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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Backup generators fail during power outage East and West campus lose electricity for multiple hours

**By: Donovan Wilson
Reporter**

Power outages aren't exactly unlikely at a large college campus, especially in a metropolitan area, but things become more complicated when a giant snowstorm approaches the state.

On Sunday, Jan. 31, the power went out. It started off as an incident that had happened on the streets but spread to campus. The major issue came when the support generators never turned on and the power remained out for several hours as a snowstorm approached.

A nor'easter was approaching and had been slated to last through Monday and most, if not all, of that Tuesday. When the power did not come on, the university feared students would be stuck in the dark for several days. So, administration made the decision to allow students to go home even though the quarantining period had not ended. However, about an hour after letting students return home, the power

came back.

"All of east campus had lost power and the transfer of power to the generators never went through," said Tracy Tyree, vice president of student affairs.

The support generators never turned on. The maintenance team had to be called in to make repairs. After several hours of uncertainty, they were able to get everything back online and connected to the generator. That generator ran the power on this particular section of campus from that night until the morning of Thursday, Feb. 4.

Students were allowed to go home to wait out the storm. Prior, many students were in quarantine and this could have possibly undid those effects. Many of the students were new to quarantine and placed in Neff Hall. Staff encouraged students under quarantine to stay on campus and they were relocated to rooms with electricity. When the power came back on shortly after the announcement that night, students were allowed to

stay at their dorms but were encouraged to wait out the storm at home.

"The repair was going slower than expected so when it was about to really get dark we decided to send the students home," said Robert DeMezzo, director of residence life.

Southern has many plans and procedures set in place for this sort of issue. In this case, the procedure did not work. Every residence hall has two-bit radios to communicate and there were emergency lights in place, although they only provided about 90 minutes of light as they were battery powered. Residence life also has a giant backstock of batteries and flashlights.

"I'm an out-of-state student from Massachusetts, so I panicked quite a bit," said theater major Samhain Perez, a freshman.

The campus and residence life worked to accommodate students having complications with the situation. As mentioned before, there was a heavy focus on

providing housing for students who could not go home but needed electricity. Conn. Hall also lost power. Residential students were served dinner in the student center until about 8 o'clock

to ensure all students ate.

DeMezzo mentioned staff did an admirable job helping the campus get through all of this. All of this happened on a Sunday, so most staff were home and had to be called

in if they were needed.

all of the staff came in to make sure everyone got home safe. Some staff even went door to door in the residence halls to ensure everyone was accounted for.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Schwartz Hall was one of the dorms that lost power during the power outage.

Academics affected by COVID-19

**By: Donovan Wilson
Reporter**

COVID-19 continues to change many of the factors of everyday life including academics here on campus.

During the 2020 spring semester many things have changed on the academics side once all classes switched to online. The students, faculty and school as a whole had more time to learn, grow and adapt during that period. Moving the rest of the semester online, staff was able to figure out how to go on in this ever changing pandemic landscape.

The faculty was subsequently put through many training procedures and the school tried to prepare ways to tackle the fall semester of 2020 and beyond.

"We learned a lot last spring when we jumped into accommodating for the spring semester back in March. Our faculty worked

really hard on that," said Provost Robert Prezant.

A large part of accommodating classes to the landscape of a pandemic was overcoming the challenges faced by the campus community. Staff listened to what issues students and professors had. This has led to the offering of more online classes than usual.

To resolve issues, more online courses are offered to help accommodate the needs of everyone. Most classes offered on campus function as hybrid courses and would meet online as well as in person when needed or wanted.

Grades are the university's main way to determine how well students are doing in school. With offering students the chance to take classes as pass/fail, it is more difficult to look at grades to determine students success. The amount of which the student succeeds or fails is hidden, which is not a

proper 1 to 1 comparison. In other words, a GPA from fall of 2019 would look very different to a GPA from fall 2020, as there is a higher chance certain classes did not factor into the overall number.

"The academic success center is open all year long, both online and in-person for all students," said Aaliyah Barnes, graduate intern and personal academic success coach at the campus academic success center.

When classes went entirely online, so did the academic success center and they saw a gigantic influx of online appointments being made. There was also an increase in the amount of students utilizing all of the services they offer. As time goes on, students needs change and the academic success center has been constantly evolving to meet those needs.

A lot of students are experiencing a feeling

of disconnect through technology and needed some sort of one-on-one teaching, coaching and tutoring. This struggle came mainly with asynchronous classes, or self-motivated classes that ran online, with no class meetings.

Students had academic freedom and delegated their schoolwork at their own pace. This led to a large number of students coming in less for direct tutoring and more so for help with organizing their work, finding motivation to do their work and managing their time better in this new world.

"My grades got significantly better but a lot of my friends had to take advantage of the pass-fail contracts just to get through their courses," said communications major Kieron Turnbull, a senior.

Moving forward, even past the pandemic, there has been a lot of valuable skills learned and knowledge gained. For instance, hybrid courses and online courses are something students are a lot more open to now than they were before. Faculty and staff are extremely hopeful for the future of the schools academics during this pandemic and moving into the future.

"The good news is we've learned a lot about how to work in this pandemic environment," said Prezant, "our attitudes have grown a little more positive and not only because of vaccines but because we've learned how to learn in this environment."

DRC offers new online program

**By: Desteny Maragh
News Editor**

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) now makes it easier for all students to have accessibility to their resources without having to come into the office with "Accommodate," a new program coming in the spring.

"In Spring 2021, the DRC launched Accommodate, which is a case management system to streamline the accommodation process," said Stephanie Hackett, assistant director of the DRC.

"It is a platform that integrates requests for accommodation, accommodation letters and other processes required for students registered with our office," said Hackett.

The DRC is helping each student reach their maximum potential by improving disability resources, understanding and offering direct support on campus.

In the past, the DRC has been considered an aid to hundreds of students each semester in many ways, but with the new climate of COVID-19, there were still plenty of students who lacked the help they needed as a result of remote learning.

Accommodate is hoping to become the main resource for with disabilities students on and off campus.

DRC Director, Goldie Adele, said they have been working for months with the vendor to customize

the program for Southern and make sure it can manage everything a student with a disability needs from the center.

There have been a few program training sessions for students and faculty and it seems to hopefully be a significant help to everyone.

Prior to COVID-19, everything for the DRC was paper-based. There were letters and papers with explanations and signatures, which had to be transmitted from student to professor.

A recurring issue with physical papers was getting lost or misplaced and they had to be reprinted. With Accommodate, the issue is eliminated because each form can be directly accessed by students and professors.

"They don't have to deal with losing the physical copy of disability letters and things like that," said Adele.

