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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## History of the Latino community lecture

By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor

Award-winning journalist and best-selling author Juan González spoke to students and faculty about how the media has covered the Latino community in the past.

Associate Professor and Director of Latin American and Caribbean Studies Carmen Coury opened the keynote lecture by discussing how she had her students read González's book.

"What most stands out to me, and my students' comments about this book, is the way Mr. González has managed to tell a very human story of the role that Latinos have played in U.S. American history," Coury said.

González's experience in journalism has helped humanize immigration, Coury said. In González's "Harvest of Empire" begins to unpack the history of the growth and development of the Latino community in the U.S.

The keynote lecture

by González was held at Adanti Student Center Ballroom on April 11 to help bring faculty and students together to view the history of how Latino communities have grown. González spent 29 years as a columnist for the New York Daily News.

"González statistical analysis reveals that not only is the number of Hispanic voters in our county growing, so too is this community's willingness to go the polls," Coury said. "This had real repercussions for this nation's political landscape, and it's something that politicians on both sides of the aisle might wish to consider."

Coury said neither the Republican party nor the Democratic party had not handled immigration well. "As I speak, the Biden Administration is debating the possibility of reinstating the inhuman separation of migrant children from their parents as a means of deterring would-be asylum seekers."

Hispanic voters will not forget the injustice poli-

cies when election season comes around, Coury said.

González said he has spoken out against injustice in the Latin community since the 1960s and 1970s.

When he was a student at Columbia University, González said he and others protested the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War in 1968. The protest not only incorporated anti-war sentiment but anti-racist views, according to González presentation.

González, an investigative journalist, is a co-host of Democracy Now! a media outlet. He has worked there since 1996 and continues co-hosting, discussing hot-button news.

The daily contributions from the Latino community get unnoticed, and journalists must cover these Latino communities, González said.

"Even today, the hardest, working and least appreciated worker in the United States is performed by Latin Americans," González said. "Those who pick



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Juan Gonzalez speaking in the Adanti Student Center ballroom.

the fruits and vegetables that nourish us, butcher the meat and poultry we consume, who tend our homes and repair our house."

After the González's lecture, the attendees were able to ask González, questions about his book,

covering the Latino community, and more.

There are challenges today for a journalist because there is a lot of fake news, González said. "But when people come together, they can affect real change, and you will never feel powerless."

González said it was important to incorporate his story about growing up as a Latin American in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s because it was going to establish the research that he has done for the award-winning book, "Harvest of Empires."

## Inspector General discusses criminal law

By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor

Connecticut's first Inspector General, Robert Devlin Jr., came to the university to talk to the sociology and criminology club members and students interested in criminal law.

"It was a pleasure to be back at Southern," Devlin, a university alum, said. "They made me work here."

Devlin said he served as a judge for 27 years in Connecticut and was then elevated to the Appellate Court. Devlin's four-year

term was approved by a 5-0 vote of the Criminal Justice Commission at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on Sept. 27, 2021, according to the Connecticut governmental website.

The discussion and questions with Devlin and criminology and sociology students were held in Davis Hall on April 13 to help students understand how the law works in Connecticut.

"In the summer of 2020, the Connecticut General Assembly met in a special session," Devlin said. "They passed a bill called the Po-

lice Accountability Act."

This bill requires police officers to wear body cameras and changes the use of excessive force, Devlin said.

"They also created an office of Inspector General to look into these cases," Devlin said. "Our duty is to examine certain events where police officers use force; someone dies or deadly force."

Devlin said police officers could not be bystanders when they see a fellow officer using excessive force.

"Our duties also include

making recommendations to POST-C, Police Officer Standards, and Training Council," Devlin said. "What we've done so far is made some recommended changes in the practices and policies that some these ordinances have."

When reviewing the actions of a police officer, Devlin said he looked to see if the police officer tried to calm the situation. In Devlin's presentation, he showed videos of incidents where police officers used excessive force.

After each video, Devlin would say if the police

officer's actions were excessive or deemed as the police offer following the protocol. Devlin ruled on the side of the police officers in both examples he showed. He also opened the lecture to discussion to hear the students' perspectives to see how they would rule in these situations.

"Judge Devlin reached out to us. He has this new position, and he has been going around to the area schools," Jessica Keny-Drane, chairperson of the sociology department, said. "He knew we had students interested in criminology and criminal justice."

