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Volunteers read aloud with magnet school

By Ali Fernand
Editor-in-Chief
Jack Abbot
General Reporter

The Barack H. Obama Magnet University School taught their elementary students about the importance of reading and inclusion with the help of the university.

"You deserve to be here," Principal of the Barack H. Obama Magnet School Jamie Baker said. "You are some of the brightest scholars."

For this event, the school invited students and faculty from the campus community to come read aloud to students. Many of the volunteers were student athletes. Baker said their involvement was a big deal for young students.

"I think what makes today even more powerful is that we have some role models," Baker said. "Many of our children have this affinity for people who are in the Athletic Department."

World Read Aloud Day is an event that began in 2010 and is now celebrated globally. Its purpose is to advocate for literacy as a human right and encourage communities to read aloud with students, peers and educators.

The event began at 9:15 a.m. with Baker addressing the students and volunteer readers in a school assembly before assigning each volunteer to a different classroom. In this assembly, Baker spoke about the importance of community reading.

"It's not just about the people inside this

building who can do that," Baker said. "It's about the people who are outside the building who show compassion and understanding."

The book of choice for this year that was read by all volunteers was "You Are Enough" by Margaret O'Hair and Illustrator Sofia Sanchez. The book was written in honor of Sanchez, who was born with Down Syndrome, to highlight and celebrate the differences of members in the community.

Professor Regine Randall of the Graduate Reading Program spoke on the message of this book.

"We all might be a little bit different from one another, but chances are we love and enjoy the same kind of things, and we can be friends," Randall said.

Randall also spoke on the importance of the university's relationship with the school.

"Well, here we are at the Barack Obama Magnet University School, so we like to consider the students at BOMUS as part of our Southern family," Randall said.

Along with K-9 Jules, Sgt. Cynthia Torres of the Southern Police Department was one of many members of the campus community to read to students.

"It's been an annual thing for us to come. We're very pleased to do so and honored to interact with the kids," Torres said. "We have such a collaborative relationship with our folks over at the Obama school."

Jules is a K-9 working with the university Police



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Student volunteers representing campus organizations at the university with K-9 Jules and K-9 Brody in the Barack H. Obama Magnet School on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Department. He has been trained to act as a companion for students on campus.

"He actually has a command that is called 'Tell me a Story,'" Torres said. "If they are struggling to stay still, or they want to spend time in particular with Jules because he's service dog trained, he knows exactly how to help kids that may be having difficulties communicating."

Baker said that events like this are important for helping to build confidence within the school's students.

"If you were to look as you walk up our stairs, our main stairwell, you will see a lot of affirmations there, we try to pour into our scholars and let them know they are enough," Baker said.



Principal Jamie Baker introducing the book for World Reading Aloud Day to students at the Barack H. Obama Magnet School on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

University highlights job opportunities on campus

By Jack Abbot
General Reporter

Several offices and organizations on campus came together to host a Student Leadership Expo and Job Fair to help students find employment on campus.

The event took place on the third floor of the Adanti Student Center and was hosted by several organizations.

This included the Office of Student Involvement, Office of Residence Life and Multicultural Center.

"The Leadership Expo really just encompasses all of the jobs that are offered to our student community," Director of Schwartz and Brownell Hall Brittany Marie Barber said.

Barber attended the event to represent Residence Life. She discussed the importance of community that comes from their work.

During this event, each of these organizations introduced themselves with a presentation displaying the leadership and employment opportunities they offer to interested students.

"We have a lot of not

just academic opportunities, but we also have summer opportunities that some residents and students don't know about," Barber said.

Several presentations were hosted from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., where each organization was given the chance to explain their importance on campus and the resources they provided to students.

"Today I was looking to get that excitement to be an OA," collaborative education major Michaela Schweikert, a freshman, said. "I would be really excited to help a freshman like myself who has a really hard time adjusting."

Traditionally, these organizations represent themselves in club fairs or other events. This is the first year that they have run their own fair in a way that allows each organization to provide presentations.

This new style helps to provide more information about employment opportunities and foster better discussion.

"We really want to raise awareness for the different job opportunities and leadership

opportunities that all of these offices have so we can get more students involved on campus," Orientation Coordinator and communication major Rhian Alsgaard, a junior, said.

Alsgaard is representing the Office of Orientation, Transition and Family Engagement.

"Our purpose is to orient students at Southern and make them feel welcome during our two-day orientation sessions during June, but carry along that transition into their first year of college by supporting them as much as we can in their first semester along with their families and transfer students," Alsgaard said.

There are also several other resources on campus for students who are looking for employment.

"I know that we have the JOBS Portal, which is run through Career and Professional Development," Alsgaard said. "I know that talking to organizations and offices is a great way to get involved on campus, get to meet new people, make connections and find success."

Graduate commencement ceremony changes venues

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

As graduate students and undergraduate students begin to anticipate their graduation, the university has made changes to the 2024 graduation commencement.