Adele said, "what Accommodate does for faculty is that we can process a request from a student and the professor—all they have to do is log into Accommodate and they will see their class roster and all the students who need accommodations."

Hackett said, "since we just launched the system, we do not have a lot of feedback yet, but because the system is entirely web-based, students can freely access the program at any time from any device with an internet connection."

See Accommodate, Page 2



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Outside students walk along the paths of the Buley Library and academic quad.

Biotechnology degree approved for continuation

By: Jose Vega
Contributor

During a time when lab workers are in high demand, the Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology has once again been approved for continuation at Southern Connecticut State University.

The Life Sciences sector is growing rapidly in Connecticut, with approximately 23,000 employees and 1,300 companies statewide –not including college and

university labs.

According to the Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee minutes, Dr. Bruce Kalk, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, noted, “the City of New Haven had approached SCSU to provide a pipeline to help entry level lab positions to New Haven’s Biotech sector.”

This pipeline would include initiatives such as BioPath, an SCSU-led partnership of industry, academic and government

leaders designed to meet the workforce needs of Connecticut’s growing bioscience industry.

The interest in the biotech sector comes after two large biotech companies, Alexion and Bristol Meyers Squibb, decided to leave the New Haven area due to a minimal work force to pull from.

“We believe it is important that we are in an ecosystem where biotech is front and center,” Alexion

Chief Executive Officer Ludwig Hanston said in an interview with the Hartford Courant. “This is one of the reasons why we’re moving to Boston.”

SCSU found through an assessment of workforce in the biomedical field, the three consistent requirements of hiring companies are undergraduate research experience, skills development, and a required internship.

Biology student Jess Schreiber, a senior,

said that after leaving Southern, she feels well-equipped to handle what lies ahead of her and her future career.

“I believe Southern is doing a great job in educating and preparing me for the journey that lies ahead,” said Schreiber. “They offer a wide array of subjects within the field of biology and all of the professors within the department are all so well versed in their area of study which only helps with my knowledge and understanding of the overall subject of Biology and where it can take me.”

Schreiber also emphasized that along with the diversity of courses offered at Southern, the passion of its professors allows her to get more out of her coursework.

“Southern does an amazing job at hiring faculty members who are truly passionate about their field,” said Schreiber. “They are well versed in how to teach both general information as well as their own research to their students– all while sharing a little bit of their passion

with their classes.”

Biology major Leah Herde, a senior, says she is planning on pursuing a career in pharmaceutical medicine and SCSU has done a good job at offering variety but she hasn’t been able to take courses that she wanted.

“They offer a variety of classes but they are not offered as often and they fill up quickly,” said Herde. “I’ve wanted to take forensic biology since I got here in 2017 but it has not been offered since and yet it’s still on my degree evaluation.”

While Herde acknowledged the inconsistency in available courses, she also stated how SCSU is pushing her and other students into stepping out of their comfort zone.

“The reason I picked my major is because it has so many options in the future and at the time I didn’t know what I wanted to do after my undergrad,” said Herde. “But Southern requires me to take different classes which would get me into many different programs after my undergrad.”



Outside of the science building where many bio-tech classes are held.

PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

Accommodate

Continued from Page 1

This is what makes Accommodate special. It cuts out the middleman and allows students to get the help they need directly at their fingertips.

Hackett said, “the platform should help students feel more in control over their accommodations, and how to engage with the DRC.”

There is an added aspect of privacy with Accommodate. Now each document and help request does not require a student to physically seek aid in public.

Hackett said, “students can submit their requests at any time, view the status of the request, and get updates via email.”

When it comes to exams, students used to

submit paperwork and an envelope to their professor prior to COVID-19. Then the professor would give the DRC a copy of the exam in the envelope and the student would separately take the exam from classmates in the DRC office.

Now, students can request documents online and then professors can accept electronically and then administer the exam electronically. Students can and still will take the exams in-person at the DRC.

For students, using the Accommodate program will be as easy as using any other app. Log-in credentials are the same as student’s email log-in.

“Accommodate will hopefully make the process of both requesting and aiding accommodations from our office more seamless in moving forward,” said Hackett.

Less students return to residence halls

By: Abby Epstein
Managing Editor

Of the 1,400 fall residential students, about 380 did not return this spring. Almost 190 of those students left both housing and the university.

“I think that the spring looks very similar to the fall for residence life. We did end last semester with a no guest policy,” said Robert DeMezzo, director of residence life.

Other than the number of residential students decreasing, resulting in Neff Hall closing for residential living, not much has changed.

Neff Hall is now used as a quarantine space for students who arrive late to campus or students who have been exposed to COVID-19. The Townhouses are being used now or isolation for students who test positive for COVID-19.

The RAs and the hall director have

been relocated to other residential halls because there were not enough vacant spots. The RAs have noticed that the residential halls feel emptier compared to the fall semester.

“I feel that there are less students for sure. Last semester there were way more residents in my hallway but now I’m down to half of them. Even on the move-in sheet, residents were dropping left and right by the day,” said Chase Hall RA Abdel Ben-Toukour.

DA Quentin Askew said it feels so empty and dead on campus. “It feels like a totally different vibe.” He thinks more people realized how dead it was on campus then changed their mind as to living on campus.

With the students who did return to campus, the challenge now becomes how to engage them with doing online activities.

“It’s very challenging to program virtually and have the same

impact as on-ground programming. So yes, certainly challenging to find programs that would engage a larger number of students,” said DeMezzo.

DeMezzo said there were lessons they learned in the fall about virtual events that have helped in the spring. Many programs were not well attended to, other programs were better attended, more than residence life predicted.

“So those are the types of programs where we might repeat multiple times, rather than just do them once,” said DeMezzo. “That extends everywhere from our RA programs, RHA programs (Residence Hall Association) and even our weekend warrior program series.”

DeMezzo said they are looking to start doing some programs in-person when students are once again back on campus for classes.

“They will be smaller. We are following COVID guidelines, the Public



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLAND

A snowy path leading to Chase Hall

Health guidelines for the state for programming which limits the number of people who can participate,” said DeMezzo, “programs will have a capacity of 10 people and some will have a capacity of 25.”

Ben-Toukour said the challenging part for RAs is connecting with the residents with many programs held virtually.

“It’s so tough because we can’t build a bond with the residents being six feet apart or on a computer screen. Most residents are tired of sitting on their computers, with all the restrictions we

are forced to put programs online, therefore we are losing engagement with residents,” said Ben-Toukour.

DeMezzo said that they are more prepared now and the fall was spent figuring out and learning about what worked and what did not work, including which software to use and if WebEx or TEAMS is better.

“There are some programs that we just can’t do. They can’t be virtual,” said DeMezzo, “there is no substitute from in-person verses virtual. Where you can have more interactions in person.”

