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Day of Action for Public Higher Education

Provost finalists selected

By Alex Palmeri

The new provost of the school should be a leader and one that all students and faculty can relate to, said Trace Malone. “I think the finalists are all a good fit,” said Malone, a junior international business major. “I am pretty excited to see who it’s going to be.”

The process for the new provost to be selected is a major process. Craig Hlavac, chairperson of the provost search committee, said there has been an extensive process to get the finalists to becoming the newest provost. There are three finalists: Graham Glynn, Robert Prezant and Scott Furlong.

“It’s a fairly long process that the campus has seen unfold since we announced the search earlier this year,” said Hlavac. “The committee and President decided on what attributes we were looking for in the provost which was informed by the campus community.”

Hlavac said there have been several open forums to inform the committee on what the campus is looking for in search of the new provost. There has also been website involvement for faculty and staff where they could submit feedback in terms of what they are looking for within the next provost.

“We put together an advertisement on attributes of what the next provost should be,” said Hlavac. “That’s what guided the decision making towards the finalists.”

Hlavac said interviews for each candidate took about 90 minutes with the committee. Each candidate also met with the president of Southern for roughly 30 minutes.

“After that process,” said Hlavac, “we had a pretty lengthy discussion about strengths and weaknesses of who we thought were the best candidates. From that, we decided on the set of finalists.”

The initial timeline for the new provost to be chosen is March 1. Hlavac said from here on out, the finalists will come to campus for a day and a half each to meet with the community.



PHOTO | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Several colleges gathered and participated to defend educational funding at the rally.

Students and faculty of Southern rallied against education defunding in the Day of Action for Public Education in Hartford, CT.

By Adrianna Rochester

The Day of Action for Public Higher Education—sponsored by the Congress of Community Colleges, UCONN-AAUP and the CSU-AAUP took place on Thursday, January 26. The goal of this union was to rally against the “long-term trend of education defunding” and spending cuts that result in

tuition increase.

Professor Julian Madison of Southern Connecticut State University said he is a member and supporter of the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors (CSU-AAUP).

“Budget cuts for education is a huge problem and most legislatures don’t know what’s going on in a college,” he said. “There’s this impression that

the college climate doesn’t change, but that’s wrong.”

The goal of the rally and the union of the CSUs was to meet with the state’s legislatures along with students to advocate for their education. According to Madison, budget cuts force tuition to increase. Due to an increase in tuition, students cannot afford to attend college, there is a cut in faculty, and it ultimately

takes away from the quality of education for students.

“Education always gets cut first, which doesn’t make sense to me because the students are the future,” he said. “We should be investing in them.”

At the same time, Madison acknowledged the fact that politicians do not listen if people do not vote, so he urged the importance for students to be active and be

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Buley Library updates online search catalog

By Alex Palmeri

The purpose of the new library system is to facilitate collaboration throughout the entire CSCU system, including all the community colleges, the universities and the state library, said Cindy Schofield.

“We are all now on the same library system,” said Schofield, librarian in the Buley Library. “The universities and colleges joined together around two years ago and formed the new Board of Regents. The universities and colleges were separate systems.”

Schofield said the colleges had a library product that they all used, but it was not all linked together. They all used the product, but they were each separate installations. When the colleges and universities joined together and formed the CSCU system, Schofield said the library directors began meeting.

“What they realized was our system was going to expire within the year and the vendor was going to stop supporting it,” said Schofield. “The colleges company was also going to stop supporting the company they use.”

Since everyone was on the verge of needing to buy new systems, Schofield said the library directors decided to collaborate and seek fundings from the

Board of Regents. The decision was to link all of the colleges and universities system together in terms of the libraries.

With all of the libraries now linked together, Schofield said if a student is in need of a book, they can now ask all colleges within the state including community colleges, not just the universities.

“You would go through the catalog,” said Schofield, “and choose just Southern, or you can choose the system. If there’s a book that Southern doesn’t have, that you want, and it’s at Housatonic, you can also get it.”

Sue Clerc, electronic resources coordinator and reference librarian, said the new update just started on Jan. 9 and people are still trying to figure it out.

“We’re still getting used to it,” said Clerc. “There’s still some bugs to be worked at because it is shared with all 17 institutions, not just the CSU’s but also the community colleges.”

Clerc said when the CSU’s and the community colleges merged, one of the biggest initiatives was that all of the colleges would be in the same system. Because of this, Clerc said books can now be requested not only through other

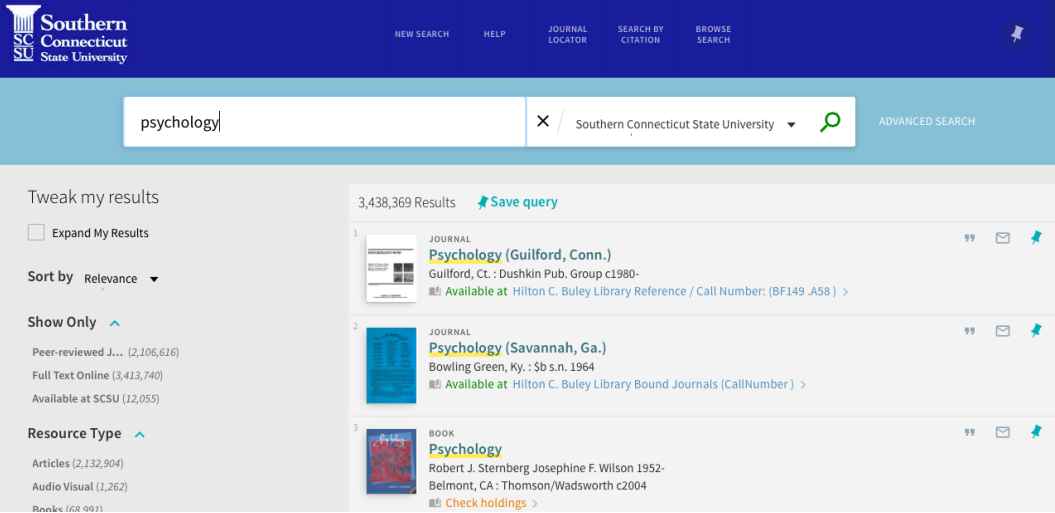


PHOTO | JENIECE ROMAN

The Buley Library’s new catalog allows students to search for resources.

universities, but also community colleges. Other schools can also request books from Southern if needed.

Though it is a new system and one that Clerc said everyone needs to get used to, she said it can benefit everyone because all of the colleges are linked together. Because of this, it is easier to access other schools and request books from them. All 17 colleges are now linked

together and Clerc said that is a good step into the right direction.

“It’s all one system,” said Clerc. “It makes it easier to be able to communicate with the others. I would say at this point though, if you’re an experienced researcher and you’ve used the databases before, it’s easier to find things.”

Southern Police establish citizen police academy

By Alex Palmeri

Chief Joseph Dooley said he wants people who participate in the citizen police academy to get a better understanding of what police do on a regular basis.

“It’s kind of a two-way street,” said Dooley. “This is our fifth year. It’s been very successful and those that have gone through it have enjoyed it.”

Dooley said the academy starts with an overview of the department, and teaching how people in the field get the authority is something they tell the participants. He said there are over 100 police departments in Connecticut and being a full service agency, it gives everyone who participates a good overview.

“I think it gives a better idea of the scope of our duties,” said Dooley. “It also gives an overview. Each class is a building block towards the next.”

The first class of the seven week program starts Feb. 22 and participants will meet from 4:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays. Dooley said during this time, they will go over the origins of the police department and get into the patrol aspect of things as well. He said he wants everyone that participates to understand what it is that police do.

“Our core mission is patrol, keeping this campus safe,” said Dooley. “We’ll show the different ways we do it.”

The program is intended for people to see what it is police do on a day-to-day basis. Jordan Walker, junior business economics major, said the program is good for the Southern community to be able to see what police go through. With all the headlines in the news lately about police brutality, he said this can be a good time for people to appreciate what police do.

“I think it’s helpful for people to see things through a different lens,” said Walker. “In this case from police officer perspectives.”

Walker said this can help the community know everyone here is being protected and there are good people looking out for Southern on a regular basis. Although there have been certain instances within the news, he said police officers do care about the general public.

“I think police officers have to go through a good amount of training to use the gadgets and accessories that they have,” said Walker. “So it’s probably a good thing that people know that officers aren’t just doing what they do without any training. It’s good for our community.”

Phillip Pessina, deputy chief, said all the police relations with the Southern community is of the utmost importance to him. What he has seen since the program was established was positive feedback from

students and faculty.

“To understand what we do as a police department, is to protect the campus and keep it safe,”said Pessina.

For students, faculty and staff, Pessina said to see what is actually done on a regular basis can make a lot of people’s opinions change. He said it can clarify everyone’s mind that they are on high visibility on campus and they are there to protect everyone.

“Students, faculty, staff who go to the academy,” said Pessina, “they understand that it’s not just the officer riding around, but they’re doing something.”

Cindy Torres, a detective at the Southern police department, was the one who has coordinated the program the past four years. She said it is a great opportunity to see police work first hand.

“What I’ve learned through the years,” said Torres, “is people want a lot of hands on things. There is a lot that we can do with hands on.”

Torres said this is a great opportunity for anyone on campus and it can be a great experience.

“You can see the videos on YouTube,” said Torres, “but until you actually see it happening, is when you get a better understanding of what we do.”

Sociology Club hosts drive to help homeless women

By Adrianna Rochester

In Connecticut, 51 percent of jobs pay less than 20 dollars per hour and 37 percent of families in Connecticut are close to experiencing homelessness, according to the United Way.

Many of these households earn more than the federal poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living in the state, which causes them to struggle to provide the basic necessities of food, comfort and shelter for their families.

“In cities like New Haven where the percent of homeless families has increased, it’s important to give back to the community in any way possible,” Kathryn Bagley president of the sociology club, said.

