided meditation apps she was able to teach herself how to do it alone.

In addition to meditating, Johnson said her older sister is her "confidant" and understands how to help her relax the most out of anybody.

"I think everyone gets stressed in different ways so everyone has different ways of kind of finding their zen again," said Johnson. "It's nice that my sister knows that part of me. It's hard to explain unless someone really witnesses you being stressed and then [helps you with] figuring out how to not be stressed. Luckily I lived with her for my whole life."

Rachel Martineau, a junior communication major, said one of the methods she uses to relieve stress is walking. Martineau said this does not help her escape her a

problem, but rather "walk through it."

She said her family, primarily her dad, are people she can call to help her calm down.

"My father and I are very close," said Martineau. "He knows what makes me tick and what will help me and how to resolve my problems. Whereas, like, a therapist who doesn't really know me will give the basic answers."

When it concerns therapy, Martineau said she "isn't just another number."

Everyone has their own individual qualities, she said, and there is no answer that fits everyone. In addition, she said she hates how emotions are repressed—an action she said stems from masculinity in cultures.

"We definitely have a lot of masculine traits in our communication," said Martineau. "Not only in our phrases, but definitely in the way that we communicate. So, I think that is a big part of it."

As a communication major with a focus in interpersonal communication and communication in the workplace, Martineau said in some of North America, a masculine perspective has been taken on. She said, people "push through their emotions" and work just to get the job done.

Brett Bogdwicz, a freshman business marketing major, said school work and tests contribute to his stress and anxiety.



PHOTO COURTESY | PIXAVAY

A poster promoting self-care that reads "Take care of yourself."

Although Bogdwicz said he can complete his homework on time, he still worries about doing well on assignments such as essays.

Movies, television shows and music help Bogdwicz relax. When he listens to music, Bogdwicz said he tries to do nothing but listen to the song. In addition, Bogdwicz said

he talks to family members because it is easier to be personal with them.

"At college it is hard to get open with someone right away or talk to someone like that about stuff," said Bogdwicz. "I would say that is huge for me, and I am sure for others too."

# Communication Capstone presentation

By Tyler Korponai

The Communication Department capstone this year is focused on creating the infrastructure to link Southern students as mentors with foster kids, first by hosting a preliminary event and second by establishing a club for long after this class of seniors have graduated.

Joshua Cortes and Joey Allard, communication seniors, were foster youths themselves. Soon to complete their undergraduate studies at Southern, both students wanted to help kids in similar positions and provide them with the support to succeed as they enter their adult lives.

"To start, we had to pitch the idea and it was all I could think of," said Allard. "You use what you know. I was a foster kid and I didn't have a mentor. Part of the pitch was that we had to have a social issue and a communication issue. I thought it fit really well. But I never thought it would go this far."

Allard said that mentors for foster youths are critical because they are effectively role models for kids who may be dealing with issues at home and may not understand their options or the value that college offers.

It makes a big difference, according to Allard who himself had struggled with continuing his education. To create the structure to pair youths with Southern students took the full mobilization of the Commu-



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

Joshua Cortes speaking to students during the Communication Department capstone presentation.

nications Department.

Carolyn Petkevich, also in the communications department, is a member of the executive board alongside Cortes and Allard. Putting together the project took a significant amount of organization of the Communication Department seniors.

Speaking about Allard's idea to mentor youths, Petkevich said, "I

wanted to be a part of that team alongside five other students. We all separated into our groups and created our pitch ideas. To win, so to speak, there was fake money — like, how much money would the faculty donate to fund our program."

Everyone in the department had to form their own idea and present it, until the best ideas were distilled from the department. Ultimately, mentoring the youths won. However, the real work was just beginning.

"We were the ones to decide on and create job applications for people," said Petkevich, listing out skills and what people may want to do with the project, what type of association they would like to have. After we received all of our job applications, we put everyone into a category."

Dispersed into a recruitment team, a promotions team, an event team and a film team, everyone had a job to do.

Fast-forward to Discovery Day this Sunday on April 15 and the communications department was ready for their semester of work to come to fruition by preparing to host their event and the youths of The Boy and Girls Village, which serves at-risk children.

Jaime Bustamante, a job coach of The Work to Learn Program with The Boy and Girls Village, accompanied kids to Southern.

A graduate from Southern himself, Bustamante felt that the event was

important for kids see the college life.

Bustamante said, "For individuals unsure if they want to go, it's really good for them. The change can be very hard sometimes. Aside from employment and things that we do to connect them to jobs later in life to get a career, you need the education to do so. This is a great way to understand that and get that piece of the puzzle of life."

Jasmine Williams is a student from Bunnell High School in Stratford. She attended the event and felt that it gave her a sense of how to pursue her desired studies of Marine Biology.

However, her high school does not offer the courses she wants.

"I want to train dolphins and seals," said Williams. "I always liked animals and I told myself that I wanted to be a vet."

The event though is only one piece of the capstone project. The important step afterwards is to retain the connection.

"We didn't want to start mentoring this semester," said Allard, "and then all graduate and leave them."

For Petkevich, the departments work is already paying off.

"I think in the beginning we all thought that it may not have worked out because of the different components that were a part of it," said Petkevich. "It's very rewarding to see everything together."



PHOTO | TYLER KORPONAI

President Joe Bertolino speaking to students at the Communication Capstone.



# Album review: Cardi B shows she is here to stay

By Lynandro Simmons

Cardi B's rags to riches tale has been heavily documented in this social media age. Longtime fans have seen her gone from Instagram videos showcasing her lovable personality to mixtapes showing her versatile rap skills. During her historic rise Cardi has been center the attention for both good and bad reasons. Her hit single "Bodak Yellow" attracted the masses to the, at the time, budding superstar. With her debut album "Invasion of Privacy" fans and critics alike anticipated Cardi either cementing her place in the rap game, or becoming a one hit star like some of her similar predecessors.

"Invasion of Privacy" starts off with the track "Get Up 10." The track pays homage to one of rap's most memorable moments in the last 10 years "Dreams & Nightmares" by Meek Mill. Over a beat switch Cardi goes from vividly describing her tough upbringings to directly addressing all her doubters and naysayers. Cardi's intro is a statement to say the least, and put on display what her day one fans have known for sometime. She is here to stay. The strong intro dramatizes her rise from being in strip clubs to America's sweetheart. "I was covered in dollars, now I'm dripping Jewels," she raps emphatically.

