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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Rosa DeLauro speaks about the Pell Grant

**By Sofia Rositani**  
Editor-in-chief

“For more than half a century the program has been the cornerstone of financial education for students,” U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro said.

Students and faculty were on the panel talking about how the Pell grant helped them to pay for their college.

“I will share with you that at Southern 43 percent of our degree seeking undergraduate students are Pell recipients, and 53 percent of those who apply for financial aid are also Pell recipients have received those grants,” President Joe Bertolino said.

Among the 49 percent

of the first years at the university qualify for the Pell grant.

“With the increase in the maximum Pell award next year the grant will be \$707,395 per year for eligible students,” Bertolino said.

Bertolino introduced President of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Terrence Chang, spoke about how this will benefit students in the colleges and universities around Connecticut and how without DeLauro this would not be available for many students.

“Tens of thousands of students at CSCU would literally not go to college without the Pell program. So, the increases to Pell

will increase our opportunities and it will specifically increase the level of opportunity for students in public higher education,” Chang said.

Students and faculty from Albertus Magnus College were a part of the panel. President of Albertus Magnus College, Marc Camille, spoke about how half the students at the college receive Pell grants and without them many would not have the opportunity to pursue the degrees.

“Earning a college degree, making the most of opportunity, and that opportunity that comes with our government’s continued investments in the Pell grant. That is the promise

that all of our students at our shared institutions can benefit from by taking advantage of opportunity,” Camille said.

Students are the reason the speakers were there and during the panel three students spoke about how the Pell grant helped them. Two of the students were from Southern and the third was from Albertus Magnus.

Communication major, Wilson Valois, a senior spoke about how well the university has treated him and everything he has been able to accomplish.

“Unfortunately, even with all the memories made, there’s still a financial barrier between myself and all the opportuni-

ties there are to learn and grow at this university. Like many students I chose Southern because it was all I could afford,” Valois said.

He said that he questioned if he should continue with his education because of how expensive tuition and books are. With the Pell grant he was allowed to continue his education and become the first student in his family to get a degree.

“I can proudly say that I am currently supporting myself through college and have been able to reach this level of independence because of receiving the federal Pell grant,” computer science major, Siddhi Suresh, a senior said.

DeLauro comes from a family of immigrants; her dad came to America in 1913 from Italy and he spoke no English. She said that even with all the hardships she still was the first to get a college degree in her family.

“I think when my dad went to pay the final payment in the Second National Bank, on Church street in New Haven, the President and the employees there stood up and cheered because he was able to do that but not everyone can do that,” DeLauro said.

DeLauro talked about where the name Pell came from. The grant has helped more than 80 million students, she said.



U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro speaking in Buley Library.

PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

(Left) Wilson Valois, Siddhi Suresh, Imana Khokhar, President of CT COIC Jennifer Widness, President of CSCU Terrence Chang, Rosa DeLauro, President of SCSU Joe Bertolino, President of Albertus Magnus Marc Camille.

## New leadership connects students to careers

**By Hailey Roy**  
Contributor

The new associate dean of the Office of Career Development, Thierry Thesatus, is working to connect with other university departments to help them bring career-based goals to students at the university in different ways.

There are a lot of skills employers are asking, whatever the industry area, whatever the company or organization,” Thesatus said. “I think we at Southern provide those experiences for students to develop those skills. I just want to work with everyone to be able to provide a shared language and help students see the meaning of some of these experiences.”

Thesatus started in the fall and is getting a feel for the university.

“I’ve just been trying to learn more about Southern. I’m learning more about our students, meeting with a lot of staff and faculty, just to introduce myself and let them know that I am here and seeing what the needs are,” Thesatus said.

Jonelle Bailey, 22-year-

old first-year grad intern at the Office of Career and Development, is happy to have the extra help when holding large student-attended events.

“We had our career fair and it was a complete success. In the past, we’ve been able to do a nonprofit fair last month and without the help of two extra people I don’t think that we’d be as successful,” Bailey said in the fall semester. “I can see a more positive environment in our department. There are a lot more ideas and a lot more production happening.”