The Graduate Commencement Committee has decided to move the ceremonies to the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, having both graduate and undergraduate ceremonies on the same day at the same location.

Taking place on Friday, May 17, the undergraduate commencement will begin at 10 a.m., and the graduate ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies Julia Irwin said there are many benefits to the commencement changes.

"The new venue, which has a capacity of 8,000 seats for commencement, will allow for expanded participation to include Post-Master's and Graduate Certificate students," Irwin said.

Irwin stated that this addition will further recognize students' achievements but also

include more diversity and inclusion in the ceremony.

"This aligns with Southern's historical commitment to access," Irwin said. "These celebrations are deeply meaningful for our students, many of whom have taken non-traditional pathways to achieve this milestone in their lives."

With the 8,000-seat capacity, students will be able to now invite more guests to gather and celebrate this ceremony.

Associate Dean for Graduate Enrollment Management Lisa Galvin said that this ticket increase is something students have been requesting for a long time.

"Many have families, spouses and children, and the number of tickets allocated is simply not enough to include all in the celebration of their monumental achievement," Galvin said.

Galvin said that those participating have been requesting six tickets, showing that the space for more guests is and has been needed.

Galvin explained how many students asked for the committee to consider moving the ceremony to accommodate more guests. Galvin said that a

graduate student emailed her, requesting the commencement to be held at the arena.

Irwin said that moving the commencement to the Total Mortgage also provides a cost-effective solution for the university.

"We can optimize resources and allocate funds more efficiently to create the best possible experience for our graduates and their loved ones," Irwin said.

Irwin said the committee anticipates this transition will work smoothly and will answer any questions students may have about the changes.

"Your understanding and cooperation are appreciated as this dedicated group works to make graduate commencement memorable for everyone involved," Irwin said.

As far as these changes being permanent, the Graduate Commencement Committee has not made that decision.

"I can't speak of what the future holds," Galvin said. "I can say that with increased graduate enrollment, the issue of seating capacity in Lyman Center is not going to be resolved, and this is a good problem to have."

Q&A with new SGA President Trevor Boczer

By Ali Fernand
Editor-in-Chief



Q: “How did you become SGA president?”
A: “I got an opportunity because our last president stepped down to pursue an internship. One of my biggest goals coming to campus was to be SGA president.
I said, ‘You know what? If it’s not now, it’s going to be never.’ Even if I’m a one-semester president, I could still say that I was president.”

Q: “What do you plan on achieving?”
A: “I hope to get my face out there for clubs and orgs to know who we are, what we do. I also want to develop our representatives.
We have a lot of young representatives: first-years and sophomores. I want to make sure they have access and opportunities to learn from the old timers like myself. I don’t have a ton of time to set forth these gigantic initiatives like getting a world language requirement reduced or figuring something out with the LEP.
It’s planting the seeds for future generations. I’ve also tried to promote committees and make sure the younger reps can be on the less strenuous committees so they can work their way up to the big positions.”

Q: “What do you love about the university?”
A: “My favorite is the sense of community that I’ve had here. A lot of my friends from high school didn’t come to Southern, so I had to push myself to get myself out there.
When I joined the peer mentor program, I learned there’s a great community. It’s like a family. Sometimes, I like to make jokes

about other universities. They treat you like numbers, but here, we treat you like people.”

Q: “What struggles have you faced as SGA president?”
A: “We jumped in at a very, very crazy time, not just at Southern but in the world as well. What I try to do is try to make sure every student feels heard, comfortable and safe, but sometimes, things get a little crazy.
In my role, we try to calm things down a little bit, listen to our students, make sure they feel heard and validated. I feel a great community from my friends, SGA reps and peer mentors, but I also want to make sure the general student body feels great in their roles as well.”

Q: “How would you describe yourself as a leader?”
A: “I describe myself as very energetic. I like to do my little dances, run around, all that crazy stuff. I’m not afraid to be a team player and act a little bit embarrassing to get a little bit of a laugh.
I try to be personable with students. Some people say professionalism isn’t the strongest suit in my catalog but don’t worry. I know how to have my professionalism game on too.
That’s just my style. Just

be me. I don’t try to work a gimmick.”

Q: “Why should students feel confident in your leadership?”
A: “My passion is to be as open minded as possible. It allows me to learn from other students’ other perspectives.
I’m here to represent an entire diverse group of students. I want to make sure I’m hearing every single perspective. We hear student concerns, and we try our best to work for it.
One thing I try to do is encourage guests to attend our meetings. Sometimes, the attendance can be a little bit low, but whoever is interested in attending SGA, they’re open meetings. I encourage everybody to go. They’re Mondays, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the resource room.”

Q: “Can you tell students a fun fact about yourself?”
A: “I know how to rollerblade. I’m the one that rollerblades around campus. It saves the most amount of time.
As a hockey player, I always want to find ways to skate because I don’t go to the ice rink as much as I should.
I park in the West garage every day, and I skate. I like showing off. Sometimes, somebody asked me to do a trick. I’ll do a trick.”