The album has a string of already known hits, including previously released "Bodak Yellow" and "Bartier Cardi," and potential songs of the summer like "Bickenhead," which samples Three 6 Mafia affiliate Project Pat's single "Chickenhead." Though the album features star appearances from rappers like 21 Savage, Migos and Chance the Rapper, Cardi is always the center of attention. Though the album does not seem to be a fully realized version of Cardi B's full potential, it does show just how serious she is taking her craft. The album is a tightly wound mix of summer anthems for women and heavier emotional tracks. Putting on full display the range of emotions and the talent of the young rap star.

Though this album was preceded by hits like "Bodak Yellow" and standout performances from Cardi on "MotorSport," and "No Limit," she does not let fans down when it comes to delivering these knockout records. The track "Drip" shows the continued winning chemistry between Cardi B and Migos and falls in the same vein of some of her more mid tempo trap records. "Be Careful," a single that was released shortly before the album, shows



PHOTO COURTESY | TWITTER

Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy" album cover.

Cardi revealing her more intimate feelings as she warns her lover the possibility of losing her. The slow tempo song is built around the interpolation of Lauryn Hill's hit single "Ex Factor," and is the type of heartfelt record that still stays true to Cardi's personality.

"Invasion of Privacy" is an album perfect for the

upcoming summer. With her South Bronx bravado Cardi has delivered an album young women will be enjoy all summer long. America loves a cinderella story and Cardi's should be as inspiring as any fictional Disney movie. "Invasion of Privacy" shows Cardi B has not only fully arrived, but she is here to stay.

Correction: In last weeks addition, the women pictured in "Art in New Haven: Local Galleries to visit," is actually named Mistina Hanscom from The Range gallery.

# Free art, bartering and trading as payment

By Victoria Bresnahan

Whether it is through her colorful cow prints or ceramic work, Traci Henri loves to make people happy with her artwork.

"I was in here working yesterday and some young man who knows it's me — but I don't have any classes or know him — he came around the corner to where I was in here and thanked me for the prints," said Henri, a senior and print shop university assistant. "They're for free. I love making people happy."

Henri said anyone can own one of her cow prints by grabbing one from the envelope outside the print shop, she said. In addition, she said she was once commissioned by a friend to create several of them in different colors for his mother's birthday. Although he did offer to pay her, Henri said she let him take her dinner instead.

In addition, Henri said she has sold work at Southern's annual pottery sale this past December. She sold smaller pieces such as keychains, and she said most of the work was priced under \$15.

Art professor T. Wiley Carr, who has sold his artwork in the past, said whether it is an object or painting, he thinks the pure reason art is purchased is because it will be engaging and pleasurable to look at.

In addition, Carr said some may purchase artwork for the monetary investment it may incur over time. In this way, Carr said art becomes a commodity.

"Gallery dealers take a percentage; it is very common for it to be at least 50 percent," said Carr. "then there are some art galleries who take an higher percentage, but they charge a higher amount. So, by being represented by those galleries, they are taking a bigger thing. But that is in addition to co signing his work in a gallery, Carr said he has done "art as service" or non-profit projects. By choice, he said he affiliates himself with these galleries due to their vision of supporting artwork and bring it into communities.

Jenna Palermo, a junior and art education major, creates original prints to sell amongst potential buyers. Palermo said she has also been commissioned to draw tattoos for clients—currently she is designing a tattoo based on the master sword from the video game "Legend of Zelda."

"Honestly, I usually go for money, but if someone wants to trade me something, I am fine with that," said Palermo. "If someone wanted to give me clothes, I will make them art for that. Or a big thing to do is trade a piece for a piece."

Palermo said she would sell a smaller piece for \$15, and larger ones could be priced at \$25.



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Jenna Palermo, a junior art education student.

"I am not going to gouge someone for \$200 for something that took me two hours to make," said Palermo.

With the creation of social media sites such as Instagram, Palermo said viewing art has become "a little less special." However, she said she has used social media to

showcase her own art.

"I don't hate technology," said Palermo, "I just feel like we have lost a little bit of that, I don't know, I want to say that uniqueness. Just the fact that it is special."



# Art is revolutionionary

By **Melanie Espinal**

Art starts conversation. Art is revolutionary. Art causes riots. Artists hold government accountable. Artists grant anonymity to the possibly persecuted; art empowers the oppressed.

A classical example of revolutionary art is Pablo Picasso's most political painting is his 1937 "Guernica." This massive black, gray and white oil on canvas painting was commissioned by the Spanish government as a response to the bombing of the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

This painting protested the war by expressing the ravages of war, its carnage, chaos and terror. Even the placement of the art had been political, as Picasso refused to house the painting in Spain as long as Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco was in power. Upon Franco's death, and after Picasso's, "Guernica" came home to Spain in 1981.

One of the most impactful modern art installations to me was a posters of missing women in Guatemala by an unknown artist with just two impactful words, "DONDE ESTAN?" Guatemala has had some of the most highest murder rates against women. Viewers see these women, lined up, women who maybe look like the women of their family. In the years 2000-2008, 4,159 women were murdered and 2,900 in 2008-2011, according to the Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos, a Guatemalan humans rights advocacy group. In response to the

countless murders and disappearances of women with little to no impunity on offenders, several artists created art installations like this around Guatemala. This simple visual protest impacted me radically. The sheer volume of missing posters of women make viewers question what happened to these women and if people care. Femicide is such a prevalent issue in Latin America. Art has the capability of holding government officials and societal norms accountable for these atrocities.

Humans are very visual creatures. Art has the ability to speak to people, beyond political barriers. These messages, at times and especially in rural areas in need of dramatic cultural revolutions like Guatemala, become accessible to the illiterate.

Visual art has the ability to revitalize and reinforce cultural shifts, like the visual artists during the Harlem Renaissance, whose paintings and sculptures allowed black artists to take control of their narrative.

These messages that allow anonymity, especially with street art, are not without caution. Artists are easy targets of political regimes that intend to continue misleading their constituents against their best interests. Some were even persecuted, like many artists in Nazi Germany such as German sculptor Milly Steger.

Art can put concepts in perspective for people. With the inclusion of photography, art had more than ever the ability to elicit social change in various scenarios — from famine to mass murder.