The professional development co-chair of CT Career Consortium, Aimee O’Shea, served as interim director of the office of the Career and Professional Development. Committee. She spoke on the restructuring of their office last summer 2022, which included bringing Thesatus onto their team.

“He is sort of this bridge, this leader that is connecting our [the Office of Career and Professional Development] areas to really bring some synergy to the work that

we do since it’s all so interconnected,” O’Shea said.

Previous to becoming the associate dean at Southern, Thesatus worked as the associate director of career and employee relations at Borough Manhattan Community College, a career counselor at Long Island University and a teacher and advocate counselor at a nonprofit organization, Good Shepherd services. Haven’t had experience in a four-year residential college in a long time, Thesatus said he is excited to work at Southern’s campus.

“The feeling of being at a four-year residential campus is amazing,” Thesatus said. “Seeing all the students be excited about on-campus programming and the different ways.

They’re looking to connect to offices and services and even the types of services we offer are very different as well.”

Thesatus started his education at Kingsborough Community College and then transitioned to Stony Brook University. He is

currently pursuing his doctorate in education at St. John’s University. During his schooling, he originally wanted to be a New York City Board of Education Teacher, thus why he graduated college with a background in history and teaching.

Thesatus decided to alter his occupation and work in the career field because of an opportunity that was presented to him by his previous director at the nonprofit organization, Good Shepherd Services.

“She saw something in me. There was an opportunity that opened up and she asked me is this something that I would be interested in and I love education, I love working with students, I love providing students with opportunities and also expanding their scope.” Thesatus said.

Thesatus thought about it for a bit because it was a different direction for his career path than he expected. After some thought, he accepted the job.

“I love sharing this story with students because I love to help

them understand how transferable their degree is as well as the skills and knowledge that you are developing as a student, how transferable those things are to so many different job opportunities,” Thesatus said.

College graduates rarely work in a field related to their major. A poll from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that only 27% of college graduates work in a career related to their major in December 2014.

“There are a lot of skills employees are asking for, whatever the industry area, whatever the company or organization they’re asking for candidates to have. I think we at Southern, provide those experiences at for students to develop those skills,” Thesatus said. “I just want to work with everyone to be able to provide a shared language and help students see the meaning to some of those experiences whether it’s inside or outside of the classroom.”



PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

Associate dean of career and student success, Thierry Thesatus working on his computer in his office.

## Spring semester starts off with winter weather

By Sarah Shelton  
Photo Editor

The week back for the Spring 2023 semester was cold and bleak.

The first few days after student move-in were rainy and cloudy, which followed the week after.

On Jan. 23 it was cloudy and raining until around 2 p.m. when the

snow flurries started.

Not only was it snowing, but it was also mixed with rain. Very few students were walking, but Kiwibots were still moving around campus.

The week continued to have the same weather with only one sunny day, which means many umbrellas and jackets were seen.



University Kiwibot sitting in the rain in front of Buley Library.



Students walking to North Campus as snow begins.



Walking in the rain on campus.



Ali DePaul, a senior, holding her umbrella and iced coffee.

## Campus Shuttle Accommodations

By Destene Savariau  
News Writer

The shuttle service is resource that helps students get around campus, even if a student is injured and has trouble doing so on their own.

The three shuttle routes, "Hoot Routes," run throughout campus for student leisure are on-campus, Union Station, and chartered shuttle. The three on-campus shuttles are the full campus, Wintergreen Avenue Garage Express, and the life-equipped shuttle route.

"The full campus shuttle service is really helpful. It's great for when I don't feel like walking to class and it is so convenient that it comes every 20 minutes or so," said marketing major Alexandra Mickens, a junior.

The full campus route was designed to provide safe and reliable service to and from all residential and academic buildings and parking lots, according to the shuttle website.

The full campus route runs every 20 minutes from these stops: Morrill Hall, Pelz Gym, Fitch Street Garage, Davis Hall, North Campus Midrise, lots 9, 8, 3, and 4, Wilkinson Hall, Engleman/School of Business, Lyman Center and the Adanti Student Center.