PEP Talk guides students in their next career steps

By Brandon Cortés
News Writer

In today’s competitive job market, a well-crafted resume and cover letter can be the key to securing your dream job.
Recognizing the importance of these documents, Mark Zampino, an MBA recruiter from the School of Business with years of experience, recently conducted a Professional Enrichment Platform talk, or a PEP Talk, aimed at guiding students in building effective resumes and cover letters.

“Your resume and cover letter are your first impression to potential employers,” Zampino said. “They are your opportunity to showcase your skills, experiences and qualifications in a concise and compelling manner.”

Held in the spacious Room 122 at the School of Business, Zampino’s seminar drew a diverse crowd of more than 30 undergraduates and professionals looking to advance their careers. Zampino began the seminar by emphasizing the critical role that resumes and cover letters play in the job application process.

Throughout the seminar, Zampino shared valuable insights and practical tips for creating standout resumes and cover letters. He stressed the importance of

tailoring each document to the specific job and company, highlighting relevant experiences and skills that align with the position.

“Employers receive countless resumes for each job opening. Don’t be the bad apple of resumes. Make sure yours stands out. Make it unique. Make it shine,” Zampino said. “Focus on quantifiable achievements and results to demonstrate your value to prospective employers.”

As the seminar progressed, Zampino delved into the essential components of a well-written resume. He discussed the importance of a clear and professional format, including sections such as contact information, summary or objective statement, work experience, education and skills.

Zampino also provided guidance on organizing and formatting each section for maximum impact.

“Your resume should be easy to read and navigate,” Zampino said. “Use bullet points to highlight key accomplishments, and tailor your language to match the job description.”

In addition to resume writing, Zampino dedicated a portion of the seminar to cover letter essentials. He emphasized the cover letter’s role in introducing yourself to

potential employers and elaborating on specific experiences or achievements mentioned in the resume.

“Your cover letter is an opportunity to showcase your personality and passion for the position,” Zampino said. “Customize each cover letter to the company and position, addressing the hiring manager by name if possible.”

Throughout the seminar, attendees eagerly took notes and asked questions, seeking clarification on various topics ranging from resume formatting to cover letter etiquette. Zampino patiently addressed each query, providing practical advice and real-world examples to illustrate his points.

As the seminar drew to a close, attendees expressed their gratitude to Zampino for sharing his expertise and insights.

Many left feeling inspired and motivated to revamp their resumes and cover letters with newfound confidence.

“Mark Zampino’s seminar was incredibly informative and empowering,” business administration major Alex Kuryla, a junior, said. “I feel much more confident in my ability to craft a compelling resume and cover letter that will catch the attention of potential employers.”



Mark Zampino speaks to a group of students at the PEP Talk in Room 122 in the School of Business on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

SAGE highlights how AIDS impacts marginalized groups

By Brandon Cortés
News Writer

In a bustling scene at the Adanti Student Center plaza level, the Sexuality and Gender Equality, SAGE, Center and the Multicultural Center recently took center stage, orchestrating a poignant event commemorating Black World AIDS Day Awareness.

The event, which has become an annual fixture, aimed to extend support to individuals grappling with HIV, honor those who have succumbed to the virus and combat the enduring stigma surrounding AIDS and HIV within the community.

Brandon Iovene, a graduate intern at the SAGE Center and the driving force behind the event, emphasized its pivotal role in highlighting the disproportionate impact of AIDS on Black and queer communities.

“It’s crucial that we create spaces for open discussion and education to address the misconceptions and challenges surrounding AIDS,” Iovene said.

James Henderson, the associate director of multicultural affairs, underscored the significance of the event’s

timing, coinciding with National Black AIDS Awareness Day on Feb. 7.

He described the synchronicity between the event and Black History Month as a unique opportunity to intertwine historical reflection with contemporary advocacy.

Throughout the event, speakers delved into the pervasive stigmas associated with HIV, particularly within marginalized and queer communities.

Iovene refuted the erroneous belief that engaging in gay sex inevitably leads to contracting the virus, emphasizing the importance of dispelling such myths through education and awareness.

Interactive elements were interspersed throughout the event, engaging attendees and promoting healthy sexual practices. Among these was the distribution of “Safe Sex Cups,” each containing condoms, lubricants and educational materials.

Attendees had the opportunity to receive these kits by signing a pledge committing to educate others about safe sex practices and combat biases surrounding HIV. Additionally, an HIV test kit lottery added an element of health awareness to the event.

As participants signed their pledges, they added their names to small pieces of paper, creating a visual representation of collective commitment and solidarity. Iovene highlighted the effectiveness of this approach in fostering a culture of empathy and understanding within marginalized communities, ultimately contributing to the dismantling of stigmas associated with HIV.

Throughout the event, discussions centered on the importance of community support and inclusivity in addressing the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS. Speakers shared personal stories and experiences, underscoring the resilience and strength of those living with the virus.