PHOTO | VERN WILLIAMS

Melanie Espinal

## Week of April 18 Billboard Top 10 Albums

# billboard

PHOTO COURTESY | BILLBOARD

January 2013 logo

1. "My Dear Melancholy" – The Weeknd
2. "The World Is Yours" – Rich The Kid
3. "?" – XXXTentacion
4. "Golden Hour" – Kacey Musgraves
5. "The Greatest Showman" – Various artists
6. "Black Panther: The Album, Music From and Inspired By" – Various artists
7. "Culture II" – Migos
8. "Stoney" – Post Malone
9. "÷ (Divide)" – Ed Sheeran
10. "Bobby Tarantino II" – Logic

## Review: 'A Quiet Place,' is capturing from start to finish

By **Tyler Korponai**

"A Quiet Place" stands out as a unique piece of artwork in the horror genre, which seems to be unable to reinvent itself beyond a few exceptions in recent years. Carefully threaded into this film are themes of determination, family and guilt.

The film, as its title would suggest, heavily relies on sound to create tension and contrast throughout. And when the monster/alien does make its appearance, it is not the creature's ability to kill that keeps you on edge but rather its weakness.

So let us start with plot. Overall, if you accept the premise, you are in for a very enjoyable treat of a thriller. Briefly, unintelligent aliens fall to Earth and hunt by sound, which these creatures have an incredibly well evolved aptitude for as they are blind. However, the film begins in the aftermath. Society has already largely disbanded into scattered groups; enter a family in the midst.

Real life husband and wife, John Krasinski and Emily Blunt, portray struggling parents who are desperate to protect their children: Millicent Simmonds, who plays the part of their defiant and deaf daughter; Noah Jupe, who has the role of their anxious son; and Cade Woodward, who completes the trio as their 4-year-old son.

The film is predicated on a nervous sensitivity to sound. Even mildly loud noises have the deadly potential to attract the monster, which quickly deals death.

The family walks without shoes, use sign language (which they likely know due to their deaf daughter) and they constantly are forced to silence their inner feelings.

This undermines the characters themselves, who are clearly conflicted with trauma and unexpressed emotions.

Krasinski's character is the untiring

survivalist father figure. He carries the ultimate weight and responsibility of protecting his family. However, he also is forced to connect with a daughter who cannot hear and desires her own sense of freedom in a world that forbids anything but well reasoned and regimented security.

Moreover, he has to contend with a son who's mental state has deteriorated to the point of paranoia, but needs to learn how to navigate this new world of terror. The film suggests this question: how do you live "normally" when "normal" has been silenced?

Blunt's character is largely tailored to the role of domestic and loving mother. Though, this is compacted by a pregnancy that threatens to unravel all of the fragile security that the family has constructed in an isolated rural farm community.

Once more, a normal family dynamic is shattered, left as fragments of an uncomfortable reality. We watch as the children soundproof a delivery room and as the family constructs an enclosed "crib" (which includes an oxygen mask) to house the newborn baby and dampen its cries. What is already a stressful and trying life event becomes almost seemingly impossible, but the family most push on.

Naturally, things go wrong, as they must. The silent moments of tentative security are obliterated by the musical score when the calm of dead air is interrupted, followed by the rush of a merciless creature. Personally, I found myself captured from start to finish.

To conclude, I believe this movie succeeds because of what the genre lacks: new ideas. It is not a perfect horror film by any means, but it is inventive and fresh.

I would much rather watch a movie that takes a risk than one that rehashes a safe bet. I promise that "A Quiet Place" will deliver a thrill you have not seen before.

