



SPDC shows talent and teamwork

PAGE 8



Volleyball ride ends

PAGE 9



CELEBRATING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

PAGE 4

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Southern student elected to office



Tyrell Brown, junior business major, elected to public office.

PHOTO | FOX NEWS

New Southern budget cuts millions in funding

By Josh LaBella

The recently passed state budget cuts funding to the Connecticut state colleges and universities by \$26.5 million dollars. Out of that Southern was predicted to lose about \$3.5 million.

"Our total budget, for the whole university, is about \$220 million," said Mark Rozewski, Southern's vice president of finance and administration. "So we haven't really decided how it's going to affect us yet because this is all still being analyzed."

Rozewski said Southern's reserves may or may not be used to address this issue. He said the problem is that reserves are temporary and once they are spent they are spent.

"It's like using your savings to buy groceries when you're unemployed," said Rozewski. "It's not sustainable. So it's not a long range strategy. But it may be in the mix of the strategies that we develop as a campus to deal with this reduction."

According to Rozewski, there is very little they can do because 40 percent of the year is already gone. He said with only 7 months of the year left to run, they are at a severely limited range of possible options.

He said one effect of the cuts will be continuation of the hiring freeze.

"That's one immediately obvious effect," said Rozewski. "There was hope many months ago that when a budget was finalized that the hiring freeze would be lifted. That does not appear to be the case, it could well run for many more months."

Rozewski said it is not clear whether there will be more cuts in the current year and it is not clear what next year will look like. He said they are trying to get a longer range sense of what next year will look like so they can build towards it. He said the simple fact of the matter is the money is not there at the state level.

"Nobody got any money," said Rozewski. "It isn't that we are particularly disadvantaged here. Serious reductions happened to every state agency and many state programs."

SEE BUDDGET PAGE 2

By Josh LaBella

Another Southern Connecticut State University student has been elected to public office. Tyrell Brown was elected to the planning and zoning commission in Middletown.

Brown, a junior business administration major, said growing up he would always had an interest in politics. He said his first election was for senior class president at Middletown High School, which he won. He said he liked it and felt he could get used to it.

"That was one of the things that definitely pushed me," said Brown. "I liked helping classmates and maybe I can help the residents of Middletown as well."

Brown said he decided to run for the planning and

zoning commission because it has a direct impact on taxes and he feels the taxes are ridiculous in Middletown and he wanted to help.

"I knew that hopping on that I'd be able to help," said Brown. "We really control allowing businesses and developers to come into the city and, therefore, that would affect taxes and residents."

Brown, who is 20 years old, is the youngest black republican to get elected into office in Connecticut's history along with his friend Ed Ford Jr, who was elected to Middletown's board of education. He said this is not something people see every day.

"I feel as if the party itself," said Brown, "they need to do a better job reaching out to minorities and showing them it's a party for everyone and not just old rich white guys." According to Brown, his job

is going to be tough but he will be trying his best to work with his colleagues. He said he wants to make it easier for business to come to Middletown so they can grow their tax base. He said it is important for young people to get involved in politics because they are the future.

"If we don't put our input into things we can be greatly affected in the future," said Brown. "When you look at student loans for example. If young people don't get involved with this process, young people are going to continue to be screwed. So we definitely need to get involved with these things and its good for a resume too."

Kevin Butterbaugh, chairman of the political science department, said the fact that the people of Middletown voted to elect a 20 year old means there is something special about him. From a

political science perspective, he said, it is clear that the more someone participates, the better citizen they are. He said a lot of political institutions are dominated by the old and that does not promote innovation and new ideas.

"In a sense, it will probably live up discussion and bring a very different perspective," said Butterbaugh. "I don't see any negatives to someone that's really youthful winning these kinds of elections."

Brown said he went to Johnson and Wales University before he came to Southern and both schools helped him by teaching him to go out and chase his dreams. He said one thing he continues to tell young people is to go out and do whatever they want to do.

"It's that simple. Just put your mind to it," said Brown. "Put in the work. And you can get anything done."

President Bertolino calls Social Justice Month a success

By Josh LaBella

Southern Connecticut State University President Joe Bertolino said Social Justice Month went very well and, hopefully, was the start of larger conversations moving forward.

"I was particularly pleased with the variety of programs and the work of the president's commission on social justice," said Bertolino. "I think I was really pleased with how students reacted and handled themselves when we had some controversial folks on campus."

In reference to the Nov. 2 religious demonstration in front of Buley Library, Bertolino said students expressed themselves while being respectful. He said they represented the school and the student body well. Bertolino

said in general the feedback he is gotten on the month long event was positive.

According to Bertolino, the message of social justice resonates with campus. He said given what is happening in the world today, where many conversations are challenging and painful, talking about issues of race, religion, hate and even sexual harassment can be hard.

"Especially when you're sitting across from someone who is passionate about something that you find particularly offensive or hurtful," said Bertolino. "Trying to maintain that balance of listening, while at the same time, expressing your viewpoint and doing it in a passionate way as well. It can be challenging."

SEE SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH PAGE 3



President Joe Bertolino.

PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Muslim Students Association on prejudice regarding Islam

By Jeff Lamson

The Muslim Students Association at Southern faces off against prejudice and misconceptions about Islam by sticking to the basics. MSA holds events putting students in each other's shoes and demonstrating what the faith is about.

President of MSA, Zain Seyal, transferred to Southern approximately two years ago to find that Southern's MSA was inactive. Seyal made a personal effort to get the association going again and now, as president, is collaborating with fellow MSA members as well as the Multicultural Center to share his faith with Southern students. When speaking about how MSA approaches this goal Seyal said, "We're trying our best to show the Southern community that it's a very simple, easy-going and peaceful religion through these events where we can have an interactive discussion with the crowd."

One of these events took place early last week when the former MSA president and a current member in the Multicultural Center, Haroon Chaudhry, held a small interactive discussion with Southern students discussing the prejudice and misconceptions that Muslims may encounter. Something that was used to help illustrate these notions is an extension of MSA's hijab day in which non-Muslim students wear a hijab and



Haroon Chaudhry, president of MSA.

PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

are asked to reflect on their experiences. This event specifically was hosted by the Multicultural Center and co-sponsored by MSA.

Other topics explored at this event were that of misconceptions about polygamy and jihad. Seyal explained that polygamy in Islam is only allowed

during certain kinds of conditions and circumstances; a high male to female ratio within a population being one of them. He also explains that it is not supposed to be for pleasure, and that in such a case one must treat all spouses equally. On the topic of jihad, Seyal expressed that the media often twists this term to something

different than its intended meaning. He went on to explain that it is not a crusade and is the inner war within oneself.

"How can I be a better person?" said Seyal. "How can I stay away from committing a sin?" According to Seyal, it can be as simple as trying to be a safer driver or being more responsible about your homework or sleep.

This past Wednesday, MSA held a henna night in which students engaged in applying henna body art to learn a bit more about a cultural practice which many may be unaware of. Henna dye is usually used as body art for ceremonial purposes, such as weddings and holidays; but according to Seyal, it is a good way to share the practice since students seem to enjoy it so much.

Seyal believes the future of the MSA is bright, saying the current board is good and that the association has "great potential" after having an issue with inconsistent leadership in the past.

Just this semester, Conn. Hall has started serving halal food and in terms of reception at Southern, Seyal said, "It's been absolutely welcoming and amazing."

He specifically highlighted President Bertelino and Vice President for Student Affairs, Tracey Tyree having shown support by providing the MSA with a prayer room.

"We usually gather and we start in the name of God and just make sure that we're always going back to our roots," said Seyal, "which is Islam."

Earthlings screening exposes injustice in animal cruelty

By August Pelliccio

For the purposes of clothing, food, entertainment and research, humans cause immeasurable amounts of suffering to animals of all kinds.

It may be hard to imagine the kind of torment that animals are put through before being slaughtered for human purposes, but the film "Earthlings" explicitly highlights exactly that torment.

Southern's Humane Society, led by president Luke Grandpre, held a viewing as part of Social Justice Month on Nov. 29.

Grandpre said the purpose of the viewing was that, "It exposes the brutality against animals in all aspects."

"Earthlings," written, produced and directed by Shaun Monson, was released in 2005. The film is entirely narrated by Joaquin Phoenix, and it begins, "Since we all inhabit the Earth, all of us are considered earthlings." It continues, "There is no us, no racism or speciesism in the term 'earthling.'"

The film explains that humans share this world with millions of other living beings, but selfishly we dominate, treating other living things as mere objects. "Earthlings" is roughly 90 minutes of graphic images presenting the conditions in which animals exist and die in several



Viewing that showed animal brutality.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

industries. Everything from minks and lynxes being skinned still alive, to cows chained up by one leg bleeding out onto the factory floor is shown bluntly in the film.