Health science major Ana Sofia, a junior, emphasized the broader significance.

“Beyond having free stuff, events like these are crucial for heightening awareness and dismantling stigmas surrounding HIV and AIDS,” Sofia said. “They serve as pivotal platforms for education and advocacy, fostering a community-driven approach to tackle the multifaceted challenges posed by these health issues.”



The board where students could pin their pledges to stop spreading stigmas about HIV and AIDS at the Adanti Student Center plaza level on Feb. 7.



Safe sex cups on the table for students to pick up at the Black World AIDS Day Awareness event.

Earth science and astronomy planetarium

By Jack Abbot
General Reporter

The university hosted a planetarium show about extraterrestrial life and how humanity's understanding of the concept has changed.

The screening of the movie "Out There" was hosted through the Physics and Earth Science Departments by Professor Elliot Horche from the Astronomy and Astrophysics Department. The event took place from 1:50 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8.

The planetarium shows have been marketed towards students on campus but are open for off campus visitors to attend. There are plans to use it in the future to invite other schools in the area to visit campus.

The planetarium has been on campus since the construction of Morrill Hall in 1961. However, recent upgrades have been made to allow this screening to be possible.

It operated using only a pinhole until 2023 when a new Starlight Planetarium

Projector was installed. This makes the university's planetarium one of the few left to still have a pinhole projector and one of even fewer to use both systems.

"We have a brand-new digital projector, which is why we can show these great movies in the same space," Horche said.

The planetarium has historically been a resource of the Earth Science Department. However, they have been working with the Astronomy and Astrophysics Department to make it a more collaborative resource.

"That's really culminating right now with our collaboration with the Earth Science Department," Horche said.

This collaboration is one of the steps being taken to introduce an astronomy minor to the university's curriculum. Astronomy is not currently a field of study offered by the university.

"Earlier this academic year, we put in a proposal for an astronomy minor," Horche said. "That's

not yet been formally approved, but all signs are looking good so far."

The university has a long history with astronomy. It was the first in the United States to view the Sputnik Satellite, an event which is marked by a plaque near the planetarium.

In 2023, Associate-Professor Dana Casetti, another head of the Astrology and Astrophysics Department beside Horche, received the Board of Regents Research Award for her work with the Hubble Space Telescope.

Currently, the only astronomy course offered is "Principles of Astronomy" with the Earth Science Department. For the introduction of this new minor, several classes will be added, including an astronomy course and a previously discontinued astrophysics course.

Horche and Casetti have been working to make sure that this minor will be available for science majors starting in the upcoming Fall 2024 semester.



PHOTO | JACK ABBOT

Morrill Hall, located across from the back of Engleman Hall where the planetarium is.



The entrance to the Planetarium, located inside Morrill Hall Room 104.

Owls Decide: favorite Valentine's Day gift

By Solé Scott
Features Editor



"My boyfriend from last year gifted me a cute gift basket."

— Education major Danika Smith, a sophomore



"My favorite Valentine's Day gift is a tradition that my mom usually does for my brothers and I."

— Business information systems major De'Shaunt O'Brien, a sophomore



"My favorite Valentine's Day gift is dark chocolate because it is my favorite sweet at the end of the night."

— Communication major Claire Beggan, a sophomore



"Best Valentine's Day gift ever received has to be a large teddy bear and edible arrangements."

— Social work Alexandria Louis-Charles, a freshman



"The best gift I have gotten for Valentine's Day is quality time because that is what really matters."

— Healthcare studies Chekeenhah Jeudi, a sophomore



"Favorite Valentine's Day gift to receive is probably some flowers, some calm thing."

— Sport management major Nik Demetrian, a freshman

Students stay warm and cozy during ProCon event



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Fresh baked goods were given out by ProCon at “Warm and Cozy” on Monday, Feb. 5.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Students gathering around, indulging in the fresh baked treats.

By Lexi White
General Reporter

With all this cold weather on campus, it is easy to say that students are craving some warmth.

On Monday, Feb. 5, ProCon hosted a “Warm and Cozy” event in the Adanti Student Center.

The members of ProCon started planning this event during winter break, but it only took about 30 minutes to set up.

They provided warm drinks, pastry, cookies and crochet lessons for all who attended.

In addition to learning a new skill and getting tasty treats, ProCon also had a raffle to win a cozy basket, including all the things one might need if they wanted to get comfy and warm.

Healthcare studies major Melanie Gloster, a sophomore, is a member of the ProCon Commuter Committee and has made many pieces of clothing and accessories with her crocheting skills.

Gloster said that crocheting has been a great coping skill when dealing with stressful times.

“I’ve been crocheting since I was little, and

I find that I do it most when I’m feeling overwhelmed,” Gloster said. “I feel like when the people at our event learn how to crochet, they’ll feel more confident because they’ll know that they made their own stuff.”

Because of Gloster’s love for crocheting, the rest of the committee was inspired to host an event including the artistry.