Last semester the sociology club had their first feminine hygiene drive, collecting items such as pads, tampons and other female hygienic products to donate to the Columbus House in New Haven.

This year the club kicked off the start of the semester with a second drive, dedicated to collecting feminine hygiene products again.

According to Bagley, the club will send their collections to the Columbus House again. Unfortunately they were unavailable to comment. However, she said the reason the club decided to focus their donations on items such as these was because they are expensive to buy and they are basic and necessities for females.

Bagley said, “People don’t always think about the needs of the homeless, but every little [bit] counts.”

She said any homeless shelter is always thankful to receive any forms of donation or even volunteer help and plans to have another drive in February.

Outside of campus, places like New Reach homeless shelter has been playing their role to help the homeless families in New Haven since 1990, said Mary Grande of New Reach.

New Reach is a “length of stay” homeless shelter that houses 33 families and 18 single women, she said.

To even begin to touch the surface of decreasing the number of homeless families there are in the city, Grande said there needs to be better social services, more affordable housing, better paying jobs, education and so much more.

“Most people are homeless due to economic reasons,” said Grande.

In New Haven, she said in order to afford the “average two-bedroom fair market value rental apartment one has to make 25 dollars per hour.”

“People want to live in New Haven, especially college grads, so the city then starts to become more gentrified,” Grande said.

It is all about supply and demand, she said, but driving up the costs it only makes it harder for the individuals who are already living in the areas who do not make enough in wages.

At New Reach the shelter helps families affected by homelessness and poverty by offering support and services to help regain their independency, Grande said.

“Homelessness is also an issue of health care because the families can’t obtain the basic necessities, such as food, clothes, shelter and more,” she said.

Grande stressed the importance of others to help out their community and to dig deeper on the issues of homelessness.

Day of Action

Continued from page 1

Cindy Stretch, an English professor at SCSU, said this was the first time the union came together, but the fight for public education has been going on for many years.

“The speaker at the rally said it was a feel good day and I agree,” she said. “There were a lot of students from Southern—we filled a bus and a half.”

Stretch said she hopes the efforts that were put forth at the rally is brought back to everyone’s individual college campuses.

“All the students know the struggle and know what needs to be done and the rally showed that,” she said.

John O’Connor of Central Connecticut State University said this rally was a trial, but after seeing how well it went, he hopes to unite together for another rally in the near future.

“The union has to be together and students have to organize if we want to see any changes,” O’Connor said.

“We have to educate people on what budget cuts do to the community and get students to protect their own education because no else will,” he said. “Sometimes that means stepping out of one’s comfort zone to get the job done.”

O’Connor said everyone left the rally feeling hopeful. However, that does not mean the work is done. He said now everyone can go back to their campus and continue to further the efforts to save public education funding.



PHOTO | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Students and faculty from the various Connecticut State Universities rallied against budget cuts for public higher education.

Provost

Continued from page 1

On the Southern website, students and faculty can see the schedule of each candidate as it pertains to them being on campus and meeting with the community.

“The provost is the chief academic officer for the institution,” said Hlavac. “My goal as chair of this committee was to make this search as inclusive and transparent as possible.”

With the search being as intense at it is, Malone said he understands it is a long process, but he knows Southern will make the right choice. He said he is looking for someone who he is not afraid to go to if he ever comes

across a problem he may have with the university.

In all, Malone said he wants the provost to be one who he can connect with on a personal level and to not be scared to go up to him during the day if he wants to.

“When it comes to the provost,” said Malone, “I look for someone who will listen to the needs of the students and who will actually make many changes as he possibly can to help benefit the lives of us students.”

New courses at Southern being offered this semester

By Emily Plavcan

A number of new classes are being offered here at Southern during the spring semester. One of the new classes is being taught by our school’s President, Joe Bertolino.

Recreation and Leisure 120: Leadership Development, is a class that President Bertolino has been teaching for the past ten years at other schools and he wanted to bring it here to Southern.

President Bertolino said, “It’s very important for me to get into the classroom as President of the university, you know, it’s one way to connect with students.” He goes on to say that the class will help with leadership skills: “Essentially it’s a fundamentals of leadership class so we’ll be exploring, it’s a pretty um interactive class, so we’ll be exploring different types of leadership, leadership styles, those kind of things.”

President Bertolino says the class is about building relationships to help with leadership skills: “It centers on relationships, building relationships, building effective relationships, in order to lead properly.”



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

Professor Troy Rondinone (right) co-teaches with Professor Jeremy Chandler, the Advance Special Topics course, Conspiracy Theories

Another new class being offered for the first time is History 398: Conspiracy Theories: America. There are two professors for this class, Professor Troy Rondinone, a history professor, and Professor Jeremy Chandler, who is a photography professor.

Professor Rondinone explained this class as, “Why conspiracy theories are so popular, what they mean, and what sorts of thinking goes into them.” Professor Rondinone explained how conspiracy theories have been around for a long time.

He says that these conspiracy theories are found all over the place, “Americans have found conspiracies in everything from the Mansons and the Illuminati to international bankers, the CIA, and shadowy elites whose identity changes with regularity.” Professor Rondinone said, “Professor Chandler will be helping students interpret and even learn how to take photographic images, which often play a big part in the building of conspiracies.”

The class, according to Professor Rondinone, will help students understand conspiracies and why they occur.

Rape Aggression Defense program offered at Southern

By Natalie Accardi

Dawn Stanton-Holmes said she became an instructor for the Rape Aggression Defense System program to empower women, prior to joining she had years of formal martial arts training.

“Oftentimes, as women we’re taught to be nurturing and loving and sort of submissive,” said Stanton-Holmes, coordinator of the Southern Education Opportunity program. “It’s not that all of that is necessarily bad, but there are times in life where you need to be aggressive.”

Officer Abbey Pantani, coordinator of the RAD program, said the course does not teach martial arts but it does teach practical self-defense techniques. The course is open to students, faculty, and staff. It is free and Southern only offers it for women currently because the cross training sessions are often far away and costly. Stanton-Holmes said she encourages men who show interest in RAD to join the karate club. Southern also offers Club Taekwondo.

A large portion of RAD is educational. The course starts by teaching awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance. Pantani said she wants to emphasize that the person attacked is never at fault. The course then

teaches practical self-defense techniques. The last day of the course is a controlled simulation. The instructors put on the RedMan training suit and allow the women to employ the techniques they learned on them. The nationally certified instructors give the women a reference manual as an additional aid.

According to Pantani, they try to offer RAD as often as they can throughout the year, but it is difficult to acquire space for the course. There are typically four sessions which are 3 hours each and at the end of the training, the women become certified. The course schedule for the spring semester is: Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 27 and March 6 from 7-10 p.m.

Pantani said the anonymity of the women is important because the whole point is the element of surprise. If someone is going to be attacked, the attacker is not supposed to know that the person is self-defense trained.

RAD is for all women. Pantani said she wants women to take the course because it teaches a great life skill.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re athletic. It doesn’t matter what your background is,” said Pantani. “They’re easy techniques that you can remember and that you can use if you’re ever a victim of an attack.”

Stanton-Holmes said she wants women to take the course because it is a safety measure.

“We hope that we’ll never be a victim and we’ll never have to use any form of self-defense that may harm

another person, but the point is is that just in case we do, we really need to have some basic knowledge,” said Stanton-Holmes. “It could be lifesaving.”

Melissa Kissi, a sexual assault and violence prevention specialist, said RAD is one component of the way Southern tackles the issue of assault. Kissi is a specialist for the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center.

“That [RAD] is not something to focus on solely,” said Kissi, “as the blame is on the attacker.”

Stanton-Holmes said she believes that every woman should have some basic knowledge of how to use her body and her voice.

“As a woman, I’ve been vulnerable. I’ve walked and had men catcall me,” Stanton-Holmes said. “I’ve been in situations where your instincts sort of get ignited.”

According to report published on Sept. 21, 2015 by the Association of American Universities, 23 percent of female college students said they have experienced unwanted sexual contact.

Pantani said she became an instructor because she took the class as a student at the college and she noticed a change in those who took the course.

“It empowers me as an officer, as a woman, as a mother, as a friend,” said Pantani. “You can tell how empowering it was to the students and how they changed their mindset and how they became stronger.”

Southern to offer paid summer research internship

By Alex Palmeri

The summer research program takes away the academic grade that professors would give and allows students to focus on lab and techniques, Elizabeth Roberts said.

“There are lots of different skills you can learn,” said Roberts, biology professor at Southern. “We will place people based off their skills, but hopefully everyone will learn something.”

SCSU is offering a new paid internship program. It is located in Schwartz Hall and it is for students who live on campus. The university and the Connecticut Agricultural Station is providing this internship and it is one that has never been granted by the university before.

Roberts said whoever is in the program will be in an environment that can prepare those chosen for other internships that require experience.

“There are lots of different skills you can learn,” said Roberts. “It will be plant biology based including analytical chemistry, chemistry and biochemistry.”

As a student, Roberts said she had this experience in college. She worked with a facility in a lab and learned a lot of new techniques. Because of this experience, Roberts said she wanted to have it on Southern’s campus as well.

Rebecca Silady, a biology professor at Southern, said the program will consist of 10 students, one per lab. The internship will be for 9 weeks and 40 hours a week. Silady said they will be going to local farms and biotech companies in attempt to communicate about science.

“Different labs will have different settings,” said Silady. “It will be a good experience for students.”

The requirements of applying for this paid internship over the summer are to have completed two semesters of college as a chemistry or biology major, a resume, personal statements and a letter of recommendation.

This internship can serve as a major stepping stool for students pursuing the field of biology or chemistry. It will be a good learning experience for those students who are chosen to go, and they can learn a lot about what their major will entail for their future jobs.

Nicole Woosley, junior biology major, said she wants to take part in the internship because she said research projects look good on resumes. Woosley said she wants to go to vet school and wants people she works for to know she has experience in research. Though it may not be required, she said it is a good step in the right direction.

