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SOUTHERN NEWS

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University honors the life of MLK Jr.

**By Brianna Wallen
News Editor**

Black History Month is celebrated in February to commemorate the accomplishments and challenges faced by African Americans throughout American history. It is a time to reflect on how far Black figures and people have progressed.

The celebration started off strong, as on Feb. 1, at 11:00 a.m. the Adanti Student Center Ballroom was filled with eager listeners ready to soak up thoughtful insights and celebrate the life and legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

The "Celebration Brunch" addressed modern-day issues and microaggressions that Black people face.

Award-winning community-engaged scholar, nationally renowned speaker, Associate Professor of Social Justice Education, and author of "Black Appetite", Dr. Jamila Lyiscott was featured as a keynote speaker.

Lyiscott's overarching theme was to have hope: not ordinary hope, but critical hope.

"As we celebrate Dr. King, remember the legacy that you are meant to lead as an individual," Lyiscott said. "It is now our time to create the time of critical and tangible hope that we aspire to."

Lyiscott said that it is



Interim President Dwayne Smith speaking to attendees at the MLK Jr. "Celebration Brunch" on Thursday, Feb. 1.

important for this new generation to not succumb to any environment. She claimed that she does not believe in code switching and said that individuals should not suppress any factors of who they are to fit in Eurocentric boxes or environments.

Interim President Dwayne Smith said that he was inspired by her

message and hopes that his students follow her advice.

"I want my students to have more passion for leadership and to be their authentic self as they show up and claim their space and never give up," Smith said.

Smith also said that he resonated with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ideology.

"I think oftentimes people think of MLK with 'I have a Dream,' but he talks about oppression and shifting priorities of a country to the minority," Smith said. "His message is very timeless."

Despite MLK's speech being over three decades old, Smith added that his speech is still relevant to modern-day.



President Smith and Jamila Lyiscott at the MLK Jr. "Celebration Brunch" on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Smith said that he is proud of his role and students.

"I'm so proud to be president because of the vision that we have to make a difference in the community," Smith said. "We produce scholars that will make a difference in the world."

Along with lead speakers, many students

attended the event and were inspired by their wise words. One of these students was communications major Victoria Kirkland, a senior.

"My takeaway is that the work will never not be done to further rise above oppression," Kirkland said. "If u want change you have to be a part of said change."

Climate support program launched to combat bias

**By Brandon Cortés
News Writer**

The Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI, launched the new campus climate support program on Thursday, Jan. 18.

Vice President of DEI Diane Ariza said that one of the main goals of this program is to eliminate bias and empower faculty and students to ensure they feel safe, valued, heard and included on campus.

Campus climate concerns can include conduct, speech or expression that negatively targets, intimidates or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry and even national origin.

"There can be many types of biases, such as gender biases, racial biases, cultural biases, political biases," Ariza said. "This program tries to raise awareness about those particular issues too."

Students or faculty members who feel victim to any microaggression or bias can fill out a form on the campus climate support program's online website.

Once the form is filled out, a restorative practice will be carried out, which is a process where both parties involved can come together and talk about the harm

experienced.

Restorative practices help to not only repair the harm caused by an incident but help to rebuild relationships and strengthen community climate.

"I think we really moved away from being able to dialogue with each other now with this cancel culture being a thing where everybody wants to cancel everything and everyone without giving them a chance to know each other," Director of Education and Restorative Practices Patricia Gagliardi said.

Students and faculty members can also submit their forms anonymously. However, anonymity might limit the response of the university.

The decision to create this program had been in the planning process for two years by the DEI Council.

The original idea was to create an anti-bias task force and a dedicated team to work on these issues.

However, with the national anti-DEI heat that has existed over the years and states in the country that have wanted to ban these practices, it has been very difficult to meet such an ambitious goal.

"A lot of universities had similar programs like this and went into

litigation because of how anti-DEI the nation is getting," Gagliardi said. "So, we had to think about how to protect what we are doing from that national heat."

Gagliardi said that any other university or college that wants to establish something like this program needs to have people on their campus that are trained with restorative practices and can facilitate restorative circles to be able to have this dialogue when harm occurs.

Gagliardi said that the main goal is not to react when harm happens but to determine how they can prevent harm from happening.

"Restorative practices often lend themselves to creating a positive work environment, a positive community- be that in a classroom, a division or the multicultural center- any place where people find themselves in community," Gagliardi said.

Gagliardi feels very optimistic about the program.

"I believe that if we can do a good job in promoting what restorative practices are, then this program can be very successful," Gagliardi said. "We need a community that trusts and understands restorative practices and feels secure in engaging in dialogue."

CSU Board of Regents approve tuition raise

**By Brianna Wallen
News Editor**

With a new semester comes time for students to pay their bill. This time around, owls may have noticed an increase in their tuition.

According to NBC Connecticut, a 5% increase in tuition and fees for state university and college students was approved by the Board of Regents.

The hike is being implemented for the 2024-25 academic year. The increase will bring in \$20 million in revenue according to officials and will aid in reducing the \$140 million deficit.