Rosalyn Amenta, a professor of women's studies, was in attendance at the viewing; she said she has seen the film many times. Amenta said she does not enjoy watching the film, but thinks it is an important film to see

to remind herself what is happening in the world.

"It's difficult to educate and raise consciousness," Amenta said.

Amenta said that is because we tend to avoid talking about what is really going on. She calls animal cruelty "the forbidden subject," and says it is the last taboo to conquer.

"Opportunities like this can enlighten people how many cultures think of animal life as one dimensional, and use it for self-serving or capitalistic purposes," said Amenta.

This is ultimately the reason Grandpre set out to make the film public on campus, for Social Justice Month. Grandpre had been a vegetarian before seeing the film, but he said it was mostly for health reasons. Seeing the film in high school ended up being a stepping-stone toward the vegan lifestyle he practices today.

Grandpre said, "After watching this film it became more about the animals."

Though a lot of people have somewhat of an understanding of the industries in question, Grandpre said more often than not, when people eat meat, they are not killing the animal themselves, so they do not see the effect they are having. That is where the film becomes relevant.

"What we expect as a program," said Grandpre, "would be that for people who don't really know what's happening, it really puts things into perspective."

A connection that was made by board members during the concluding discussion, as well as during the film, is that animal violence is just as brutal as any other violence.

Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jamie Kelley, a junior political science and history major, said the continued cuts in the state budget make her feel like her education, and the education of all CSU students, does not matter to anyone in the capital.

"Every year I personally have to fight to come back to Southern and continue my education," said Kelley. "It's pretty terrifying. I think that Southern does the best it can but I really wish that the university did a better job helping students reach out to their legislators. Especially when it comes to educational cuts."

Calvin Daniels, a sophomore accounting major, said he is discouraged by the continued cuts to higher education. He said it is a reflection of a much larger national problem.

"The country isn't investing in education anymore," said Daniels. "Southern is just one of thousands

of schools that are facing budget cuts. It's really sad to see the state, and indeed, the national government aren't interested in having well educated young people."

Rozewski said he doesn't know if students will see much of an effect. He said he hasn't heard of that happening yet from the previous budget cuts. He said Southern works hard to prevent the budget cuts from impacting the educational experience.

"We are really proud of the fact that although we've had budget difficulties for a number of years here, we've worked so hard to shelter the student education experience from those reductions," said Rozewski. "And I think we've largely been successful and I think that you won't see much in the student education experience out of this. But neither can this go on indefinitely."



Outside of Buley Library at Southern Connecticut State University.

PHOTO | COURTESY OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE.

SGA members disappointed in new budget for Southern

By August Pelliccio

Connecticut's state budget took long enough to be approved this fiscal year, and ongoing changes are beginning to be cause for concern when it comes to Southern.

This concern was one main focus of SGA's last meeting of the semester, on Dec. 1, but the first order of business was filling the new openings on the board.

Graduating treasurer Emily Mica served on her last meeting Friday, pending a replacement. The executive board motioned to appoint Mia Forgiore, representative at large, as treasurer, effective next semester.

Forgiore's shift up leaves an open position for representative, for which Darius Floyd was appointed.

Forgiore regularly sits in on the faculty senate committee, and she briefly overviewed the last week's meeting. The primary objective there was to discuss the "students first" initiative.

"The way I understand it, they're looking into combining all the community colleges throughout the state into one big community college with different branches."

According to Forgiore, this idea is still up in the air, and it would not directly affect Southern students, but there were some concerns from the committee about the way such a consolidation would be executed.

President Julie Gagliardi sat in last week on the budget and planning committee, where the most recently updated state budget was discussed.

Christopher Piscitelli, assistant dean of students, said in the very beginning of November that that Southern's budget would take a \$575,000 cut, which was not preferable, but easily absorbed by reserves. In addition, Piscitelli said filling new open positions would be "conservative."

"As of Nov. 17, we have received a \$3.515 million cut," said Gagliardi.

This new figure, being already roughly seven times the original, was just recently raised again.

Gagliardi said, "To my understanding the new budget that was approved by the state legislature has a shortfall of \$200 million."

This means that the updated budget was still "in the red," and the new cut for Southern is officially \$4.1 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

Gagliardi reported that this amount of deficit can actually be absorbed, albeit only just.

Piscitelli said, "The shortfall is now being absorbed between a combination of the vacancies that currently

exist, and tapping into some of our reserve dollars."

So not only are more of Southern's reserves being used just to run the school, but moving forward, none of the vacancies in terms of faculty and staff may be filled. Piscitelli said the good news in this, is that service to students will not be altered for the next fiscal year.

"There is a big caveat in this: that is the number we're dealing with today," Piscitelli said. "There is reason to believe that there is another \$200 million shortfall in regards to revenues coming into the state; at any point in time the state can come back to the system and say, 'we're doing an additional rescission.'"

Quite bluntly, Piscitelli said that a secondary recession to this new budget cannot be absorbed through vacancies, as that resource has already been "tapped out."

Piscitelli said President Joe Bertolino was clear that in the case of a secondary rescission, service to students would be affected.

The call to action comes February, when Piscitelli said there will be a need for student voices to be heard at the capitol. He said that any student can make a difference by simply calling their legislator and saying the following:

"I am a voter in this district, I put you in office. Funding higher education is extremely important, and it needs to be a priority because we are the future taxpayers in the state of CT."

Students upset over Conn Hall take-out policy change

By Josh LaBella

On his phone Juan Dominguez had a picture of a takeout box open on his desk - unable to close and filled to the brim with a hot dog, fries and chicken tenders.

Dominguez, director of Dining Services at Conn Hall at Southern Connecticut State University, said when Chartwells found students stuffing their boxes with pounds of food they knew they had to change something. When the program started in the beginning of the semester the to-go boxes were not see-through, but after a number of incidents they decided the week before Thanksgiving to change to clear plastic boxes.

"The clear container, I believe is a win-win-win situation," said Dominguez. "Mainly because I really think the students are policing themselves. We have not seen anything like this since we changed to clear."

Dominguez said it is important for everybody to understand that the to-go option is a benefit - not a right. He said if Chartwells, as a vendor, offers an alternative, it will have an impact of their financials. He said food costs went up when the program first started because of the amount some students were taking. He said he loves the program, but it has to make financial sense.

"The abuse is a bad thing, however you're going to look at it," said Dominguez. "Mainly because it's going



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Reggie Savage jr., freshman physical education major.

to take that benefit away from good people. (The clear containers) is a good thing. Food costs have stabilized. I see no reason we'd have to take it away."

Garrett Cyr, a junior English secondary education major, said the change annoys him because he feels like students are being babied. He said he is on Farnham hall

council and plans on requesting for Chartwells to change the containers back to the originals. He said a lot of his friends said they are feeling like they are being controlled due to the actions of a few people.

"I feel a little self-conscious sometimes," said Cyr. "I liked it before. I feel like they gave us this, which was a good option, and now they are making little steps to take it away. I don't use it as much anymore partly because that."

Reggie Savage Jr., a freshman physical education major, said he has a commuter meal plan so he cannot use the to-go option. He said that feels unfair to him. He said he heard about the change to clear containers and it makes sense.

"Definitely a good way for them to keep track on who's trying to take extra food," said Savage. "It's reasonable. Anyone would think about abusing that."

Stefany Mitchell, a senior interdisciplinary studies major with concentration in sociology and leadership development, said she is co-chair on the food services committee and thinks the change is necessary.

"As a student who is informed of policies, it unfortunately is necessary because there are a lot of students who have been abusing it and have been taking pounds of ham and stuff like that - which it's not really meant for," said Mitchell. "I could see from the general student perspective how it could be frustrating, for sure."

Social Justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bertolino said he had a few favorite moments from Social Justice Month. He said he liked Gala de Noche, State Senator Ted Kennedy's discussion of disability rights, and Phi Beta Sigma's presentation on the issue of the flag, sports, and race. At the end of the day, he said, his favorite part was the protest of the religious demonstration because of how students handled themselves.

"In fact, about a week or so after that occurred, the Christian Intersarsity Fellowship stood outside with signs that said something like 'Jesus loves all of us,'" said Bertolino. "It was our own students who were handing out cookies and punch and wanted folks to know that one could be faithful, but have a different point a view and were respectful to their fellow classmates. They felt compelled to deliver a different message."

Bertolino said throughout the month he learned Southern students are resilient. He said he hopes Social Justice Month becomes a year and a year becomes a daily routine in the life of the institution.