“I really want this,” said Woosley. “Some things we might do field research outside and collect samples and bring them back to campus.”

John Paul Devegilia, a senior biology major, said he is



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

The exterior of the Academic Science and Laboratory Building.

excited to see what this internship is about. He said any form of experience and getting involved outside of the classroom is a very good opportunity for all students.

“I’m very interested,” said Devegilia. “I want to know more about what it will entail. I’m expecting whichever professors that are involved, we will be assisting in their research.”



PHOTO | MELISSA NUNEZ

Humans of SCSU: Samantha Gudis

By Melissa Nunez

Samantha Gudis, a freshman communications major, said she discovered her profound love for music as a young high schooler. She said music was an artform that took what she was feeling and turned it into something tangible, it quickly became something she wanted to incorporate into her daily life.

Gudis said she had always aspired to be a DJ but when she went to the Friendly music festival last semester, that was when she had an “aha” moment. Although she was not completely sure why this particular show was different from the countless others she had attended, it was a surreal moment, one that made her realize how she wanted to be an intricate part of planning these shows for bands and labels, so she concentrated her studies in promotion and advertising.

Gudis said she is always looking for concerts and festivals to promote on her radio show, the Gud Tune-skis, featured on WSIN, Tuesdays at 8 p.m. She added that she regularly attends concerts throughout the year and attends at least one festival per year.

Gudis said the atmosphere at festivals and concerts are different because fests are a gathering of bands, so fans of all different kinds find themselves mingling in the same crowds, while concerts feature one or two bands, so the crowds are targeted to a specific audience. She added since bands surround music goers at festivals, it could quickly turn to a hectic experience.

Regardless, Gudis said she cannot get enough of the concert experience: how streams of people from all walks of life share one common thread, or how the warmth beaming off of the stage lights is a sensation unlike any other, or how bands breath new life into their songs on stage, often switching up their tracks in unexpected ways.

Gudis said music also provides positivity in otherwise turbulent times, such as the songs released in protest during the Vietnam War, which is reminiscent of “Our First 100 Days.” She said bands such as PWR BTM and Twin Peaks are releasing new music in protest of the new administration during its first 100 days.

According to Our First 100 Days website, a minimum subscription of 30 dollars will get listeners free reign with exclusive music being released by bands like “Angel Olsen, How To Dress Well, Toro Y Moi, The Range,” and all donations will fund organizations likely to be affected by Donald Trump’s presidency, organizations supporting “climate, women’s rights, immigration and fairness.”

Gudis said the as world becomes a more alarming place, she reminds her peers how music provides an escape, the impact a good pair of headphones can make, and also to live “friendly,” encouraging people to focus on one another rather than just themselves, or the “I.”



PHOTO COURTESY | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

A look into the inauguration

Donald Trump supporters, such as Tampa, Florida resident, Jason Youse, flocked to the National Mall to see Donald Trump officially take office.

By Josh LaBella

Depending on who you ask the presidential inauguration went off without a hitch.

In Washington D.C. tens of thousands of supporters flocked the National Mall to watch the ceremony take place. One such supporter was Sandra Edwards from Wytheville, Virginia.

“I think he’s gonna rock it big time,” said Edwards. “He will bring back structure, laws and accountability.”

Edwards said it was exciting to have a president who is interested in what his citizens think. She also said that she liked Trump’s use of Twitter to communicate directly with the people.

Ray Leid traveled from Lancaster, Pennsylvania to



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Sandra Edwards from Witheville, Virginia.

attend the inauguration. He said he had never gone to one before but he was happy that he got to be a part of history. He said President Trump spoke with confidence and that the speech went very well.

“I look forward to getting back to constitutional freedom,” said Leid.

Beth Dugan from Alexandria, Virginia, also attended the event. She said the inauguration was a nice experience but that she was not as pessimistic as Trump was in his speech. She said the United States should be wary of rushing towards isolationism and that we needed to understand how globalization can affect our economy. She said she was ready for Trump to begin working for the American people.

“I am hopeful,” she said. “We need to focus on rebuilding the infrastructure of our country.”

Jason Youse, a Tampa, Florida resident, thought the event went great. He said it was just like the rest of Trump’s campaign, fun and inspiring. He had been to other Trump rallies and enjoyed seeing the passion the

President could draw from the crowds.

“I look forward to people without a voice finally getting a voice,” Youse said.

Ed Smith, a Florida native, said he was a big Trump supporter before he even ran for office. He said Trump is someone who will do what the people want. Smith was very excited after the ceremony was over and considered the day a victory for the United States.

“It was absolute success top to bottom, Smith said. “You can feel his unity, everyone is American.”

President Trump said that he would work hard to unify the United States. Throughout his speech he said his goal was to build a safer and more prosperous America.

“We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people,” said Trump. “Together we will determine the course of America and the world for many, many years to come.”

Not everyone was excited to be at the inauguration. There were thousands of protesters both on the National Mall and in the surrounding streets. One such protester was Steve Drain, a member of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas. He and other members were there to protest the inauguration of President Trump.

“We are here to inject truth into this orgy of lies,” Drain said. He said that the greatness of the leader is measured by how close they are to God’s law and according to them Trump is nowhere close to living by God’s law.



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Steve Drain from Topeka, Kansas.

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SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisors: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southern.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
Student Center Room 225
New Haven, CT 06515

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Josh Falcone
Dylan Haviland

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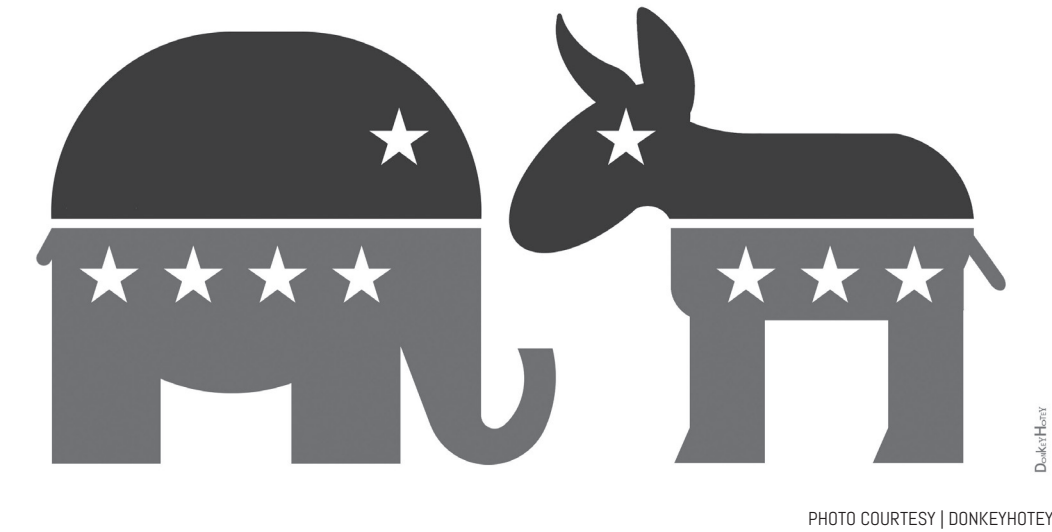
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SCSU Republicans and Democrats weigh in on Donald Trump

By Adrianna Rochester

Now that Donald Trump is officially the 45th president of the United States, he has left many Americans wondering what some of his first executive actions will be as our new Commander in Chief. Political science professor and advisor to the College Republicans and Democrats, Jonathan Wharton, said he always told people not to count Trump out during his presidential campaign, which is why the results of the election did not surprise him. “I’ve been working in politics for years and although people thought Hillary Clinton had it in the bag, you just never know with politics,” Wharton said. The only thing that has surprised Wharton thus far, was Trump’s aggression on Twitter. He said, it seems Trump will be using the social media outlet to make his presidential announcements. “I am curious to see what regulation he will pass for businesses in the private sector,” said Wharton. However, regardless of what reforms come about under the Trump administration, Wharton said the nation will not see the effects of it immediately—it will take a

few years to truly see how these reforms affect the people. Ty Seymour, president of the College Republicans, said looking back no one would imagine we would be here, but it will be interesting to see how the next four years will turn out. “Everything is unpredictable right now,” Seymour said. “The political climate has entered uncharted waters.” Seymour said he remembered the day Trump announced he was running, he was in Washington D.C., he laughed it off, and though he agrees with some of his policies, he rejected the idea of Trump being the president. “It’s hard for the party to control that presidency,” Seymour said. Seymour said, he is more concerned with the state the nation and the world, especially when it comes to foreign policies. “I accepted Trump as a nominee towards the end of the elections, and even though, I don’t actively support him, I do support the office of the president,” Seymour said. Corey Evans, president of the College Democrats, said the entire election was predictably messy. “He shot from the hip,” Evans said. “His lack of preparation showed in the elections



and there was too much controversy.” In terms of change, Evans said he thinks any reform will cause conflict between the Trump administration and the American people. For example, issues Trump has strongly spoken out against, such as Obamacare and abortion has already caused conflict. “I question if he will still follow through on everything he said he was going to do,” Evans said. Even though, Evans said he was surprised by the election results, Trump’s win opens the doors for other