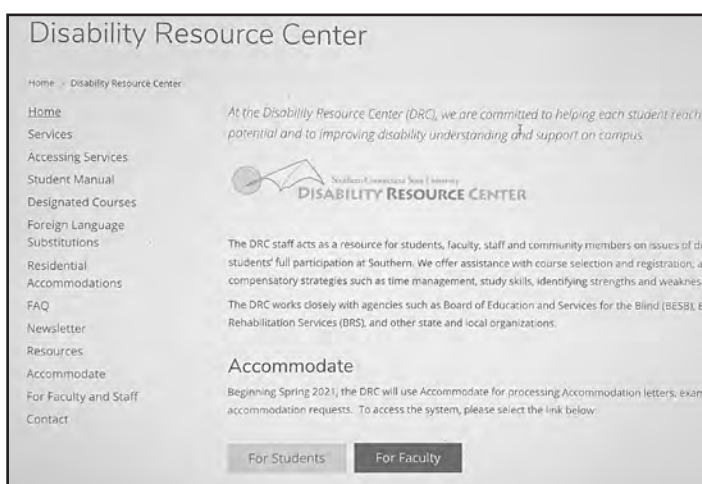


PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

The new Accommodate program can be accessed on Southern’s website.

Interested in joining student media?

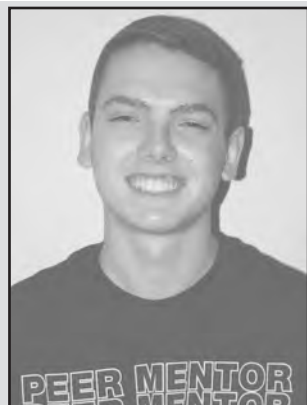
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Semester falls into the hands of commuters



By Sam Tapper
Editor-in-Chief

These are the opinions
of The Southern News
Editorial Staff

Last semester, the university managed to make it through the 16 weeks without a shutdown due to the threat of the pandemic. However, the semester did not go without angst and concern.

At times, numbers on the university's COVID-19 Dashboard were higher than desired, and week after week there seemed to be one common denominator: commuter students.

I have written time and time again over the course of the fall semester that the university must create a concrete plan for testing and tracing its commuter students. Many new protocols and guidelines were

in place for residential students at the start of this semester, such as residents being required to test every week but, a grey area seems to remain for commuter testing.

In a statement by Tracy Tyree, - vice president for Student Affairs - the same statement that broke the news of the modified first week of classes - she briefly mentioned the subject of commuter testing.

"We do anticipate new testing protocols for commuter students," Tyree said in her statement on Jan. 11. "All students who will be coming to campus during the week of February 1 are encouraged to receive a

negative test before arrival. In the coming days, we will be sharing additional testing requirements and options for commuter students who will regularly be visiting campus."

First and foremost, I would like to call to attention on how carefully worded the statement is. For starters, the word "anticipate." To anticipate, -by definition-, is to expect, predict or identify as probable. However, that does not mean everything is set in stone.

Secondly, and perhaps more concerningly, the use of the word "encourage" regarding the submission of a negative test prior to arrival

on campus. To encourage, in this context, means to recommend or strongly suggest - not mandate. While all residential students were required to submit a negative test and test regularly, this makes it sound like testing is merely optional for commuters, who, mind you, will be sharing the same campus space. This includes classrooms, bathrooms, library and student center spaces.

Lastly, the statement revealed that commuters would be receiving additional info on testing requirements "in the coming days." According to one commuter student, they have not yet received any

information outside of the original Jan. 11 email.

It is not my intention to say Tyree, or any member of the administration is being lackadaisical in this regard—they have all been working tremendously hard and deserve our respect. However, it is my intention to implore the administration to have an open testing policy for commuters. A policy that all students can understand and feel good about. While difficult and, perhaps, even expensive, it is the most surefire way to ensure the safety of all students.

So, let us all test negative while we stay positive this semester.

New protocols are beneficial for residential students

By Ed Rudman
Sports Writer

The 2021 spring semester is set to start with a more cautious approach to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, as cases in Connecticut have skyrocketed when compared to the start of the 2020 fall semester.

When the first classes of the fall semester began on Aug. 26, 2020, the amount of new daily

cases in Connecticut was 180, with a 129 day average. On Jan. 26, 2020, the first day of classes for the spring semester, the new daily cases was 1,267 with a 1,811 7-day average, a considerably higher rate than this past fall, according to the New York Times.

In response to these higher cases in the state, Southern has revamped their regulations regarding campus life and classes. For the first

week of classes, the campus was closed and no classes were permitted to take place on ground. Meanwhile, on-campus residents could move into their dorms on January 23 or 24, having to quarantine in their respective dorms for seven days.

On-campus residents were also required to get COVID tested upon arrival and prior to moving back into their rooms. Residents will also be

subject to weekly tests, having to sign a waiver to allow the school to do so, a big improvement from the randomized testing seen in the first semester of the academic year.

I think the university is putting its best effort forward to deter the spread of the virus to ensure the spring semester can continue on smoothly. The ramp up in required testing is a welcome addition and will help keep a much

more accurate database for how many positive tests there are on campus and contact tracing.

It is not only the university that has a major part to play in slowing down the spread of COVID. It also comes down to all of us to making smart decisions and make a conscious effort to utilize all of the social distancing strategies suggested by health professionals.

However, the University

should also consider testing commuting students who are still taking classes that require them to be on campus, as the majority of Southern's student body commute.

With this added measure, the data would become even more accurate and most importantly, the safety of every person involved here with the university will be better ensured, both the student community and faculty.

Power outage leaves residential students in disarray

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last Sunday, the day before a big snowstorm hit, most of the campus lost power. I was one of the unfortunate ones in the shower when this happened. One second the lights are on, the next I am covered in complete darkness.

Because I was in the dorm by myself, I decided to walk to my friend's dorm so I wasn't alone and scared, and we sat for about six hours talking while we had no power. The night before, we ended up losing power twice, and before that for a week straight-

it happened around 3 and 4 a.m. At one point during the blackout, the emergency lights went out also leaving every floor in pitch darkness if one were to venture outside their dorm.

Because my roommate is never at the dorm I spend a lot of my time alone, and because I was in the shower with no one near me I got scared I was going to get hurt from slipping on the ground.

My friends and I, throughout the power outage, would get paranoid because people were running around and screaming in our hall and because we come from not-so-friendly

neighborhoods we got scared.

We blocked our door so that nobody could get inside. When we eventually left their dorm, we booked it to the main lobby from the staircase, which was pitch black and at the lobby we found out that we had to go home.