Drane said Devlin thought students would be interested in what his agency does and what is happening in Connecticut.

"I think students who really want to go into the criminal justice field and law and enforcement in particular, seeing and hearing what it involves is really important to them," Dane said. "We have a lot of students who are interested in alternatives to law enforcement and alternatives to using force, so I think bringing someone here that is trained in investigating those kinds of things and asking hard questions of that person is a great opportunity for our students."

Venezia Michalsen, a sociology professor, and criminology specialist, said because Devlin is an alum of the university, he

reached out wanting to help students.

"It is important for students to see what being a Southern alum can bring to them; he is high up and has an important job," Michalsen said. "It is important for Southern students to reach for the sky."

Brittany Medianger, the Sociology and Criminology Club co-president, said that Devlin reached out to Drane to set up the event.

"He wanted to inform everyone about what's going on behind the scenes and what he's doing in Connect because not a lot of people don't know about it," Medianger said.

It is important for students to know that there are police forces that are trying to help the community, Medianger said. "You do see a lot of that negativity of police in the news, so it's really important to remember there are good guys out there trying to fight for us."

Medianger said she learned a lot from the videos the Devlin showed during the event and hopes they will open it up to everyone on campus the next time they have an event like this.

Drane brought her sociology class to the discussion, hoping they would learn about policing in America.

"The most important thing is the ways in which our policing system in America is not equipped to deal with our mental health challenges," Drane said.