It is clear the cost of tuition is not getting any cheaper, especially with the state of the economy.

Director of Student Financial Literacy and Advisory Lewis DeLuca shares the breakdown behind the tuition spike.

"If you look at a college, you think of three buckets of where the money comes from. Almost half is tuition and fees," DeLuca said.

He added that the rest comes from the state, with about 15% coming from room and board. With this structure of income, costs were able to remain balanced. However, due to the state reducing their funding, universities must find new ways to receive money.

"Well, in the ideal world, the state would provide more funding to the universities, and we could keep tuition flat, so it would stay the same, right?" DeLuca said. "But without as much support, the university only has two other ways to get money, increased tuition and fees and increased room and board."

With the lack of funding from the state, universities are now forced to shift their focus to college students. Health science major Aliyah Golding, a freshman, said that she is feeling financial pressure when it comes to paying for school.

Golding, who pays about \$5,000 per semester, worries about the strain her new tuition cost will put on her mother.

"I am unemployed, so this will take a toll on my mom who is a single parent," Golding said.

Similarly, many students have raised anxieties about paying for their education. Math major with a theater minor Abigail Hibert, a freshman, is concerned about budgeting her money that she planned to use once she graduated.

Hibert said that she pays off her tuition of \$7,000 every semester with the money that her late father left for her.

"The raise is an inconvenience because it means

I have to save more money to pay for school rather than use it to prepare for life after school," Hibert said.

The rise in tuition also caused students to have to turn away from the university. Former sociology with a concentration in criminology major Keywon Wray was a sophomore in his fall semester when he packed up his belongings and unenrolled from the university.

Wray said that his reason for leaving was a financial burden that he could not relieve. Wray said that he owed the school over \$3,000 and had to pay his tuition of over \$4,000 per semester. "Since I was a full-time student, I wasn't working, so I couldn't support my mom to help pay for my tuition," Wray said.

Keywon said he hopes his story will display the impact the tuition increase has on students.

"The 5% increase is unfortunate. There's people like me that want to learn and stay in their classes, but they can't afford it," Wray said.

Currently, Wray is taking a semester off to work. He plans to continue his education next semester.

"I feel that education has to come with a price, and sadly it's a price that I can't afford," Wray said.

Childcare Center available on-campus

By Lexi White
General Reporter

The struggle that parents deal with is already so difficult. Now, add that stress to a student or a faculty member who may not have access to a generously priced day-care facility. That is why the university opened the Childcare Center on campus on Jan. 30, 2023.

Executive Director of Healthcare Programs Michele Vancour began her research on the

four state universities and compiled statistics of student and faculty parents. She then interviewed numerous parents on campuses, which revealed that childcare centers on campuses were vital.

The university used to have this resource, but that facility closed in 1994. Since then, Vancour strived for an opportunity to bring childcare support to campus for new parents. The Childcare Center allows children up to 12 years old to be

registered for the center.

"Through the United States Department of Education Grant, we were able to fund childcare centers on higher education campuses," Vancour said. "Especially for single parents or students who don't have a stable income or resources."

This grant also provided funds to the Childcare Center so that parents will have partial funding from the facility in support of staying in school and making progress to graduate.

Heather Jimenez is the COMPASS Project Coordinator of the Childcare Center. COMPASS stands for Childcare Opportunities Means Parents Achieve Success at Southern.

"We have sections for infants, toddlers and school age children," Jimenez said. "We also have a quiet room for infants who need to nap, and then there is Alexis Lucibello's office, who is our head teacher."

Ms. Lucibello provides activities and games for the children in the program. She also plans lessons every week of the semester to keep the children's day organized. In addition, Ms. Lucibello sets up activities that can help children with their fine and gross motor skills.

Jimenez also said that students and faculty who have been utilizing the program have been expressing tons of gratitude. Because of



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

A play area for children at the Childcare Center on Jan. 30.

the Childcare Center, students can stay engaged in classes, academic activities and have more flexibility to move forward to get their degree.

"I think that this has been a very positive experience for everybody," Jimenez said. "One of the things we are looking to do is have some evening hours."

Faculty members who registered with the program are grateful for the Childcare Center because it allows them to teach classes and attend meetings without worrying about their child.

"This is really a support system," Jimenez said. "If they didn't have this, they would have to take time off or have to pay more money for another facility that can be out of the way or basically less conducive than they need."

Parents can drop off their child to be watched for up to three and a half hours at a time, but they must stay on campus. The maximum capacity for children in the center at one time is 20, and many spots are open.

The Childcare Center also holds monthly student parent programs with other departments on campus.

"This past month, we held a workshop on how to help your child build their fine motor skills with household items," Jimenez said. "Last semester, we did a stress and time management program for parents. Each month, we try to come up with a topic that is relevant to student parents."

To apply for the Childcare Center program, go to the university's website to fill out the application and attach your child's completed health forms. From there, Jimenez will contact you with Ms. Lucibello, who will give you the daily information for the program.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

A comfy reading corner for children at the Childcare Center.