“During our training, everyone saw that I crocheted my own stuff,” Gloster said.

Gloster explained how students got excited and wanted to do an event involving crocheting.

It was not just the hosts who were excited to learn more about crocheting from Gloster. Many of the attendees came to the event to up their own skills.

“I am so excited to crochet. It is a very fun thing to do, and it is so relaxing,” music therapy major Kassie Martel, a sophomore, said. “When you are crocheting, you are not thinking about anything else, which makes it a great distraction.”

Like Martel, Spanish major Madison Acampora, a freshman, also views crocheting as

a great pastime. “Crocheting gives students something else to do instead of being overwhelmed with their classes and being worried about exams,” Acampora said.

Both Acampora and Martel heard about the event through ProCon’s Instagram page.

They were so excited to see what new skills they could obtain by attending.

“I’m really excited to crochet because I really enjoy it,” Acampora said. “It’s so much fun to do, and I cannot wait to learn how to make more because I only make blankets right now, and I really want to learn how to make other things too.”

Another member of the ProCon Commuter Committee is sports management major Luis Reyes, a sophomore.

“If your day is kind of hectic, an event like this will definitely help you calm down because you will be so focused on learning how to crochet and meeting new people,” Reyes said.

From the yummy treats to the socialization and the smash hit of crocheting, ProCon’s “Warm and Cozy” event was a massive success.

CASAS supplies candy at ‘Sweets for Success’ table

By Lexi White
General Reporter

One thing that is proven to lighten someone’s mood is a sweet treat. Something that makes these treats taste even sweeter is when they are free.

That is why on Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, CASAS, hosted a “Sweets for Success” event.

“While this event doesn’t promote the services we offer, it is at least attached to our name,” Jenna Barcello, a graduate intern at CASAS, said. “That way, students can remember that success, sweets and CASAS go all together.”

Members of CASAS set up a table in the Engleman Rotunda with plenty of king-sized candy bars and gave them out to students, free of charge. Each candy bar had its own motivational

quote attached in attempts to remind students how well they are doing and to maintain their academic efforts.

CASAS promotes equal access learning environments so students can succeed both academically and socially. They offer services for student support such as tutoring, academic coaching, enhancing self-advocacy and assisting with social and emotional well-being.

This was not the first time that CASAS hosted “Sweets for Success.” During the fall semester’s event, the motivational candy bars were all gone within 15 minutes.

“So many people have been asking when we’ll be hosting this event again, so this is going to be an event that we host every success week, which is usually the third week of every semester,” Barcello said.

“We like to host this event during success

week because week three is usually when the workload starts to build up,” Barcello said. “So, we just want to ensure that students are getting a fun treat but also feeling successful.”

At this semester’s event, the candy was gone almost instantly. Students were shocked when they were told that the candy was free, so they jumped at the chance to get their favorite treat.

Healthcare studies major Jada Santos, a sophomore, said there were two reasons why she was drawn to the CASAS candy booth at “Sweets for Success.”

“It was the candy for sure but also the amount of people were there,” Santos said. “I thought, ‘if there’s that many people there, then this has to be good.’”

In addition to Santos’ reasons for showing up, she also thought that the motivational quotes on the candy bars were very

beneficial.

“If someone’s having a bad day, this may be something that they really needed to hear in order to feel better,” Santos said.

Healthcare studies major Abby Luckey, a sophomore, said she was drawn to the booth because of how many people were there.

“But the one thing I really like is how the candy is free,” Luckey said.

Nursing major Brian Svyatskiy, a junior, also really enjoyed the candy being free, but he thought the inspirational quotes on them were great, too.

“Getting to see something like that can definitely help you keep going,” Svyatskiy said.

The “Sweets for Success” event was deliciously successful. Every candy from Skittles to Twix was snatched up in a heartbeat. Students will have another opportunity to get these confidence-boosting treats next semester during success week.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Students gathered around the table, grabbing candy in the Engleman Rotunda.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Hershey bars, Mike & Ikes, Skittles and other candy labeled with motivational quotes.

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VPAS celebrates Black led anti-sexual violence activism

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center, VPAS, hosted an event meant to celebrate and learn about Sheheroes.

The event took place on Feb. 7 in the Engleman Rotunda.

Special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a junior, was one of three students in the tabling.

“Today’s event is to educate students about the Black Sheheroes that were involved in the anti-sexual violence movement,” Wasilewski said.

The women being highlighted during the anti-sexual violence

movement helped biology major Clarisse Aminawung, a junior, set up the tabling as well.

Aminawung said they selected their Sheheroes from both historical and present day advocates against sexual violence.

The tabling had different snacks, pens, lip balm and other goods available to students to take once they played the games VPAS created for this event.

“We are having students spin the wheel, and the wheel is numbered one through eight, and each number correlates to a Shehero,” Wasilewski said.

Once students land on a number, they will read information on the

Shehero and answer a question that is provided by VPAS.