The Wintergreen Avenue garage express route on-campus runs every 10 minutes on a continuous loop from Wintergreen Garage to Engleman Hall A-Wing.

"The Wintergreen shuttle is great because it takes me directly to the Wintergreen Garage, where I usually park. It is helpful that it comes every 10 minutes and always waits at Morrill Hall until the next bus arrives. So, there is always one bus on the road," said psychology major Antonio Gonzales, a senior.

Life-equipped route is a special shuttle for students. The shuttle is accessible via vans equipped with wheelchair lifts.

The lift-equipped shuttle is for passengers with temporary or permanent disabilities. Passengers with permanent disabilities must register through the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, CASAS, and passengers with temporary disabilities must have a valid doctor's note to use this service, according to the shuttle's website.

"When I broke my leg, the lift-equipped shuttle made it easy for me to get around campus and all I had to do was call and request it from CASAS," said biology major Felicity Keyworth, a junior.

All routes run Monday to Thursday, 7:30 am to 11:00 pm, and Fridays 7:30 am to 1:00 pm. Any person can download the app "Live Shuttle Bus Tracker" to track any of these shuttles or call the dispatch services to send a shuttle to your location.

The Union Station shuttle is one of the university's off-campus Hoot Routes. The shuttle will pick up and drop off passengers outside Union Station and at the campus shuttle stop outside Morrill and Jennings halls, Main Lot - P2. The service runs Monday to Thursday from 7:15 am to 9:00 pm and Fridays from 7:15 am to 5:00 pm. The shuttle's last departure is from Morrill Hall.

The chartered shuttle service can only utilize group transportation reservations. Thanks to the university's contract with First Transit, it is used for "official university business," in-state travel only. Some examples of chartered shuttle service may include transporting students to/from the airport, to/from a field trip location or to and from an athletic event.

## Getting involved with organizations

Photos By Luke Molwitz  
Photographer

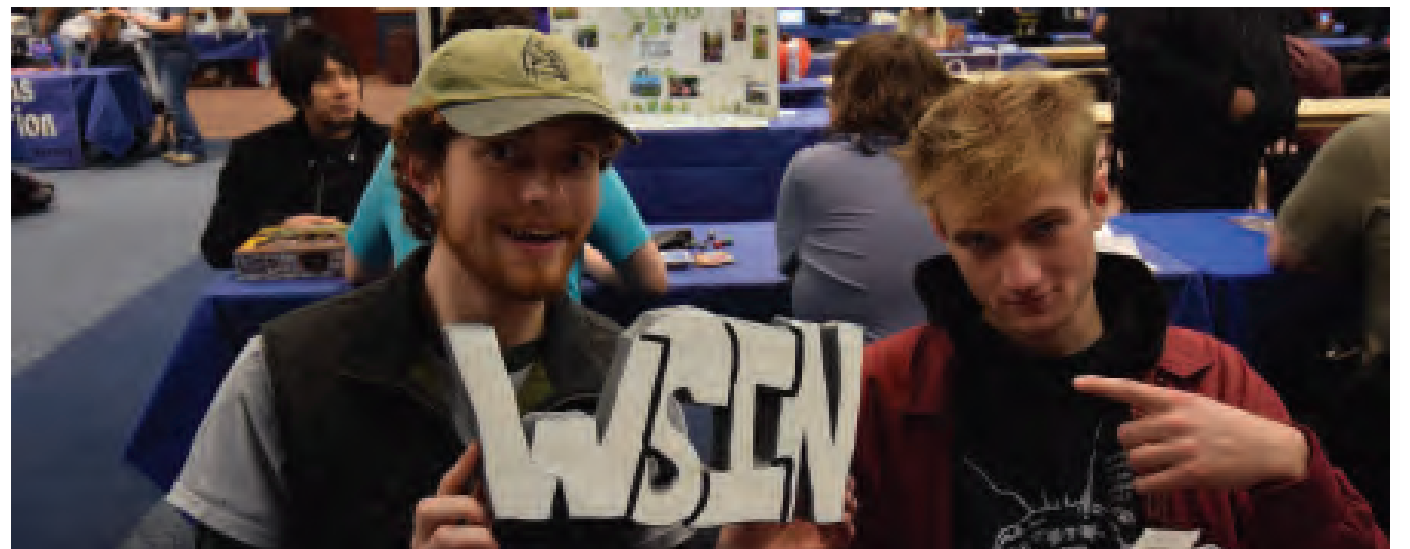
For coverage on the Involvement fair, see page 3.