"It's kind of a double edged sword. On the one hand, you want to talk about social justice. On the other hand, you hope that it will someday just be ingrained in the fabric of what we do," said Bertolino. "Because it just is."

Megan Williams, a senior English major, said Social Justice Month is amazing because she does not feel like there is enough of a voice regarding social justice at the school.

"It's a concept people think about on an academic level," said Williams, "but because we're so focused on learning about it in our books we don't often stop to think about how it relates to our actual lives, how we live it as students, and how that infiltrates the community at school. And so by having a social justice awareness month we can try and help our student body become more aware of their own actions and the way they may or not be inclusive and exclusive."

Agnieszka Bartoszek, a senior history major, said the month went flawlessly. She said it was great to see southern students come together for a great cause. Her favorite event, she said, was when Dear World came to the campus and had people take photographs with their message written on them.

"I feel that Social Justice Month makes Southern feel like an inclusive and diverse place that accepts people of all cultures, religions, and sexualities," said Bartoszek.



Social Justice Month.

PHOTO | SOUTHERN VISUAL WEBSITE

The benefits of working on campus

By Jenna Stepleman

Students often have a hard time finding flexible work schedules that allow them to attend their classes in the daytime on the weekdays and also make decent money to pay tuition. That is why on campus work seems to be so popular.

Deidra James, a public health sophomore, lives in Schwartz Hall and does not have a car. This made it extremely difficult to find a job she could make it to, especially with her full time class load.

She then found a job at the circulation desk at Buley Library where her duties include stocking books on the shelves, checking books in and out, and making sure students questions are answered.

"I like having the job on campus, because if it wasn't on campus I'd basically not be able to get to it. It lets me just take the 5 minute walk it is and get started," James said.

The job pays her minimum wage and she works "usually 14 hours" a week.

"It's nice to be guaranteed money, and on top of that I have a type of job I can sit and do work in the slow times, and study when it gets later in the day, so it helps me balance my workload better than a regular job as well," James said.

Others who work on campus have more fast paced jobs, such as the on-campus food industry.

Alexandra Berry, a sophomore psychology major, works at Dunkin Donuts and has for this whole semester.

After applying freshman year and finding out all the positions were already filled, she got a call over the summer to say she had placed into a position.

"It was ironic because I was working in my hometown at Dunkin Donuts and then I ended up here. I had experience and I think that's why it made sense for me to be placed here," Berry said.

Berry claimed it was convenient to work here because not only does she not have to drive anywhere, but they actually allowed her to send her school schedule and make her hours around that.

"It's super flexible, if anyone is looking for a job on campus for the convenience I would recommend talking to the manager and seeing what's available," said Berry. Others had different ways of getting into their job and have been at it a long time.

Devra Baxter, a junior international business major had her job on campus since her freshman year.

"I had a family member who worked at Southern and they connected me with the people I inevitably got my job from, it's kinda all about who you know," Baxter said.

Baxter works in the student center both at the help desk and the game room. She answers calls and student questions as well as monitors the supplies when in the game room.

"I would recommend people get out there and meet people" said Baxter, "because who you know really makes an impact in not only what opportunities you get but what ones you even know are out there."

Celebrating holiday traditions



PHOTO COURTESY | ANNA

By Jeffrey Lamson

With finals looming over Southern students, some look forward knowing the holidays are right around the corner. In just a few short weeks, holidays like Hanukkah and Christmas will start and many family traditions will return into students' lives.

Theater major and junior John Murphy said that his normal Christmas activities include dinner at his aunt and uncle's house and watching "It's a Wonderful Life." When putting up the Christmas tree, however, Murphy made it clear that his family uses a fake tree for a very specific reason: "My sister's allergic to regular trees," Murphy said.

To Murphy's family, Christmas is a season that begins, "once we get out of school," said Murphy. "It's a pretty big thing. Mostly everybody comes out," Murphy said before going on to add that approximately 25 people gather.

He also said that it usually does not get very crowded saying, "It's a pretty big house" and mentioning that people are typically coming and going visiting other sides of the family. Murphy's family also has a tradition that some people may not.

"My aunt usually has a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas," said Murphy. "That might be pretty specific to us."

On Christmas shopping on a college student's budget, Murphy said, "It's not easy." Murphy does, however, try to make it a bit easier on himself.

"I'm very forward," Murphy said, "I just ask people what they want, because I'm not good at thinking of what people might want."

Freshman psychology major Damien Signore has an admittedly conventional holiday season. His immediate family of less than 10 people decorate the tree together and celebrate Christmas as it comes along. Signore's family focuses more on Christmas Eve rather than on Christmas Day, but they both have the same small set of people in attendance.

Regarding Christmas dinner, Signore said, "We normally just make generic food, like ham or something like that." When asked about who handles the food, Signore said, "Anyone just brings anything."

Denise Cole, a junior sociology major speaks about her conventional Christmas saying, "The family gets together at my older brother's house, everybody makes something, (and) all the kids get presents."

However, Cole's holidays were not always something so familiar to other Christians, in addition to being raised Catholic, she is of Polish descent.

"When we were younger," Cole says, "when my mother was still alive, we did the very traditional Polish dinner." Typically, more focused on Christmas Eve, this consists of pierogi, fish and oplatek, which is a thin wafer similar to the host of communion which is passed around and broken as those gathered wish each other well in the coming year.

Cole's older brother has now taken over for her mother, but after a few years of keeping the traditions going it was eventually a family decision to let them fall away.

"As long as the entire family is getting together Christmas Eve," Cole said regarding the traditions that are currently in place, Cole concluded saying, "Christmas is definitely still big for my family, it's just changed a bit."

The French Club: A small devoted group

By Jeffrey Lamson

In the midst of numerous setbacks, Southern's French Club continues to cultivate a small dedicated community of Francophiles celebrating the French language and culture. Participating in events both on and off campus, French Club members can expect to be treated to French food, games, movies, musicals and plays.

Jessica Hartwell, a senior and president of the club, opens meetings during community hour on Mondays with a fun fact collected from the Embassy of France's official Facebook, a tongue twister in French and a French word of the day. These activities are to expose attending members to the French language. During the business part of meetings, members plan and

discuss upcoming events and activities, which sometimes does not always go as planned.

Just this semester, Hartwell tried to orchestrate a fundraising bake sale only for it to not be authorized until after the event was scheduled to take place. The bake sale was eventually held later in the semester successfully, but these kinds of complications do happen to the club from time to time.

Some of the successful events have been collaborations with the Spanish Club. Both clubs went apple and pumpkin picking together as well as having a French vs. Spanish Karaoke Night. The members also went to Crêpe Chouquette in New Haven

for lunch and have plans for more lunches and dinners in the upcoming spring semester. At club nights, members play the French versions of "The Game of LIFE" and "Taboo" as well as a French card game called "Milles Bornes."

Milles Bornes is in GAMES Magazine's Hall of Fame and may be a favorite of the members. "It gets pretty intense," says Hartwell.

Although there are only three eboard members and four active regular members, the French Club is growing.

"This year we've done a lot more," said Sophia Whipple, a sophomore with French minor.

Advisor Luke Eilderts attributes the growth to the club's leadership recently.

"I've been very fortunate," says Eilderts. "Actually, the last two years now to have very active and involved presidents," referring to both Hartwell and former club president, Taylor Bird. Bird was also responsible for attracting Hartwell to the club after transferring to Southern in 2015.

Despite not being directly or officially linked to the French Club, the approximately month-long trip to Paris every June has a close connection to a number of those involved. Eilderts himself is the leader of this trip and Hartwell and Whipple have both attended in 2015 and 2017 respectively. The students both attribute this to inspiring their passion for French culture. "When I went abroad, it was just like, game over," says Hartwell.



PHOTO | JEFFREY LAMSON

The French Club.

While the French language is important to the club, Eilderts says, "I don't want it to turn into another French class." The meetings are held in English and, "You don't have to be in a French class," said Eilderts.

Hartwell also encourages new membership from people who might be interested but maybe a little intim-

idated, saying, "Don't be afraid to join us. You learn as you go." Feeling that joining was in her own best interest, Whipple encourages others to share her passion saying, "You only have one college career, and you should spend it doing things you're passionate about."

Farewell to the graduating seniors of the Southern News

Finding my tribe in the wilderness



PHOTO COURTESY | JENIECE ROMAN

Jeniece Roman

By Jeniece Roman, Editor-in-Chief

It is something of a well-known secret amongst journalism students at Southern that many feel like they have been treated differently than other students.

My time at Southern, like many journalism students, was not typical. When I joined The Southern News, I had no idea how much it would impact me or the extent to which my peers and I would be challenged.