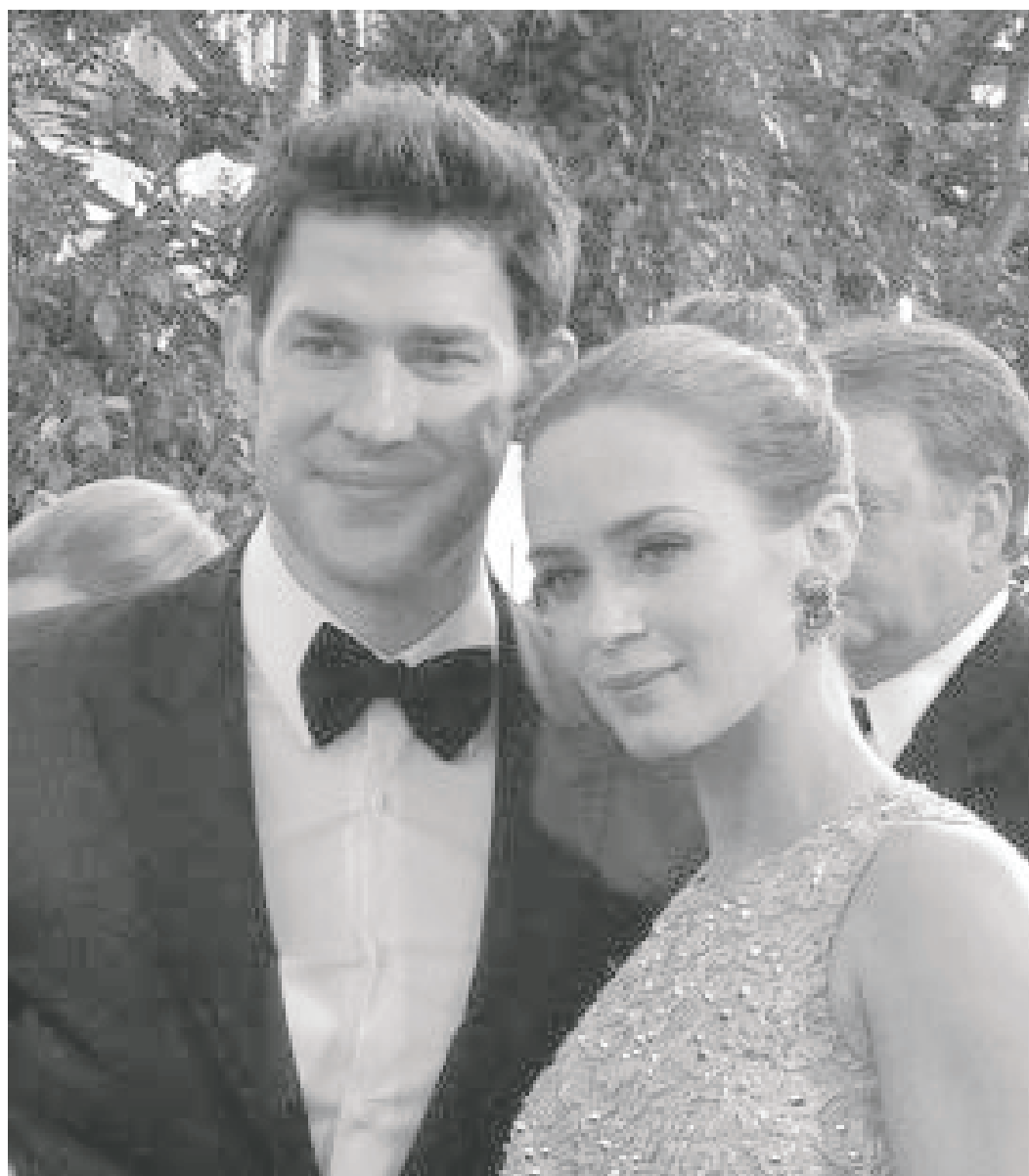


PHOTO COURTESY | JENN DEERING DAVIS

John Krasinski and Emily Blunt at the 2013 Golden Globe Awards.



## The film industry has a long way to go



PHOTO COURTESY | ALLIE O'BRIEN

Mengxia "MX" Xu with filming equipment while shooting for a film course.

By Melanie Espinal

"I feel like [women] have the same amount of eagerness," Mengxia "MX" Xu said, "to express ourselves in different forms."

Xu, a senior communication major, has a concentration in film, TV and digital production.

One aspect many people may not consider about the topic of women being hired in film crews is the physically demanding responsibilities, according to Xu.

"For example for the film production team we all need to carry equipment and then film," she said. "We have to spend a lot of time to film what we want, sometimes we screw up and need to re-do that."

Xu said women want to prove that they have the same amount of strength and ability to make their own films, "We want to prove ourselves not just because film production groups (are) filmed by males, but because females can commit themselves into the same amount of work and do the same job, sometimes even better."

Xu said, "I still think [women] have a long way to go." A lot of strength is needed to carry all those things. In Xu's last project, she was responsible with holding equipment.

"I think they would trust a guy rather than a female, for example I am told in our group not every female looks strong or as strong as the other guys, so people would sometimes have stereotypes."

"We work continuously working six hours or more a day, changing lenses, jumping up and down," she said. "Not every girl can carry those things for a long time. There are a lot of jobs and roles in film production groups so as a female I saw a lot of female classmates contributing themselves into the role that they are able to accomplish, even better sometimes."

Xu said she fell in love with film because her parents worked a lot, and she would stay home watching DVDs.

"I was born and raised in China," she said. "So, back to that time when I watched American movies or any other foreign movies that made me imagine what culture (is) like over there. So, movies are a door that allowed me to see outside."

Xu said it seems as if many women are involved in the Chinese and American film industry, but she does not think there are many women in leadership positions on a higher level.

"I learned girls power through watching movies," Xu said.

Xu said this representation matters in film industry, but, production teams seem to be hierarchical, where producers and directors are in charge of certain tasks.

"They would consider it," Xu said of the possible input from women on a film team, "but, unless you're a director you just need to do the job you are assigned to, and be creative as possible inside of your responsibility, you are not allowed to surpass the power."

Even if women are part of the team, she said, unless

they are in positions of power it won't change the story of women and doesn't have a big impact on the narrative of women.

"Unless," she said, "If you are on the script team you definitely have control to create a figure or characteristics that are from women perspectives."

Despite this, she said there are also many example of men being able to successfully portray women perspectives in film.

She experienced a lot of different life experiences through all those characters. So, I mean photography is awesome but film especially fiction or documentary, like u have a chance to create a person, a person's life or express yourself or put some philosophy that you learned through your own life.

Allie O'Brien senior communication major, is also specializing in film, TV and digital production. O'Brien fell in love with commercials in highschool but decided film was for her after taking a course at Southern.

"Women specifically i think now is the best time to be getting into film with the #MeToo campaign and Times Up campaign, now women's voices are needed to be heard more than ever."

O'Brien said she is super excited to see what Ava DuVernay, director of "A Wrinkle in Time."

"Women are have this sixth sense almost," O'Brien said, "and it's so special when great women get together and do great things and its time that women now document that, and I think everyone is seeing that."

## F.A.C.E models strut their stuff at fashion show

By Alexandra Scicchitano

Slay Washington started shouting out to the crowd right as he got onto stage to start off F.A.C.E Fashion Show, A Moment in Time.

"Shout out to my 70s babies, shout out to my 80s babies," Washington, the host of the F.A.C.E Fashion Show, said, getting a cheering response every time, "Shout out to my 90s babies, let's not forget about the 60s babies!"

Throughout the show, when models would strut on stage all of their friends would scream their names

"I feel like you cannot come in and not interact with everyone," said Connie Conyers, an undeclared freshman at Southern.

F.A.C.E Fashion Show, "A Moment in Time," was held by the club, F.A.C.E Models, which stands for Fashionable Artistic Creative Elegance, and the club's mission is to "further members' knowledge about fashion, self-esteem, and togetherness. The goal is to show students that they are beautiful and they don't need to look like unrealistic fashion models in order to feel confident," according to OwlConnect.

"I feel like people get to see their true beauty rather than just how they dress in class," said Alexis Pender, a sophomore

psychology major.

According to The Dove Global Beauty and Confidence Report, 50 percent of women feel confident in their own beauty — falling from 85 percent in 2010.

Conyers said that since the F.A.C.E Fashion show is an open event, it really brings anyone together.

The F.A.C.E Fashion Show is an event that brings people of both the local community and Southern's community together to share a common interest in a safe environment. F.A.C.E. promotes entrepreneurship of local designers and artists, as well as self-confidence and diversity amongst Southern students.

No matter your size, body type, race or gender F.A.C.E allows students of Southern to feel confident and showcase their talents, stated OwlConnect. Eighty-five percent of women and 79 percent of girls say they opt out of important life activities — such as trying out for a team or club, and engaging with family or loved ones — when they don't feel good about the way they look, stated The Dove Global Beauty and Confidence Report.

Chelsea Eubanks-Perry, a sophomore political science major, said that since the F.A.C.E Fashion Show is so open to everyone, it makes people accepting.