Everything was very rushed, and we were all really confused about why we had to leave. As we were getting everything ready to go, the power finally turned back on. My dad was 15 minutes away and I had everything packed already; they said we could stay if we wanted, but they did not know if

the power was from the backup generator or the normal one so I decided to go home, especially with the storm happening the next day. If it would have happened again, I would have most likely froze because of how cold it got from the time we lost power.

I have Residence Life on Instagram and as I was going home and with not even 10 minutes into the trip, I got a notification stating that we could have stayed on campus and that the power was running and staying on.

I was really upset from how everything turned out because they could have told us to go home earlier in the day if they

knew the power would be out for a long period of time, or they could have told us to stay at the dorm instead of sending an email and having students evacuate right away. And it being our last day of quarantine, of course we took the easy way out and left like they told us to the first time.

It was very unprofessional and having to walk back and forth from the seventh floor to the main lobby while carrying my bags was not fun, instead I was scared, out of breath, and ready to pass out from being tired with how everything played out. I know plenty of people who could not

have gone home during this power outage, many students who were doing homework and lost all of their work.

Since this happened, my friend has bought her own emergency light because if this happens again, she does not want to be completely in the dark. Instead, she will be prepared for another long power outage like the one we faced last week.

After the power outage happened, there was another that they said would last for 10 to 15 minutes but instead lasted about 30 minutes, according to my friend who was awake during the last outage.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Online Exclusives

"Students' react to no spring break"

Check out more on www.thesouthernnews.org

PHOTO

Storm causes heavy snow fall on campus



Snow covers the entirety of the Adanti Student Center's outdoor dining.



Pathways are shoveled for students and faculty to get to and from classes safely.



Truck plowing the snow around campus for safer use of the roads and walkways.

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

In the previous two weeks, campus and all of Connecticut was hit with a snowstorm twice. Some students went home and were able to stick out

the storm there, but for students on campus they used the heavy snowfall to their advantage and went sledding after the storm settled.

Faculty did a good job making safe pathways for students



Piles of snow cover the front of Buley Library after two snowstorms hit the campus.



Bikes left out during the storm embedded in snow.



Signs have been fully covered from heavy snowfall.



Earl Hall is barely visible due to the piles of snow scattered around the area.



Bike racks are covered in snow from plowing the sidewalk.



Students bundled up in winter coats walking to class during a cold winter day.

Spring athletes prepare to compete Organized games have not occurred since start of COVID-19

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Although no athletic programs were allowed to play a competitive season during the fall semester, spring sports teams now have a schedule in place.

The first games are set for mid-March and in person practice began on Monday, Feb. 8, according to Interim Athletic Director Matt Letkowski.

“Our spring sports will begin to practice next week. They have not been approved for in person practices because we wanted to give the university a

chance to open and to go through the COVID and testing procedures,” said Letkowski.

The spring sports will go through the same three-phase method it followed in the fall and will have bubbles within each team again in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 if an athlete were to test positive.

With the three phases approaching, after each week or two, athletics will see how training is going and if the spread of the virus is stagnant, more equipment will be permitted for use and a higher number of athletes will be able to

train simultaneously and together.

If an athlete does test positive for the virus, then they and their bubble will quarantine in Neff Hall, according to Letkowski.

Southern Athletics is in constant communication with the Northeast 10 about the upcoming season and COVID-19 protocols and procedures are doing everything in its power to ensure a competitive and safe season for spring sports.

“Everything is all reviewed internally and we have a plan in place, but it can be revised if we do have a spike or the

university has a spike. We’re taking a phased-in approach to practice for the month of February, slowly increasing to the point of competition in March with Girl’s Lacrosse playing the first game,” said Letkowski.

Spring sports are the university’s current priority when it comes to ensuring a season, as they have already had a season cut short by COVID-19 last year when the spring semester was moved online.

Fall sports will be going through a slightly different plan, as there is no competitive season coming up for those

teams this semester.

“We want to offer those athletes an on-campus experience as best as we can, of what they’re used to, obviously no competition is not what they’re used to but we’re going to try to do the best we can in terms of a same type of model,” said Letkowski.

Fall sports will begin in person training two weeks after the start of spring training. The teams will go through the same three phases that the spring sports will follow, including all additional protocols and procedures.

During the first phase for any team, training will consist of strength and conditioning in order to get the athletes who haven’t been able to train as effectively as desired back into competitive shape.

If all goes to plan, competition will return to Southern’s campus and a sense of normalcy may as well.

“We’re always cognizant of the athlete’s experience because we brought them here, we want them to stay here and we want them to graduate from here, so it’s been a lot of what we can do to provide them as much of a normal athletic experience as we can,” said Giovanni D’Onofrio, assistant athletic director of athletics and fiscal affairs. “This built-in approach, it’s a teamwork type approach that athletes and coaches have to buy into, they understand if we get through week one then we go to week two.”



Alum key part of NFL team’s playoff run

Column by Mike Neville
Sports Editor

The Buffalo Bills have finally figured out how to have a winning season again, thanks to contributions by their assistant defensive line coach and former Southern football player, Jacques Cesaire.

During his time with the Owls, Cesaire earned many accolades, including Northeast 10 lineman of the year and being selected to a first team as an All-American for the NCAA.

Playing in the NFL with the then San Diego Chargers from 2003-2012, Cesaire had a successful run in the league.

With Tom Brady out of the East and the Patriots on the verge of entering a rebuilding mode, the Bills along with Cesaire’s guidance look to be a stalwart force for years to come.

Although they were eliminated by the Kansas City Chiefs in the Conference Championship, the Bills defense was a big part of the game.

Starting the 2020 season, the Bills had one of the best defenses in the league, which continued all the way up until the AFC Championship game.

Although an assistant, Cesaire’s time with Southern played a big part in developing him into the coach we see today.

Going undrafted out of Southern, the road to the NFL did not come easy for Cesaire. He had to grind for everything put in front of him.

This determination that Cesaire embodied probably played a role in his coaching, which made the Bills a powerful team on the defensive side.

Cesaire coaches with the likes of Josh Norman, A.J Klein and Mario Addison to name a few key defensive players.

If team chemistry along with the guidance of the former Owl great pan out, Cesaire can bring the Bills defense to one of the best in the league.



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Members of the women/s lacrosse team at Jess Dow Field in February 2020.

Fitness Center opens with new protocols

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

The Fitness Center on campus has seen significant improvements since the fall semester, as more equipment has opened for use along with more space to workout.

“The whole time, we were waiting to get an electrostatic sprayer so

that we could clean the equipment that’s difficult to clean,” said Jessica Scibek, assistant director of the Fitness Center. “We were able to get one two days before the start of winter break, so even as students were leaving, we were starting to move things and prep the gym so that we could open up those areas.”