We at the Southern News make mistakes; we are students after all. Students make mistakes, but very rarely do students in other majors have those setbacks published and criticized by the entire university, students, faculty and the administration.

An administration that can at times parallel the current presidential administration in the views they hold about the press. I have been treated differently because I am a journalism student. I have experienced interviews being condensing, closed off, evasive and rude.

I once attended a public meeting for students in which a member of the administration remarked, "We have to be careful what we say now," upon being informed that I was writing for the Southern News.

No doubt the Southern News would receive criticism of a front-page story about the realities of smoking on campus but be praised by the provost when we write about the president of

the university giving students a tour of New Haven, calling it a "step up" from the last edition.

When professors tell students to be careful what they say around journalism students, no matter how playfully said, it sows seeds of distrust that are carried with them after they graduate and into the workforce.

We are entering dangerous times for journalists, times where the President of the United States calls journalists the enemy of the people, when in fact they are the warriors of truth. We at the Southern News are not your enemy. We also will not sugarcoat or over-look stories we think are important to students simply because it might make the school look bad. We are here for the students because we are the students.

However, I am truly grateful for my time at Southern because of those experiences and not in spite of them. The experience has shaped me into the journalist I am today and for that I am grateful.

The profession I chose comes with challenges; that's a fact. It was never romanticized by my professors but presented realistically. Perhaps the most valuable lesson that I have learned is that my passion for seeking truth and sharing people's stories is what drives me.

Thank you to all of my journalism professors. Let me say that again: Thank you to all of my journalism professors. For teaching and encouraging me, challenging me when I needed it, seeing my potential and advocating for me when the critics howled.

I want to thank my Southern News advisors professors Cindy Simoneau and Frank Harris for their guidance, patience and for imparting great wisdom. I am inspired by all of the staff at the Southern News and their passion for what they do. I am honored to be in such great company and I know they will continue doing great things.

The Southern News has been my safe space, the people in it my retreat. You have been my tribe in the wilderness. We have been challenged, we have grown and we are better for it.

At Southern I got more than I hoped for

By Phil Zoppi, Sports Editor

I walked into the Southern News during my sophomore year not knowing what to expect, and I am about to leave with more than I ever could have hoped for.

I met lifelong friends, learned what it is like to work in a newsroom and made plenty of memories that I will never forget.

It is going to be weird not walking into the ever so familiar Southern News room on my Monday mornings moving forward. It was a job, but it was a job I enjoyed and never once dreaded to go to. The reason I never dreaded to work at the Southern News is because the people I worked with and for.

I want to thank my advisor Cindy Simoneau for believing in me and giving me the position of sports editor that I always wanted the minute I started working for the Southern News. I also want to thank the two people who worked with



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Phil Zoppi

me the most in the sports section throughout my career at the Southern News: Edgar Ayala and Matt Gad.

Edgar and I immediately became good friends when we started working together in my sophomore year and always put out the best sports section we could. Matt has been working with me more recently, and he's one of the people I enjoyed

working with the most because he never turned a story down and always got his work in on time.

I will truly miss the Southern News, as it has been a big part of my life the past three years. My final thank you goes out to everyone who has been reading my content in the sports section during my Southern career.

I will forever be thankful



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Alex Palmieri

By Alex Palmieri, News Editor

Another semester has come and gone. Only this time, it is my last. Although I did not spend all four of my college years at Southern, I will cherish the professors and friends I have made throughout my two and a half years. My best friends are in the newsroom every Monday when I walk into work.

The professors in the journalism department care about each and every student and want the best for everyone. I want to give a special thanks to each professor in the department for being there for me every step of the way. Whether it was school related, work related, personal life or if I just went into their offices to ask how their day was, I was welcomed with open arms

and they would all make time for me.

So thank you professor Simoneau for being my advisor, helping me through my college career. And of course, for news writing, the best class ever.

Thank you professor Harris for teaching me how to improve my writing and recommending me to the Southern News, and showing my dreadful stories to the entire class in reporting and writing and getting criticized the entire time.

Thank you professor Gil for teaching me multimedia journalism, and making me take the capstone course more seriously.

And who can forget professor Dunklee: the man who taught me most of the journalistic ethics, and made me laugh for an entire class period.

I came into Southern not knowing what I wanted to do for my career, but soon found journalism was my true passion. The journalism department has given me massive amounts of opportunity to improve my skills as a journalist, and each and every one of them has guided and helped me from day one.

I have worked at the Southern News the past two years. The work I have done for the Southern News has been nothing short of helpful in preparation for my career.

Through rough times dealing with grades, anxiety filled moments for big tests and arguments with friends, Southern and the journalism department has guided me in the right steps and I will be forever thankful. Through thick and thin, as a person who has never liked school, I must say -- I really enjoyed my time here. I really enjoyed it all.

Investing in Southern and investing in yourself

By Melissa Nunez, Features Editor

Less than two weeks—that is how long I have until my academic journey comes to a close. To many, getting a degree seems obligatory. Something you just do after high school, but during my course at Southern I had to dig a little deeper to fuel my motivation.

Like many others here, conflicts often competed with academics and I found myself having to make decisions that would slow the progression of my degree. It was frustrating to look at my degree evaluation and see I was snailing along, to have jobs tell me I should limit my hours on campus so I could have more time in the office. More time to make money. More money to live.

After I tell people it has taken me six years to complete my degree, they seem shocked. Even if they are not, I have had enough negative reactions to impulsively justify my college career immediately after admitting it.

But how could I have viewed this journey just as an obligation when through the turmoil, through the stress and through the tears, I have not given up on this degree. The spark to this combustion stemmed from a lot of different elements. As I take my last steps around campus as a student, I am reminded of them. Those who kept me here, even when it seemed like everything else was crashing down.



PHOTO COURTESY | HECTOR NUNEZ

Melissa Nunez

First and foremost, the professors at Southern are some of the most devoted, compassionate and brightest people I have had the pleasure of meeting and learning from. When I thought about how much easier it would be to let just one thing go, I thought of them. How I did not just want to meet their expectations, but exceed them. Also, if I am qualifying myself as dedicated, then I am in good company, as my peers at Southern are also some of the most committed and passionate people I know—many here know your struggle all too well, and many others will strive to empathize.

Finally, the clubs and organizations here that not only encourage you to commit to academic excellence, but provide a place to belong. As a freshman, one of the first steps I made was to the Southern

News office. The staff welcomed my novice skills and helped shape them to what they are today.

If you are like me and there are things tearing you away from campus, things snagging your attention away from your studies, I will be honest, on some days it will seem like you have lived your hardest day, until another comes along and makes you wish you were right back where you were.

But this journey is a commitment you made to yourself. Do not break that promise you made when you got that acceptance letter in the mail. And, not if, but when you do make it to the end, do not let anyone diminish your accomplishments.

Invest in the professors here, the students here and the clubs here. But most importantly, make sure to invest in yourself.

'The Punisher' takes on social issues



PHOTO COURTESY | GAGE SKIDMORE

Jon Bernthal, who plays Frank Castle, speaking at the 2017 San Diego Comic Con International, for "Marvel's The Punisher."

By Melissa Nunez

When Marvel characters went to die in their mediocre films, Netflix has both rectified those heroes and charmed fans with shows like "Daredevil" and its latest, "The Punisher."

In the past, Frank Castle, a self-destructive anti-hero within the Marvel universe, has gone relatively misunderstood, with his blockbusters gaining modest reviews: the 1989 film starring Dolph Lundgren received a rating of 5.7 out of 10, the 2004 film starring Thomas Jane earned a 6.5, and the 2008 film starring Ray Stevenson gained a 6.0, according to Internet Movie Database.

In the Netflix series, the Punisher is a gripping, dismal perspective on the life of Castle. Jon Bernthal is no stranger to

Castle, as he donned the skull in "Daredevil" season 2 once before and has done a better job than most in portraying him as not only a hellbent moralizer, but someone who has felt the sting of war and loss.

Viewers are introduced to a restless Castle, whose militant killing spree to avenge his family has done nothing to rectify his feelings of loss and guilt—and while Castle's days are cloaked with grief over his family, those around him are struggling with the same loss as well.

This loss leads to the enigmas that fill much of the early season, as Castle is introduced to a military intrigue that uncovers the true trigger finger behind the loss of his family.

As impenetrable as Castle's psyche seems to be, viewers will learn more about what other demons are plaguing him.

As audiences are already aware, Castle

had a lucrative military past—what they will come to know is it is one that had left him fractured long before the killing of his family.

As a veteran vigilante with a massive arsenal tramples through New York, it may be hard for viewers to ignore the political and social issues outside their doors and "The Punisher" series cannot either, introducing topics such as gun control and veterans' struggles throughout the season.