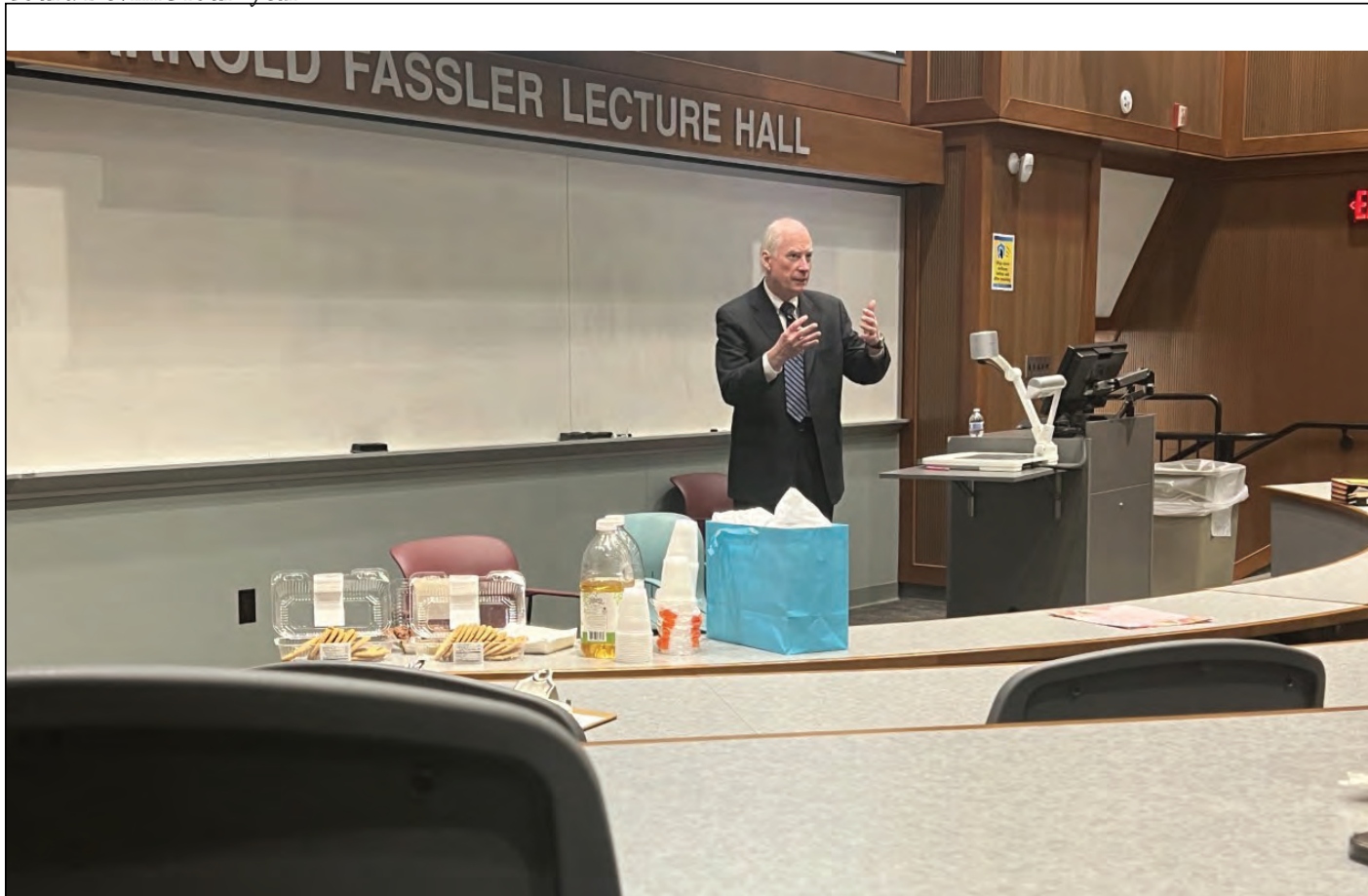


PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Inspector General Robert Devlin Jr. speaks about policing in Connecticut.

## Senior Art Exhibition held in Buley Library

By Sarah Shelton  
Photo Editor

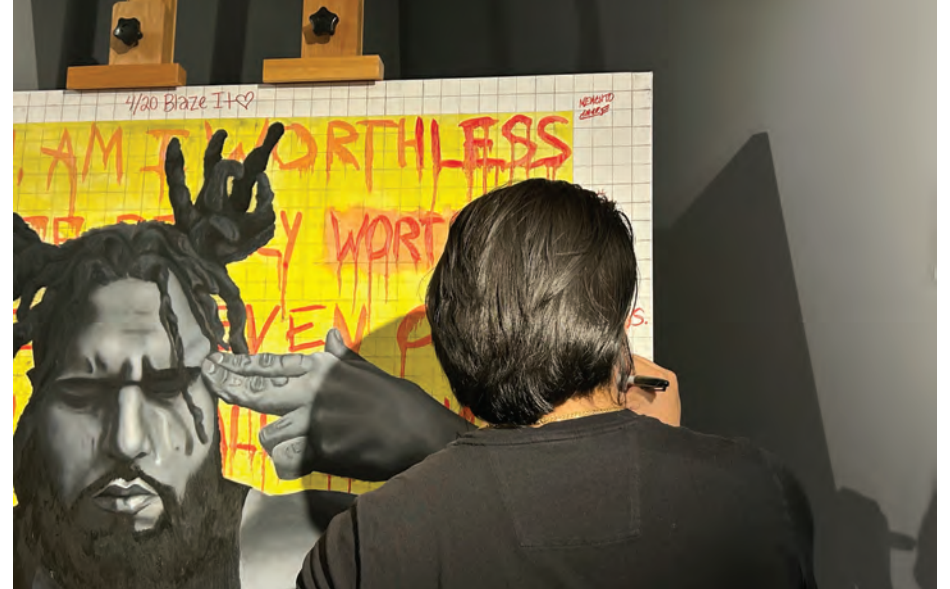
On April 13, the Art Department held an opening reception for the Senior's Art projects.

Art students complete final projects and put them in the basement of Buley Library in the Art Gallery section.

This exhibition will run through April 27. It can be visited Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Art student Shayla Hill taking pictures of the artwork in front of James Olvera's portraits.