Nursing major Gabriella Jordan, a junior, attended the tabling throughout the duration of the event.

“We are in the Engleman Rotunda from 1 p.m. to 3p.m.,” Jordan said.

As Women’s History Month approaches, be on the lookout for more events by VPAS.

“We will be doing another tabling event. Just two this month because we have a lot of other things going on,” Aminawung said.

Next tabling is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 21 in the same location, so be on the lookout for more information on OwlConnect.

Women's basketball team wins game 48-41

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor
Avery Martin
Contributor

It was a hard-earned win for the Owls on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The women's basketball team defeated Pace University 48-41 at home.

"A win is a win," Head Coach Kate Lynch said. "I guess I could say we did what we had to do."

There were several substitutions in the tight first two quarters. However, the Owls managed to use their defensive skills to hold a six-point lead for 13:32.

Forward Katie Williamson, a senior, defined the first quarter, scoring four points.

Guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, contributed two points, and guard Delaney Haines, a junior, gave the Owls three points.

"My role coming off the bench is to score. So for however long I'm in there, my goal is just to score," Haines said. "I think when I score it just brings energy to the team, and I play off everybody else."



The university's women's team scoring before their win.

PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

In the second quarter, Williamson started off strong with three points, one of which was scored through a free throw. Helms and guard Hope Fox, a sophomore, each racked up two points while guard Jillian Martin, a senior, scored one on a free throw.

At the end of quarter

two, Williamson led both teams with eight rebounds. Fox and forward Renza Milner, a junior, each had two.

The real star of the second quarter was Haines, who had five points. That brought her up to eight points scored in the first two quarters and one rebound.

"I thought it was a really good game," Haines said. "We were playing against a good team, so we just have to come out and play our best game. I think every player on our team came out and did their job."

That took the Owls to a lead of 24-22.

The third quarter

kicked off with a three-point shot from guard Julianna Bonilla, a graduate, followed by two points each for Williamson and Helms.

"We kind of had a couple of droughts during the game where neither team was scoring. When I know we need to get one to the hole, coach keeps

me mindful of getting it going," Helms said.

Helms and Haines continued to score, having the Owls leading 38-30 going into the final moments of the third quarter. Forward Rheyna Steinauer, a sophomore, then scored two points before following it up with a three.

In the final quarter, the play turned slower as Helms and Haines scored two points and four points respectively to finish the game. In the last two quarters, Williamson once again led both teams with 15 rebounds. Her teammates Martin, Haines and Fox each had two.

The score ended at a close 48-41, with the Owls taking the win.

The team was wearing pink during the game in a nod to breast cancer awareness that added higher stakes on Wednesday night.

This crucial outcome brought the Owls to sixth in the NE10 standings. They boast a 9-7 conference record and a 15-7 overall record.

The Owls are back in action at Saint Anselm College on Feb. 10.

Gymnastics starts semester with career high scores

By Avery Martin
Contributor

The gymnastics team has shown promising results at recent meets and continues to improve. On Jan. 21, the Owls recorded several career high scores in three of the four apparatuses in a meet against Division I competitors Yale, Long Island University and University of New Hampshire.

Gymnast Gigi Mastellone, a freshman, scored a career best of 9.800 on the uneven bars. She says that improving on small details is behind the results.

"In the next meet, I want to improve and just get better each time on bars. I'm going to have the same bar routine, so each time I get to just work on those little details and get better on the little stuff," Mastellone said.

Gymnast Brianna Dorr, a junior, also scored a career best of 9.75 on vault at the same meet. The result was especially important to Dorr, who recently returned to competition after surgery.

"I've tried to do everything I can to stay strong, so when I came back to doing

gymnastics the transition wasn't that hard. Then, I just took it step by step," Dorr said.

Head Coach Byron Knox said the key for the Owls is staying consistent in all events.

"We've basically been working on consistency. Those career bests are happening sporadically. We need them to get more consistent so we can put together all those scores and post a team-high score rather than an individual," Knox said.

Knox hopes that as the season progresses, the Owls will not let a desire for a high score overshadow their dependability and continuous approach.

"The goal is to not worry so much about the score. Let's hit the routines. So if we have 24 competitors competing, we want to see 24 routines being done," Knox said.

Dorr said that part of the aim for consistency includes working on small form techniques that influence entire routines.

"There's always something we can improve on. Obviously sticking the landing is really important," Dorr said, "getting

a good block off the table, having straight arms, good form, and being in a good position and stuff like that. I'm working on it this week to prepare for the next meet."

Mastellone agrees. She also notes that a positive approach to the sport and a hard working attitude have allowed her to push through days in which she struggled to reach higher scores and better routines.

"Honestly, you just got to keep doing the same thing. Every practice, no matter how you practice, you just have to always go out there and do your best," Mastellone said. "Every day, we come into the gym, and we do all our assignments and push through no matter if it is a good day or a bad day."

As for the remainder of the season, it is clear that the team goal is to appear once again at the NCAA Championships.