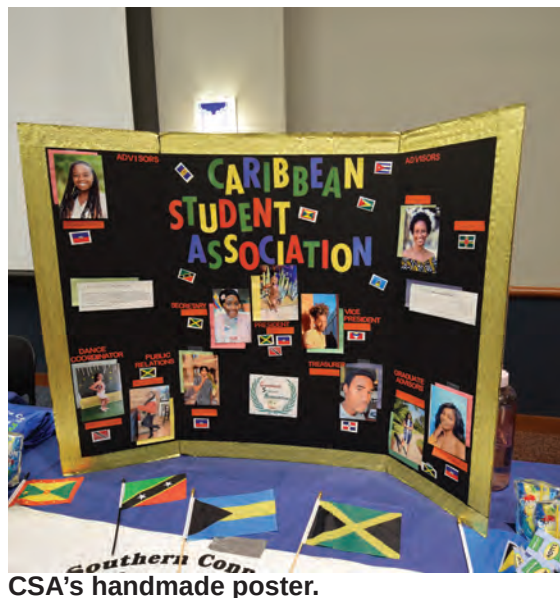
Muslim Student Association members.



Volleyball players at their table ready to hand out candy.



Students Liam Welsh and Connor Elci representing the WSIN radio station.



CSA's handmade poster.



Folio magazine's Gabi Tunucci with some magazine editions.

## Clubs and organizations get students involved

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

Every student can find their unique place on campus. With over 150 organizations, this can seem a bit overwhelming.

On Jan. 25, the Office of Student Involvement held its biannual Involvement Fair. This is an event where students can speak to leaders and members of various organizations.

"It's one of our signature events," said Eric LaCharity, associate director of the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development.

This spring event took place in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. The room was full of rows of tables, each club personalized its table to represent themselves. There was also a table of snacks for students to enjoy as they explored the organizations.

"This is the majority of our clubs and organizations as well as some academic and student affairs [clubs]," LaCharity said.

Often, clubs are an

extracurricular activity for students to enjoy outside of their time working on academics and to connect with their community on campus. This includes events and activities they may not have known about. It also benefits students in their academics.

"It's statistically proven that a student who's involved in at least one thing outside of the classroom is more successful," said Daphne Alston associate director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development.

Alston oversees all the clubs and organizations at the university. Her goal is to make sure clubs are running smoothly and that students can find a place where they fit in.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, clubs were struggling to keep their enrollment up. However, this event was an opportunity for them to recover their rosters.

"We have a large base already, but we want to continue to grow that foundation," said Co-President of the Black



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Tishana Williams who works through the Wellbeing Center as an Americorps member, at the Involvement Fair in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom on Jan. 25.

Student Union, C. Peter Rutherford, a junior.

The BSU was one of the many cultural organizations on campus that attended this event. This organization is a way for Black students help each other out in their academic careers. Rutherford said they provide community and offer study groups.

"We do a lot of homework groups and study-helps; kind of like a big brother, big sister type of thing," Rutherford said.

There were many other types of organizations that hosted a table at the affair. This included student media, club sports, Greek life and academic-focused groups.

"Hopefully we can bring students in to see the fun activities we have," said Amanda Hall, secretary of Math Club, a junior.

The Math Club table was full of colorful geometric sculptures. Hall said its goal was to show students that math isn't all about numbers and the club has a lot to offer.

"I hope they find something they enjoy and join something to feel involved on campus," said Kristin Zack, member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, a junior.