According to The Dove Global Beauty and Confidence Report, 7 in 10 girls with low body-esteem say they won't be



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

F.A.C.E. models posing in Lyman Theatre.

assertive in their opinion or stick to their decision if they aren't happy with the way they look. Nine out of 10 (87 percent) women will stop themselves from eating or will otherwise put their health at risk.

Conyers said it was her first time going to a F.A.C.E Fashion Show, while Perry and Pender have gone to every one since

coming to Southern.

The show goes on every semester, said Pender.

"I liked Dollhouse," which was a scene in the show, said Eubanks-Perry, "I liked it all."





Senior Griffin Bremer delivering a pitch against the University of New Haven.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

## Lynch enshrined in Southern Hall of Fame



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

SCSU women's basketball head coach Kate Lynch.

By Matt Gad

A national title was won. The team was inducted into the Athletic Department's Hall of Fame last year. And Kate Lynch was part of the fun, but she was not alone. Now, it's time for her individual accomplishments to be recognized.

Lynch, who leads a women's basketball program here that returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2011 earlier this semester, was happy last year when she got to celebrate with her 2007 championship team again.

"It's cool because this is the second year that Jay [Moran] has brought [the Hall of Fame ceremony] back," she said. "Last year it was really successful and we had a lot of fun, we saw a lot of alumni. It was really nice to see everyone back together."

Lynch said bringing the Hall of Fame ceremony back was one of athletic director Jay Moran's "wants." In a ceremony held in June at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange, Lynch will be enshrined into the Southern Athletic Hall of Fame alongside former football coach Rich Cavanaugh, Raymond Ciarleglio, Dr. Lawrence Fitzgerald, Jerry Katona, Dora Metrelis, Dawn Stanton-Holmes and former Owls student-athlete and coach, and current Philadelphia Eagles offensive line coach, Jeff Stoutland.

"I'm extremely happy for Kate," assistant coach Stephanie Hiriak, a teammate of hers on the 2007 squad, said. "She had a great playing career here and worked very hard day in and day out. She deserves every bit of this honor."

Hiriak is one of the team's two assistants that played for the program. Danielle Powell, who graduated in 2016, also serves on the team's coaching staff.

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

SEE LYNCH PAGE 10

# Baseball loses fourth straight

Southern baseball lost to the University of New Haven Thursday and was swept by LIU Post in a three-game series this past weekend

By Matt Gad

Tim Shea's baseball team won 27 games last season and they made an appearance in the NCAA College World Series. However, this year they have not been able to win the big conference games necessary to keep them in the national playoff picture.

Their struggles began last week when they led their conference rival, the University of New Haven Chargers, 5-1, going into the ninth inning before the Owls' bullpen blew the team's four run advantage.

"We played really well," said Shea. "It's just the last inning; we couldn't execute

on pitches. We walked three, hit one. [New Haven] got some bloop hits; it's baseball, it's part of the game."

In that final frame with the Chargers, closer Quantique White was unable to record a single out, giving up three hits, four earned runs and a walk in four batters.

"You've got a four-run lead, 5-1 going into the ninth, you've got to close it out and win. That's a game that we should've won that we let slip away," he said. "We played fine for eight innings. We were prepared; we just didn't execute. We gotta do a better job."

Going into the contest a week ago, the team had

not played a game in six days after their previous weekend's action with Saint Anselm College and Saint Michael's was postponed

**"We have to turn it around."**

— Nick Lamberti, junior outfielder

due to inclement weather. And before that they had lost a 9-8 decision to Adelphi where, despite 13 hits, they were not able to come out on top.

Shea said the team had to "put this game behind" them and "finish the deal [in the regular-season]." He said it "doesn't get any

easier."

Last Friday, though, the Owls were still unable to get things moving in the right direction with LIU Post. White took the loss, moving to 0-4, coming out of the bullpen late in a game that Nate Carney went seven, allowing five hits and a walk with four strikeouts.

Saturday, continuing their series with the Pioneers now down in Brookville, New York, the Owls dropped a double-header by final scores of 4-3 and 7-5, respectively. In the first game, Sam Nepiarsky went six and a third innings, sacrificing 10 hits and three runs (one earned) and coming away



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Sophomore Andrew Goggin carrying the ball (left) with senior Noah Fletcher-Cerino at his support.

## Rugby takes fourth in first home tournament

By Matt Gad

Last Sunday, the SCSU Black Attack, the men's rugby club on campus, hosted a sevens tournament at Jess Dow Field.

Seven schools participated in the event with the Black Attack: Mitchell College, the University of Hartford, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Western Connecticut State, Endicott and William Paterson University, with Endicott coming out on top.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time that Southern has hosted a sevens style tournament and it ran very

smoothly and was often ahead of schedule," Ben Croll said.

This was the team's first game since they played in the Battle of the Bay Tournament April 8. The spring season started March 31 when the Black Attack appeared in the Connecticut Collegiate Sevens Cup, hosted at Central Connecticut State University. That tournament included the University of Hartford, New Haven, Quinnipiac, the University of Connecticut, Duke, Western Connecticut State and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

"When it comes to friendly tournaments, we try not to

be either too proud of or too upset with the result; we play these games to develop our players," Croll said. "While winning is always nice, it is more important that we get experience playing rugby at friendlies."

This is the first year that the team is competing exclusively at Jess Dow Field, the home for various NCAA Division II contests on campus already. Previously, they played their home matches adjacent to The Ballpark, however, the team is currently unable to compete there because it used to be a landfill and "glass is starting to make its way to the surface."

SEE RUGBY PAGE 11



## The future of sports journalism

By Matt Gad

Where's journalism going? As more and more outlets expand their online horizons, some are turning newspaper subscriptions into online paywalls. Yes, I know it's been done for a few years now, but I'm talking about an exclusive web operation. More specifically, I'm talking about an exclusive web operation for sports journalism.

The Athletic started a bit ago, but they really only had a site in Cleveland. Now it's a full-fledged

sportswriting destination. They've taken some of each city's great writers and put them on their team. And heck, they took Sports Illustrated's sports media guru, Richard Deitsch, as well. The Athletic is like when LeBron, Wade and Chris Bosh all wanted to team up. It's like when Kevin Durant had no loyalty for the state of Oklahoma.

But it's exciting. When people ask me what I want to do with my journalism degree I say that I want to be an online writer. And I don't mean to seem like I have my head in the clouds but The

Athletic is really the only sports body that resembles that right now. So, yes, I want to work for The Athletic. But I also want to work for an outlet where multi-media, journalism's future, is put in the driver's seat.