Equipment now permitted for use that was not in the fall includes all free weights, squat racks, benches, and leg press machines.

There are still some pieces of equipment that cannot be used due to space and social distancing issues, however, most of the gym is now in use, according to Scibek.

To make sure the Fitness Center stays clean and safe for all its users, including Scibek, the gym will be closed from 2-3 p.m/ every day to give the staff ample time to clean with the necessary tools, - in addition to the regular cleaning done throughout the day.

Students are required to clean any equipment they use once they are done and the staff cleans as well to ensure the safest environment possible. To make it easier on the students, the center has added sanitizing wipes to go along with the spray that was used in the fall.

“We had wipes last semester, but they were always on the wall and no one could see them, we’ve invested in some of those stations that you can see very easily,” said Scibek. “Now you can just grab a wipe easily and clean everything. I think the students have done a fantastic job of cleaning their equipment before and after use, and we clean the high touch points on a regular basis.”

The number of students allowed in the gym concurrently has increased from 11 to 17

with extra open space.

There is more freedom when it comes to using the entirety of the gym, as in the fall a student was required to choose one part of the gym to workout in, they can now use all available equipment.

The gym will also follow the same reservation method utilized in the fall with the ATLETO app, the only difference being that the 2-2:55 pm timeslot will be closed.

The app comes with a new feature for the semester and free one-on-one coaching sessions with a certified personal trainer on staff that will help set realistic goals, and teach students how to use equipment and dumbbells properly.

“I think the gym here is a good way to get a workout in compared to a lot of other gyms, just simply because we’re more conscious about the virus,” said staff member and student Gabriel Walker, a senior. “We’re really looking out for those who may have a hard time working out and we do the best to make sure everyone can have a safe workout and experience.”



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Treadmills inside the Fitness Center.

Spring musical brings “Songs for a New World”

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

The university's theatre department has announced its spring musical, “Songs for a New World” by Jason Robert Brown. “Songs for a New World” will be directed by Larry Nye, associate professor of theatre, and musically directed by Jill Brunelle, adjunct professor.

However, “Songs for a New World” may not be everyone's traditional idea of a musical.

Rather than one cohesive story with a cast of consistent, recurring characters, it is an abstract collection of nineteen songs, each of which tells its own story. All songs are connected by an overarching theme.

“Each song is separate. There is not a through line or plot to follow. Each number has the same underlying theme of decisions and choices, but do not rely upon each other to tell a larger story,” said Nye.

When asked why the Department chose “Songs for a New World,” Nye

said: “the title was a part of the decision. The show is about decisions. That point where you make a decision to move on, go back and or reflect. The main reason was the show is similar to a song cycle and does not need a large ensemble to sing and dance. It is mostly solo work. A couple duets and a couple group numbers. It could be staged with COVID protocol.”

Nye's experience includes summer work with Stagedoor Manors, producing an average of 42 shows a season, directing for the Macy's Parade, and previous advisor and direction positions for the university's musical and song cycle productions.

The original “Songs for a New World” stage play calls for four main actors and an ensemble. The university's production will be using four onstage and four off, for a total cast of 8 people.

When asked why he was auditioning for the show, theater major Samhain Perez, a freshman said, “I want to participate in as many productions as I can while attending Southern, not only to build

experience but make good connections and really have a good resume under my belt.”

“I am auditioning because I like doing musicals more than plays. I have been involved in every production since the fall of 2019 besides Red Velvet and Sweat. I use the plays to get behind-the-scenes experience and learn what it takes to put on a show and the musicals to improve my performance skills. I just really like musicals,” said theater major Nicole Thomas, a sophomore.

This will be the university's first live production since shutting down last spring. “I much prefer [performing live] to remote performances, as there are so many technical issues that can crop up. Working IT for two years really hinders your trust in tech,” said Perez, “and familiarity and comfort can build much easier between actors when there isn't a second of lag between every sentence.”

The department's previous two productions, “Sweat” and “An Enemy for the People” were both

performed entirely remote. “An Enemy for the People” was recorded as a radio play, while “Sweat” had its actors record themselves, then edited them together to create the impression of a virtual set.

For “Songs for a New World,” “performers will be masked and 25 feet apart,” said Nye, and the production will be streamed live from the theater.

“I love the idea of filming it and streaming it live because, especially

in a pandemic, it's the best choice of action to be super safe, and with online streaming services being more accessible to not only the SCSU theatre departments, but theaters all over the country, it makes sure that family from all over the country can see their child doing what they love during a tough time in the world,” said theatre major Sebastian Cordero, a sophomore.

“The last time I worked on a live production was

at Hopkins School last spring, just before the lockdown,” said Nye. “It was “Spamalot.” It was big and fun and I miss working on musicals.”

Initial auditions for the show's cast were held virtually. Interested performers were instructed to record and submit 32 bars, or about a minute and a half, of any showtune for consideration.

“Songs for a New World” will open March 4 and hold performances through Saturday, March 6.



PHOTO | ELLIS MCGINLEY

Sam Gontarz (left) and Samhain Perez (right) recording their audition.

WandaVision adds mutants in Marvel universe

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“WandaVision” is the next phase for the Marvel Cinematic Universe, after the events of “Endgame.” But since it's first episode, fans have been creating lists of questions and so it was no surprise when episode five hit that more questions have been added

to the list.

One thing that is getting fans really excited is the fact that Evan Peters is playing Quicksilver aka Pietro Maximoff, Wanda's (Elizabeth Olsen) twin brother. The reason for this excitement is the fact that he is the X-Men version of Quicksilver not the one from Avengers. This could only mean Mutants are

coming to the MCU, which for an avid Marvel fan is very exciting.

Since this show started, I have been watching every video I can to wrap my head around exactly what is going on. The theories many Marvel fans have, has to do with the comic books.

If you do not want to be spoiled by the whole show and possible future Marvel

films, I would stop reading now.

“WandaVision” started out as a comic book series titled “Vision and the Scarlet Witch,” “The Vision,” and “House of M.” In the “House of M,” Wanda says her most famous quote, “No more Mutants.” With the way the show is running and how Wanda has been seen

controlling the town of Westview, I believe we will be seeing this in the future, possibly in the next Doctor Strange film “Multiverse of Madness.”

This is the reason why bringing Evan Peter's Quicksilver into this show is so important because the first time we were introduced to him was in “X-Men: Days of Future Past” which, like episode 5 of WandaVision, takes place in the 1980's. The question is how did he get there? And does he have any memories of the X-Men?

A significant story arc coming into play with the show is the twins, another portion of bringing mutants into the MCU. They end up becoming Wiccan and Speed, but they are not really Wanda and Vision's (Paul Bettany) children: instead they were created from Wanda's hex powers and Wanda, not being strong enough to do this alone takes some of Mephisto's essence to create them.