Friends of Beaver Pond hosts Beaver Pond clean up

By Brandon Cortes
News Writer

On Friday, Feb. 2, Derek Faulkner from the School of Business, other volunteers and community organizations such as Friends of Beaver Pond and Urban Resources Initiative continued cleaning Beaver Pond.

Chris Ozyck, a volunteer, said that the main work of this cleanup is to take care of the trees since trees are being lost thanks to invasive plants.

Invasive plants corner the tree, knock it down and ultimately kill it.

"When there are no trees, there are no food resources for the birds. There is no water quality, and they also accumulate a lot of carbon dioxide," Ozyck said.

Ozyck stated that the significance of trees extends to their role in carbon sequestration. Trees act as crucial carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"We are not only doing this so that everything looks more beautiful but

also so that the birds can migrate. Many of our songbirds are migratory and go from South America to the northern forests, and if they find a place this devastated, they will not have sufficient food resources," Ozyck said.

In the surrounding area, the visible signs of environmental degradation are evident, as many trees are observed in a state of decline due to the presence of invasive plants, improper waste disposal and ongoing pollution.

The invasive plants are encroaching on the trees, compromising their vitality and contributing to their deterioration.

Compounding the environmental challenges is the unauthorized use of the area as an illegal dumping site.

Some individuals are disposing of their waste in this location, leading to a landscape marred by discarded garbage.

This not only detracts from the natural aesthetics but also introduces toxins and pollutants into the soil,

adversely affecting the overall health of the ecosystem.

"Much of this cleanup work is being done by volunteers who come and go and organizations like Friends of Beaver Pond," Ozyck said.

Sandy Shaner, a volunteer, said it is gratifying to see that even young people have come to help clean this area.

"Sometimes, I get involved in these things, so it doesn't hurt to come help. The young people are the ones who need this space since they are our future," Shaner said.

Thankfully, Faulkner said that they have gotten the city to agree to put up fences to prevent people from using the space as an illegal dumping site.

"The problem is that a lot of that garbage will end up in the pond, and that is what we want to prevent. Long term, I would love to talk to the city about providing chairs, benches and signs to prevent littering and raise awareness about the importance of this body of water that is Beaver Pond," Faulkner said.



PHOTO | BRANDON CORTES

Nan Bartow and Derek Faulkner, co-leaders of Friends of Beaver Pond in front of park on Feb. 2.



PHOTO | BRANDON CORTES

Garbage and plastic remains scattered near the pond on Feb. 2.

Students talk about social media and internet addiction

By Brandon Cortes
News Writer

While technology, social media and the internet advance by leaps and bounds, we increasingly see it as necessary for our daily lives.

We use the internet to shop online, entertain ourselves, and now with the dawn of artificial intelligence, we use it to generate more ideas and even art.

However, some students at the university believe that we have become more and more attached to the internet to the point of developing an addiction.

Theater major Vanessa Flores, a senior, said that as time goes by, we have

become more and more dehumanized by the internet to such a degree that we have lost true attachment to nature and the real world.

"There was a time where I felt too attached to social media and the internet; however, I really think that now that I no longer use them, I can enjoy the things around me a little more," Flores said.

This feeling of disconnection from real life is also a recurring feeling in social work major Zariah Taylor, a freshman, who says that social networks and the internet should only be used for specific things and not to dissociate yourself from reality.

"Social media is a façade. It only shows you what the algorithm wants you to see and in turn distorts reality," Taylor said.

Taylor added that over time, the internet has played a significant role in "reshaping" our lives, pushing us further away from a genuine connection with nature and the tangible world.

The constant immersion in the digital realm has led to a sense of detachment, overshadowing our once strong bond with the natural environment.

"The rapid pace of technological advancements contributes to a society that prioritizes digital communication

over direct engagement with the physical surroundings," Taylor said.

However, business and psychology major Belle Smith, a freshman, had a somewhat different opinion.

She said that social networks, the internet and technological advances can be used more for good than bad.

She said that online platforms and social networks open doors to opportunities that may not be easily accessible in offline scenarios.

"Let's be honest, with the advent of platforms like LinkedIn, Indeed and various other social media tailored for job searches and

recommendations, finding employment has become considerably more streamlined compared to years gone by," Smith said.

It is imperative to recognize that in today's digital age, the impact of social media extends beyond personal connections and leisure.

Employers increasingly utilize a process known as "social media screening" to scrutinize the online presence of potential candidates.

This entails a thorough examination of individuals' profiles on various social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, as a part of the hiring process.

During social media screenings, recruiters evaluate not only prospective employees' professional qualifications but also their behavior, character and overall online persona.

This holistic approach provides employers with insights into applicants' communication style, values and how they present themselves outside the confines of a resume or job application.

Consequently, the content and images they share on social platforms can carry significant weight in influencing the employer's perception of applicants' suitability for a particular role within the company.