The sororities and fraternities on campus also had an opportunity to let students know what they do on campus. Many of these tables featured a large poster displaying the students in the Greek life atmosphere.

"We're looking for amazing women to join us and come help spread awareness for our philanthropies," Zack said.

As the spring 2023 semester begins, students have all types of organizations that they are welcome to check out. The Involvement Fair was their opportunity to meet those organizations face-to-face.

"I hope students will find their people, their home, the reason why they belong at Southern," Alston said.

**For more about clubs contact; Daphne Alston [alston4@southernct.edu](mailto:alston4@southernct.edu)**

## Review: Lil Yachty changes styles with new rock album

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

Lil Yachty has just released a new album called "Let's Start Here." Until this release, he has been known for his left-of-center style. This made him a well-known person in rap in the mid-2010s. However, he never garnered the type of attention his fellow XXL record label freshman class of 2016 received. This included Lil Uzi Vert, Denzel Curry, Anderson Paak, 21 Savage and others. These rappers have become widely celebrated for their creative projects, often becoming groundbreaking landmarks for the genre.

Lil Yachty has become a musician to watch just like his peers. Just a few months ago, he gained attention with his song "Poland." This track is short, but it had odd vocals and lyrics. His voice is autotuned with an aggressive vibrato. This song remains in the hip-hop genre, but it was a step toward something new for him. It immediately became a viral hit because it was surprising yet endearing track.

"Let's Start Here," which was released on Jan. 27, is an even bigger step to absurdity for Lil Yachty. Just like Anderson Paak, he has dipped in a different genre. This album is most definite-

ly a psychedelic rock album. Much of the guitar, synth and drum patterns are reminiscent of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon." Though inspired by an era of experimental rock, Lil Yachty is still able to insert his own personality and style.

This is one of those projects that would first have someone wondering how it could be pulled off. However, Lil Yachty's odd vocal delivery fits in perfectly with the instrumentation. The first song on the album, "the BLACK seminole," is a nearly seven-minute track. Its length is intimidating, but it has the most beautiful build to introduce the al-

bum. The song begins with fluttering synths which are then built on with a soft rhythm guitar and slower groovy drums. The middle of the song even features a guitar solo to then fade into a dreamy piano bridge. The song ends with its loudest moment yet, with pounding drums and guitar.

The other tracks are not as intense as its opener, but they still have their standout moments. They are laid-back, groovy, but still contain transitions and builds. They also feature his vibrato that was a standout in "Poland." The fifth track, ":(failure(:," with its odd title features an even wilder moment. Lil Yachty takes

this song to deliver a spoken word poem. It is an extremely vulnerable moment for him, where he speaks about the struggles he has gone through mentally. However, he turns this into a moment where he comforts himself.

"I kinda look at everything, like, well / no matter what, I mean, it could be worse, you know? / like, okay, say, say like I lost a finger / okay, well, I still have nine."

This is a breath of fresh air compared to the other lyrics in this album. Lyrically, Lil Yachty touches on his struggles with fame, mental health, and heartbreak. He speaks about the void

he feels inside. This has led him to try to fill it with drugs to the point of losing his vision.

Though he talks about drugs a lot, this becomes a metaphor for the brighter moments. The positive moments on this album are about love, saying that he is going to overdose on love. Lil Yachty shows his sweet side on these tracks, getting so wholesome that he ends "We saw the sun!" with a quote from the beloved artist Bob Ross.

Overall, this album is a monumental moment for Lil Yachty. It is creative, deep, new and interesting. Lil Yachty has become an artist to watch.

## Opinion: Why I deleted Snapchat for my mental health

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

After seven years of forehead pictures and black screens with the word "streaks" written on them, I have finally laid my Snapchat account to rest. Snapchat has become one of the main ways for young people to connect. However, my hatred for the app only grew to the point where I had to compromise disappointing others for my mental health.

Snapchat has created its own culture. With streaks, private stories and the ease of disappearing photos, it has become something beloved by teenagers and young adults. It is a social media that connects you with others, but it feels sneakier than other platforms. Most messages are one-on-one and with your story, you can choose who you would like to see your posts without needing to go through the drama of unfriending them. This exclusivity became something fun, even for

me. I loved my private story where I got to rant about things that happened in my daily life without broadcasting my thoughts to just acquaintances. I had fun sending random funny photos to my friends for them to open throughout the day.