“They were considerably more than that. They had

thoughts and feelings. They had minds of their own. They had souls. Wanda may have used magic to give them life, but even the Scarlet Witch can't create a human soul,” Magneto said in Uncanny X-Men 526.

Mephisto is Marvel's version of Satan. And at one point in the comic book series, he ends up reabsorbing both Tommy and Billy, making them cease to exist, which is how Wanda ends up turning bad.

While these are all theories, a lot of them have been coming true, especially with Wanda having the twins and Vision still dead.

As someone who waits every week for the new episode to come out, I am getting more antsy the longer I have to wait. Each episode that has been getting longer, the last being 41 minutes long, and hopefully it will end with “Multiverse of Madness” where we will see the X-Men and possibly the “New Avengers” fight Mephisto or Wanda.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

The title page for episode five of WandaVision, “On a Very Special Episode...” on DisneyPlus.

Young shortstop maturing after rookie success

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

With large shoes to fill as a freshman, shortstop Zach Bedryczuk has stepped up to the plate and excelled in his first year at the collegiate level. Bedryczuk posted a .526 batting average in six games during a shortened 2020 season halted by COVID-19.

“At this level, you have to make the most of your opportunities, and that's exactly what Zach did,” said Head Coach Tim Shea. “Even though it was a small sample size, I don't want to say we were surprised because all of the players we bring in. It's next man up and we expect them to do well, but that sample size then made me realize I have to figure out how to get this guy in the lineup every day.”

Coming in as a freshman during the 2020 season, Zach joined an Owls program. The group had just lost one of its best

players, team captain and shortstop Jim Palmer, who graduated from Southern Connecticut in 2019. Not only was Bedryczuk able to adjust to the college level quickly, but he helped fill the recent gap in the Owls' lineup.

As lead-off hitter, Bedryczuk plays an important position in the lineup, one that requires a high on-base percentage and a competent batter at the plate, which is exactly what Bedryczuk was able to accomplish in his freshman season.

“I've always had the confidence in myself I'm kind of on the smaller end, so I've always had to prove myself to everyone,” said Bedryczuk. “People didn't expect me to be where I am or to be good, so when Coach Shea believed in me that I could do this, I knew that right there I was in good hands.”

In his debut for the Owls, Bedryczuk made three hits in a 12-11 extra-inning shoot-out

against Florida National University on Feb. 14, 2020, the first freshman to get three hits in their career debut since Tyler Criscuolo did so against Chestnut Hill on Feb. 27, 2016, according to Southern's athletic website.

Bedryczuk proved from the start that he would be a valuable part of the Owl's lineup for seasons to come, and although he might not have as much experience at the NCAA level as other players on the team, he brings with him a lifetime of experience with baseball itself.

“I always loved baseball. My sister played Tee-ball and she's a little older than me, and my dad was the coach, so I always went to the games with them and was on the sidelines. I was too young to play but I loved the game so much,” said Bedryczuk. “My parents always tell me that they just couldn't get me off the field basically, even as a 3- or 4-year-old,

so they actually went and got permission from the league to allow me to play at that young age.”

From that moment forward, baseball was his passion. The rest of his

story has yet to unfold, but he will hopefully resume this 2021 spring with the scheduled season in place.

Bedryczuk said, “My goal for this season is for the team to make a World

Series run, try to win every game and to do the best that we can. Be as successful as we can be, make regionals, go out there and just have some fun.”



PHOTO | CRACKERJACKS_BASEBALL ON INSTAGRAM

Bedryczuk at bat during a summer league game in July of 2016.

Conn Hall offers grab-and-go for week one

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

COVID-19 has turned the world into a fluid system of change—and the campus's dining services are affected as well.

One of the many changes brought about by COVID-19 happening on the campus has been a continued drop in enrollment. Providing dining services the way they have always has become more difficult with less students taking advantage of these services. Many changes brought about by these predicaments started during last semester which was the first in-person semester since COVID-19 began.

"How we live nowadays has changed, so naturally so has how we run the dining services," said Anthony Deluca, the general manager of dining services.

All of the decisions made for how the dining services will be running this year

were made by Sodexo, (the dining company) in conjunction with the school. The decisions that were made were based on a multitude of things but mainly included traffic patterns and the amount of students in one place at certain times during the day. This is a direct result of the amount of students in-person and in return, the amount of classes in-person as the amount of faculty on campus also affects the decisions made.

The first week of this semester all residential students quarantined fs. For that reason, Connecticut Hall was not open for dine-in until February 1st. During that time, grab and go was the only service made available to students.

The dine-in procedure has remained the same from last semester as state guidelines have not changed. Seating has remained at a lower level to continue to combat COVID-19. The grab and go procedure has also remained the same as

usage has increased.

"We decided due to lack of traffic to keep the Owl Perch in the library closed this semester," said Elizabeth Floyd, marketing manager of dining services.

Traffic to the Owl Perch last semester was much lower than usual and with continued decreased in enrollment it made sense to not even open it this semester. Meaning Starbucks will be closed for the semester. However, the Dunkin' in the student center will remain available.

"I normally eat dinner a little later, so I'll have to adapt to the new schedule," said psychology major Andrew Keeton, a senior.

The student center was open until 7:30 p.m. for food last semester, but food vendors and Dunkin' will both now close an hour earlier, at 6:30 p.m. The time difference isn't necessarily huge, but it is valuable information for students who ate in that 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. time slot.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Outside of one of campus's dining halls.

All of the changes made to hours and what is and isn't open can be found online. This could either be through the dining services' section on the university website or on

any of the dining services social media. Eating is a huge part of life on campus and it is important that this information be readily available to students.

Students may take

some time to adjust to the new way of dining on campus, but everything is being done to ensure every student has easy and especially safe access to food.

Remembering Dr. King event

By Ed Rudman
Sports Writer

The Multicultural Center hosted its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remembrance event virtually during Black History Month, this year going by, "Pandemic, Privilege, & Protest", to tie in the current COVID-19 pandemic; the event took place on Monday, Feb. 8, at 1:00 p.m.

The event featured guest keynote speaker Nyle Fort, a joint Ph.D. candidate in religion and interdisciplinary humanities with a concentration in African American studies at Princeton University, and saw other members of the campus community participate and speak out on racial injustice, including President Bertolino.

"Even if we recognize the central role of African Americans in the United States and in history," said Bertolino. "I think this is also a time for us to reflect on, to take a stand against the racial injustice, the inequality, the systematic racism that is pervasive in our society and has been laid bare by the ravages of COVID."