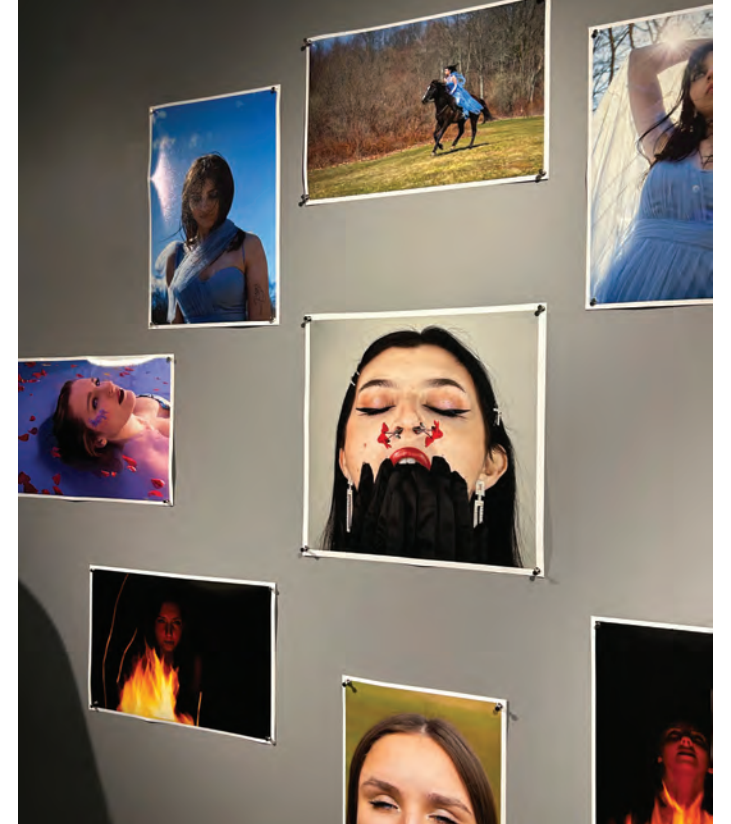
Student drawing on James Olvera's interactive piece of art.



Kayla Cummings' series of digital collages.



Roma Rositani's project inspired by her helping clean up the Naugatuck River during the summers.



Aaron Miller's "The Divine Feminine" portraits.



One of Zachary Brocklehurst's pieces.



One of Kelly King's pieces based on her love for reading.



Alaina Pierce's "Monster Tea Party" collection.

## Dental-Kit making for earthquake victims

By Luke Molwitz  
Photographer

The university's Student Government Association, Muslim Students Association and Pre-Health Society sponsored a "Dental Kit Assembling" event for Syrian and Turkish earthquake victims.



Health science major, Kaci-Marie Minto, a sophomore, writing a note for a kit that will be later translated.



MSA members Sarah Majzoub, Zainab Seyal, Shahzaib Raza, Daniel Pappa, Merin Godly.



A presentation given by a doctor of medicine in dentistry on how natural disaster can affect dental health.



Dental kit in the making.



Tooth Brush Station for students to put in each kit.

## Art students display their work in Buley Gallery

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

Art students highlighted pieces they had been creating in the Buley Art Gallery. The opening night hosted students, friends and family to see what their peers have been working on.

This was all a part of the capstone course that art majors take, but students spent much of their free time continuing to work.

"In this class, you write your artist's statement on what your art's about, how you create art and what you want your art to evoke," photography major James Olvera, a senior said.

Each student had a plaque alongside their work to explain their goals and ideas for their pieces. All of the students had different goals and ideas for what they wanted to showcase. Each student had their own unique art style and methods of creating their projects.

"I made a series of

digital collages that are a mixture of skin agar from photography combined with the use of Photoshop," interdisciplinary studies major Kayla Cummings, a senior said.

Cummings' art was based on different parts of nature. It included colorful photographs of flowers and butterflies. They were edited in a way to make her feel more of a fantasy version of nature.

"I've always been inspired by nature, specifically, flowers and butterflies, just from their vivid colors and patterns," Cummings said.

Olvera also used the mode of photography for his work. Though his pieces all featured him as the theme. For his art, he likes to use self-photography to capture different moods and emotions.

"With my self-portraiture, I take the experiences I've had, the positive or negative, and I try to find that emotion and each picture kind of instills a very different emotion," Olvera said.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

A self-photography by James Olvera in the Buley Library Art Gallery on April 13.

Though most of his pieces were photographs, he also showed off a painting. This painting was based on one of the photographs that was also displayed at the event. This painting was a display of dealing with mental health struggles. He left room along the edge of the canvas for people to write whatever they wanted to contribute.

Photos and paintings

were not the only type of art in the showcase. Students had also made sculpture pieces which were displayed in a way where the viewer could walk around to see every side.

"I made a ceramic monster and a human bust with candles in her head, it is basically a tea Party setting with cakes and like, teacup and really focusing

on the two busts in the cake," studio art major Alaina Pierce, a junior said.

For Pierce, this was a way to comment on her own mental health.