My first issue was how important Snapchat has become in young people's dating lives. When someone expresses their interest in me, their first request to stay in contact is on Snapchat. This has become frustrating because Snapchat is not a great way to get to know someone. Conversations are often brief. With the disappearing messages, it is hard to remember what the person had said before. It is basically impossible to communicate unless you make direct plans to meet in person.

I do not want to meet someone who I cannot even trust to give my number. It only leads to bad experiences with people who are pushy and violating. Since Snapchat

gives a notification when messages are screenshot, it is hard to avoid someone who is creepy. I have had people add me on Snapchat and immediately send me intense messages of things I honestly do not want to hear.

It is easy to become toxic because of the features on the app. When I have

gotten more serious with people, I will often question their lack of responses. The map and the score on Snapchat have become a way to see if people are active and not responding to you. Countless times I have continuously gotten myself worked up because a love interest was shown as active on Snapchat and not

responding to me.

I am done with the toxic behavior of both myself and others. So, I have deleted Snapchat in hopes of having more meaningful interactions with people. If someone would like to get in contact with me, they must act like an adult. I am 20 years old; if they would like to hear from me,

they can text or call me. I no longer want to feel the anxiety of checking when someone is active and not responding to me. I do not have time to worry about that. I had fun on Snapchat during the time that I had it, but I am an adult now. I would like to have interactions with people that do not waste my time.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau  
Frank Harris III

Contact information:  
Email: [scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com](mailto:scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com)  
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928  
Fax: 203-392-6927

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

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Sofia Rositani	Editor-in-Chief
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## Owls Sports Update

While we were away for winter break these are following sporting events that we missed. Each game recap includes stats and key milestones from the game.

### Men's Basketball:

Game Recap Dec. 17: Won against Holy Family University 64-56 in Philadelphia.

Guard Ulyen Coleman scored a team-high 15 points and shot 6 of 13 from the field. Forward Cherif Diarra posted a double-double, scoring 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Game Recap Dec. 19: Won against Bloomfield College 78-71 on, in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Guard Marty Silvera posted a team-best 21 points while shooting 54% from the field. Center Zack Penn went 7 of 8 from the field while scoring 16 points. Guard Ulyen Coleman and Forward Kazell Stewart posted a team-high nine rebounds each.

Game Recap Dec. 29: Won against Mercy College 84-57 at James Moore Field House (home).

Guard Sean James posted a team-best 22 points while going 6 of 10 from the three-point line. Center Zack Penn recorded his first double-double of the season, scoring 11 points and 12 rebounds. Guard Marty Silvera led the team with eight assists, while Guard Ulyen Coleman scored 19 points.

### Women's Basketball:

Game Recap Dec. 17: Lost against Jefferson University 55-43 in Philadelphia.

Guard Isabella Santoro led the Owls with 17 points. Forward Katie Williamson led the team with nine rebounds and eight points. Owls were outscored in the fourth quarter, 14 to 6.

Game Recap Dec. 29: Won against the University of the District of Columbia 67-55 Dec. 29 at home. Forward Katie Williamson posted her third double-double of the season, scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Owls shot 50% from the field in the game, with Guard Isabella Santoro helping the Owls by scoring 16 points.

Game Recap Dec. 31: Won against American International College 58-46 at home.

Guards Zoe Amalbert, Isabella Santoro and Delaney Connors all had double-doubles. Owls dominated in rebounding by 22.

Game Recap Jan. 4: Won against Franklin Pierce University 68-41 at Rindge, New Hampshire.

The Owls outscored Franklin Pierce 27-5 in the third quarter to secure the win. Guard Zoe Amalbert led the team with 18 points and six assists. Forward Katie Williamson recorded her fourth double-double of the season, scoring 14 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Game Recap Jan. 7: Lost against Assumption University 62-51 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Forward Katie Williamson led the Owls with 13 points. The Owls were outscored 19-6 in the first quarter.