The event kicked off with words from Dian Brown-Albert, coordinator of multicultural student activities, followed by Bertolino, and then went

into a commentary of racial injustice throughout history and today from Fort.

Fort began with an anecdote of growing up as a black child during the 90's and brought up injustices such as Reaganomics and Rodney King to help portray the environment at the time.

Fort also talked lengthily about the heightened negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the black community in comparison to the white demographic.

"I want us to remember that while the pandemic is unprecedented, that is we've never seen anything like this in over a hundred years since the Spanish Flu in the early 1900s, the pandemic is also all too familiar in its consequences," said Fort. "The CDC, the Center for Disease Control, makes this very clear, black Americans are twice as likely to die of COVID than white Americans and three times more likely to catch COVID."

Furthering his points, Fort made sure to speak about King and the sacrifices he made in the fight for civil rights. Fort emphasized that the life that King lived is not that of the "lullaby" version students are taught in school during Black History month, but that it was a difficult road and

one that should have a light shown upon it.

"He died calling for a revolution of values, he understood that social change involves ethical formation, that is transforming ourselves from the inside as much as it does political struggle," said Fort. "He knew what I learned in Sunday school that we cannot remake society without transforming ourselves, and that we cannot transform ourselves without remaking society."

This event is the first of many more to come during Black History month, and all will be looking to further Southern's campus-wide commitment of ending systematic racism and discrimination, not just that of black people but of all those who have fallen victim, according to Bertolino.

"Dr. King's vision was that of a nation built on strengths of its diverse peoples, of nation that could only grow stronger by welcoming and utilizing the many gifts of its people," Bertolino said. "His legacy continues to inspire those of us who care about human dignity."

Now more than ever, let us embrace his message and mission, and work towards dismantling systematic racism so that equality and justice might be fully realized for all."

History of bigotry in U.S

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

Tuesday, Feb. 2, the university hosted "The History of Racism and White Supremacy." The 2 hour event was dedicated to discussing the roots of white supremacy and how students, educators, artists, and other allies could work to recognize and combat white supremacy and implicit bias.

According to event moderators Siobhan Carter-Davis and Jason W. Smith, Southern history professors, the panel was inspired by the video works of Jim Stewart, professor emeritus at Macalester College.

"Jim Stewart's Tonic for Fragile White Folks," as his channel is called, is a series of 16 videos "that strip away academic elitism," according to the promotional video pinned on his YouTube. The series intends to provide historical context to "motivate antiracist activism."

Stewart was one of the guest historians at the university event alongside Donald Yacovone, a Southern alum and historian at Harvard's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research.

Stewart and Yacovone were accompanied by a slew of more residential panelists; primarily students, faculty, and other alum within the Southern community. This included Student Government Association president Sarah Gossman, graduate student and former sociology professor Brenda Harvey, graduate student Sarianna Sabbarese, associate professor Jessica Powell, English professor and author Timothy Parrish, and associate professor

Cassi Meyerhoffer.

All the panelists present were white.

"You might be looking around at the panelists. You may notice that all of our panelists are white, and this was chosen purposefully. Jason and I understand that this may be a controversial decision," said moderator Carter-Davis. "We wanted to center white folks in this particular discussion."

Co-moderator Smith said, "we really want to have this conversation about the role of history in understanding these issues across the disciplines, and more importantly what is the role of white faculty, white students, and white Americans more broadly in fighting back against racism?"

"I'm puzzled as to what people are learning at all in terms of American history," said Yacovone. "The image which always comes back to me is the analogy between the person and the country. A person without a memory. A nation without a memory. If you can't remember what you've just done, you keep doing the same thing over and over again. If you don't know what you've done, how can you move forward?"

"What's going through the head of the protesters," said Stewart, referencing January's insurrection at the Capitol, "is a very, very strong perversion of American history that powers them."

The event was hosted on WebEx. Audience members were encouraged to keep cameras and microphones off, but were allowed to ask questions and discuss topics in the written chat.

Audience members and even other panelists used

this to compare their own experiences, discussing a perceived inequity in the American education system.

"To Dr. Yacovone's point, I made it through my entire (public) high school career without ever taking a single history class -- American or otherwise. It's unbelievable," Sabbarese wrote.

Other discussion topics for the panelists included racism in education, implicit bias (or the idea that everyone carries some subconscious bias rooted in white supremacy), the importance of accurate representation of people of color in art, and making change throughout multiple liberal arts disciplines.

At one point during the event, a parent of a Southern student stepped in to share her experience as the mother of biracial children not taught Black history in school or classes.

"Artists have a really unique responsibility and white artists in particular have a really unique responsibility for engaging with the history of racism and how it shapes representation, characters and the stories they tell," said Harvey, who is pursuing an MFA in fiction and science fiction.

She, along with fellow panelists, went on to discuss stereotypical portrayals of people of color in art and fiction, particularly Black women.

"I think it's really important that we name white supremacy so that white folks can really grapple with their own implicit in all this," said Meyerhoffer.

As Jim Stewart summarized, "the idea of allyship - it can't be based on narcissism."

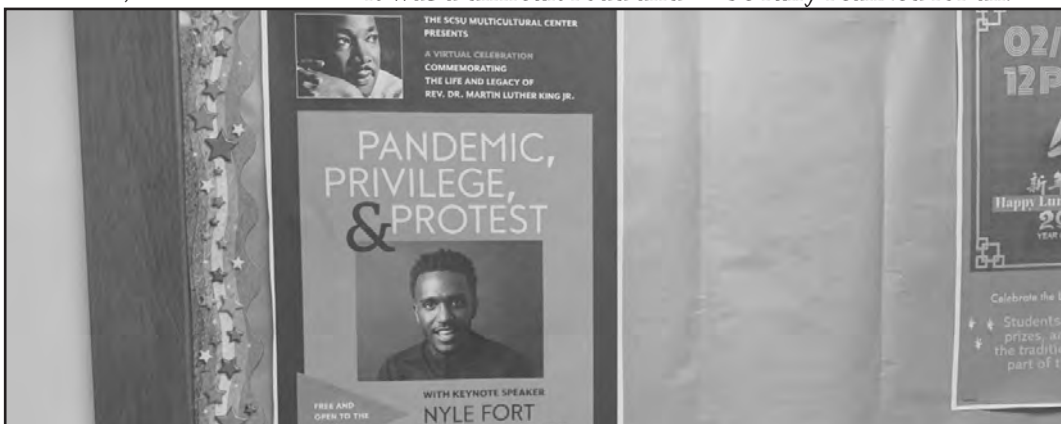


PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Event flyer in Student Center.