Dimitri Petrov in Buley Library Art Gallery

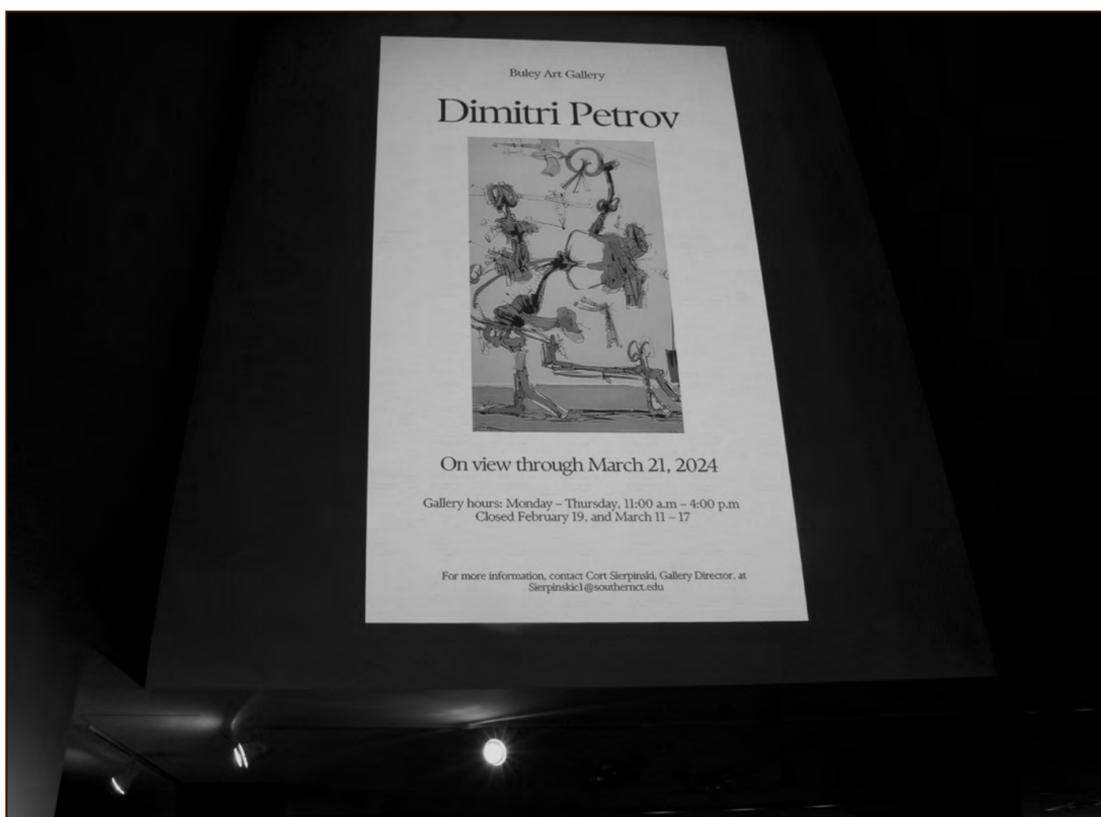
By Kahiona Senior
Photo Editor

The Buley Library Art Gallery is displaying the winter 2024 exhibit. Dimitri Petrov is an artist who lived from 1919 to 1986. Some of his last works as an artist are on display in Buley. Petrov specialized in Dadaism, surrealism and printmaking. His works revolve around defying norms. The eccentric and colorful pieces express artistic freedom as a Dadaist. The exhibit is open from now until March 21, and the hours are Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Photos: Kahiona Senior



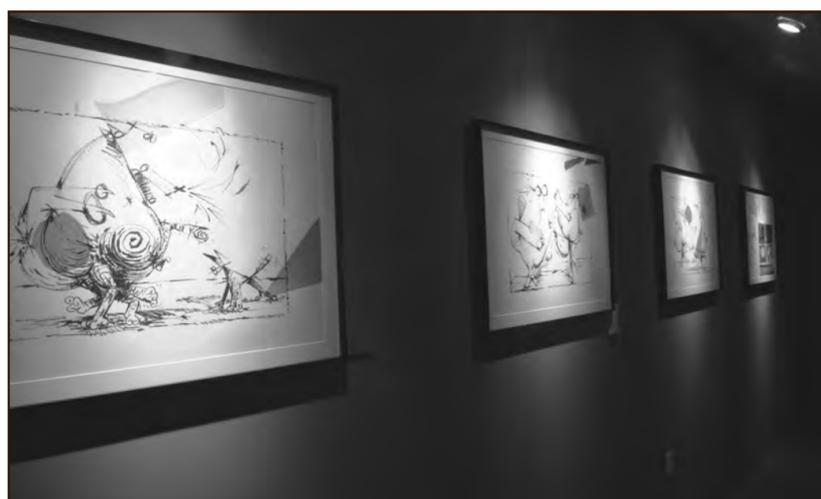
Two of Dimitri Petrov's artworks, titled "Man Blowing His Own Destiny" and "Recital #2."



A flier projected on the first floor of Buley Library to inform students about the gallery downstairs.