### Men's Swimming & Diving:

Game Recap Jan. 11: Lost to Marist College 185.50-103.50 in Poughkeepsie, New York. McAllister Milne, a sophomore, won two events, and Chandler Tucker, a graduate student, won the 500 Yard Freestyle.

Game Recap Jan. 13: Won against Adelphi University 121-90 at Hutchinson Natatorium (home).

Sophomores Kobe Dominguez, McAllister Milne, Michael Aiello, and Franklin Kuhn, a junior, won their individual events, including the 400 Yard Medley Relay.

Game Recap Jan. 15: Won against The College of Saint Rose 153-117 in Albany, New York.

The Owls took the top three spots in the 200 Yard Freestyle, as Henry Velazquez, a junior, had the best time clocking in at 1:48.44.

Game Recap Jan. 19: Won against Le Moyne College 150-135 in Syracuse, New York.

McAllister Milne, a sophomore, placed first and broke a Le Moyne pool record in the 1,000 Yard Freestyle, clocking in at 9:48.53.

### Women's Swimming and Diving:

Game Recap Jan. 11: Lost against Marist College 177-118 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Paola Castillo, a freshman, won multiple events like the 200 Yard Freestyle. Jasmine Uricchio, a freshman, won the 1,650 Yard Freestyle, clocking in at 17:46.75.

Game Recap Jan. 13: Won against Adelphi University 132-71 at home. Arianna Arturi, a sophomore, was the only swimmer to win more than one event. She won the 200 Yard Breaststroke and 50 Yard Freestyle.

### Gymnastics:

Game Recap Jan. 8: The Owls placed in third place in the West Chester Tri-Meet in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Ava Kelly, a freshman, scored the highest in the Floor event with a score of 9.650. Alexa Melanson, a sophomore, scored a team-high in the Beam event with a score of 9.252.

Game Recap Jan. 13: Places fourth in the Penn State Quad Meet at University Park, Pennsylvania.

Abby Royer, a freshman, scored the highest score with a 9.800 in the Floor event. Hanna Zebdi, junior, led the team in the Vault event with a score of 9.7.

All information are from the athletic website.

## Women's basketball defeats Bentley, Amalbert sets milestone

By Ben Martin  
Sports Writer

Owls guard Zoe Amalbert, graduate student, cemented her name in the history books by scoring her 1,000th career point.

With just under five minutes left in the quarter, Amalbert rolls off of a back screen to the top of the key. She receives a pass from forward Renza Milner, sophomore. Amalbert dribbles twice to the right and shoots a three-point shot and makes it for her 1,000th career point.

"Honestly, I did not know until after I hit it and they announced it. It will be a funny memory because I actually had a bloody nose when they were announcing it," Amalbert said.

Those point helped the Owls take the victory of the Bentley University Falcons 63-55, giving the Owls their first home victory over the Falcons since Jan. 10, 2015.

After Amalbert's 1,000th point, the first half of play proved to be an even matchup between the two as the Owls went into halftime with a one-point lead over the Falcons 27-26.

In the second half, the Owls would widen the lead taking a four-point into the fourth quarter and eventually winning the game by eight.

"It's just about being confident," Owls head coach Kate Lynch said. "Don't play scared to win, you have to go out there and take it if you want it."

I thought we did a good job executing against a great team Lynch said.

Coming into the game, the Falcons held a record of 12-7 which was what the Owls improved to by winning Saturday's matchup, giving Lynch a



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Forward Kate Williamson looks to pass the ball to a teammate against Bentley.

birthday gift.

Amalbert said she thought the team executed well during the game and needs to keep doing so to win future matchups.

Amalbert added that the

team needs to keep playing together and keep closing out close games.

For more on this story, visit [thesouthernnews.org](https://thesouthernnews.org)

## SAAC hosts first winter formal

By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor  
Destene Savariau

Inside the doors of James Moore Field House, you hear the sounds of 2010s pop music by DJ Handles, the smell of pepperoni pizza and spot the Owl's decorated photo booth.

