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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## MLK commemoration highlights activism

Faculty, students come together to celebrate, remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's impact on the world

**By Jackson Volenec**  
Reporter

A celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's impact and legacy held in the Student Center ballroom on Wednesday by the Multicultural Center allowed students and faculty to commemorate the cultural impact his life left.

The event had focused primarily on discussing some of the most significant things King did when fighting for racial equality and social justice. Some of his most iconic moments were highlighted and celebrated by those attending the event, with multiple speakers presenting speeches on how we can continue King's legacy.

"Dr. King fought and died for what he believed. Our call as students at Southern is to continue to fight for equality for all," said Alexis Zhitomi, president of the Student Government.

She gave an introductory

speech after the audience watched a short video summarizing King's life. She also discussed the importance of students uniting as a community to work towards greater social justice for everyone and continue some of the movements King had helped move forward.

The main event consisted of a thorough speech by Reverend Carl Howard, the senior pastor of the first Congregational Church of West Haven, who discussed King's legacy and how people today can honor his legacy by continuing to practice what he believed in.

"Prepare yourselves to put out all the fires you will encounter, and even if you can't put them out, die trying," said Rev. Howard, "This is the spirit of Dr. King."

Howard was the keynote speaker and mainly focused on the importance of inspiring those around you to participate in activism in your community.

Some of the values and ideologies that Rev. Howard discussed King's fearlessness to challenge injustices when he saw them happening in society, often resulting in him getting arrested and contested. Howard said that King was an example of a "warrior" because of his bravery.

"King called out America regarding its hypocrisies, regarding its discriminatory practices of injustice, the inequality and the oppressive economic disparity that many of the people at time were living in," said Rev. Howard.

The Rev. Howard said he uses King's fearlessness as a blueprint for how people today should stand up and fight injustices, and when people join the fight, many more will be encouraged to join as well.

According to Howard, there is still much to be done in terms of social activism in all societies if we are ever to reach true equality for all types of



PHOTOS | IZZY MANZO

**Reverend Carl Howard, the senior pastor of the first Congregational Church of West Haven talking about the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.**

people, and made effort to inspire the audience to fight if they were not already.

"Today, we are in the same battle. If all of us shoot our arrows, something is going to hit," said Rev. Howard. "And even if our arrows don't hit, maybe you'll inspire someone to start shooting their arrows too."

Multiple dance

performances showcased different clubs on campus before and after the keynote speech. Steppin' Up and the Organization of Latin American Students both presented different dances during the event.

President Joe Bertolino said he emphasizes the importance of having events on campus like this that commemorate activist

icons such as King Jr., as it is crucial for society to understand its history in order to progress forward.

"As we strive to be a social justice university, we need to understand our history," said Bertolino. "The impact and sacrifices that others have made in order for all of us to engage in the work we're doing now."



PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

**Beth Johnson**



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

**Trudy Milburn**

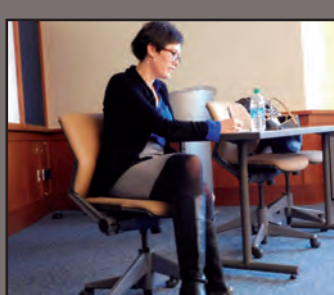


PHOTO | JACKSON LAMAR

**Sarah Miller**



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

**Reema Zeineldin**

Ilene Crawford is leaving the Southern community in the summer of 2020 where and will be relocating to her alma mater. Crawford's exit requires her position as associate vice president for academic affairs be filled for the next academic year. It has been narrowed down to four candidates: Beth Johnson, Trudy Milburn, Sarah Miller and Reema Zeineldin. Their forums with students began at the start of February.

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## W Courses aim for quality

**By Abby Epstein**  
News Writer

Students can now say goodbye to the 5,000-word requirement in W Courses. Southern has implemented a Pilot Program that focuses on the quality of writing instead of the quantity of words.

"We wanted to emphasize [that] W courses should really teach writing," said history professor Marie McDaniels, "Instead of the emphasis on X number of words let's focus on the practice of teaching."

Every student at Southern is required to take up to nine credits of a W course. In the new W program professors have more freedom to teach the course how they want too.

"Part of the W program is to encourage faculty who teach the W courses to think about is, these are the goals I want to teach and was my teaching effective," said McDaniels.

Human performance major Nickolas Linn, a junior said he thought the W courses were helpful with his writing skills.

"I thought they were really neat, and I learned a lot about writing through them. At least for the W courses I took, the professors were really nice and we had freedom in our writing which you don't really have in normal courses," said Linn.

Students said they have found them to be beneficial.

"A lot of students who come into college -- either their high school didn't implement a lot of writing or they might not have cared in high school to

write like an actual adult, so I believe it's important to take them," said marketing major Meghan Delaney, a senior.

Within W courses students are able to revise their writing assignments in order to improve their grade.

Revision is one part of the old W course requirement that did not change.