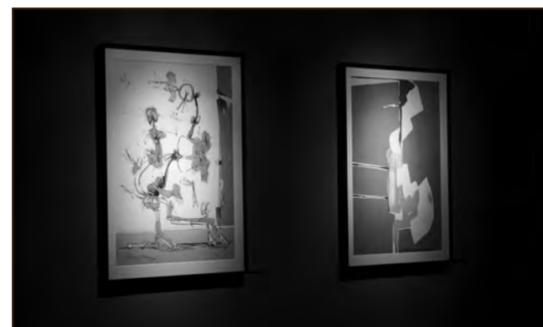
"View From The Promotor's Box," a lithograph by Dimitri Petrov.



The artwork in the gallery is lined up symmetrically to enhance viewing.



Art and design major Aedy Vanhouten, a sophomore, viewing their favorite portrait.



Two vertical pieces next to each other look similar.



"Recital #3" lithograph close up.



Abstract lithograph "Cat Fight #3."



The pieces "Two Piano Muse," "Threshold" and "Devoted Smokers" lined up in the gallery.

Megan Thee Stallion and Nicki Minaj drop diss tracks

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

Have you scrolled through X, Instagram, Facebook or TikTok recently? If not, you are missing out on one of the biggest pop culture fiascos to date.

Female rappers Megan Thee Stallion and Nicki Minaj's feud has exploded after brewing for over four years; however, it is one-sided.

On Jan. 26, Megan Thee Stallion released her first song of the year, titled "HISS." The song was immediately praised for her lyricism and a gag-worthy line where she said, "These h*es don't be mad at Megan, these h*es be mad at Megan's Law."

The stellar line presumably shaded Nicki Minaj's husband Kenneth Petty, who is a registered sex offender, yet Megan Thee Stallion never mentioned names.

An hour after the song dropped, Minaj went to Instagram Live to throw a tantrum about the new record and to preview her



Nicki Minaj, "Big Foot" cover art.

new diss song, "Big Foot." "Big Foot" is the worst song Nicki Minaj has ever recorded in her 20-year career. Unfortunately, this is not all that Minaj reacted with.

Nicki Minaj went on an X rampage for almost a week, which should be a world record for the most unhinged women on the planet.

This feud has elevated to unprecedented heights as Minaj's fans, the "Barbz" have gotten involved by doxing anyone that aligns with Megan Thee Stallion.

This situation is likely the fall of Nicki Minaj, who has been the top female rapper for the last 14 years. Unfortunately, she let her ego



Megan Thee Stallion, "Hiss" cover art.

overshadow her raw talent.

This is not the first time Nicki Minaj has feuded with another female artist. She has had issues with Lil' Kim, Taylor Swift, Remy Ma, Mulatto, Iggy Azalea, Miley Cyrus, Little Mix, Mariah Carey and most notably Cardi B.

This cannot be the

same Nicki Minaj that was crying on Zane Lowe's Apple Music radio show back in 2017 because Cardi B did not get on her knees and show her love.

Just recently, Nicki Minaj accused Megan Thee Stallion of trying to have a "Rihanna moment" after being shot in 2020 by rapper Tory Lanez.

To remind readers, Rihanna was brutally beaten by Chris Brown after an altercation in a car the night before the 2009 Grammys.

What a cruel and despicable thing to say about a black woman's real trauma by comparing it to another horrific trauma.

Over a week later, Nicki Minaj is still on a rampage not only on X but Stationhead, which is a radio platform that allows users to chat while listening to music.

The most disgusting event that took place during this whole ordeal was Megan Thee Stallion's mother's grave being targeted by online trolls in support of Nicki Minaj. The cemetery had to beef up security due to the imminent threat.

There is a clear winner in this feud, and her name is Megan Thee Stallion. Unlike her colleague, she is a true girl's girl.

Nicki Minaj is disappointing fans, acting in a childish manner when she once was a voice for our generation.

TKE hosts St. Jude's fundraiser

By Christian Mansfield
Contributor

On a crisp Tuesday evening, members of the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, TKE, presented their philanthropic efforts towards St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. President of TKE and studio art major Colin Pedersen, a senior, believed this event would highlight the amazing philanthropic works of St. Jude's.

"Our organization, TKE Fraternity, is committed to helping charitable organizations both near and far," Pedersen said.

"St. Jude's is our primary philanthropy, and we hope this event will shed light on St. Jude's amazing work with childhood cancer research and the values our fraternity is built on."

Brotherhood and service to those in need are the values that shape this fraternal organization.

This was the first time this specific event was held, but TKE fraternity keeps the philanthropic spirit throughout the year. They have held a pumpkin smash, bake sales and many more events with all proceeds going to charitable causes.

Pedersen was thrilled

with the excitement surrounding this event.

"I am very happy with the outcome and am so grateful so many SCSU students came out to support such a great cause," Pedersen said.

Political science major Christopher Sheehy, a junior and chaplain of TKE, shared his immense appreciation towards this event.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to promote awareness of such a wonderful organization that saves millions of lives every year," Sheehy said.

Art education major Carlin Kestenbaum, a junior, attended Tuesday's meeting, curious to learn about what the fraternity's fundraisers support. Kestenbaum said he was impressed to learn of their dedication to St. Jude.

Marketing major Henry Roush, a junior and member of TKE, said he was proud to be involved in such a benevolent organization.