And another thing I'm hot on that recently launched is the redesigned ESPN app. Competing with Bleacher Report and their explosively awesome smartphone application, they knew they had to come out with the next best thing. And they just delivered. ESPN+ is ESPN3 reimaged. The whole exclusively-online

ESPN channel has been reworked for the 21st century. It's been reworked for millennials and the current and future media landscape.

But with this all comes competition. Bleacher Report isn't folding. They are prepared to come out with their own over-the-top service. And no, that's not me being excited. That's the formal name for "content provided via a high-speed internet connection rather than a cable or satellite provider."



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

## Southern men's lacrosse club seeks improvement, recognition

By Michael Riccio

Clubs sports give college students a chance to play a varsity sport in a competitive conference and lacrosse captains Shawn Scalora, Robert Loricco and Alan-Michael Ziegler have taken full advantage of their chance.

There is so much unrecognized skills among kids that don't go on to play NCAA lacrosse," Loricco said. "Having this club is an opportunity to participate in a competitive league."

Scalora said the conference the club plays in, the Pioneer Collegiate Lacrosse League, plays on sports broadcasting networks such as ESPNU. The conference is split up between Division I and II teams, with Southern playing in the south division among Division II teams.

In the past, Southern has played Division I schools such as Rhode Island and Dayton, but Scalora said the name of the school they are playing does not matter.

"Just because the school is DI doesn't mean they're good," Scalora said. "You could be playing kids who just want to play the game or you could be playing a bunch of hot heads who are out there head hunting."

This season, the club improved their marketing in order to bring new members in. In the past, the club would promote themselves from the club fair, but Scalora said the club has begun advertising themselves as well.

"After last year, there was a big image issue so this is a big rebuilding year for us and we had to do a lot of advertisement," Scalora said. "It was basically a lot of us guys walking up to kids on campus wearing a lacrosse shirt and asking if they play. We already are starting to see good numbers for next year"



Southern men's club lacrosse team huddling together before taking the field.

PHOTO COURTESY | SEAN ANCHETA

Scalora said the club "thrives of new members." He said they normally see an influx of 20-30, members every year of mostly freshman with eight to 15 members returning from previous years.

"This year, we were fortunate enough to get nine returning," Scalora said. "That helped set the tone for the team this year."

Ziegler said the main thing the club can do is be proactive. He said the club has already starting reaching out to the incoming class and is planning on meeting students at Accepted Student's Day.

"Word of mouth is a huge aspect also," Ziegler said. "With a state school like Southern, a lot of students come from

the same town so they're sure to tell their friends."

The club is thinking of new ways to try to improve themselves as well. Right now, practices are currently Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. to midnight and Wednesday and Thursday nights from 9:30 to 11 p.m. with games played on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Scalora and Loricco said they would like to see the school make more of an effort to recognize the club in order to help improve and promote it.

"I think our biggest issue is our commitment from the school's point of view," Scalora said. "They have been good to us this year with giving us turf time and usage

of facilities, but it's hard to keep guys when they're coming out on a Wednesday night and be expected to wake up for an 8 a.m. class the next day."

Ziegler said he is looking forward to the club's future because the club has learned how to utilize their players the best.

"We learned who likes to run the ball, who likes to shoot, who wants the assist," Ziegler said. "Now that we know everyone's strengths, we can build on that for the rest of the season. I believe next year could be the year that Southern Lacrosse becomes something greater."

## Lynch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"Having a staff where we all played here is great. We have a lot of passion for the university and the basketball program," Hiriak said. "We bleed blue. I think it definitely helps when we're recruiting potential student-athletes. They can see the passion we have for the program and the great experiences we had as players and students."

Lynch said "everything is magnified and extra special" in the fact that she gets to be back, coaching, at her alma mater. She became the head coach for the women's basketball program in 2015, the same year Scott Burrell was named to succeed Mike Donnelly on the men's side.

"Finding some success this past year gave us that extra pride because it is our university; we did put on those uniforms. We work really hard so it's just extra special," Lynch said.

Lynch said, after this season, that it was "fun to see the joy and hard work" of the student-athletes. She said getting back to the national tournament was a goal they all had.

"It was our goal when we came in here," she said. "That was their goal specifically as a team and we knew they could do it. Just seeing them do that in those uniforms and us being able to coach them through that — that's why you coach; to see the joy and see them reach their goals and reach their potential."



SCSU women's basketball head coach Kate Lynch talking to her team during a timeout.

PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



## Dallas cans all-time leader in touchdown receptions

By Kevin Crompton

The Dallas Cowboys all-time leader in touchdown receptions — gone. Dez Bryant was cut from the Cowboys roster Friday April 13. I'm not sure if Dez is superstitious, but losing your job on that date must feel a bit eerie.

It should have come as no surprise to anyone who follows the Cowboys; however, it's still a disappointment nonetheless. To put it simply, Bryant has flat out failed to produce receiver one numbers.

When Dallas drafted the Oklahoma State receiver in 2010, he didn't post jaw-drop-

ping numbers, but the Cowboys knew they had an aggressive, big-bodied receiver who could high-point the football with the best of them. Fast-forward two years and Dez is in his prime. In 2012, Bryant had his first 1,000-yard plus season (1,382). The following year, he surpasses 1,000 yards for the second time and records a career high 93 receptions. Come 2014, Dez has himself what I believe to be his best season of his career. Eighty-eight receptions, 1,320 receiving yards and 16 touchdown receptions — a league high that season.

Post 2014 season, Jerry Jones and the Cowboys give Bryant a contract extension. Something

any organization would do after you lead the league in touchdown receptions. Tony Romo breaks his collar bone (twice) in 2015 and Bryant's numbers suffer drastically. Dez battled his own injuries only starting in nine games that season however, even when healthy, it was clear he was not the same receiver without Romo.

Next year, Romo goes down in preseason and Dak Prescott takes over. People will say what they want about Tony Romo and his lack of playoff wins, but Romo and Dez had impeccable on-field chemistry. Romo gave Dez opportunities and Dez was coming down with catches that seemed impossible. Dak

is first-class quarterback but he's a different quarterback than Romo. The friendship and respect for one another was there with Dak and Dez but the on-field chemistry was not even close to what Dez and Romo had. I would have liked to wait one more season to see if Dak and Dez could have figured things out but it's evident that Cowboys front office is not as patient as I am. They are moving in a new direction with Ezekiel Elliot and Prescott, and when you factor in the business end of things the Dallas Cowboys decision to cut their all-time receiver in touchdown grabs is justifiable.