The Pilot Program was approved in 2018 but did not take effect until spring semester of 2019. The university, at this time, has only implemented the program for one semester. According to Daniels, the classes being taught seem to be going well.

"I don't think it has changed. Many people to be like 'I should do something totally different in my class,' but it gives a little bit more ownership to what people are doing in their class," said McDaniels.

The courses are determined by the course rotation of who teaches which classes, in addition to the department chair asking the faculty who wants to teach the W courses. The faculty is allowed to decide whether they want to teach a W course or not.

The dean's office determines how many W courses will be needed based on the number students and how many W sections would fulfil that need.

"I definitely work with the departments to offer more sophomore level classes," said McDaniels. "Because at the sophomore level you teach all sorts of majors, so it's a different style of writing."

## Deteriorating buildings fill campus

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
Managing Editor  
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Contributor  
**Jackson LaMar**  
Contributor  
**Benji Ruscoe**  
Contributor  
**Faith Williams**  
Contributor

Light pours into the building, illuminating old

file cabinets and papers as dust dances in the sunlight. The doors are chained shut, the grass overgrown — what was known as the Student Center is empty.

The main question — What is the future of the old Student Center? — has not been answered. The building has not been in use since the opening of the Adanti Student Center in 2006 — and it is not the only space with this situation.

The Pelz Gymnasium pool is drained and its doors have been locked for the last several years. North Campus stands isolated from the rest of campus. The library, meant only to hold three or four departments, now holds 21 and new buildings are in the works, meaning more space will be vacated.

"We asked, 'What is the use? What are the future plans?'" said Alexis Zhitomi, president of the Student

Government Association. "Because we know that the university is tight on space."

SGA discussed the issue of space utilization at their meeting on Nov. 1, including the old student center.

"It costs money to keep a facility like that running, so they had it shut down," said Tim Quill, men's and women's swimming head coach.

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PHOTOS | JACKSON LAMAR

The Student Center Banner hanging in the old Student Center behind the school of business which has not been used since 2006.



# Chief academic officer steps up to the role

By Abby Epstein  
News Writer

After fourteen years at the same institution, Beth Johnson, the current Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Post University has applied to be the Associates Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern.

"When I decided I wanted to go into a different type of teaching and learning, I started looking at the Connecticut public school system," Johnson said, "and when this position came open and I read the mission for Southern, I really wanted to be a part of it."

The quality of academics, providing educational access and emphasis on social justice are the three main points she said stuck out to her about Southern's mission statement.

"What's really awesome is social justice," said

Johnson. "It truly isn't just words on the front of the catalog, but President Joe has you guys living that and that's unusual."

Johnson got involved with online classes where she was able to design the online courses and teach courses using Blackboard.

"I feel like [with] the experience I bring from Post around online education and all the hybrid course that you [Southern] has I can help with that," said Johnson.

Johnson said she is passionate about online education but what she really enjoys is when students receive the access needed for education.

"The idea [that] a student [who] wouldn't otherwise have access to education is able to go to school that feeds my soul," she said. "It gets me so excited."

Johnson said she believes she can bring how she thinks innovatively about education to Southern.

"I love looking at different ways to learn whether it's on the online modality, whether it's using a cool new app, and integrating those into that experience for the students is huge to me," said Johnson.

She said she feels she would be able to bring some of the online modality and new ways to learn into the curriculum design and that she can bring her experience of being on the inside of the business of education.

"Looking at that business piece," she said, "people on the receiving end of decisions don't necessarily know why those decisions were made, and when you have been on the inside of that Business of Education you understand where the marketing is coming from."

Johnson said she wants people to see that before someone becomes a student they are part of this recruitment process of trying to get students to attend the University.

"The minute you are here you're gold" she said, "You're just so important to the University, and they are so excited to have you here."

She said she is pretty good at helping people who do not deal with the recruitment process to find students. She helps them understand why students become so important to the university and why certain decisions are made within the business of education.

Over the last four years Johnson has been working on strategies to ensure student's success.

"The fun part about it is all the work I've been able to do within academic affairs across our department," she said, "but also the cross department and collaboration with the business side of the university."



Beth Johnson at her forum that students had not attended.

PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

## Mercy College associate provost for faculty affairs aims for new position at Southern

By Alexandra Scicchitano  
Opinions & Features Editor

Reema Zeineldin is one of four finalists in the university's quest to fill the open position of associate vice president of Academic Affairs.

Students had the opportunity to interact with finalists in an open forum, to ask questions and to understand why they want this position at the university.

"We're welcome one of our finalists, Dr. Reema Zeineldin, one of our finalists for the associate vice president of Academic Affairs," said Robert Smith, an assistant professor of management and member of the search committee who introduced Zeineldin to the audience.