The discussion surrounding gun control may surprise those who are familiar with The Punisher franchise, but viewers should expect the discourse here as journalist and ally, Karen Page heads the controversy throughout some of the episodes in the season.

Also, as previously seen in Marvel's "Jessica Jones," the discourse surrounding Castle's wounded mental health was an

authentic and refreshing take on the struggles even heroes face once mixed up in the evils of the world.

Although, the focus on mental health had a different theme in "The Punisher," as it devoted itself mainly to the challenges and the mental health concerns faced by veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, as Castle and others struggle to find their place after their service. For the veterans portrayed, each story was unique and each perspective was their own.

As gory Netflix shows go, it is also no surprise that "The Punisher" would rise above them all. Beware, as this show was probably not written for the faint of heart. If viewers are willing to follow Castle to the truth, they better do so on an empty stomach.

Miguel's new album shows his evolution



PHOTO COURTESY | JØRUND FJØRELAND PEDERSEN

Miguel performing at Hovefestivalen 2013 in Norway.

By Lynandro Simmons

It has been more than two years since Miguel dropped his last album, "Wildheart." The follow up to his modern day R&B classic album "Kaleidoscope Dream" was divisive among fans, to say the least. After departing from the sound of classic records like "Adorn" fans could only guess what is next. Miguel's latest album "War & Leisure" finds the R&B star continuing his musical evolution.

On "War & Leisure," Miguel pulls from musical influences like Lenny Kravitz, Prince and Jimi Hendrix to create his own ranged musical style. The opening track "Criminal" is a dramatic opening with the sound of guitar plucks over a spaced-out instrumental. The track features a verse from Rick Ross, who sounds at home though the production is a departure from

his typical style.

Though the album title could make fans assume that this album may be more political, Miguel does not deliver a preachy album. As Miguel has continued to grow into his own as a songwriter, he has found a remarkable way to weave conscious lyrics in between standard R&B tracks.

On the track "Pineapple Skies" Miguel even pays homage to late icon Prince. "Can we look up, look up baby, There's pineapple purple skies," sings Miguel referencing Prince's signature color. This track, put simply, is feel-good music, a song that is more fitting for the summer months and beaches, instead of the approaching harsher winter.

"Sky Walker," with rapper Travis Scott, is Miguel's one clear attempt at radio. The track is a departure from his funkadelic and sensual sound and is more of a pop anthem. However, despite this clear

shot for radio play, Miguel still knows how to create an enjoyable song. Scott also continues his record of great R&B collaborations. The sing-song rap style of Scott melds perfectly with Miguel's style. The beat switch at the end is also a sweet surprise.

"Banana Clip," keeps the warm vibe going. The riffs and drums on this track are pleasant on the ears. Miguel sings of a war on love that people need to realize is occurring. With constant gun control debates that plague America currently, however, hearing a singer sing about being trigger happy may not be tasteful. But Miguel is so talented he could make just about any record enjoyable.

One of the album's standout tracks is "Told You So." Over electronic production, Miguel gives his best Prince impersonation. Over the track, Miguel reminds doubters that he knew he would be where

he currently is. The track can be viewed as Miguel's own personal victory lap for haters and doubters. Anybody could relate to the idea of wanting to prove doubters wrong.

"War & Leisure" sounds like the culmination of Miguel's career. He has tracks like "Come Through and Chill," a track featuring J. Cole with production from Salaam Remi akin to his breakout track "All I Want Is You" from his debut album. He also has tracks like "Wolf," which is more similar to sultry songs like "The Valley" from his previous album "Wildheart."

After a two year break, Miguel has returned to remind fans that he is original. Whether handling R&B, funk or soul, the singer knows how to deliver an enjoyable experience.

A night of poetry sheds light on social justice



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Tatyana Andre, a sophomore sociology major, reading her work "Unborn Son" at poetry night.

By Jenna Stepleman

Social justice comes in many forms. From political protest and photography to spoken word.

On Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the Fireplace Lounge in the Adanti Student Center, there was a Social Justice Poetry reading for students and faculty alike to come and present their own poetry; or, if not poetry, to present their own idea of what social justice means to them.

The crowd was small, with complimentary tea, refreshments and cookies for all to enjoy by the fireplace and listen to others present.

Lenore Stelzer, a student

returning to take part time classes here at SCSU after completing her bachelor's degree here "years ago," as she said, shared with the small but active group her thoughts on social justice over the years.

"This generation really has a lot of problems falling on its shoulders, some of them my generation's fault; others haven't changed since before I was born," Stelzer said. "It really emphasizes how important it is for young people to get involved."

One topic of the night was an issue that participants would most like to see worked on and given more time in the spotlight.

"I think the emphasis was

put on materialism and all the things associated with it, like low self esteem and body issues needs to be talked about more, especially in politics," Stelzer said.

Social justice usually carries with an aura of political controversy, and there was a lack of political debate at the event; but highly publicized issues did come up, such as police brutality and racism.

Tatyana Andre, a sophomore sociology major, shared a poem she entitled "Unborn Son," in which she described from her perspective as a black woman what she believes her son will face being brought into the world.

"I care more about society as

a whole than on an individual level, which is why I think I am drawn to sociology; but the poem really came out of what I've been seeing and know to be true about being a black man in our society," Andre said. "I really want a son, but I fear for the things he may face."

Stelzer then shared how she felt that very little has changed since her childhood in regards to the problems that certain groups face and that the youth of today need to eliminate the problems ignorance places on the world.

This event was the brain-child of Keion Harris, a junior psychology major, and other advocates within the group of tobacco-related issues aware-

ness on campus. They were required to do an event for Social Justice Month and they decided a good idea would be a poetry event to really incorporate the student body.

Harris himself is a poet by hobby and shared his own work at the show while the other advocates were more reserved to answering questions and handing out refreshments.

"I think the the most important issue to me right now is overall the attitudes we look at each other with. We need less judgements and more acceptance for who people are," Harris said. "It's a matter of improving the world by improving yourself."

Social justice, feminism are key elements in 'Stop Kiss'



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Melanie Bryon, Jason Hall, Kaleigh Albert and Maeve Cunningham (left to right) performing in "Stop Kiss."

By August Pelliccio

It has been 19 years since "Stop Kiss" was written, and the Crescent Players proved that the ideals of feminism and social justice are just as relevant today.

Opening night of the Crescent Players' second show this semester was last Tuesday. Director Raphael Massie said the turnout for that opening performance was good, with about two thirds of the seats sold.

Massie said, "It's a little nerve wracking getting an audience for the first time."

He said despite this, he thinks all of the kinks were ironed out before opening

night. The Thanksgiving holiday interrupted the most important week of rehearsal, but four days of 10-12 hour rehearsals, and two days of five-hour rehearsals prepared the cast well.

The show, written by Diana Son, is centered on two female leads: Callie, played by Maeve Cunningham, and Sara, played by Melanie Bryon. The story follows these characters navigating an attraction toward each other, which leads to a violent hate crime against Sara for her sexuality.

Massie said, "It was written in 1998, but the interesting thing about the script is that it doesn't say '1998,' it says 'now.' I took that to mean whenever this play is produced, that is the

time period that you're setting it in."

So this particular performance was set in 2017 New York City, but the theme of social justice and LGBTQI acceptance is no less important than in 1998.

Thursday evening's performance was followed by a "talk back," during which professors of women's studies and cast members discussed with the audience the importance of the values highlighted by the show.

Massie said, "We wanted to start a dialogue about what the show is trying to say."

Laura Bower-Phipps, a professor of curriculum and learning said, "Don't think it's changed as much as it should have."

She spoke about her journey as a member of the LGBTQI community, and some of the hardships she has faced along the way, before urging that acceptance is as important now as ever.

"I wish I could say 'no it's not relevant anymore,' because in 19 years, a lot has changed legally," said Bower-Phipps. "We have national marriage equality, we have a lot of places where people cannot be fired based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but we have a push back against that."

To report on the show itself, the acting was very professional, and the set and costume design were well executed.

Lead Maeve Cunningham said, "I definitely feel like each

night gets better and stronger, and I think we all, as actors, find new things every night."

Massie confirmed that with each show, the play "tightened up" and "evolved." Massie also said, however, that there is a point where the director needs to let them have their own show.

He said this because Crescent Players, by design, is an entirely student-run club.

The director and advisor give feedback during the rehearsal process, but faculty advisor Mike Skinner said, "Once the final dress rehearsal happens, we take a step back and let the students run the show."

SPDC shows talent and teamwork



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The dancers of the Symphonic Pulse Dance Company performing at the Lyman Center.