"People tend to view their mental illnesses as like a monster is form as it's like a vile part of you that you shouldn't really represent or like make it part of yourself," Pierce said.

The monsters were meant

to represent the struggles of mental health. Pierce said her goal was to portray her mental health as something to cohabitate with. Instead of fearing it, she wanted to embrace it as a part of herself.

This was all a part of the capstone course that art majors take, but students spent much of their free time continuing to work.

"I spent probably 80 hours on this assignment, I'd come in and do the bust from 12 to 10:00 at night," Pierce said.

For seniors, this is their last big moment to show off themselves before graduation. This is also a moment where they reflect on their time at the university and in the program.

"I would say that if you're someone that's considering getting involved in the art program, that you should get involved because you have access to a lot of equipment that you might not have otherwise had access to," Cummings said.

## California College holds webinar for AAPI heritage

By Sarah Shelton  
Photo Editor

Every year in the month of May, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month is celebrated. This year the university chose to celebrate it April 6 to May 1 with different events.

One of these events was a webinar held on April 12 from California Community College on creating inclusive campus environments for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, also known as AANHPI, student success.

Students and faculty were able to attend online from their own desktops or go to Engleman hall for viewing.

According to the SCSU

Asian American Pacific Islander Committee Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning's Flyer, "The goals of the webinar are to expand knowledge, inspire and motivate campus leaders to be courageous, and lead change in equity-focused hiring and retention practices to support the cultivation of anti-racist teaching and learning environments."

The panel was run by California Community Colleges own Dr. Abdimalik Buul, who went over information and introduced each speaker.

One of the first speakers at this event was California Community Colleges' Interim Chancellor Dr. Daisy Gonzales.

"We have to remember

that diversity is an ideal, that equity is our strategy. That inclusion is a process, but that justice, justice is the outcome that we see," Gonzales said.

Gonzales talked about the fear and hate many communities received during the COVID-19 pandemic and how the AANHPI students struggled during this time, and even now.

"What we are here to do today is to remind ourselves, that the work that we started was important that what is going to take is more than a commitment," Gonzales said. "And the reality is that where we are headed requires us to really focus on intentional actions."

Hildegard Aguinaldo,

Vice President of the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges, joined the conversation to share how she met her support system to potentially inspire other students like her.

"I am the daughter of Filipino immigrants, the granddaughter of educators and the first in my family to become a lawyer," Aguinaldo said. "I stumbled on a group of Filipino American attorneys and college alumni hosting an event with free pizza and you bet I showed up. Little did I know then that they would become my second family who would walk me through the grueling experience of being a law student and a young lawyer."

Aguinaldo said these are

some of the people that are the reason for where she is today. She urges viewers to know that representation and inclusivity matter.

Vice President of Policy Research Campaign for College Opportunity Dr. Vikash Reddy also joined in to talk about data and statistics.

"The distribution of some of the Asian Americans in California in the five counties with the largest populations accounted for almost two-thirds of Asian Americans in the state with the vast majority coming in in Southern California," Reddy said. "And you know as the state's second largest ethnic demographic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders carry a lot of political

influence."

Reddy points out that fewer than one in five Asian American students in the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander community college earn their degree or credential in six years. He said a lot of work needs to be done in supporting these students.

"As diverse as we are and as different as we are. It is time for us to come together to believe to lift each other up not only to segregate for data, but also understand that representation matters for all events, as well as other communities of color and our allies which are very necessary," Vice Chancellor of Human Resources for Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Wyman Fong said.

## Review- The Super Mario Bros movie is a gaming hit

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

The era of good video game movies and shows is right now. Video game fans have been pleasantly surprised by the adaptations of their favorite games. The Super Mario Bros movie was no different. It is not on the same level as the Sonic movies, but it was an enjoyable one. There were references to the original platformers, Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros, and Super Mario Galaxy.

Mario and Luigi were given origins starting in Brooklyn. They talk like New Yorkers, ditching the stereotypical Italian accent. Those accents only appear in the advertisement the brothers made for their plumbing business. Mario was voiced by Chris Pratt, who I am not a fan of and I was disappointed at his performance while watching the trailers. However, watching the movie changed my mind. It was not my favorite performance in the movie, but it did not take away

from the fun. Charlie Day was also a great Luigi. I love Charlie Day and his ridiculous voice made the movie even more fun.