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

## Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Junior Nick Lamberti at bat during a home game this season.

with a no-decision. In game two, the offense put up seven hits for their five runs but they allowed four errors in the field.

"We've been losing a lot of close games and we have to turn it around," redshirt junior Nick Lamberti said. "Time is running out and we know we're better than a lot of teams. We just have to stay positive and keep playing hard. It's not how you start but it's how you finish."

The team is currently 16-15 but just 1-5 in NE10 play. They returned to action today, starting a five-game homestand at The Ballpark, with Adelphi. This afternoon they take on 10-20 Queens College and over the weekend they will take on Le Moyne in a three-game set.

## Non-traditional sports are sports too



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Junior business administration major David Daniel lines up for a shot during a game of billiards in the Adanti Student Center recreational room.

By Kevin Crompton

SCSU junior and business administration major David Daniel chalks his pool stick, patiently visualizes his shot and then powerfully strikes the cue ball, colliding with the eight ball and sending it down the table before it drops safely into the corner pocket.

"Pool is definitely a sport," said Daniel in between shots while playing billiards in the Southern Adanti Student Center. "I guarantee a pool player can play basketball but a basketball player can't play pool."

According to the Oxford English Dictionary a sport is defined as an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment.

Junior Paul Duddie, a business management major at Southern, said that in order for something to be a sport there has to be some type of exercise involved.

"I think that [a sport] requires a certain level of mental toughness as well as physical toughness," said Duddie. "I don't know if [competitive gaming] is a sport, but there's certainly a lot of people who are making a lot of money off of it."

According to IGN, eSports — short for electronic sports — broke into the public eye when Major League Gaming was created in 2002. Over a decade later, MLG is more popular than ever with millions of viewers tuning into their live streams and also distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in prizes.

Daniel said he believes competitive gaming should be considered a sport because of the large payouts that are involved with it.

"There's competitions like Call of Duty where you can win money off of it," said Daniel. "If you can make money off of it then technically it is a sport."

Drew Marullo, assistant director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development for campus recreation at Southern, said that there are many sports outside of the "traditional sports."

"I think anything that is competitive in nature can be considered a sport where there's a winner and loser," said Marullo. "You have games like chess and checkers and these things are competitive with competitions and tournaments so I think things like that can be considered sport. I don't think a sport has to be active, it doesn't have to be a fitness based type of thing even

though that's traditionally what most of us know about, hear about, or have played in the past."

Marullo also said that although campus recreation's current club and intramural sports contain the more "traditional sports" such as basketball, football, softball, soccer and others, he thinks there is always a chance that a non-traditional sport can be added to what the organization offers to students.

"We've looked into other things in the past," said Marullo. "To think of some of the different games, electronic gaming, checkers, chess, things like that but we haven't had that any time recently."

Marullo said in order to add a new sport to campus recreation there has to be enough student interest to field teams and a playable league.

"An intramural sport is really just any type of activity we can have where there's a team based competition or an individual competition where people register for," said Marullo. "So anything we have interest for. We can kind of run anything we want based on student interest."

## Rugby

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"The old field was not very nice to play on but it was our field and we could use it pretty much whenever we needed so it'll hold a special place in my heart," Noah Fleischer-Cerino said.

The B-team, the Tropics, took on Eastern Connecticut State last week. They previously matched up against the Fairfield Yankees Rugby Football Club, in a joint effort with the New Haven Old Black Rugby Football Club, who compete in the Empire Rugby Union. They were established in 1986 and play at New Haven's Boulevard Field, a multi-purpose facility located on Ella T. Grasso Boulevard.

This week, the Black Attack will play in their Rugby Northeast league tournament. If they win that they will move on to nationals, otherwise their spring 2018 rugby sevens campaign will draw to a close. Their league includes Norwich, Middlebury,

Bentley, Roger Williams, Stonehill, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Providence, Bryant and Saint Michael's.

"We're just looking to compete at a high level and bring home another RNE championship trophy," Fleischer-Cerino said.

Last year they won the tournament and finished third in the USA Rugby National Division II College Sevens Tournament. In the fall, the team will return to 15s play, where they finished second in the conference in 2017.

"The main focus for this team will always be getting to nationals and we will always be capable of that," Croll, who's also the club's vice president, said, "people thought we weren't going to last year and look at how that turned out."



PHOTO | JEREMY ESTRELLA

Senior Noah Fletcher-Cerino tackling the University of Hartford ball carrier.



# SCSU Sevens Rugby Invitational



Senior Niko Stefanatos reaching to tackle the ball carrier against.

PHOTO COURTESY | JEREMY ESTRELLA



Freshman Pierce Piana running with the ball.

PHOTO COURTESY | JEREMY ESTRELLA



Junior Palmer Piana passing the ball to senior Nick Stefanatos.

PHOTO COURTESY | JEREMY ESTRELLA



Sein Greinier fighting being tackled by an Eddicott defender.

PHOTO COURTESY | JEREMY ESTRELLA

## Northeast-10 Standings

### BASEBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISON</b>						
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	13	8-5-0	0.615	32	20-12-0	0.625
ASSUMPTION	16	9-6-1	0.594	33	15-17-1	0.470
BENTLEY	12	9-3-0	0.750	27	15-12-0	0.556
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	10-4-0	0.714	31	20-10-1	0.661
STONEHILL	14	5-9-0	0.357	27	12-15-0	0.444
MERRIMACK	16	8-8-0	0.500	29	15-14-0	0.517
SAINT ANSELM	13	3-10-0	0.231	26	9-17-0	0.346
SAINT MICHAEL'S	11	1-10-0	0.091	26	5-21-0	0.192
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISON</b>						
LE MOYNE	13	10-2-1	0.808	33	24-8-1	0.742
PACE	15	8-7-0	0.533	26	14-11-1	0.558
NEW HAVEN	15	9-6-0	0.600	30	24-6-0	0.800
SAINT ROSE	12	5-7-0	0.417	27	12-15-0	0.444
AMERICAN INT'L	16	5-11-0	0.313	33	14-19-0	0.424
ADELPHI	14	7-7-0	0.500	30	16-13-1	0.550
SO. CONNECTICUT	10	4-6-0	0.400	31	16-15-0	0.516