"The team's goal is to improve every meet that we have and every week get a little higher score and hit all our routines. Just have confidence in each other. Our main goal is to make it to nationals again this year," Dorr said.

Sports Recap: Feb. 10-12

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Basketball:

The men's and women's basketball teams both traveled to the Granite State Saturday, Feb. 10 to take on Saint Anselm College of Manchester, New Hampshire.

Women's Basketball:

In her eighth season, women's basketball Head Coach Kate Lynch secured her 200th career win as a collegiate head coach with this past weekend in a 65-48 win over the Saint Anselm Hawks.

In the NE10 matchup, the Owls controlled the game limiting the Hawks to single digits in the point total in each quarter of the first half. After a back and forth, the Owls ended the half on a 14-2 run, taking a 26-14 lead into the half.

After the break, the Owls recorded an 8-3 scoring run growing their lead to 34-17. However, the largest lead was by 21 and not until late in the game with the assistance of free throws by guard Hope Fox and forward Rheyna Steinauer, sophomores.

Guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, and forward Katie Williamson, a senior, scored double digit points, had four or more rebounds and two steals each.

Men's Basketball:

Following the women's game, the men took the court to face their counterparts. The Owls sweep the home and home series against Saint Anselm Hawks 83-73 to win their fourth straight.

The Owls opened the scoring strong and at one point commanded a 17-point lead. The lead would quickly be erased by multiple scoring runs by the Hawks. Both squads were knotted at 37 at the half.

Starting the second half, it was a back-and-forth game, but ultimately the Owls outscored the Hawks 46-36, extending their win streak.

Guard Marty Silvera, a junior, and forward Josh McGettigan and guard Mason Williams, graduates, and

forwards Kazell Stewart and Cherif Diarra, sophomores, all scored in double figures.

Gymnastics:

On Saturday, Feb. 10 the Owls hosted Rhode Island College and Springfield College for Senior Day and Alumni Day meet.

The Owls posted a score of 192.875 taking the meet.

Springfield placed second with a score of 188.950 as Rhode Island finished last with a score of 188.850.

On the balance beam, junior Alexa Melanson accrued a high score of 9.800. Floor exercise leaders include Melanson and Libby Allen, a junior, with a score of 9.775.

Freshman Gigi Mastellone produced a first place score of 9.800.

Vault: Lexi Bracher, a junior, cemented her name in first place with a 9.750 score.

The Owls documented a new season-high score of 193.050, finishing in second place in the Tonry Invitational on Sunday, Feb. 11.

The invitational included Yale University and the University of Bridgeport. Yale finished in first place, posting a score of 195.125, then Bridgeport with 192.650.

On the uneven bars, freshman Gigi Mastellone recorded the highest score of the day and her personal best of 9.850. Junior Libby Allen highlighted the floor exercise and scored a 9.825.

Senior Emiley Kahl reached a score of 9.700 on the balance beam as Allen and freshman Kylie Sitty each punctuated a team score of 9.700 on the vault.

Men & Women's Track & Field:

According to the Owls website, the team competed in multiple invitationals. However, no information has been released.

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.com



Group photo of the university's gymnastics team members.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM



Group photo of the university's Track & Field team members.

PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Terrance Jones named Athletic Director

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Following a nationwide search, Terrance Jones has been named as the new Owls Athletic Director, the seventh in school history.

In September 2023, the Athletic Department announced that the previous director of athletics & recreation, Chris Barker, had resigned to take on a new opportunity at Northern Illinois University.

In part due to his Midwest ties, Barker left to become Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development and Revenue Generation for the Huskies.

The announcement included that Associate Athletic Director Matt Letkowski, who oversees NCAA compliance, would be tabbed as the Athletic Director in the interim. Prior to Barker's appointment, Letkowski was also the interim Athletic Director in the Spring of 2021.

According to the Athletic Department, Monday, Feb. 5 was Jones's first day in office. His previous employment journey included stops at North Carolina Central University, Delaware State, Alabama State and Jackson State combining over 17 years of experience as an understudy.

The news broke in an email written by Interim



Terrance Jones was named seventh athletic director in university history.

President Dwayne Smith over winter break, reading "Terrance brings a proven leadership background to the position, with many years spent as an athletics administrator. He will use this experience to elevate our programs and enhance the academic, personal, and competitive excellence of our scholar-athletes."

Over the last two years in Jackson, Mississippi, Jones served as an Assistant Athletic

Director of External Operations and Stadium Management with a budget of \$10 million. His supervision spanned 16 different sports and a Division I school highly regarded for its football program under the former National Football League Hall of Famer Deion Sanders.

In an email sent to university students and staff, Smith alluded to Jones's experience at Jackson enabling him to enhance campus life

for the Owls. Through athletics and recreation, efforts will be made to improve enrollment and retention of the university's long-term strategic plan.