By August Pelliccio

After just a month of preparation, Southern's SPDC hosted a fall dance showcase; audience was plentiful, and applause loud.

A few different organizations were invited to perform at the showcase, including but not limited to: Caribbean Student Association, African Student Association, FACE Models, and the SCSU Dance Team. The event was held at the Lyman Center, on the evening of Nov. 30.

President Mecca Holiday said that the club had been practicing regularly three times a week this semester, but they only began preparing for this showcase a month ago. Their first event of this year was Southern's homecoming rally, on Oct. 27, and after that, the focus shifted to Thursday's show.

"It's a lot, but we're really excited; we worked really hard," Holiday said.

Holiday said the tight schedule was

limited even more by the Thanksgiving holiday, which eliminated two of their rehearsals; but even so, the show appeared to run flawlessly.

Holiday said because this was her first showcase as president, she just wanted everything to go smoothly. She credited the higher volume of audience members to the girls' talent.

"Within the past two years, there's been a greater amount of really good talent. It looks more unified, and put together," said Holiday.

Just before the show, vice president Tomyai Young said the girls on the team were well prepared.

"I thought they would have a lot more stage fright than they do, but they're ready to get out there," Young said.

The last dress rehearsal was "pretty intense," according to Young.

A few alumni came to see the show, and even some that went on to become members of MegaHurtz Dance Company. Jasmine Terrell was once SPDC's secretary,

and she said that the club has grown since she was in school. Terrell said, though the membership fluctuates, she has heard of some years where the club exceeded 50 members. Even now, with membership in the 20s she said there is one thing that never changes.

"They bring their 'A' game every year, even when I was on the team," Terrell said.

Dancer Eleni Manesiots said excitement prevails over anxiety through the rehearsals.

"It can be stressful sometimes, but overall we get along pretty well," said Manesiots. "As long as we work together then we're fine."

Young said that the club went a different direction this year, as far as advertising goes, and she thought the word got out well for this show.

SPDC's publicist Alexis Pender explained the 21st century advertising she brought to the table for this show.

"We have an Instagram page that was created a year or two ago," Pender said. "I

sent our flyer out to 60+ people, and had them post it on their Snapchat story."

Pender said that SPDC is not the first club to have a Snapchat for advertising, but she noticed other clubs beginning to follow that trend shortly after hers became popular.

With regard to the club's values, Pender said, "SPDC is one of the best things here that's ever happened to me."

Pender is not the only dancer who said they feel this way.

Manesiots said, "We all love each other, and we all get along."

Young and Holiday both urge any students interested to come try out for the team during their spring semester tryouts, likely to be held during the first or second week next semester.

"We're the dance company that doesn't require a dance experience," said Holiday. "Come as you are. If you love to dance, if you can pick up choreography, come and enjoy and express yourself."

Student art of the week: Diana Cortavarria

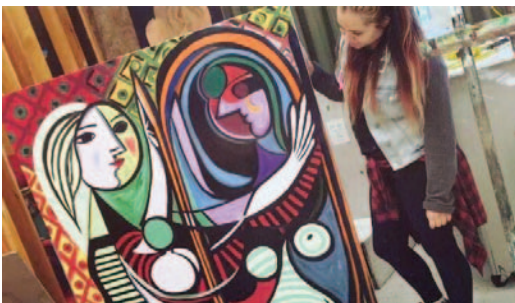


PHOTO | DIANA CORTAVARRIA

Diana Cortavarria, a senior studio art major, standing with one of her paintings in the studio.

"My art style is constantly changing, but this particular series I want to highlight is about alternative medicine and the stigma around it. People overlook those things often, and my art in general is about highlighting things often overlooked. We can all grow and succeed."



Three paintings by Cortavarria.

PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN



The volleyball team huddling up together before a game last week.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Freshman guard making immediate impact



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Ulyen Coleman is averaging 11 points per game, which is good for third on the team.

By Matt Gad

Sometimes you can just be a freshman and have an impact. And sometimes, you are a starter right away. It can happen.

Freshman Ulyen Coleman knows all about that as he's joined upperclassmen Joey Wallace, Isaiah McLeod and Jerry Lockett, Jr as sparks in the Owls' starting rotation.

"When I saw Ulyen play this summer I knew he was a special player," head coach Scott Burrell said. "I offered him a scholarship the first time I saw him and I expect him to come out and work hard every day, which he does, and I need him to be the rookie of the year."

And so far this season Coleman is averaging 10 points and five rebounds per game in an average of 32 minutes a contest. He is limited his turnovers and presented a .667 field goal percentage. Coming out of high school, he's won a state title over at Catholic Memorial, in Massachusetts.

"It's been a good experience so far and definitely a lot of learning," Coleman said. "I'm in a good spot and I have a lot of people around me supporting me. Everyone supports me and the coaches push me everyday in practice so I definitely have a lot of support."

Coleman has come off big games against Saint Rose, where he scored 13 points, and Concordia, where he hit 14. He is also had 12 point outings at home over Merrimack

SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 10

SEE COLEMAN PAGE 11

Volleyball ride ends

The volleyball team recorded their first ever NCAA tournament victory before being eliminated by the University of New Haven.

By Matt Gad

For the first time ever, Southern's volleyball team advanced to the NCAA Tournament. And, for the first time ever, they picked up a win in said tournament. The program was on a record high.

However, that ride ended last Saturday night, when the Owls gave up their 2-0 lead only to fall in five sets to their top rival, and the regional host, the University of New Haven. The Owls landed up in a similar fate as they did in the NE10 Tournament: being eliminated in five sets by the Chargers.

"I'm extremely proud of this team," head coach Lisa Barbaro said. "Picked to finish 11th in the preseason polls and battling through the season -- I really can't say enough about these

"We've come so far after battling losing seasons my first three years."

— Lisa Barbaro, Head Coach

girls; they're a great team and it's amazing to get the opportunity to be in a regional and to be in the semifinals."

The Owls finished 24-11, opening the season 5-0 back in September and advancing all the way to last month's conference tournament. They picked up wins in NE10s against American International and Saint Anselm, another NCAA Tournament selection, before being ousted by the Chargers in the championship.

Last Thursday, in a 3-1 win over the New York Institute of Technology, junior Leanna Jadus said the team was pretty excited because all their hard work paid off, especially in their attention to smaller details. And she came up as a vital force for the Owls that night, registering 16 kills

and finding out she also received a player of the year nod.

"We've come so far after battling losing seasons in my first three years," she said. "[Our coaches] are really excited; they just want to keep improving so we can get better and better each day."

It took Barbaro 14 years to finally bring the Owls to the national stage. After that win over New York, she said the moment was "what coaching is all about." She called it a dream to be in the post-season and reflected on the fact that it meant a lot after taking 14 years with Southern to reach this point.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Jim Palmer (right) and Griffin Garabedian (left) were named 2018 team captains.

Baseball names 2018 team captains

By Kevin Crompton

The start of 2018 baseball season may still be a few months out however SCSU head coach Tim Shea has already announced that senior outfielder Griffin Garabedian and junior short stop Jim Palmer will be the captains for the upcoming season.

Both Garabedian and Palmer are transfer students who came to Southern from Division I schools. The 2018 season will be Garabedian's second as an Owl, and Palmer's third. In 2017, Garabedian finished with a .313 batting average, 30 RBIs, and one

homerun. Palmer recorded a team high 49 runs scored in the 2017 season. The short stop also stole 24 bases, batted in 17 runs, and finished the year with a .243 batting average.

Shea said that the selection of the captains is a voted upon team decision and happens sometime at the end of the fall, usually in October. This allows all the new players such as freshman and transfers to get a chance to know everybody before casting their votes. Shea also stated that in order to be eligible for the captain ballot, players must have been in the program for at least one year and must possess a 2.3

GPA. Shea said that the voter results were "pretty unanimous."

"[Garabedian] kind of lead by example last year by his ability and his play on the field, as well as in the classroom he's an honors student," said Shea. "[Palmer] has been in the program a couple years. Everybody on the team really knows his work ethic and his commitment to excellence and he also leads by example."

Shea, who has lead Southern to six NCAA Tournament appearances, has high expectations for the upcoming season. The 16th year, veteran coach said that

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

Indoor track starts season off with a win



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Junior Hunter Stokes getting ready to perform the pole vault during Southern's win in the Elm City Challenge.

By Kevin Crompton

The indoor track and field team opened their 2017-18 campaign with a win in their Elm City Challenge this past weekend at Moore Field House.

Southern hosted six schools: Saint Thomas Aquinas, American International, Assumption, Franklin Pierce, Adelphi and the University of New Haven. The Owls finished in first place, with 189 points, followed by Franklin Pierce at 108.