The star of the movie was easily Jack Black. Now, I am completely biased because I am a massive Jack Black fan. However, he was incredible as Bowser. I have never seen someone so excited to play a character. His interviews and promotions leading up to the release were hilarious. He dressed up as Bowser at multiple interviews and red-carpet events.

The direction they took with Anya Taylor Joy as Peach was great. Typically, she is the damsel in distress that is needed to be saved in the games. They found a way to give her autonomy while still following the original plots of the games. Bowser was madly in love with her to the point of singing an original ballad about his love for her. This did lead to him trying to gain possession of her, but the resolution was not purely just her being saved. It was nice to see a female

character be given her own power and personality.

Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong was not my favorite but was still a fun part of the movie. The initial battle between Mario and Donkey Kong was my favorite scene in the movie. It was fun back and forth between the

two where Mario comes out on top despite being the clear underdog. Keegan Michael Key was also a great Toad. He was really funny as Toad but, they did not utilize him very much. They just forgot about him when it came to the end of the movie, we never saw a

resolution for him.

Overall, this movie was very fun. The writers, cast and team clearly have a lot of love for the Mario games. They did a great job covering a lot of the games content in the 90-minute run time of the movie. The humor was also very

good, I was laughing nearly the whole movie. Do not go into this movie expecting peak cinema, you will not get that. If you go into the movie with the expectations of watching fun familiar characters, this movie is a pretty great experience.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Eng sets new Owls record in his final season

By Avery Martin  
Contributor

On April 2, Andrew Eng became the first baseball player in SCSU history to hit four homeruns in one game. The Owls eventually fell 17-10 against Queens College in the first game of a doubleheader but, the experience was special none the less.

Center fielder Eng, a graduate student shared his excitement about the achievement

“It was pretty cool. It was definitely a special moment. Obviously because it was four home runs in one game, but also because my mom went to Queens College and that is her alma mater,” Eng said. “She was there and got to see it, and I had some

other family there too. It was a really good day.”

Eng’s incredible feat of four home runs in one game is not only the first time a player has done so for Southern but, also the second time in the entire NE10 conference and 32nd time in NCAA Division two history.

Coach Tim Shea praised Eng’s contribution to the team. “He is arguably

one of the best, not just on our team but in the whole region. Currently he leads the conference in home runs and RBIs,” Shea said. “He bats in the middle of our lineup and is the guy everyone hopes gets up in the tougher times because he always seems to come through.”

Eng’s teammate, pitcher Nick Guarino, a graduate student shares Coach Shea’s outlook on Eng.

“As a player, he is one of the best around. I’ve played some really good guys across the region across the past six years, but he definitely is one of the best. In the batter’s box you can tell he is well respected and looked up to by the team. He is just one of the best guys around,” Guarino said.

Eng, who is from Ridgewood, New Jersey, transferred to Southern from Binghamton University his senior year.

With the Owls, Eng became the first player in SCSU and NE10 history



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Eng runs to a base during a game at The Ballpark.

to hit a home run in four consecutive games to open the season.

As of April 12, Eng has a .307 batting average for the 2023 season with 31 hits, 36 RBIs, eight doubles, and 10 homeruns. All has been accomplished in just 101 at-bats.

Off the field, his teammates point out that Eng’s leadership skills make him stand out.

“He is a role model for

us and a role model for the younger guys. He is our captain and a big part of the team,” Guarino said.

“He’s a great leader. He always does stuff the right way, he’s always prepared.

With 2023 being Eng’s final season playing college baseball, Eng has begun reflecting on the rest of the year.

For more of this story visit our website at [thesouthernnews.com](http://thesouthernnews.com).



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Outfielder Andrew Eng, a graduate student at bat during a game at The Ballpark.

## Takacs reflects on breaking four records

By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor

After setting four new program records in one game, attack Bayleigh Takacs, a graduate student, looks to continue her dominating season and help the Owls win the Northeast 10 Championship.

On the April 1 matchup versus Northeast 10 rival, Franklin Pierce Takacs became the program’s all-time assist leader, breaking the single-game and season record in assists.

“I know the all-time assist record was up for grabs, and that was the only one I knew about,” Takacs said. “That was definitely a goal of mine this season coming back being so close to it.”