The Athletics Department and Southern Recreation and Fitness held its first winter formal dubbed "The Snowball" on Jan. 28 for not only student-athletes but all students in hopes of helping student-athletes build friendships outside of the respective teams.

Festivities included a Hollywood-like red carpet entrance to help set the formal theme and raffles with prizes such as sweatshirts and gift cards.

This event also allowed students to attend a prom-like event because some high school proms were canceled due to the

COVID-19 pandemic or some schools not having a prom.

"My school never had a prom, so I came out because I thought tonight would be like a fun makeup of that," said Political Science major Sam Mann, a senior.

Data science major Kylie Higginbottom, a sophomore, voiced a similar opinion about the event.

"I only went to one prom in high school, and my sister was actually preparing for hers yesterday. So, I figured, why not go?" said Higginbottom.

Co-president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Faith Littleton, said, "we wanted to do a formal just for athletes originally, and then the athletic department partnered with Recfit, and so we wanted to get the whole campus involved."

Owls' soccer player Greta Brunello, a graduate student, said she attended

the event because she wanted to make new friends outside of her sport.

"I would like to have friends," Brunello said. "I would like to have fun with my friends."

Littleton said having this social event can help bring students and student-athletes together because sometimes some students do not attend games, which can be a way to see another side of the campus.

"There is a lot of athletes that don't branch out from their teams. They find friends on their teams right away," said Littleton. "I think it is really important that student-athletes engage with the whole student body."

Owls football Tight end and Co-president of SAAC, Tim O'Shea, said that when he and Littleton took the position they wanted to introduce new events and ideas to the committee.

O'Shea said: "We were in school during COVID, and that sucked. Nothing was going on campus. So, we really wanted to try to help those people catch up on those years that they missed."

Watching a TikTok from Rutgers University, where they also held a formal event for their student-athletes, helped inspire this winter formal idea here on campus, O'Shea said.

During a SAAC event last year called "The Owls Awards," O'Shea said people enjoyed getting dressed up and thought doing another formal event would be perfect for those who enjoy wearing formal attire.

Littleton is in her last year at the university, so it depends on who is in charge next year of SAAC if they want to keep this formal as an annual event.

O'Shea said, "This was an event we wanted to gather the entire community at Southern."

## Men's basketball falls to Bentley

By Ben Martin  
Sports Writer

The universities men's basketball team was down by 10 to the Bentley University Falcons with just 2:16 left in the fourth quarter; however, the Owls would not go down without a fight.

The Owls comeback would begin with guard Sean James, sophomore, going to the free throw line for three foul shots. He would go three for three from the charity stripe cutting the lead to seven.

Guard Marty Silvera, fellow sophomore, would add a made three-point shot cutting the Falcons

lead to just four.

Along with the three pointer, Silvera would add another two made free throws, which had the Falcons leading by only two.

However, the Owls would not score for the rest of the game, which to them losing to the Falcons 72-67.

"I think we played hard, I think we hung in there with them," Owls head coach Scott Burrell said. "I mean they are number 12 in the country for a reason, we just got to get stops."

Along with the Owls playing hard, the last time the Owls and Falcons matched up was on Dec. 3rd and the Falcons took

the game by 24 points.

We won seven games last year and we are growing and improving each game Burrell said.

Along with Burrell, James noted the improvement in the point differential between the two matchups as a sign of growth for the Owls.

As a result of their efforts in the late fourth quarter come back, James and Silvera lead the Owls scoring attack.

With James scoring a game high 27 points, while making seven three pointers. Silvera had 11 points and six assists offensively to go along with his six steals on the defensive end.

Along with the owls

back court, center Zack Penn, graduate student, contributed 11 points as well, adding on five rebounds and four assists.

Along with Coach Burrell, James agreed that the game was a hard-fought matchup.

"Like any game, team goes on a run and we had some trouble sometimes stopping their runs," James said.

"It was just back and forth, honestly there was just not enough time on the clock for us to be able to get the win."

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