"In our fraternity, we are dedicated to St. Jude's and the work they do," Roush said. Offering advice to students who may be looking to give back, Roush spoke passionately about the fraternity's commitment to the university's mission of service.

"I would encourage anyone at SCSU to get involved as much as possible and be a part of such rewarding work and live out the legacy of the founder of St. Jude's, Danny Thomas, an alumnus of TKE," Roush said.

Tuesday's event was praised by students visiting the university as well.

"I'm honored to see my SCSU classmates giving back to such a selfless organization. Events like this make me proud to be an owl," Kestenbaum said.

Kestenbaum said he encourages all students to always check OwlConnect and hopes more people will attend events like these.

Childhood cancer, once a death sentence, now holds a 94% survival rate thanks to the donors of St. Jude's.

The Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity is inspired by their alumni brother and his promise that we will not stop until no child dies of cancer.

Through the help from Greek life organizations like this and other generous donors, St. Jude's has been able to move toward their mission. St. Jude's accepts donations on their website stjude.org.

Grammy's 2024 shows highs and lows in music

By Ali Fernand
Editor-in-Chief

The 2024 Grammys gave awards to what the Academy deemed the best music of last year. The artists with the biggest nominations were Billie Eilish, Victoria Monét, SZA, Taylor Swift, Boygenius, Jon Batiste, Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Rey.

Taylor Swift did not deserve to win Album of the Year for "Midnights." Though Swift's cultural impact has been confusingly immense, this is one of her weakest projects.

The production and vocals on this album felt lazy. There was nothing new or even exciting about this release.

If anything, Swift's album is the weakest in that entire category. Creative artists like Janelle Monáe, SZA and Jon Batiste do not deserve to be overlooked by a subpar generic pop release. The Academy continues to disappoint with their Album of the Year pick.

"What Was I Made For?" by Billie Eilish is a great pick for Song of the Year. Though this was a song made exclusively for "Barbie," it is stunning.

Eilish has proven her talent since she was just a teenager. This song shows her talent as an artist and maturity as fans have

seen her grow up.

The Song of the Year category had a lot of other great picks. Other songs that were deserving of this award were "A&W" by Lana Del Rey, "Kill Bill" by SZA and "vampire" by Olivia Rodrigo.

The winner of Record of the Year was "Flowers" by Miley Cyrus. This song was a massive hit and is a solid catchy pop song. There are a few songs that deserve the award more than this one, but overall, this song is a fun pick.

It is no surprise that music industry darling Jack Antonoff won Producer of the Year. Antonoff has been working with several highly praised artists like Lana Del Rey, Clairo, Taylor Swift and The 1975. He is an incredibly talented producer; however, he tends to be a bit overrated.

Metro Boomin would have been a good winner for this category for his work on the Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse soundtrack and his tons of hip hop hits. However, hip hop artists tend to not get as much appreciation from the Academy.

The Best Pop Duo Performance went to SZA and Phoebe Bridgers for "Ghost in the Machine" on SZA's latest album. This was a surprise collaboration for all fans but

showed a beautiful blend of these two artists' styles. SZA's album "SOS" also won Best Progressive R&B Album, which is a rightful win for such a talented artist.

Bridgers has also won awards for her supergroup "Boygenius." This group, containing Bridgers, Julien Baker and Lucy Dacus, won both the Best Rock Performance, Best Rock Song and Best Alternative Music Album. "Not Strong Enough" was a stellar song from this group, and "The Record" was a solid album.

Women continue to own the rock category as Paramore also won two awards.

The band won both Best Rock Album and Best Alternative Music Performance. This was for their latest album "This Is Why" and the title track from that album. It is amazing to see Paramore finally get respect from the Academy, especially for an album that is quite experimental.

Overall, there were a lot of smaller awards that had great winners. It is great to see women dominate an awards show. However, it would be great to see a good album win Album of the Year one day.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

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Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.



The trophy for winners at the Grammy's awards.

Folio open mic night

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

Feb. 2 was a dreary and cold Friday, yet that did not stop students from gathering to share their love of art.

Folio hosted an open mic night in the Adanti Student Center Fireside Lounge located on the third floor.

Spanish and French major Ethan Sabetta, a junior, is the current editor of Folio, which is an undergraduate literary magazine that has been published every fall semester since 1948.

“Every year, we collect art, poetry and fiction submissions, then compile them into a book,” Sabetta said. “We print the book at the end of the year.”

As students entered the Fireside Lounge, they were met with two tables filled with water, juice, cookies and more. The 2020 and 2023 copies of Folio magazines were also available for attendees to take.

Special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a junior, attended the event in support of Sabetta.

“A lot of people seemed really interested in reading,” Wasilewski said.

English major Chris Durand, a senior, is the fiction editor and shared some pieces of his original work.

“We host them every first Friday of every month, and we just figured after coming from break, we give those students some time to reacclimate, then host it on the first Friday of February,” Durand said.

Psychology major Rowan Ellis, a freshman, was one of a few students who went up to the podium and read aloud.