Studio art classes are hyflex or online

By Bernadotte Sufka
Features & Opinions Editor

As students move back into dorms for the spring semester, many classes have switched onto an online platform. It is still necessary to quarantine for the first week and students cannot go to their designated classrooms. The buildings are closed and classes must be carried out at home or at the residential dorms strictly for the first week. This transition applies to studio art classes as well.

"Everyone is doing something different. Instructors have chosen different modalities," said sculpture professor Jeff Slomba. "I've chosen to meet students on the ground. They will be given individual tools and kits they can take home to work outside of class. We won't be sharing tools or handing things back and forth," said Slomba.

The COVID-19 protocols apply to all classes on campus. Students are not entirely limited to their preferred classroom settings.

The HyFlex option for class remains open if a student is not comfortable attending class in-person or must be excused for quarantining.

"I have not had my ceramics class in person yet because of the first week to quarantine. I feel comfortable attending class in person," said studio art major Dalena Tran, a sophomore. "I didn't get my supplies yet, but next week I will. I look forward to going into class in person for a more hands-on setting to be in," said Tran.

Classes under the Art Department are mainly taught in-person due to all the supplies and tools classrooms have to offer. They have been successfully operating amid the strict and safety guidelines, and professors have backup plans for teaching remotely.

If this case ever occurs, Slomba has a backup plan for his sculpture class that includes alternative projects. Students would have to create a 3D Computer-Assisted Design and use 3D printing when away from the classroom. This

may be good outreach if COVID-19 becomes worse and further limits on-ground classrooms. The many classes offered within the Art Department have managed to change their classroom types from the traditional in-person class structure to almost online from the past semester.

"I rather have it in-person, because I can get easier access for help from the professor when I need it," said Tran. "The classrooms are more open and bigger than my dorm, so I have a lot of space to do my projects in. I find it to be better and it does feel more motivating in-person."

Classrooms also do have a limited number capacity in which students are allowed to be in. For this, some professors have split up classes in certain days where students can come and continue their projects in the classroom itself.

At the start of the class, students are given the option to either participate in person or online. This includes some art department classes, sculpture and painting,

being some of them.

The safety guidelines may seem strict and cause more work for both ends of the spectrum, but everyone is willing to put

forth a motivated attitude and create an enhanced learning experience, whether it be in-person or online.

So far, students and

professors have adapted to this new learning environment both in and out of the classroom. Even amid the pandemic, classes will go on.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Ralph Earl Hall where studio art classes usually took place before COVID-19.

Gaming gives a break from classes

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Gaming has become a new sensation in today's world. It has become so popular that Southern started an esports team.

"I do believe that video games will be prevalent just because consoles are getting cheaper and cheaper nowadays making it easier to get into. The cost of the games are going down as well," computer science major Michael Josephson, a sophomore, said.

Josephson is an avid gamer who uses his PC for his games. He plays games like World of Warcraft, and other MMORPG platforms. While he enjoys playing video games, he does not want to do E-Sports because he enjoys to play them in his free time. Josephson said he would do a competition one day to see what it is like.

"Because it allows you to relax and get away from classes. I enjoy it especially during COVID-19 because I can go to a different world because I don't have to face reality when into a game," sociology with a concentration in criminal justice major Adela Nikocecic, a sophomore, said.

Nikocecic said she enjoys games like Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty, and WWE. Nikocecic prefers playing on her PlayStation 4. She has been playing video games since she was 13 years old on her first console, a PlayStation 2.

"I would never join an E-Sports club because I am way too competitive and get angry easily," Nikocecic said.

Nikocecic also said that video games are fun and that she makes friends with people online, even though her parents advise against it.

"My older brother got me into gaming because ever since I was younger, I hung out with him. So naturally, when he begged our mom to get him Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas and lied saying it was a kid-friendly game, she got it and gaming occurred daily after school," Nikocecic said.

Communications major Christopher Rosales, a senior, said he

has been playing video games since 2006 and his first console was a Nintendo GameCube.

"I got into gaming because of a friend from elementary school. I always went over to their house and played their games, so I got my own and have been playing them ever since," Rosales said.

When COVID-19 started, Rosales said that he played more than usual. He spent a lot of time playing video games over the summer.

Rosales plays on both console and PC. He owns a PlayStation 4 and a

Nintendo Switch, but as of late he has been mainly playing on his PlayStation 4 due to his PC breaking.

When it comes to esports, Rosales said he is not interested in joining one nor is he interested in competing in any events.

"For what kind of games, that's a hard one to answer. There are so many different genres and I tend to play whatever catches my interest rather than a specific genre," Rosales said. "I play a little bit of everything. For instance, recently I have been

Projectors act as alternate to TVs

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

After years of wanting a TV in their rooms, students all over campus are expressing interest in getting projectors instead.

Every kid's dream is for their parents to buy them a TV for their room so they can watch whatever they want whenever they want. With students being on their own, money comes into play. While televisions can be very expensive, a quality home projector can be priced between seventy and a hundred dollars.

Projectors are typically seen as what teachers use to project PowerPoint posts before the invention of the smartboard. However, home projectors allow the display TV shows, movies and whatever else is compatible with the device onto the wall or any other flat surface. With the cheaper price point, this would seemingly make it pointless to get a TV as it works in almost the exact same way some added ease.

"I went with a projector because my TV's kept breaking," said sociology major Adela Nikocecic, a sophomore.

Projectors tend to be more durable than TVs. The TVs one can buy for the same price point as a projector often are very low quality, easily breakable, small or just simply nonexistent. Even if the projector needed to get replaced, it would be a much more affordable price point than even a half-decent television. A projector seems like a safer bet for a student, as college students are normally not working with a lot of money and projectors can

be cheap.

A major advantage of the projector is the adjustability of the screen size. The user can make the screen size just about any size the user wants with a little adjustment of the device. However, TV's are always a set size when you buy them and extending or shortening the size includes buying an entirely new tv for a price and also finding a place for it.

"In the living room, we just have our projector. However, in our rooms, we have monitors for our Xbox's," said philosophy major Romeo Rivera, a sophomore.

Having a projector doesn't completely cut down on the use for screens, as a screen is much more desirable for a gaming experience. This will require the user the need to buy some sort of monitor. The right projector can play video games but will usually cost a lot more money or not have the best quality that is desirable for gaming.

"Projectors are a very viable option but I see the issue of having to have the lights off any time you want to do anything with it," said psychology major Matthew McLaughlin, a senior.

Projectors do have their drawbacks, one of those being the fact that a room needs to be dark to properly see anything on it and that makes it hard to watch a film or show. Although, the positive to that, is they are much more portable and easier to move than a TV. While a projector is easier for many students a TV also offers the same capabilities. It all just depends on the person who uses it.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Nikocecic's gaming console in her dorm, this console has over 100 games on it.