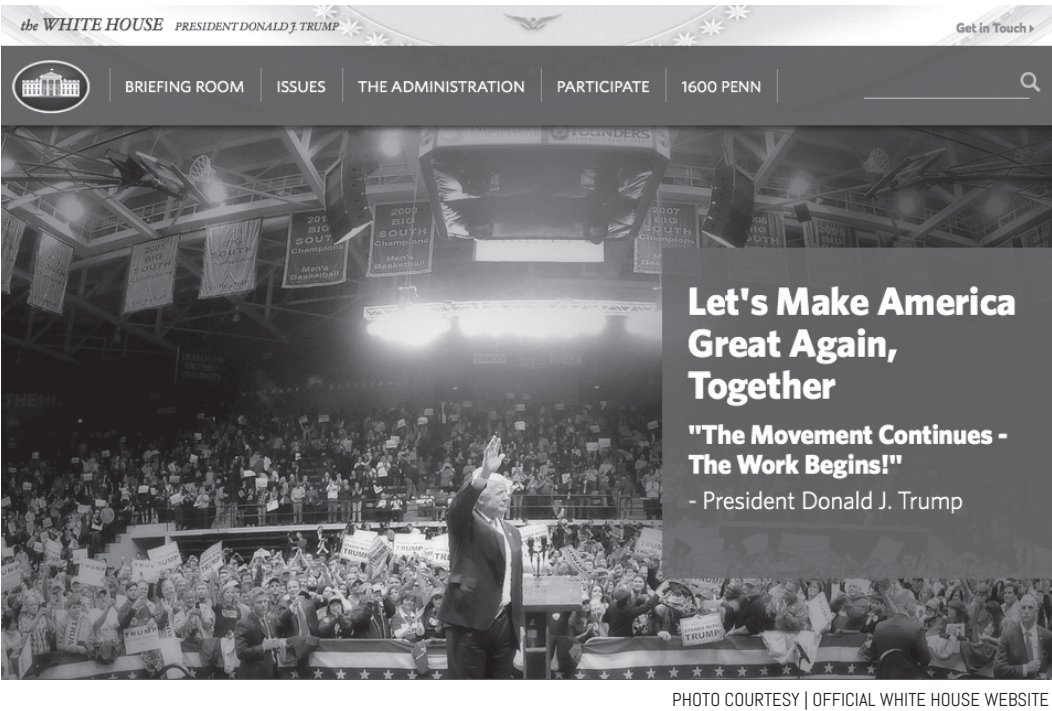
types of candidates other than the typical politician we normally see. “I think both parties are struggling for some kind of power,” said Evans, “and with the Republicans gaining control much of what Obama did can and/or will be undone.” On the other hand, Evans said activism has been increasing. People have been putting in the effort to conduct movements, so anything the people do not agree with, the Republicans will know.

A new administration means a new White House webpage

By Lynandro Simmons

Shortly after the inauguration of President Donald Trump the White House’s webpage went through some major changes. Noticeably the page about climate change was removed as well as any mention of LGBT rights that were there beforehand. “I think the changes show the focus of the administration,” said Victoria Zho, a freshman pre-nursing major. Zho said she was shocked climate change was removed despite the overwhelming evidence that proved it existed. She also did not understand why the LGBT rights page was removed as well. “He doesn’t care about the LGBT group,” Zho said. “I think it’s all just ridiculous.” Zho said that the changes of the White House web page should not be downplayed. She said that when people view the site it represents what the ideals are for the president and for someone on the outside looking in could mistakenly represent America’s ideals. Zho said that the media is also doing more harm with the constant criticism of every move Trump makes. “I feel that media can be biased,” Zho said. “They saw people viewing him as a monster and they started making a big deal out of everything.” Zho said the White House web changes and Trump are not even the things that scare her the most. Instead, she looks at the large amount of support he has gotten from people within America. “There’s people who really thinks what he says and does is okay,” Zho said. A new CNN ORC poll, said that Trump’s approval rating was 40 percent, the lowest of any recent president and 44 points below that of former President Barack Obama. Jennifer Hopper, a professor in American government, said dramatic shifts in a new presidency are common. “Every time a new president comes in, a new set of policies are put in place,” said Hopper. The White House website can be used to reflect these policies and the president’s views, Hopper said. The same thing also happened between Bush and Obama, said Hopper. Shifting between two parties can cause an overall shift in the focus of the government. However, Hopper said that the transition to the Trump presidency has gotten a lot of coverage because of how much of an unusual case it is. Hopper also said it was odd for the White House to have taken down the Spanish content on the site because it is

not a policy position. She said the controversy around the White House web page also showed how the transitions between presidents are becoming worse—flipping back and forth between parties so suddenly could be a reason for the transition in presidents not running as smooth. “We’ve gone from Clinton to Bush to Obama to Trump,” said Hopper. People are also strongly committed to their parties so when the opposition wins it can seem dire, Hopper said. Despite the issues in the two-party system of America, she said there was not necessarily a better political system to help smoothen out the transitions between presidents. “I don’t know if a multiparty system would be better,” said Hopper. “It would be better if politicians were just more open and toned it down so it’s not so jarring for the people.”



Inauguration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



Caitlyn Bove from Boulder, Colorado.

Caitlyn Bove and other students from Antioch College in Boulder, Colorado had traveled to Washington D.C. to protest Trump’s inauguration. She and her classmates said they were there to stand with immigrants and to stand up to the racist rhetoric Trump had used on the campaign trail. Arthur Paulson is a political science professor teaching a class on presidential transitions at Southern Connecticut State University. He said the Trump inauguration went exactly as it was expected to go. He said that nobody should be surprised by what Trump has done so far. “He is doing exactly what he said he was going to do,” Paulson said, “We were under an obligation to expect it.” Paulson said he was worried about the Trump administration’s alternative facts. He said that Trump does not care what the facts are and that it was dangerous. “He fabricates truth,” said Paulson, “and the administration has essentially admitted that they are going to lie and get away with it.”

A spotlight on Southern Greek life

By Sidney Jones

Fraternities and sororities are mainstays here at Southern. They can be seen sporting different colors and different letters, which makes them stand out to students. Sean Wilder is a sophomore business management major and is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Inc.; a fraternity that began in 1914 at Howard University. Wilder joined the fraternity in the spring of 2016. He found out about the fraternity through the club fair he attended with one of his friends. “He was actually interested in the organization and put me on and had me meet the current brothers on campus,” said Wilder. “I did more research on the organization and others and after the genuine conversations and meeting them and others I realized this is something I wanted to be apart of and can then play a part in allowing others too also.” According to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, there are over 9 million greek life members in the nation. Here at Southern, there are 13 greek organizations on campus. One of the things that all these organizations have in common, is their focus on of philanthropy. Eric Clinton, a junior business major, is a member of Iota Phi Theta: a fraternity founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Clinton says that his fraternity does philanthropic

work such as working with children in hospitals, providing scholarships to students who cannot afford college and much more. He says he would like to keep up the philanthropy here at Southern. “We are trying to do a program on awareness with SCSU police called ‘Know Your Rights’, showing the students of color their rights,” said Clinton. “So one, they don’t get violated. And two, so they know how to protect themselves when they are faced with the law. Hopefully it’s going to be a good program.” Adriana Gizzi, a sophomore psychology major, is a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha; a sorority founded in 1901 at the Virginia State Female Normal School. Gizzi says that the sorority has four main philanthropies that they participate in. “We hold a fundraising event on campus called ‘Buzz-a-thon’, where people donate money and receive a haircut,” said Gizzi. “Our others include the S.June Smith Center, Special Olympics, and Girls on the Run.” Gizzi also said that one of the last main philanthropy acts that the sorority does is Camp Rising Sun, where they raise money in hopes of sending kids with cancer to camp for free. Each fraternity and sorority on campus is different. Their beliefs and appearance is all different. For Clinton, he says that being an Iota is

a mystery because not many people know who they are. “There’s people in this world who have never seen an Iota their entire life. So you meeting them shapes their definition of what an Iota is,” said Clinton. Going back to Gizzi, her sorority brings out the strength of being a woman. “To be a part of Alpha Sigma Alpha is to be a part of a sisterhood that lifts you up,” said Gizzi. “We foster close friendships and strive to develop women of poise and purpose.” Greek life is a way of brotherhood and sisterhood. There are the good times and the serious times, but that is what every greek member signed up exactly for. “It is what you make of it being in the organization,” said Wilder. “Got to have fun and handle business when it needs to be handled.”

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Celebrity Mandy Moore at the 83rd Academy Awards in 2011. Moore stars in the hit show “This Is Us” as Rebecca Pearson.

PHOTO | COURTESY OF MINGLE MEDIA TV

NBC’s latest Hulu show ‘This Is Us’ attracts a wide audience

By Adrianna Rochester

If you are looking for something new to stream, NBC has a new television series on Hulu, called “This Is Us,” a drama about a group of people who share the same birthday and so much more than anyone would ever expect.

“This Is Us” is definitely a family-driven TV show that is warm and inviting to its viewers. It follows each group or person and shows the world through the character’s lenses, all while connecting them back together.

The show defied the odds with its excellent screenwriting mixed with superb acting, which added the

substance of warmth to this family drama. The show makes you feel every emotion along with the characters, and for a family drama there are highlights that bring you a sense of joy and laughter.

One contributing factor that helped this show become successful was the decision to opt for a more natural flow, as opposed to relying heavily on the tear-jerking, shock-factor moments. Besides the element of drama being presented in the show, there is some comedy and there is tragedy; you will laugh and cry.

The main characters, who share the same birthdays, each battle with their own personal problems that is quickly introduced in the pilot

episode. For example, the pilot episode starts on the day of the 36 characters birthdays. However, rather than it be a day of celebration they each find themselves dealing with very personal and tough situations.

For one character, after years of searching for his father, he finally finds him. Another character battles with her weight and body shames herself into trying to lose it, and another character battles with the harsh reality that his wife’s high risk labor may result in him going home with or without his wife and/or one of his triplets. Regardless of the character’s differences, “This Is Us” makes them and their lives very relatable.

As the episodes go on, the viewers will learn that all the characters are more connected than the pilot first revealed and the screen players incorporated the use of flashbacks to show just how connected each character is. The show has a strong cast who seems to embody their characters perfectly.

This show will entertain even the most cynical of viewers, while pulling on their heartstrings. If you are looking for a show that makes you feel better, not worse, about the world, and its people then “This Is Us” will do that for you.

Movie review: ‘The Founder’ brings a non-fiction story to life



Michael Keaton at Comic Con in 2013 in San Diego, CA.