“I have been to every single Folio event since last semester and this semester, and I even assisted edited the Folio magazine over winter break,” Ellis said.

On the university website page, you can look up Folio and access submissions dating back to the 1940s.

“This has been an event for as long as I have been at Southern,” Sabetta said. “As far as I am aware, they have been doing these for forever.”

Folio group members encouraged audience

members to share whatever they were comfortable with, whether it was original artwork, poetry or singing, echoing the words that this is a safe space.

“We are not currently collecting submissions, but typically our fall semester is when we are collecting submissions,” Sabetta said.

“So, if you are an undergraduate student next semester that writes or does artwork, then keep an eye out, and you can join us on OwlConnect, and you can follow us on Instagram @FolioSCSU,” Sabetta said.

The next open mic event will be held on Friday, March 1 in the Fireside Lounge located in the Adanti Student Center on the third floor.

“Folio is a great place to dip your foot in like publishing, so if you want to become part of the team, you can do either side of the publishing,” Durand said.

All undergraduates are welcome to share work or listen to others.

“More people should definitely come to this,” Wasilewski said.



PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Editor of Folio Ethan Sabetta, a junior, getting ready to start the first open mic of the semester.



Folio magazines of 2020 and 2023 placed on a table for students to take.

Owls decide what artists should win a Grammy

By Lexi White
General Reporter



“Giveon because he talks to the heart and soul.”

— Health science major Tony Powell, a sophomore



“I would love to see Lola Young win a Grammy because she blew up on TikTok last year, and she’s really good. She kind of reminds me of Amy Winehouse.”

— Biology major Zuzana Zivotska, a senior



“Billie Eilish because I just love Billie Eilish.”

— Communications major Madison Markelon, a senior



“Drake because he’s my top two, but not two, artist on Spotify.”

— Health science major Dawin Magloire, a junior



“Chris Brown because he’s been a really good R&B artist since the early 2000s, and he deserves to win.”

— Computer science major Shawn Martin, a junior



“Jacquees because he is the king of R&B right now.”

— Communications major E’lijah Gray, a senior

Men's Basketball defeats AIC

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor
Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

Playing better defensively than last Saturday's loss to Assumption University, our Owls defeated American International College 90-72, snapping their two-game losing streak.

The Owls entered their second and final game of two against the American International Yellow Jackets of the season in front of their home fans at James Moore Fieldhouse.

Off a deflection, American International secured the opening tip. After a missed three-pointer, forward Josh McGettigan, a graduate, rebounded the ball and completed the play with forward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore, driving to the paint for a layup.

"Getting the chance to have a fast break just brings excitement to the crowd. Our teammates pushing the ball up the floor once again," Stewart said.

But the pressure did not stop there. Guard Marty Silvera, a junior, intercepted a pass and set up a layup. Stewart knocked down both free throws, and the Owls were off to a hot start. Stewart added on with a statue of liberty dunk.

Although the Owls started good, their defense was caught sleeping, finding themselves in a deficit 17-15, as they were outscored by Yellow



Forward Cherif Diarra, a junior, scores a basket for the Owls.

PHOTO | DILLON FLANIGAN

Jackets 10-0 in less than three minutes.

The three by guard Logan Bagshaw, a junior, created an 18-17 lead that was quickly overshadowed by a Yellow Jackets 15-0 run.

Heading into the half, the university regained its focus, as it was their time to go on a 21-6 scoring spree. With a collaboration from McGettigan, Silvera, guard Christian Joe and forward Cherif Diarra, freshmen, and a sophomore guard Greg Williams, the Owls took a 39-38 lead into halftime.

With a narrow lead, the Owls continued to score. In fact, they maintained a

lead throughout the rest of the game.

Diarra drained a three-pointer to open the scoring just as a Yellow Jacket basket was secured.

"Coach told us to attack the press," Diarra said. "It worked well for us to keep scoring, and that gave us a boost of energy."

In a combination of scoring by McGettigan and Stewart, neither seemed more locked in than Silvera's nine points in a row, extending the margin to 52-45.

"I feel like in the second half we came out stronger than the first half," Silvera said. "We took good shots, and they started hitting."

Silvera said that the team played well together during this game, attacking the Yellow Jackets' offense with great defense.

Silvera played aggressively and confidently, scoring 20 points with nine assists and four steals throughout the game.

The well-rounded game continued with many steals, rebounds and second chance points. It was a team effort, and all players contributed down the stretch.

While Diarra, McGettigan and Silvera were still delivering on both sides of the ball, guards Sean James, a junior, and Mason

Williams, a graduate, introduced themselves to the party, each scoring a three-pointer and multiple other baskets. Joe dazzled as he sprinkled his talent in the paint with a layup which encapsulated their largest lead of the game, 86-64.

Joe and Greg Williams split the final four points.

Head Coach Scott Burrell said that this game was the best 40-minute game the Owls have played all year due to the team's positive energy showcased on and off the court.

"It was a total team effort, and we played really well," Burrell said.