During his time, he presided over the daily operations, including community outreach, diversity efforts, facility operations and marketing. This assisted in Jones introducing a new system to buy tickets for all athletic events, thus increasing gate

receipts in its first year.

"Southern's athletic program is highly competitive within the Northeast 10 Conference and has regularly earned team and individual titles at the national Division II level. Southern also has a robust program of club sports, intramurals, fitness, and recreation," Smith said. "With this new leadership hire we are seeking to build on these accomplishments and grow the programs in myriad ways."

Column: Pac-12 Farewell



By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

In Division I football, many teams are urged to chase conferences that have larger television contracts. This is because universities that have a higher winning percentage and level of success tend to rake in millions of dollars in broadcasting revenue alone.

The top three conferences that have become wealthy through television revenue are the BIG 10, Southeastern and Atlantic Coastal Conferences. The two other conferences that make up the power five conferences are the BIG 12 and the Pac-12.

The BIG 10 conference is primarily made up of 14 teams spanning from New Jersey to Nebraska. The Southeastern Conference is aligned with its name, with 14 teams representing south of Missouri, east of Texas. An additional 14 teams make up the Atlantic Coast Conference, ACC, from Florida to New York and Massachusetts to Indiana.

This summer, 10 of the 12 teams are leaving the Pac-12 and moving east. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah are moving to the BIG 12. Oregon, University of California Los Angeles, University of Southern California and Washington are moving to the BIG 10 as California and Stanford are moving to the ACC.

The moves will call for automatic fees costing millions for institutions to relocate to another conference, not to mention the travel cost for multiple cross-country flights for each sport each year. The additional travel and time zone changes will affect the west and east coast teams.

Student athletes who committed to the west coast schools to play closer to home are not happy. There may be more transfers among student athletes who do not agree with the decisions.

"I picked to play in a high-level softball conference where being close to home would allow my parents to come watch my games," Oregon softball player Paige Sinicki said on the platform X. "It's unfortunate to hear that my senior year, I'll be playing as far as New Jersey-Rutgers as well as other east coast schools."

An upside for each program is the conference realignment expands the recruitment for all athletic teams. It provides opportunities for recruits and marketing. In the day of name, image, likeliness, NIL, recruiting is the lifeline of any successful athletic program.

However, the Pac-12 has encountered difficulties in attracting and retaining elite talent. The rise of other conferences like the BIG 10 and Southeastern Conference as recruiting and player development factories coupled with geographical strains and a limited audience, leads to a talent deficit that shadows the Pac-12 competing for national championships.

Men's basketball defeats Pace University

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

The men's basketball team faced Pace University of New York on Wednesday Feb. 7. In a grueling defensive battle, the Owls took their third consecutive win, with the final score 79-64 Owls.

When the first whistle blew, Pace was able to get the tip off. However, forward Cherif Diarra, a sophomore, scored first for the Owls after a steal from guard Marty Silvera, a junior.

The first 10 minutes of the first half were sluggish, with neither team scoring consistently. The Owls showcased double-teaming defensive skills as Pace applied the same pressure.

Head Coach Scott Burrell said the team had a slow start, but the Owls had that spark getting the team into the flow.

"We got open shots. We just didn't make them in the early start of the game, but they started to fall for us," Burrell said.

Pace quickly obtained a seven-point lead against the Owls. But Silvera had a streak, scoring nine points, getting the Owls closer to gaining the lead before halftime.

Minutes later, Diarra was fouled, giving the Owls a chance for a three-point play to take the lead from Pace.

"I just wait my turn. I be patient. When I have the time to score, I score," Diarra said.

After gaining the lead, forward Josh McGettigan and guard Mason Williams, graduates, stepped into the zone, each scoring a three-pointer.

In the final minutes of the first half, forward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore, was able to get a steal, forming a strong 33-22 Owls lead to end the first half.

Entering the second half, guard Christian Joe, a freshman, was able to score two three-pointers, giving the Owls an early advantage.

Stewart was able to lock in, collecting nine rebounds in the second.

"As long as I stop my man, I had a good day," Stewart said. "Trying to get the most rebounds and getting those hustle points is where I can get the energy up for the team."

The Owls went through another offensive drought of points midway through the second half, giving Pace some hope to come back



Owls break out of their huddle.

when they were only down nine points.

With the score 60-51, McGettigan scored his fourth three-pointer to bring the Owls closer to victory.

Silvera then went on to shine in the last five minutes of the game, getting a three-point play after drawing a foul in the paint.

On the next possession, he had his shot attempt blocked but recovered by hitting an impressive windmill layup after driving through four defenders.

"I always been shifty," Silvera said. "In practice, I do tough layups. I just be messing around with the ball, and today it paid off."

As the game clock ticked down to 72 seconds, the Owls had set a pace which Pace could not compete with, and they came away with a win.

"Every game we win, we move up that ladder and get back to our goal of the start of the season," Burrell said.



Guard Marty Silvera, a junior, hits the jumper.



Guard Mason Williams, a graduate, dribbles past defenders.