### SOFTBALL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
<b>NORTHEAST DIVISON</b>						
SAINT ANSELM	17	13-3-1	0.794	36	26-9-1	0.736
MERRIMACK	16	11-5-0	0.688	32	24-8-0	0.750
ASSUMPTION	11	7-4-0	0.636	21	12-9-0	0.571
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	16	11-5-0	0.688	36	28-8-0	0.778
STONEHILL	17	6-11-0	0.353	27	7-20-0	0.259
BENTLEY	18	6-12-0	0.333	31	9-22-0	0.290
SAINT MICHAEL'S	12	3-9-0	0.250	22	6-16-0	0.273
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	4-10-0	0.286	24	7-17-0	0.292
<b>SOUTHWEST DIVISON</b>						
LE MOYNE	16	11-5-0	0.688	34	26-8-0	0.765
ADELPHI	17	11-5-1	0.676	37	20-16-1	0.554
PACE	18	11-7-0	0.611	30	14-16-0	0.467
SAINT ROSE	11	6-5-0	0.545	26	11-15-0	0.423
NEW HAVEN	16	7-9-0	0.438	33	16-17-0	0.485
SO. CONNECTICUT	16	4-12-0	0.250	29	6-23-0	0.207
AMERICAN INT'L	13	2-11-0	0.154	29	4-25-0	0.138



# OPINIONS

## SNews views

# PRIVILEGE, BUSINESS PROSPECTS AND POT

Southern News staff editorial

Legalization of marijuana in Connecticut is not a matter of how, but when. With neighboring Massachusetts set to open up their first legal dispensaries within the year, the nutmeg state will possibly follow suit.

However, many questions are raised when the idea of recreational marijuana is brought up, and understandably so. It is a relatively misunderstood substance still, considering it is a Schedule I drug, meaning it is in the same class as heroin. Though there are psychoactive properties of marijuana, it is not believed to have physically addictive qualities, like alcohol, which is already legal.

By legalizing marijuana, it would be heavily taxed which would be good for the state's revenue. It would also create new businesses and jobs not only in regards to the growing operations themselves but warehouse spaces and equipment needed. The economic boom that would result from legalizing and regulating marijuana would set the state up for the coming years to be more financially stable.

According to CNN, legal marijuana is a \$6.6 billion industry, with seven in 10 dollars going for medical marijuana and three in 10 for recreational. New Frontier Data projects that the industry will quadruple over the next decade.

USA Today predicted that Connecticut is one of the next 15 states that will legalize recreational marijuana, citing that possession has already been decriminalized and that Democratic law makers included a plan to tax and regulate marijuana in their 2017 budget proposal.

With all that being said, Pew Research found that about 61 percent of Americans say the use of marijuana should be legalized. That number was only 31 percent in 2000.

On April 5, the Joint Committee on Appropriations voted 27-24 to advance a bill that would make adult use of marijuana legal and regulated. A Sacred Heart poll found that 71 percent of Connecticut residents support regulating and taxing marijuana for adults' use.

If Connecticut does not legalize legal marijuana, by the time that Vermont and Massachusetts for example open their dispensaries, Connecticut residents will be travelling out of state and considering Connecticut does not have toll booths, that leaves a lot of revenue not going to the state but instead going to our neighbors.

The bill, No. 5458, would make it legal for people over the age of 21 to purchase up to an ounce of marijuana at a retailer where they would be able to consume or smoke on-site, as well as allow them to grow up to six plants for personal use.

Legalization in Connecticut has pros and cons. On the pro side, it would bring more money into the state and create a new job market that would boost the economy. Also, with it being regulated it would ultimately be safer and its



PHOTO COURTESY | MARTIN ALONSO

A person smoking marijuana.

quality would be more consistent.

On the con side, there is the idea of accessibility and it falling into the wrong hands, perhaps those of minors or individuals for whom consuming marijuana is dangerous, such as household pets and other animals. Also, when it comes to driving while drunk, there is a simple and quick way to measure how intoxicated someone is and whether or not they are within the limits of the law. With marijuana, however, there is no Breathalyzer test or way to see how much is in the person's system. That could be an issue that would be difficult to solve and even states that have had legal marijuana for a few years have not come up with reliable technology for the risks of driving while high.

It could be said that the legalization of recreational marijuana use in the state of Connecticut would be followed by a greater understanding of how to contain the drug. Continuing the comparison to alcohol, with more industrialization of the drug, THC content could be monitored, controlled and labelled. Imagine the way proof is controlled by the manufacturer, and labelled on the packaging. Individuals that chose to use the drug recreationally would at least start with a basic understanding of how intensely it will affect them.

In addition, consider the way a Surgeon General warning would deter, at least at face value, a consumer. If being able to warn consumers at first sight about whether there are ill effects from ingesting the substance would even stop one individual from doing something harmful to themselves, it could be argued that use would become safer than it is today.

Continuing the state-by-state pattern could create a wave of knowledge, and research. If enough states legalize recreational use of marijuana, Americans could argue for further research to be conducted by the FDA. The more people know about the drug, the more safely it could be used.

Legalizing marijuana will also set a precedent considering the substance has led to the imprisonment of many, primarily black people. According to the ACLU, despite roughly equal usage rates, black people are 3.73 more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people.

Drug Policy reported that nearly 80 percent of people in federal prison and almost 60 percent of people in state prison for drug offenses are black or Latino. It also found that prosecutors are twice as likely to pursue a mandatory minimum sentence for black people as for white people charged with the same offense.

Ultimately, with the track that Connecticut is on, we could see legalization either this year or the next. The state already has multiple growers so it would just create an increased demand and considering the state is full of farmland and open spaces, there is a wealth of space to open up facilities for growing marijuana as well as retailers and dispensaries. There is also the opportunity for growing hemp which can be used for food, textiles, medicine and energy.



PHOTO COURTESY | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A piece of a marijuana plant.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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



# PHOTO

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## Southern hosts fair for Student Appreciation Day

By Palmer Piana



Students riding the swing ride in lot 3 during the Student Appreciation Day fair.



Taco truck giving out food to students on Thursday afternoon for Student Appreciation Day.



Davonna Best, a freshman psychology major, taking a swing at the "High Striker".



Students smiling as they ride the Sizzler.



Two students stepping up to play a carnival game.