Column: the NBA 65 rule



By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

The National Basketball Association, NBA, includes a traditional 82-game regular season but is implementing the "65-Game Rule." This new rule has gotten a rise out of the basketball landscape from players to fans, with many reflecting on the decision.

The logic behind the NBA's decision is based on acknowledging players' grueling schedule while also wanting to enhance the quality and quantity of the player performance over an entire season.

The league believes a minimum requirement of games played is needed to cease unnecessary days off by star players. If not, they will not be eligible to be considered for major awards, including the Most Valuable Player award at seasons end.

The "65-Game Rule" applies to Defensive Player of the Year, Most Improved Player, the All-NBA teams and the All-Defensive teams as well. However, the Rookie of the Year, Sixth Man of the Year and the All-Rookie teams are not impacted.

Another goal of the rule is to minimize player injuries while ensuring that star players are healthy enough to play during nationally televised games. When stars do not play in key games highlighted early in the season, the broadcasting company loses viewers and in turn loses ad revenue in negotiations.

With a league mandate at hand, the NBA is hoping teams and players do not sit out games voluntarily. This is aimed at the players as the league tries to uphold a competitive season for all fans.

Although this is new, in the 2016-2017 season, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver sent a memo to all team owners stating there are "significant penalties" about resting players without reporting the circumstances.

Guard Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers has voiced his opposition to the new rule. This is in lockstep with the new Collective Bargaining Agreement that the players negotiated with the league and owners in July 2023.

The "65-Game Rule" is not so cut and dry. There are loopholes and standards that need to be met to qualify. The breakdown of the rule includes how many minutes they play in the game and whether they are injured.

There is a loophole for an instance where a player gets hurt and records under 20 minutes in the game, and it is considered a season ending injury. In both cases, being under the minutes threshold and injured are not to count as one of the 17 allowed games to be missed.

"The 65 number is more of a failsafe in terms of incentive that if a guy was really going to sit out again, having nothing to do with injuries, that he wouldn't be eligible," Silver said in September, 2023.

Owls fly over the Yellow Jackets in a thriller

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor
Lexi White
General Reporter

The women's basketball team defeated American International College 77-63 triumphantly, rebounding against Saturday's loss to Assumption University.

The Owls stepped onto their home court at James Moore Fieldhouse after a short period off facing the American International Yellow Jackets.

American International registered the first four points of the game. However, that was quickly erased by a three-pointer by guard Julianna Bonilla, a graduate.

It was quickly followed up by a jump shot by guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, which culminated in a 9-0 scoring run capped by back-to-back layups by forward Katie Williams, a senior.

"I hadn't hit any threes in the past few games, so to hit one tonight felt nice, and I just let it flow from there and let the game come to me," Bonilla said. "I was happy that I could do that for my team and get the job done."

The increased offensive performance carried over to the second quarter but was matched with the same force from the opposing team. In fact, the Yellow Jackets outscored the Owls 20-19 in the second quarter and were knotted at 32 apiece at halftime.

In the locker room during halftime, Head Coach Kate Lynch, gave the team a pep talk.

Bonilla said, "We got a fire lit under us in the locker room because Coach didn't seem too



Guard Julianna Bonilla, a graduate, drains a three-pointer.

PHOTO | DILLON FLANIGAN

"I am really proud of our team because at the end of the day, the NE10 is tough. It is always going to be a battle. We stayed focused."

— Head Coach Kate Lynch

happy. We knew we had to step it up."

Opening the second half, the Owls started offensively by knocking down a quick three-pointer by Bonilla. American International briefly tied the score at 36-36 with six minutes remaining but was followed up by a layup from Helms.

The Owls took the lead and never looked back, the Owls were in full throttle, heading to the fourth with a 53-46 lead.

Helms said, "During the second half, we woke up and focused on

the little things that we needed to fix."

Helms was right. The team sprang into action during the second half of the game but especially in the fourth quarter.

Bonilla started the scoring with a two-point jumper and a corner three. Forward Rheyna Steinauer, a sophomore added five of her ten points of the night via a three-pointer and a layup.

The lead was in double-digit territory, and the Yellow Jackets were flustered. Over the last five minutes of

the game, Helms, guard Jillian Martin, a senior, Steinauer and forward Katie Williamson, a senior, made 11 free throws on 14 attempts.

With the scent of a crisp victory in sight, guard Hope Fox, a sophomore, placed a dagger in the Yellow Jackets side as she drained a three, sealing their fate.

Guard Delaney Haines, a junior, came off the bench and sunk three three-pointers throughout the game.

Haines said, "My role on the team is to get off the bench, hit threes and

score the ball. So, I try to come in and make an impact immediately."

Other contributors included forward Renza Miller, a junior, with five minutes on the court, and Forward Ashley Evans, and a senior, who totaled five points, five rebounds and one assist in over 26 minutes as Martin carved out 10 points, five assists, three rebounds and one steal in over 38 minutes.

"I thought it was a battle from start to finish," Helms said. "We had a couple of big shots and hit a lot of free throws that we needed. All around, this was a tough game, but I'm glad we came out on top."

The Owls, once again, flew to victory and annihilated their opponent, American International.