By Gregory Gagliardi

McDonalds with its golden arches has become a symbol of America. The story behind Ray Kroc’s acquisition of McDonalds has recently come to the big screen.

The movie, titled “The Founder” stars Michael Keaton as Ray Kroc, Nick Offerman and John Carroll Lynch co-star as Richard and Maurice McDonald, the original founders of McDonalds.

Unlike the majority of movies released in 2016-17, “The Founder” is a story that needed to be told.

Movies have turned into unnecessary sequels of outdated prequels and superhero movies that feature the same plot line told with boring action sequences done to give the viewer a quick “oh man” or “that was so cool” moment, only to leave them with in a daze as they leave the theater.

“The Founder” does not do this. Instead, the film tells a story.

Director John Lee Hancock and writer Robert Siegel take us on a tour of the United States, as McDonalds, our favorite place to “grub out” comes to life. The film is good, not great, but good.

The faults lie within Ray Kroc. At first, Kroc is shown to be a salesman of

sorts. He is traveling this wonderful country selling kitchen machinery to restaurants. Kroc does not have any luck, no buyers. Kroc seems to be living pretty well. Not “Hey I have McDonalds money!” but “Hey, I have cash in my pockets, and I’m doing pretty well” type money.

Kroc’s relationship with both his Wife, Ethel, and the McDonalds brothers also was inconsistent. Kroc and Ethel do not have a bad marriage. Actually, if anything, Ethel puts up with Kroc’s business schemes fairly well, and is shown to be “coming around” with his ideas. She eventually becomes involved with them and supportive, yet randomly at dinner Ray divorces her, just like that. “I want a divorce,” he said. What does Ethel do? Nothing, no literally she stops eating and stares at her plate. Now I was not present in the Kroc household during this, but I can imagine there had to be more drama.

From there, Ray’s relationship with the McDonalds brothers is strange. They have a falling out. Okay, understandable, but the lack of shouting and sheer anger made the McDonald brothers look foolish and weak. It was hard to feel sorry for them. I could not

help but feel laughter towards them. You guys could have been filthy rich, but you kind of dropped the ball there.

While these inconsistencies did tamper parts, and slow the pace, the movie was positive. Michael Keaton was stellar. He dictated the movie. When his acting was in sync with Hancock’s directing, the movie flew.

The pace was perfect, whizzing by with catchy lines and boyish man humor. Keaton was a joy to watch. Nick Offerman who will forever live on through the body of Ron Swanson was a pleasant surprise. I have always liked Offerman, but he can be one dimensional. Even when he was wowing us in “Parks & Recreation,” he did have his stale moments and toward the end became hit or miss. In “The Founder” Offerman found a role he could muscle around.

Final verdict: Definitely recommend, especially if you are unfamiliar with the founding of McDonalds.

PHOTO | COURTESY OF GAGE SKIDMORE



Photo of one of the Women’s Marches that took place in late January in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO COURTESY | CREATIVE COMMONS

Celebrities in the Women’s Marches raises mixed reactions

By Lynandro Simmons

On Jan. 21, 2017, a Women’s March for equality was held not only across America, but around the world. This year in particular a large number of celebrities showed support for the event.

“It’s important that celebrities are involved because the whole world watches them,” said Stephen Boahen, a senior accounting major at Southern.

Despite the sudden increase in celebrities participating, Boahen said he believed all of them were honest. Everybody has their own political views and it is unfortunate more celebrities feel like they cannot make stands politically. He also said it was important that celebrities showed up because they brought more attention to the event.

“I’ve been living in America for eight years and I haven’t heard about this march until this year,” he said.

Despite the positive influence of

celebrities in the Women’s March there was another important factor in the huge success of the women’s march this year – Donald Trump. Boahen said the political climate could have set the stage for the overwhelming amount of support for the women’s march instead of the celebrities. He also said that celebrities should not be the focal point of the marches.

“It wouldn’t be fair for those women who were already there to give their mic to a celebrity who just showed up,” said Boahen.

With or without celebrities Boahen said that the Women’s Marches were important and a positive way to fight for equality.

Peter Blanchet, a senior finance major, said he believes all of the celebrity support is genuine.

“I can’t imagine a reason for a celebrity to fake care,” said Blanchet.

However, Blanchet said that more so than any celebrity the Trump administration could be a reason for the huge turnout this year.

“Everybody wasn’t happy with Obama’s presidency, but you didn’t see large amounts of women marching,” said Blanchet.

The divisive election and the four years to come could also have women fearful for their rights more than ever, he said. Though there are other ways to fight for equality, marches can be very useful, said Blanchet. Including well known figures can also help to this cause. Blanchet also said that just because someone is a celebrity does not mean they should not be able to speak at these events.

“If you’re a woman, celebrity or not, you should be able to speak,” said Blanchet.

Amanda Baldwin, a senior interdisciplinary studies major, said that it appeared that all the celebrities who came out were expressing how they truly felt. However, she also felt like the attention around the event was not because of the celebrities.

“I really believe it’s about who became president and what he has said in his campaign,” said Baldwin.

When it came to celebrities Baldwin was also hesitant to agree with the idea that celebrities should be political.

“Some people can’t think for themselves,” she said. “Their followers could be easily influenced.”

Baldwin believed the marches were positive and a huge success. She said the march was effective because it brought a lot of media coverage to the plight of women.

Katherine Smith, a senior marketing major, said celebrities and the newly elected president are reasons for the huge turnout at the marches. She said that celebrities were not even the focal point as a lot of regular people were interviewed. Smith said the marches were positive, but it will be awhile before equality truly occurs.

“Some people in congress aren’t for what the women are marching for,” said Smith. “So that’s why issues will continue to prevail.”

A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie set to perform for Spring Week 2017

By Gerald Isaac

The Special Events Committee has announced the artist who will be performing at the annual 2017 Spring Week concert.

Billboard Hot 100 rapper A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie will perform on the Academic Quad at 6 p.m. on April 22.

“The choice came after we did a survey of who the students wanted and we had over 100 requests for A Boogie,” said Eric Bender, member of the Programs Council who served on the Special Events Committee.

A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, 21, is a rapper from High-bridge Bronx, New York who gained notoriety after releasing his mixtape, “Artist” to critical acclaim.

“I love A Boogie,” said Brooke Klein, a business major. “This concert is about to be so lit.”

The decision of who would be performing was made over the course of ten weeks immediately following the 2016 Homecoming week.

“At first we had a list of artist that included T-Pain and Trey Songz but after last year’s success with a

newer artist we wanted to keep the same momentum going by giving the students relevant artist,” said Bender.

Last year, Bryson Tiller was the performer and he sold over a thousand tickets in the first week. A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie is having a similar success with ticket sales at SCSU.

“We sold almost 800 tickets after almost the first few days of releasing them to the students and the number of people that are purchasing non-student tickets is higher than last year,” said Bender, “So we know this will be a big thing for the city of New Haven and not just Southern, which is even better.”

According to the SCSU website, the tickets are now \$10 for SCSU students and their guests; tickets are \$25 for non students and faculty.

“I didn’t know who A Boogie was until he was announced for the concert,” said Amber Schultz, a psychology major, “but after my friend showed me his mixtape I immediately went and bought my ticket, the concert should be really good.”

The tickets will eventually be capped around the

2,000 sales mark. However, at first, it was going to be lower.

“Before we had decided to put the show outside we were going to cap it around 1500 but then eventually we changed our minds due to the event selling so well,” Bender said.

Students are still purchasing tickets, which are being sold on a first come first serve basis at the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts.

While taking a photo of the ticket to post on his Snapchat account, junior Chris Thompson said, “This concert is about to be lit, I’m hype.”

The event will start at 5 p.m. with DJ entertainment. The concert will start the following hour.

“Students are definitely encouraged to get the tickets as soon as possible because they are selling fast,” said ProCon member Eric Bender. “A Boogie is going to come to Southern and do a really good job and we are all excited.”

Winter essentials according to the fashionistas on campus

By Sherly Montes

Fashion is constantly changing. Colors and styles that are “in” right now will most likely be “out” within the upcoming weeks. Both high fashion and everyday fashion serve their purposes. From the catwalk to the sidewalk, what you wear matters.

As Blair Waldorf from the CW hit show, “Gossip Girl” once said, “Fashion is the most powerful art there is. It’s movement, design, and architecture all in one. It shows the world who we are and who we’d like to be.”

How you present yourself is key in fashion; what you wear to class, to your job, to an interview, or to your internship, it all says something. But, how do you tell the world who you are and who you would like to be when it’s 20 degrees outside, and you are covered from head to toe in a large coat, gloves, a scarf, and boots?

“Sometimes you’re trying to be fashionable, but you’re wearing a scarf and your big coat so that makes it hard,” said Amaris Forte, a sophomore education major. “My go to is definitely scarves. I love scarves, and I feel like

scarves can make or break the outfit.”

Remaining fashionable in the harsh weather is always a challenge, but dressing for winter presents even more difficulties than other seasons.

“Dressing for icy weather is a challenge,” said Kim Reynolds, a junior pre-nursing major. However, Reynolds also enjoys the winter season and said, “I love layers — sweaters and coats and dresses and boots.”

While it is always an option to layer up, sometimes that prohibits the act of dressing smart since no one will see what you are wearing.

Reaching for sweats and a hoodie after rolling out of bed at 8 a.m. may seem like the best decision at the moment, but later you might wish you would have chosen something more presentable instead.

“I’m totally okay with people dressing comfortable in the cold weather,” said Reynolds.

Forte, on the other hand, said dressing comfortable is important, but it is possible to dress up casual clothes.

“Stick to jeans,” said Forte. “Jeans are an all season kind of clothing and you can wear them with boots. Uggs are always fashionable or you can dress up with a scarf or knitted sweater.”



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

Students walking across campus in winter attire.



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

Richard Francois, junior business management major, poses for a picture with his black Ibanez Fr320 guitar in a practice room in Earl Hall.