"The meet was a huge success; the men had five NCAA qualifying performances, as well as several life-time bests," head coach John

Wallin said. "It's important that our elite guys perform at a high level and I was very pleased to see that they did [so]."

Co-captain Hunter Stokes, freshman Michael Griffith and sophomore Philip Quayle scored highly in the heptathlon, freshman Michael Agyeman was first in the triple-jump and sophomore Turner Kelly was second in the weight throw. In other track events, freshman Carlos Flores was third in the 800 meters at 2:02.08 and co-captain Yakabu Ibrahim finished the 200 meters in eighth place with a time of 23.03.

"The start was decent. A lot of people had good performances

and a lot of people stepped up. The alumni meet was a good stepping stone to get us to where we are at today," Ibrahim said. "This season I am personally looking forward to defending our NEIO title and seeking a New England team title with a season full of great performances."

Last year the indoor track team finished their season winning the Elm City Challenge, coming second in the Spartan Regional, in Staten Island, N.Y., finishing in eighth at the Villanova Invitational and third at the Metropolitan Indoor Conference Championships before the aforementioned NEIO title was claimed.

And Wallin is also hoping

to regain that consistency this winter, saying he believes the captains he has in place will only help the team get better over the course of the season and into February's championships.

"My captains are the inspiration for the team. They're all positive, hard working, conference champions and NCAA qualifiers," he said. "Each captain has a different role on the team; some are vocal leaders, others are quieter but they're all great teachers and mentors for the younger guys."

The team's other captains this season are Tikuan Johnson, Brian Sappleton and Luke Velez and they all hold important

roles within the team, as Wallin alluded to. All three of them were honored several times in some shape or form during the 2016-17 year.

Wallin said all the specific groups within his team need to come together over the course of the season and that it is vital that they are all in good positions when the conference meet rolls around in February 2018.

This weekend the team will compete at the Yale Season Opener and after that they will break for the holiday season before restarting their competitive season Jan. 12 with the Saint Thomas Aquinas Division II Challenge.

Volleyball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

But last Friday night she was more somber, trying to put the season into perspective after another loss to New Haven, sending the Owls to 0-3 against them on the year. If the Owls would have won, they were to play American International in a Saturday final for a chance to advance to the national quarterfinals in Florida. But in that championship game it was New Haven and not Southern readying for a chance to head south to continue their season. The Chargers defeated American International and punched their ticket after their opponent had a thrilling come-from-behind upset win over Molloy in an earlier Friday semifinal.

"I give it all to the athletes and their preparation; this team totally matured and they got more confident as the season went on. As a coach you work to be in this opportunity playing your best volleyball and we did that. I'm very proud of this season; there's a lot to take away."



The volleyball team huddling up during their NCAA tournament victory.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Bama sneaks in

By Matt Gad

The playoff committee made their decisions Sunday, putting Clemson, Oklahoma, Georgia and Alabama in the playoffs for New Year's Day, with the two winners playing for the National Championship a week later.

There was some debate if Alabama would actually make it to the playoffs. Ohio State had an impressive win Saturday night, Alabama had been upset the other week, you know how it is. Nick Saban went on SportsCenter

Saturday night, before he knew anything, obviously, saying he was waiting to see what the committee would do. He said the championship night games were good but, in true Crimson Tide fashion, he was with recruits.

So Clemson will have a chance to repeat their championship, but it won't be a rematch. Last year they shocked Alabama in an instant classic of a game and this year they will meet in a semi-final matchup. The games were changed from New Year's Eve to the night of January 1 and I'm sure that was to get more people's eyes

watching the games on ESPN. So you'll have your New Year's Eve party one night and the next night you can concentrate on college football. See how nice the world can be sometimes.

I do not expect the other matchup to be much of a contest between Oklahoma and Georgia. It just seems like the Georgia Bulldogs will roll their way into the championship, which, interestingly enough, would be at their place a few days into 2018.

I was rooting for Miami to have a big season but they collapsed in their last two games, collapsing

in surprise fashion at Pittsburgh and getting blasted, and shutout, by the Clemson Tigers over the weekend. Clemson may not have Deshaun Watson anymore but they still very much still have an explosive offense. Miami just seemed to miss the pedal after a strong season, making it hardly a surprise for them to end up outside the top four teams who have a shot at appearing in the national championship game.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

he feels his team always has an opportunity to compete in the conference, regionally, and ultimately get to the college world series. He stressed the importance of good leadership and having the right "mind set" to achieve their team goals.

"I think these two were really natural selections and choices," Shea said about his 2018 captains. "And quite honestly it's important for us if we want to get back to a regional, although we return a lot of talented players we need great leadership, not just from these guys but from all the upperclassmen."

The baseball team is coming off a very successful season last year as they finished with a record of 27-16-1.

Palmer and Garabedian will look to lead the Owls to similar success in the 2018 season.



The baseball team in the dugout during one of their games during the 2017 season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCOWLS.COM

Coleman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCOWLS.COM

Coleman dribbling the ball during a game this year.

and over at New Haven. He grew up in Brockton, Mass, and has experience in high school, in addition to winning a state title, from three south sectional championships. "He's averaging 10 now as a freshman. I see him, at the end of the year, probably averaging 14 or 15 points [a game]. Throw him into the fire early [starting as a freshman] and get better every game."

"I think we're just getting our feet wet. We've let a few games go that we shouldn't have, just some simple defensive mistakes. We had to get back on the right track and stop allowing so many threes. After that we were able to win our next two games," he said.

The team is currently 2-4 and 1-3 in conference play but has been without Wallace for several games now. He suffered a non-basketball injury and, at the time of our interview, Burrell was not aware of a potential timetable for his return, saying anyone just has to step up and do their job.

"The next guy's gotta step up and play. A freak accident happened to Joey," Burrell said. "So far the guys filling in for his minutes have been doing the job."

In Wallace's absence, players like Tyler Douglas, Taurus Adams and Luke Bessley have stepped up, as well as guys on the bench and in practice like Walter King, Noah Miree and Jesper Sandager. Burrell commented on his approval of seeing more ball distribution, not just with Wallace out but in general this year drawing up a new way to be successful without Michael Mallory and Austin Carter.

"We just need to finish out the semester strong and get something rolling into the second half of the season. Every night it needs to be someone else stepping up; we don't have a Mike Mallory or [Desmond Williams] that can give you 23 a game so every night it might be someone different stepping up," Burrell said.

Steinauer leading the way for the Owls



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCOWLS.COM

Steinauer during a game this season against Adelphi.

By Mike Riccio

Double-doubles. Record breaking games. And being a part Southern Women's basketball team's longest win streak since December 2014.

Just a sophomore, Kianna Steinauer has helped lead the Owls to six consecutive wins early in the 2017-2018 season. Along the way, she is recorded four double-doubles in the first eight games of the year and on Dec. 2 in a road win against Adelphi, she set a career high in points scored and set the program record for most rebounds in a game with 23 each. However, Steinauer said the team is trying trying to get better everyday, and she specifically wants to improve upon her jump shot off the dribble.

"We want to push one another each day in practice and be the best team we can be. We have so much fun playing together along with putting in work," Steinauer said, "I am excited to see where that leads this season."

Head Coach Kate Lynch said Steinauer has had a major impact on the success the Owls have had

this season and for the future of the program. She said because the team is not the biggest in size, Steinauer's ability to rebound has been a huge contribution to the team.

"She's just somebody that goes hard all the time," Lynch said. "We knew that when we recruited her but watching her blossom even from last year to this year has really been fun to watch and we're just hoping that continues for her."

A native of Canada, Steinauer has been playing basketball since she was 10 years old. Her parents both attended Western Washington University, where her mother played basketball and her father played football. Her father went on to play in the Canadian Football League before becoming the defensive coordinator for the Fresno State football team. Steinauer said her parents have had the biggest impact on her life and were the ones who sparked her interest in basketball.

"They have always pushed me to become a better person and a better player," Steinauer said. "They were great mentors, and motivators in

my life along with being great role models to follow."

As a freshman last season playing in a new country, Steinauer said the seniors on the team, Maria Wesely and Taylor McLaughlin, also had an impact on her transition to playing basketball in college.

"The players in the past were awesome because of their leadership and dedication to the game and university," Steinauer said. "They really helped me by showing me what it takes to become a consistent college student-athlete."

Steinauer said her one of her goals in life was to play basketball in college, and even though she has won championships in the past, deciding to play at Southern is her favorite memory as a basketball player so far.

"Signing that paper meant that I would be living in a new country for four years and playing the sport I love," Steinauer said. "The coaches and team were so welcoming and it seemed like a great fit for me."