Takacs credits her teammates for helping break the record.

“As much it is me passing the ball and setting people up, it also them catching

and finishing,” Takacs said.

So far this season, Takacs leads the Owls in with 53 points and 67 shots.

Attack Karlie Rowe, a graduate student, said she was so proud of her Takacs when she broke the record.

“We both ended last year not knowing if we were going to come back this year,” Rowe said. “We just knew that our work wasn’t finished here yet, and both had something to look forward to.”

Head coach Kevin Siedlecki was not surprised Takacs dominating performance against Franklin Pierce.

“That is who she is, and that is who she can be,” Siedlecki said.

Rowe said Takacs tries to help the team differently on and off the field.

“She is a major contender on our attack,” Rowe said. “She tries to do

everything in her power to get us more points on the board. Off the field, I would just say that she is great to go.”

Rowe said she is the type of teammate that they can vent to or even cry to.

“You can ask her questions, you can complain to her, and she’ll listen to you,” Rowe said.

Takacs said one of the things that she brings to the team is her leadership skills. “I think that’s something that I kind of just grew up seeing in my parents and their roles and jobs that I always admired, so I think that it’s something that kind of natural.” She also can help focus the team on any task they are required to complete.

“We have a lot of fun and outgoing people on the team,” Takacs said.

“I’m one of the ones that rattle everyone in and make sure we

remember what we’re here for.”

Siedlecki said Takacs is a tremendous leader and mature in everything she does.

“She commands respect,” Siedlecki said. “She’s been a captain for three years and was voted captain when she was a junior.”

Being a captain as a junior is unheard of but, Siedlecki said the team insisted that Takacs become the leader.

“There is so much she takes off my plate in terms of communication, and I have no doubt everyone’s going to be where they’re supposed to be when they’re supposed to be there,” Siedlecki said.

When the team went on their spring break trip, Takacs helped organize teammates by creating a checklist to ensure everyone had their belongings. New Jersey native Takacs said she had played lacrosse since the third grade because of her older cousins.

For more of this story visit our website at [thesouthernnews.com](http://thesouthernnews.com)



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Bayleigh Takacs, a graduate student looks to pass the ball.

## Dumont reviews season performance so far

By Matt Cain  
Contributor

Owls’ softball standout catcher, Jacqueline Dumont a graduate student has been on fire since the softball season started leading the team in major statistical categories.

Dumont leads the team in batting average and hits.

Dumont has a .427 batting average with 35 hits and 20 runs batted in (RBI). This will be her second time being selected as captain for the Owls.

With her on-field performance being great, she is also a great leader. The leadership role has benefited her teammates and coaching staff. Dumont’s goals and mentality have been key to her success this season.

Head coach Jillian Rispoli loves to coach her, as well as watch Dumont every time she steps on the field. “She is a fun player, like an Aaron Judge, every time she steps on the field you feel something special is going to happen,” Rispoli said.

As starting catcher she has a good relationship with all the pitchers, which took some time to work on. As an underclassman,



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Catcher Jacqueline Dumont, a graduate student at bat during a game.

she struggled with this aspect of the game. She watches films on her opponents, as well as being the first one at practice and the last one to leave.

“The way she impacts the game is so special. I want her to get into the coaching side,” Rispoli said. Dumont has been the heart and soul of the softball team since her junior year.

In 2021 Dumont took on the leadership role on the field. Her fielding percentage dropped just a little but, the team’s overall success went up. She would become the team captain for the next two years.

Outfielder Ally Petrella a graduate

student, has been her teammate since they were underclassmen. They built a bond on the field and off the field.

“She is a great teammate on and off the field, the go-to teammate,” Petrella said.

Some of the previous seasons have been a steppingstone for the team and for Dumont as a leader. She is an all-around team player, and her teammates love her for that.

“She impacts up tremendously, she knows how to hype us up and is always passionate,” Petrella said.

There is no denying that Dumont has a natural talent and love for the game of softball.

Last season Dumont led the team in batting average and hits. She also had eight home runs, which also was the most on the team.

“My individual goal is to get all-American and Conference player of the Year,” Dumont said.

Dumont got all-American last year, so grabbing that award again would solidify her greatness as a player. With the greatness of Dumont and her outstanding performance, the team has its sights set on making a run for the conference championship.

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