Junior business major chases his dream of starting a band

By Dylan Haviland

Richard Francois, a junior business management major, closed the piano and adjusted the thermostat to combat the hot temperature in a practice room in Earl Hall. As he made himself comfortable he unzipped his case and took out his black Ibanez Fr320 guitar, which he explained well suited his preference towards metal. Leaning forward on his guitar, Francois has put the practice rooms in Earl to good use over his years of attending college. Much of this practice time is put towards improving himself as a musician for the new band he is starting, Drowning Lessons. “I can’t find my own lead guitarist, so why not learn myself,” said Francois. “So I’ve been practicing rather than just learning songs. I’ve been trying to pick up new skills, work on my alt-picking, stuff like that, instead of just worrying about learning the next song for the next show.” Previously Francois was involved in the band At Your Forefront a metal-core band

that he spent several years with and helped found. It was with them that he picked up guitar and dove into his journey as a musician. “For the first couple of years I just focused on learning [the band’s] songs and being able to play without holding them back because all of them were amazing at what they did,” Francois said. During his time with the band, which broke up this summer, they played several live shows. One of Francois’ greatest memories with the band was when they opened for Falling in Reverse at the Webster theater in Hartford. He remembered fondly looking at the poster of the bands performing that night and knowing that they would be playing with them. Once he finishes forming Drowning Lessons, which he currently has a vocalist for, he hopes to even surpass that night as they head out into the musical world. Francois is open for musicians to contact him regarding positions for the band and can be reached by his cell, 203- 543- 0052.



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

Practice rooms are located in Earl Hall.

Student art of the week: Betzabeth Castro



PHOTO | DYLAN HAVILAND

Betzabeth Castro, a senior theater major, poses for a picture.

“I just really wanted to show what the quote was saying,” said Castro, “and the girl standing there kind of shows her soul shining.”



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Taylor McLaughlin (#31) led the Owls with 22 points but her efforts weren’t enough as the Owls lost to Bentley University 70-67.

Owls drop NE-10 game

Seniors Taylor McLaughlin and Maria Weselyj combined for 39 of the Owls 67 points in a losing effort.

By Matt Gad

Kate Lynch’s Southern Owls won three straight games before falling to Bentley University Jan. 29. This was the Owls’ first loss since Jan. 18, giving them a 9-12 record overall. Despite Taylor McLaughlin’s 22 points in 40 minutes, the longest out of anyone in the building, Southern lost 70-67. Their conference record dropped to 5-9. Southern only led for 13:09 in the game, being outscored in three of their four quarters Saturday. The score was tied 10 times and the lead changed hands on 16 different occasions. Bentley, the 20th best team

in Division II, continued their strong mark in NE-10 play, improving to 13-1. They were led by Jen Gemma, 24 points, and Macchi Smith, 16. “There wasn’t one play that beat us,” head coach Kate Lynch said, who was honored at halftime along with her 2007 national-championship team. “It is always a combination of plays. We talked in the locker room after the game about giving up 14

offensive rebounds, and against a team that’s really strongly coached you can’t do that.” “It’s not the fall at the end, it’s not a missed layup. In the end it is giving up the offensive rebounds and that really killed us. They scored on probably three-quarters of them.” Taylor McLaughlin said: “It was a close game the whole time. A lot of momentum swings both ways, and I think the team did a good job focusing on the court and from the bench on what coach was saying.” She called it a game of focus. Despite the loss, McLaughlin said the team is “definitely peaking.” She said they are a team

continuing to get better, who know what to expect from other teams (at this point).” Their season began with three straight losses to Queens College, the University of Bridgeport and Adelphi University. The team’s first win came Nov. 19 against the University of the District of Columbia in a neutral site game at Bridgeport’s Hubbell Gym. “We played really hard for 40 minutes,” Lynch said. “Regardless of how the game was officiated, they still played really hard. It is tough to go into the locker room knowing they are that disappointed.” However, Lynch still said the focus remains on

SEE WOMENS BASKETBALL PAGE 11

Kayjuan Bynum proving his worth on the basketball court



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Kayjuan Bynum has made an impact on the football and basketball field for the Owls.

By Phil Zoppi

Bo Jackson, Michael Jordan, Deion Sanders and Kayjuan Bynum. One of those names might look like it does not belong with the rest but they all share a common trait, being two-sport athletes. That is right, Bynum, the former All-American outside linebacker for Southern football is now getting playing time on the Southern basketball team. Bynum has given the Owls a nice boost off the bench as he is averaging 4.5 points per game and 2.9 rebounds per game. Bynum did not join the team in great basketball shape but assistant men’s basketball coach Michael Papale said he quickly corrected that. “He is a great athlete that just wants to win,” said Papale. “He came to us not in any basketball shape whatsoever, but he uses his grit and his determination to be successful. Overall he is just a winner.” Papale is right, Bynum has been quite the winner this year as the football team finished 6-5 and the basketball team is off to a hot 14-6 start. Through all that winning Bynum had to make sure he kept his body in good shape. Playing an 11 game football season can be grueling on the body and then to switch right over to basketball can only make matters worse. Bynum credits the training staff and continually practicing for keeping his body in good shape.

SEE BYNUM PAGE 10



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

The Southern baseball team finished nine games below .500 in 2016. Head coach Tim Shea expects better results in 2017.

Owls baseball ready for 2017 season

By Michael Apotria

Following a 2016 season plagued by injuries and one-run losses, head baseball coach Tim Shea said the Owls are coming into the season more experienced and ready to compete at their highest level of play. “I’m very excited,” said Shea. “Last year we battled through injuries for the better half of the season and we were young. We have a lot of our guys healthy and we’re excited about where we’re heading.” Last season the Owls held a final record of 16-25-1. While they had a losing record

overall, the Owls played superb on their home field, finishing the season with a 6-3-1 home record. Shea said that playing in front of the home crowd is a benefit they are looking forward to taking advantage of. “We definitely like playing in front of our fans,” said Shea. “Last season we were on the road more than half the time, because of that we have a few more home games this year.” Playing home games means a lot for coaches and players. It means less travel, more rest and being close to home. Outfielder and UConn Transferee, Nick Lamberti, said playing at home means his

family and friends get to see him play the game he loves. “There is nothing better than being home,” said Lamberti. “I honestly think transferring from UConn last season was one of the best decisions I ever made.” Lamberti said that he is entering the 2017 season anxious, yet, composed. “I have a high level of confidence this year,” said Lamberti. “Not just for myself, but for the team. To be honest with you, I think this is the year we’re going to do something.” Shea said that he too is expecting big things from Lamberti in his second season

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

Pro Bowl changes

By Matt Gad

The Pro Bowl used to be after the Super Bowl, in Hawaii, and it was rarely watched. Then, the NFL came along to try and market it in a new way. The game moved to Florida, and it moved to before the Super Bowl. And more importantly, it moved to ESPN. But the natural AFC vs. NFC format was broken up, captains were brought in, some hype was

created. More people watched it but was it still great? No. It was just like most other All-Star Games. Boring, with a capital B. It was a desperate battle for relevancy. Yes, it truly was. Wouldn't it make sense to have the best players in each conference square off against each other, just like that? Why do you need to add even more personalities to the game, creating some unnecessary draw? The Pro Bowl should be an All-Star Game

between the American Football Conference and the National Football Conference. In 2017, it got back to just that. The traditional AFC vs. NFC format was back. The teams were coached by head coaches with the winningest teams in each conference. Unless of course one or both of those teams was preparing for the Super Bowl. Then it would go to second best. But like I said: the traditional format was back. And hopefully it

is here to stay. But the weird thing was that the game was not like most others in a pretty basic way: the score wasn't lopsided. There was not a crooked number put up. The final score was AFC 20, NFC 13. My prediction was 43-36 AFC. Jeez, did I whiff on that one. Normally it is a shootout. This time it was not. Go figure.



Southern hosts girls and women in sports day



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Matt Gad

The annual Women and Girls In Sport Day was held at Southern Saturday, Jan. 30 at Moore Field House. The event is a long running tradition, according to assistant athletic director Michael Kobylanski, for Southern's female athletes to inspire the younger generation. "We have been doing this event for almost 20 years now," Kobylanski said. "It is the second largest [women and girls] in sport event] in the state behind the University of Hartford among college athletic departments." Kobylanski said that "thousands of young girls" have had

the opportunity to come through and participate in this program over the years, something he and Southern are "extremely happy about." And, in a continued university-wide effort to provide community service, he noted that "it is the largest single day volunteer effort by our athletic department." Southern had 175 student-athletes and coaches volunteering Saturday, serving as instructors for various events for the youth in attendance. Kya O'Donnell, a sophomore psychology major and forward on the women's field hockey team, said the event is a great experience for the younger kids.

"At a young age you don't really know what sport you want to go into, but everyone is so enthusiastic about their respective sport and it is definitely beneficial for the younger kids to look up to us and want to be a part of this," said O'Donnell. Kelli McCombs, a sophomore goalkeeper planning to major in sports management, said the event is a place for everyone to come together and have empowering confidence. In addition to this event, the field hockey team also completes community service projects with Southern's Day of Service and Relay For Life. "We volunteer at a lot of 5K

events," McCombs said. "We do a lot of community service outside of just our school." This year's event was held on behalf of the athletic department and Southern's Office of Alumni Relations. Parents and legal guardians had to sign assumption of risk forms and were asked to remain on the premises throughout the entire event. Two hundred girls from grades one through eight participated in various activities run by the aforementioned student-athletes and coaches, according to the Southern athletic website. Jay Moran, Southern's athletic director, said the best part is "little girls are given seven to 10-minute sessions with

our student-athletes and our student-athletes become role models to them." Moran reinforced that their are many opportunities for girls in college athletics and said, "it is a great opportunity for us to showcase our student-athletes to our younger girls." He said the hope is they will want to get involved in a sport as they get older. Southern offers 10 NCAA Division II women's sports in cross country, basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, track and field and volleyball.