OKC will be just fine

By Phil Zoppi

The Oklahoma City Thunder are an absolute mess right now but people should not give up on them just yet.

The Thunder have stumbled out of the gate to a 8-12 record but are still just 15 games out of a playoff spot in the mediocre Western Conference. The season is far from over and anyone writing off a team that has Paul George, Russell Westbrook and Carmelo Anthony on it is plain stupid.

Does anyone remember when the Miami Heat struggled to a 9-8 record the first year that they assembled their big three? The same thing is happening in Oklahoma City right now. It's just going to take Westbrook, George and Anthony a little bit of time to get together.

We have already seen what this Thunder team can be by them thrashing the Golden State Warriors by a score of 108-91 on national TV. OKC's big three looked magnificent in that game and if they can just start playing

like that on a consistent basis there is no reason why they can't compete in the west.

On top of the talent anyone following the Thunder can see that they care. Westbrook was visibly upset on the bench after OKC's loss to the Magic last week. Anthony and George have also spoken out about their displeasure for what's transpiring early on in the season.

Thunder nation needs to stop pushing the panic button and just sit back and enjoy. Yes, the team last year that solely

featured Russell Westbrook was doing better at this point in the year but that will not stay true.

The reason this Thunder team was assembled is to win a championship and they very much still have the chance to do that. Don't be surprised in May when the Thunder are in the thick of things in the Western Conference and quite possibly playing the Golden State Warriors with a chance to go to the NBA finals.



Phil Zoppi - Sports Editor

SCSU track vs. Yale University



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A SCSU track player doing the long jump on Saturday.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A SCSU track player landing in the sand after performing the long jump.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A SCSU track player running in Moore Field House.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

A SCSU track player getting ready to perform an event on Sunday.

Northeast-10 Standings

FINAL MEN'S FOOTBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
ASSUMPTION *	9	8-1	0.889	13	11-2	0.846
LIU POST	9	7-2	0.778	10	8-2	0.800
BENTLEY	9	6-3	0.667	10	6-4	0.600
NEW HAVEN	9	5-4	0.556	10	6-4	0.600
STONEHILL	9	5-4	0.556	10	6-4	0.600
SO. CONNECTICUT	9	5-4	0.556	10	5-5	0.500
MERRIMACK	9	4-5	0.444	10	4-6	0.400
PACE	9	2-7	0.222	10	3-7	0.300
AMERICAN INT'L	9	2-7	0.222	10	2-8	0.200
SAINT ANSELM	9	1-8	0.111	10	1-9	0.100

FINAL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	GP	RECORD	WIN %	GP	RECORD	WIN %
NEW HAVEN # *	14	14-0	1.000	33	26-7	0.788
AMERICAN INT'L	14	12-2	0.857	34	23-11	0.676
BENTLEY	14	10-4	0.714	29	19-10	0.655
ADELPHI	14	9-5	0.643	28	13-15	0.464
SO. CONNECTICUT	14	8-6	0.571	35	24-11	0.686
SAINT ANSELM	14	8-6	0.571	29	16-13	0.552
PACE	14	8-6	0.571	33	16-17	0.485
STONEHILL	14	8-6	0.571	27	12-15	0.444
LE MOYNE	14	7-7	0.500	26	14-12	0.538
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	14	7-7	0.500	23	11-12	0.478
FRANKLIN PIERCE	14	6-8	0.429	25	8-17	0.320
SAINT ROSE	14	3-11	0.214	29	12-17	0.414
ASSUMPTION	14	3-11	0.214	23	5-18	0.217
MERRIMACK	14	1-13	0.071	28	4-24	0.143
SAINT MICHAEL'S	14	1-13	0.071	19	1-18	0.053

OPINIONS

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DECEMBER 6, 2017

PAGE 13

Social media created a weak society



PHOTO COURTESY | ROSAURA OCHOA

By Luke Porco

The world today has changed with technology and much more instant access to news, entertainment and overall anything one wants. Previous generations would never have guessed what developments have come in today's world, such as smartphones, driverless cars, and social media. However, with all these great creations, comes something that has been around forever—entitlement.

People today, ranging from millennials to middle-aged people, have taken this to a new level by using social media such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, to preach their side on either politics, social issues, or anything that bothers them. While it is perfectly fine to voice opinions on social media, as it has been done for years, some people take it too far by forcing their followers to agree with them; those who disagree are automatically labeled as pariahs and enemies just because they differ in opinion.

Another issue that can be blamed on the promi-

nence of social media is the fact that people jump to conclusions on judging people that have allegations against them. For example, when some male celebrities have been accused of sexual assault and/or sexual harassment the first reaction, before the actors are proven guilty, are all over social media bashing the celebrities once the report breaks. To clarify, there are plenty of these celebrities that have either admitted to the crimes, or have clear evidence against them.

However, the people hearing this news should not just jump to conclusion, especially when the celebrity is innocent and it is just a claim to tarnish their reputation. For example, when actor Sylvester Stallone was accused of sexual assault and threatening a 16 year old girl in a hotel in Las Vegas when he was filming the movie "Over the Top," people who were fans of his were bashing him for his alleged actions, however, the Las Vegas police said while the woman filed a police report there was not enough evidence to further investigate.

Another aspect of this problem is that some people say offensive and cruel things to people that they do not know, whether it be celebrities or not, but if they

were to see these people in person, they would either be too afraid to say to the person's face, or act the complete opposite towards the person. For example, all the people that bash and insult on Twitter and Facebook, commonly known on the Internet as "trolls" have no problem saying how they feel on social media. However, the trolls do not know the people they are offending, and they could end up getting along if they ever met.

Despite these criticisms, the impact of social media has made great accomplishments in today's world, such as the fact that you can keep up with family and friends that you do not see or speak to often, as well as hearing news instantly from major media outlets and celebrities themselves. It is just that it has become too much of a good thing and overall, you can not just judge someone based off a difference of opinion than your own. If someone voted for someone you did not support, or likes a different sports team or holds an opinion you disagree with, that does not mean you have to despise and insult the person on social media over it.

How 'diversity' has lost its meaning

By Lynandro Simmons

Diversity is a word that should be a positive term. It should be a word that sparks a conversation about inclusiveness. But recently the word diversity has appeared to become a convenient term. The word has begun to ring hollow and now it has gone from something idealistic to questionable.

Calling for more representation of women, members of the LGBT, or people of color in various industries is a just cause. Diversity can also pay dividends in the long run for a company. According to a Los Angeles Times report, a study conducted by the Creative Arts Agency found films with diverse casts consistently earn more money. This shows the positivity of diversity being embraced, but there are still issues in the word itself.

Whenever criticisms are cast on companies for lack of representation, blanket statements like "add more diversity" do not necessarily help. The reason being is that what is diverse to one group of people may not be to another. If you take a room full of white men and add white women, some could say there is diversity now. If this same room is filled with white men and some identify as heterosexual and the rest are members of the LGBT community this could be considered diversity as well.

These scenarios do not even include the diversity of ideas and viewpoints. This shows how a simple word as diversity can be an oversimplification of issues. The ambiguity of the word diversity and what it means has only helped to slow the progress towards equal representation. Depending on who is taking the word

diversity and its definition can change. Also, the idea of diversity never seems to have clear parameters to what is truly equal representation. Hiring a few people of color or women may be enough to some, for others this is not enough. The vagueness of what will suffice has led to the problem of diversity never being fixed.

When people demand diversity it does not mean they even assume all differences are good. It would be hard to imagine a person against racism wanting a fair representation of racists. A feminist also probably would not want an equal amount of sexism.

The worst solution to a problem can be a vague solution. The word diversity is useful to start dialogue, but it has become nothing more than a conversation starter not a solution. For some people the goal of diversity is to end bigotry, not to promote

differences just because.

Talk is cheap and often the people who do the most talking about diversity are doing just that, talking. Without action, words are meaningless. In the case of diversity what is worse is that it has become a game of symbolism. Instead of acts of inclusiveness there are instead moments of tokenism.

In some ways the word diversity and its ambiguity is understood. To tackle huge issues sometimes there is a need for open ended words. However, while this can be helpful the loss of a defined goal provides too many downsides. Diversity in every way is needed, but maybe a better word can help to narrow the goal down. Words like inclusion or representation helps, but maybe a good old fashioned word can make a return — equality.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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PHOTO



Lunch being provided to attendees free of charge.

Southern hosts opioid conversation

Photos: Palmer Piana



A Member of the audience asking a question to members of the panel.



Charles Grady, community outreach specialist for the FBI, holding a copy of the movie "Chasing Dragons."



Emily Rosenthal, coordinator of the Wellness Center, passing out papers to write questions.



Members of the audience listening to the panelists.