Bynum

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"It was an adjustment for my body, especially since football in shape is different from basketball in shape," said Bynum. "Just trying to get better at it in practice and Allison the trainer does an amazing job of taking care of us." The process of learning all the plays and getting in shape has been tough on Bynum but he said everyone on the team has embraced him and tried to help him learn. The thought of Bynum joining the basketball team actually started a couple years ago. Papale said that Bynum would always joke to him and other members on the basketball team that he would join the team. When certain circumstances came up this year, those jokes turned into an opportunity that the basketball staff actually wanted to follow through with. "We had talked about adding him before Christmas with all of the injuries we were dealing with," said Papale. "Kayjuan is such a good and friendly kid that every time I saw him over the last two years he used to joke about joining the team. We knew he had a good high school career in Springfield and coach reached out to him and he agreed to play immediately. He was excited to be a part of the team and try to help us win."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Bynum has averaged 4.5 points per game and 2.9 rebounds per game for the basketball team and was a team captain for the football team.

Bynum has tried to use some of what he learned on the football field to help the team win on the basketball court. Football shape may not translate into basketball shape but a lot of what goes into football is the same in

basketball. "Football has taught me a lot of life skills that I will forever hold onto," said Bynum. "The main ones that transitions to the court is to always hustle, never give up on a play until the whistle

blows and believe in your teammates to do their job for the overall team success." Bynum and the rest of the basketball team hope that the team success they have been having continues as they get into the last portion of their

schedule. Papale expects Bynum to keep improving due to what he thinks is his best trait as a person. "His toughness," said Papale. "He is a tough kid that will do whatever it takes to be successful."

Westbrook deserves better

By Phil Zoppi

The fact that Russell Westbrook is not starting in the NBA All-Star Game is an absolute joke.

Twitter immediately blew up when it was announced that Steph Curry would be starting over Westbrook, and for good reason.

Just take a look at the statistics and try to develop a good argument for why Curry got the nod over Westbrook. Curry is averaging 24.6 points per game,

6.2 assists per game and 4.3 rebounds per game. Impressive, yes, but not when you put them up against what Westbrook is doing this season. The dude is averaging a triple double. Westbrook averages a ridiculous 30.8 points per game, 10.4 assists per game and 10.6 rebounds per game.

It is pretty clear that the NBA All-Star Game has just turned into a popularity contest and does not have all that much to do with what you are doing on the court. The fan vote is what left Westbrook out of the starting

lineup and that really makes all NBA fans look bad, especially Oklahoma City Thunder fans.

Westbrook received 103,000 votes on re-tweets from the OKC Twitter account, which was 86,000 behind what James Harden received on the Houston Rockets Twitter account. You have to wonder if Westbrook is having second thoughts about that contract extension he signed with Oklahoma City back in August. The voting results of this NBA All-Star Game showed that Curry not only has the better supporting cast around him but

also wins in popularity due to where he plays. Westbrook is having a season that the NBA has never seen before and has a talent depleted team sitting at 26-19, yet still does not get the kind of recognition he deserves. I respect Westbrook for not leaving the team that he has been with for his entire career but that decision will have a big impact on the ultimate legacy he leaves behind.



Women’s basketball

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the focus remains on finishing strong. “We’re fighting to make the playoffs and if we do that we know our record doesn’t matter at that point.”

In the end, Lynch and McLaughlin both noted they have “Adelphi at Adelphi” coming up: another conference test to really get back on a roll.

Following the Feb. 4 matchup with Adelphi in Garden City, New York, Southern will face-off with American International College, at home, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. and the College of Saint Rose Feb. 11. Rounding out the regular season, the Owls will host Pace University Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

A Bentley player celebrates as Taylor McLaughlin looks on in disbelief.

Baseball

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PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Head coach Tim Shea has said that he hopes the experience the team gained from 2016 will help in 2017.

season for the Owls.

“I expect him to have a great year,” said Shea. “He is a sparkplug kind of player. There’s no battle too big for him.”

Additionally, Shea said that it takes trust and leadership to take that next step as a team.

“We need a lot of guys to step up,” said Shea. “We’re led by two great seniors, third baseman Greg Zullo and pitcher Cole Bryant. There is a good nucleus of guys returning and we added a few new guys.”

Shea said with the team is close to full health and with the addition of a few new players; he believes the Owls are ready to make a splash in NE-10.

“The experience is the biggest factor,” said Shea. “We have a lot more team speed and I expect us to play very good defense and pitch well. It’s a tough conference, but I think these guys are hungry and ready to turn the corner.”

Shea said that he expects his player’s hunger to win to be the driving force to propel the Owls over the competition this season.

“These guys want it,” said Shea. “If they can do what I feel they’re capable of doing we’re going to be in the hunt for a championship.”

Swimming

Tim Quill has left his mark on Southern swimming



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Quill has coached Southern to 22 Northeast-10 championships and seven Metropolitan Conference championships.

By Matt Gad

Tim Quill has been at Southern coaching men’s and women’s swimming for 18 years. Let that sink in. His Southern bio says that during that time he has established one of the strongest programs in the nation. And it should not be disputed.

A 21-time Northeast-10 Coach of the Year, Quill, who grew up swimming, actually did not know that he would end up being a coach. It had not crossed his mind.

“I went to a small Division III school in upstate New York to swim and, to be honest with you, I never thought I would really be interested in coaching,” he said. “It hadn’t really crossed my mind until I had graduated.”

Quill said he got his start in coaching after substitute teaching in the Waterbury Public School District. He was approached with the opportunity to coach boys high school swimming for Wilby High School. After one season, things started to open up for his future career.

Said Quill: “I was being solicited

by a few people that were involved in the Cheshire swimming program and they asked if I would be interested in applying and I did and was lucky enough to get the job. I stayed there for nine years.”

According to his online bio, Quill also coached Ben Michaelson, a three time Division II swimmer of the year, who won two Gold Medals at the 2003 Pan American Games.

In 1998, Bruce Hutchinson, the man running Southern’s swimming program at the time had retired and his assistant, Tim Wise, had decided to move on and coach at Yale. After getting a few calls asking him to apply for the job, Quill finally accepted.

Quill was named the part time men’s swimming coach in 1998, and when it was changed to a full time position in 2000, he was named head coach.

He said coaching young athletes is “very rewarding.” Despite noting that things are “extremely competitive” in college athletics, Quill said he was naturally drawn to that very nature after growing up in a similar fashion.

He no longer trains as a competitive swimmer. His focus now is

entirely on coaching the men and women of Southern and, along with his assistant coaches, managing the entire program.

“All the way from writing and implementing team workouts to setting up team travel all around the Northeast,” Quill noted he’s “fully responsible for his student-athletes.”

Isabel Williams, a sophomore diver, who was recruited after a high school teammate suggested she meet then-diving coach Jesse Cyr, said she feels like everyone likes Coach Quill.

“He’s very dedicated and wants to see us succeed,” she said. “He’s a great coach who gets his athletes far, making them better each time out.”

Under Quill, Southern has won 22 Northeast-10 Championships combined with both men and women, and both teams have competed highly at the NCAA Division II Championships.

Their next meet is the UConn Open on Feb. 4 in Storrs, Conn. and after that they begin the conference championships, a four day meet, that will be held at home beginning Feb. 16.

SCSU women's basketball vs. Bentley photos



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Point guard Murphy Murad looks for an opening in the Bentley defense.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Junior Paige Decker gets ready to take a free throw in Southern's 70-67 loss.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Freshman Imani Wheeler gets into defensive position against a Bentley player.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Murphy Murad goes up strong for a lay-up over a Bentley defender.

Northeast-10 Standings

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	11-3	0.786	19	15-4	0.789
MERRIMACK	14	9-5	0.643	20	14-6	0.700
SAINT ANSELM	14	8-6	0.571	18	12-6	0.667
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	7-7	0.500	20	10-10	0.500
STONEHILL	14	6-8	0.429	20	11-9	0.550
BENTLEY	14	6-8	0.429	19	9-10	0.474
ASSUMPTION	14	4-10	0.286	20	5-15	0.250
SAINT MICHAEL'S	14	3-11	0.214	19	4-15	0.211
SOUTHWEST DIVISION						
SO. CONNECTICUT	14	11-3	0.786	21	15-6	0.714
SAINT ROSE	14	10-4	0.714	23	18-5	0.783
LE MOYNE	14	10-4	0.714	20	15-5	0.750
ADELPHI	14	8-6	0.571	22	15-7	0.682
NEW HAVEN	14	6-8	0.429	20	11-9	0.550
PACE	14	3-11	0.214	22	6-16	0.273
AMERICAN INT'L	14	3-11	0.214	22	9-13	0.409

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
BENTLEY	14	13-1	0.929	21	17-4	0.810
ASSUMPTION	14	9-5	0.643	19	14-5	0.737
SAINT ANSELM	14	8-6	0.571	20	13-7	0.650
SAINT MICHAEL'S	14	8-6	0.571	19	10-9	0.526
STONEHILL	14	8-6	0.571	18	9-9	0.500
MERRIMACK	14	7-7	0.500	19	9-10	0.474
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	4-10	0.286	21	9-12	0.429
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	0-14	0.000	19	2-17	0.105
SOUTHWEST DIVISION						
ADELPHI	14	13-1	0.929	21	18-3	0.857
AMERICAN INT'L	14	9-5	0.643	22	14-8	0.636
LE MOYNE	14	7-7	0.500	20	11-9	0.550
SAINT ROSE	14	6-8	0.429	20	11-9	0.550
SO. CONNECTICUT	14	5-9	0.357	21	9-12	0.429
PACE	14	4-10	0.286	22	10-12	0.455
NEW HAVEN	14	4-10	0.286	19	5-14	0.263

Ask Adelle: the Women’s March and you

By Adelle Zocher

In the wake of the Women’s Marches taking place across the country and around the world, I would like to use this week’s column to give you some information about the movement, the largest protest in American history, with around 2.8 million Americans taking part, what is being fought for, and how it relates to you and your reproductive and sexual health.

The Women’s March on Washington is a response to Donald Trump’s recent inauguration and subsequent actions that threaten equal rights for Americans. The protests are a peaceful demonstration in opposition to racism, homophobia, xenophobia, bigotry, sexism, discrimination and hatred.

Feminism is defined by Merriam Webster Dictionary as “the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes” as well as “organized activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests.” However you define your gender, you can consider yourself a feminist if you believe that all people are equal, and deserve equal rights.

Among his first acts as president, Mr. Trump has signed executive orders to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Here are some important facts about the ACA, and how it affects reproductive health services that are currently available to you.

The ACA has allowed access to reproductive health services for 55 million women and saved about 1.4 billion dollars in out of pocket costs. The repeal of the ACA, and the defunding of organizations such as Planned Parenthood would drastically affect access to vital services.

Planned Parenthood has long been providing a variety of reproductive services, birth control, screenings, STD testing and treatment as well as primary care, only 3 percent of which are abortion services.

Under Title X family planning program, Planned Parenthood receives zero federal funding for abortion services and also provides sexual and primary care services for you.

The current Republican agenda to eliminate Planned Parenthood threatens to prevent an estimated 2.5 million Americans from receiving the care they need, according to a CNN article, “Planned Parenthood: Fast facts and revealing numbers.”

The Affordable Care Act allows adult children to remain covered under their parent’s insurance until age 26. Many of you likely benefit from this provision and some are expressing concern that it will be removed. Thankfully, there is broad bipartisan support to retain the provision and President Trump told the Wall Street Journal that he “very much likes” the provision.

The SCSU Wellness Center offers free condoms, latex and non-latex, female condoms and dental dams—all free of charge. You can order protective products through Condom Owl, which packages and delivers free products straight to your residence hall, or for pickup by commuters.

Granoff Hall Health Services offers free, confidential STD testing, HIV Pre-exposure Prophylactics and soon to come, Gardasil HPV vaccinations for both men and women, as well as intrauterine devices for women. Feel free to stop by the Wellness Office or Health Services for more information.

Critics of the Women’s March say that it is divisive and yet the aim of the marches and the movement itself is to unite people in the fight for equal, inalienable rights for all.

Violent, hateful protest gives a bad name to any cause. There has been controversy about the media’s portrayal of both sides. Any individual or group that uses hate speech and violence to convey their point will be ineffective. There are non-peaceful protests on both sides, but this is not representative of their community as a whole.



PHOTO COURTESY | MARK DIXON

A photo from the Women’s March on Washington D.C.

The Women’s March is a non-violent exercise in freedom of speech, petitioning a government body that threatens the liberty of its citizens.

Women’s rights are human rights. I respect the right that all people reserve to hold their own opinions and make choices about their bodies. There is never a place for any individual to force their personal beliefs on others. Your body is your own, and no one has the right to impede you in getting the proper care you need and deserve.

We are witnessing history in the making: 2016-2017 is a major turning point in American history, and it is my hope, that our government will succeed, and our country will come together, not become more divided. We hope for an America of equal opportunity and rights, and a government that protects liberty and justice for ALL.

Part of the SCSU mission states that, “as an intentionally diverse and comprehensive university, Southern is committed to academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good.” As students at Southern, it is our obligation to serve one

another, and to foster a safe environment to learn and grow. Showing support for the Women’s March is an excellent means for expressing support for your community.

While the opinions expressed here are my own, the Wellness Center and SCSU support inclusion, equality and justice in both health and all other realms of your life as a student. As always, our university, and the Wellness Center welcome and extend ourselves and our services to individuals from all walks of life, and of all opinions and beliefs.

If you wish to get involved in the Women’s March and Women’s Rights Movements, you can find more information here. You can participate in their new campaign, “Ten Actions for the First 100 Days”, where you can sign up to be informed and get involved in ten actions that will take place over the 100 days following the inauguration.

Readers, stay tuned for information about Women’s March events happening here at Southern, and as always, myself and the Wellness Center are here anytime you need!

Donald Trump and not my president

By Natalie Accardi

Trump is an example of a greater issue. Institutions of power thrive on the oppression of marginalized groups and the complacency of everyone else.

He rose all the way to the White House because of people who either shared his bigotry or did not care enough about what his presidency could do to others, in some cases both. Trump’s life is a timeline full of privilege, ignorance, and hate. Where to begin or end? Every day he proves people’s fears, their doubts, their mistrust.

His supporters dismiss his vulgarity as mean comments, but how can people expect him to protect, to do what is in the best interest of the people he belittles?

In a recording of a 2005 conversation between Trump and Billy Bush, the former co-host of NBC’s “Today,” Trump said celebrities are exempt from asking permission.

In Trump’s 2006 book, “Trump 101: The Way to Success,” he equated women to objects.

“Beauty and elegance,” said Trump, “whether in a woman, a building, or a work of art, is not just superficial or something pretty to see.”

According to him, a woman’s consent is not mandatory. A woman is a means to satisfy his needs. Trump is a man who takes what he wants with no consideration of the people he trods on because like all institutions of power, his goal is to remain in control.

Trump reinforced his control when he reinstated the Mexico City policy. The policy prohibits the usage of family planning funds to international aid groups that include abortion as an option. In a year, over 21 million women in developing countries have unsafe abortions which makes up 13 percent of maternal deaths, according to the World Health Organization. A 2011 Stanford University study found that the rate of abortions in Africa increased when President George W. Bush had the policy in effect. Only mean comments, right?

On April 28, 2015, Trump used a racial slur in a tweet after people of color protested in Baltimore

after Freddie Gray’s death in police custody.

“Our great African-American President hasn’t exactly had a positive impact on the thugs,” said Trump, “who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore.”

According to the New York Times, Trump’s nomination of Jeff Sessions for attorney general is met with criticism by people such as Representative John Lewis of Georgia. Lewis, a Democrat does not support him for several reasons, including that Sessions described the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as “un-American.” Sessions also approves of voter-identification laws, which primarily target the poor and minorities.

When institutions of power are perforated with people who have a track record of being racist, it is safe to predict that they will serve the interests of a few. Racism is deadly, racism wielded by a person in power is how the system remains corrupt.

Trump confirms people’s fears that those who he intends to protect are a select elite. In his presidential announcement speech, he made it clear what types of people he thinks are crossing the border.

“They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime,” said Trump. “They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Trump issued executive orders at the headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security which included a border wall with Mexico and increased surveillance to discover and deport unauthorized immigrants. Is building a wall not the physical manifestation of segregation?

People mistake the mantra of “not my president” as meaning that they reject the fact that Trump won. “Not my president” means they reject his values, his ideology, his hatred that has manifested into policy. The people who adhere to this mantra fight to protect the rights of not only themselves, but of others. They protest. They call senators. They resist because if they do not speak up, if they do not take action, who will?

A student’s take on ghosting

Lynandro Simmons

Going ghost on a person is never the correct way to handle a situation. Ghosting, if you are unsure, is when you disappear out of someone’s life without a word. Whether someone is trying to avoid hurting feelings or are scared of getting their feelings hurt ghosting should be avoided. Although a person could be worried they will hurt someone’s feelings, disappearing out of their life could be as bad or even worse.

Often people who say they are trying to avoid hurting someone’s feelings are really being dishonest with themselves. In reality ghosting is a selfish act that many do to avoid approaching what could be a difficult and potentially emotional conversation. This means that it really is about not making yourself feel uncomfortable – it becomes irrelevant how the other person feels in this approach. Yes social rejection can feel bad, but at least a person understands why you feel that way. When a person just disappears a lot of people do not know how to react. A person may not know whether to feel angry, sad or even possibly happy.

In the age of the internet ghosting is probably more common than it ever was before. Social media and the growing influence of dating apps has changed how people conduct themselves in relationships. On one hand it has made dating easier for some and on the other it has damaged some people’s communication skills. Instead of handling any type of conflict, people will completely avoid it.

Additionally, social media has created

a means of communicating with people without seeing their emotional responses to what is said. Behind a screen things no one knows how the other person is truly feeling, and it is easier to walk away in this method of communication.

Ghosting can also leave people who really care about you in the dark about your well-being. A person who has invested their time and emotional energy is not deserving of this. In some cases this sudden disappearance can make people unable to move forward. Without any proper closure that person can then bring baggage into whatever relationship they have next. This baggage can include a bevy of things – self-doubt, lack of trust, fear of vulnerability – that the next person will have to deal with.

Not only can Ghosting leave emotional baggage, it can also lead to people becoming desensitized to it. The more ghosting becomes normalized in society, the more people will continue to walk around with unresolved issues and their own emotional baggage.

Understandably, ghosting on someone may not necessarily even be about them and could be more about the person doing the disappearing act. With so much going on in the world especially for college students, disappearing may not even be intentional.

Despite all of this, if the disappearance act includes someone that is important an explanation should be provided. Yes the conversation could be emotionally draining. However, in the long run that conversation will not only be beneficial to whoever you are talking to, but yourself as well.



PHOTO COURTESY | HELAR LUKATS

Year of the Rooster Begins

By Palmer Piana

Year 4715 in the Chinese Calendar was kicked off Monday in an event hosted by the Multicultural Center along with the Chinese club. The year of the rooster was celebrated with food, games, and crafts for students to partake in. The event lasted an hour and a half and saw a steady flow of participants.



Atteneedees filling their plates with food.



Samantha Gonzalez, a freshman elementary education major holding her name translated to Chinese.



Food served at the Chinese New Year Celebration.



Junior Udo-Oken, freshman computer science major (left) and Alijah Neveski (right), sophomore physics major, making crafts.



Ning Xie scribing Chinese translations of student's names in calligraphy.



Line of attendees waiting to get their food.