Smith said Zeineldin has a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the University of New Mexico and has been a research assistant professor, associate professor, dean and associate provost in past positions and she is the author of six book chapters and 18 journals and is the holder of four U.S. patents. Zeineldin was named the 2012 teacher of the year by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

"I'm currently at Mercy College, which is in New York. I'm currently the associate provost for Faculty Affairs," said

Zeineldin. "So, my role there has given me the privilege of various interaction with faculty [in the] shared governance environment and working on many things that are related to faculty affairs."

Zeineldin said at Mercy College she also works with faculty recruitment, faculty promotions and tenures training. She said she also oversees the Center of Teaching and Learning and tutoring and testing, student evaluations, student academic appeals and specialized programs.

Zeineldin said she was the "starting dean and closing dean" at Mount Ida College as a dean of the School of Applied Sciences prior to Mercy College. She said she has had various interactions with students through teaching in classrooms, along with mentoring, student government, student workers and town hall meetings.

"To me, I look at Southern, [and ask myself] as to 'why I am pursuing this particular position?'" she said. "I see that it wants to distinguish itself within the system as an institution that is committed to social justice. This is very attractive to me."

According to Zeineldin, Southern is becoming a hub to biotechnology. She sees that Southern wants to engage in the community. Along with social justice,

makes this position she is applying for something she is interested in.

While this forum was mostly for students to ask questions to the candidate, Zeineldin also had the opportunity to ask questions to the attendees, as well.

"I'm curious as to why you chose Southern," said Zeineldin to the audience. She asked other questions about the university such as about the First Year Experience, the community, commuters and residential lives on campus.

Undecided majors, Janyra Whitmore and Brianna Arce, both and freshmen, asked Zeineldin what she plans to do for Southern's campus.

"In my particular role that oversees certain parts in relation to the academic experience for students, [I] would support the students' success," said Zeineldin.

One thing Zeineldin said she wants to focus on is the First Year Experience for freshmen. Zeineldin said she can "learn from" students, that respecting the student's experiences are important and "at the same time provide the right atmosphere for learning and for your success."

"Something that is really attractive to me," said Zeineldin, "is that Southern talks about social justice in the open and they're taking the steps towards the institute of social justice."



PHOTOS | IZZY MANZO

Millburn the assistant dean of liberal arts studies and director of academic programs at the State University of New York at Purchase College.

## Millburn's experience does the talking

By Izzy Manzo  
Photo Editor

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs candidate Trudy Millburn attributes her success in the academic field as well as in the software industry to experiences that make her qualified for the position.

Millburn, who visited campus on Feb. 5, is currently the assistant dean of liberal arts studies and director of academic programs at the State University of New York at Purchase College.

"I started as director of academic programs for liberal studies and continuing [education]," she said. A position that involved running summer and winter programs, as well as an extension program at Rockland Community College. "Then I became assistant dean of liberal arts and sciences, so I also interact directly with students one-on-one."

Millburn's first faculty position was at Baruch College in New York City, where she became tenured and was promoted to an assistant professor. In

2006 she moved back to her native California and became an associate professor at the newest college in the California State Universities system: Channel Islands.

"It is where I started [a] communication degree," she said. "I crafted the curriculum from scratch and collaborated with the other faculty."

Millburn has three degrees, all of which are in communication. She first attended the University of California Davis, graduating in 1989 before moving to Texas to attend Texas A&M for her Master's, and then the University of Massachusetts Amherst for her doctorate.

"I think those experiences across the country, as well as the work that I did for a software company that specialized in assessment and accreditation and ensuring quality programs, gives me the right perspective as well as nitty-gritty experience to do a good job in this role," she said.

While working at the software company, Taskstream, where she was a director of campus solutions from 2010 to 2016, Millburn provided software

consultations online and on site, in addition to performing presentations at trade shows and accreditation conferences, according to her resume.

During the hiring process for the position, Millburn said that as a Mexican-American, Hispanic outlook served as an integral part of the process because "institutions who are specifically looking at minority candidates and trying to ensure that their administration looks like their student population" frequently post job openings.

"I want to make sure that's valued," she said.

However, Millburn said she believes her previous and current experiences, which include founding degree programs that span multiple states, are what makes her a qualified candidate for Provost.

"From my perspective," she said, "the Provost is the person who, in a college, helps set the academic direction for new programs, ensuring that current degrees and programs are at a high level of quality, and making sure that students are getting an optimal educational experience."



PHOTOS | ABBY EPSTEIN

Miller taking notes on what students' experiences at the university.

## Miller learns about the Southern community

By Abby Epstein  
News Writer

After accepting at job, a Yale Sarah Miller said she then heard about the Associate VP of Academic Affairs at Southern and did not want to pass up the opportunity.

"The fact that it is so student centered, and the fact is it committed to inclusion are really powerful for me," said Miller, "I want to learn more about this community and what it's like to work here."

She said fundamentally believes in the transformative power of education and can bring her own experience of it to Southern.

"I've seen a lot of students experience it, students who have changed the trajectory of their lives and their families lives, so I'm excited to work with people and colleagues who are motivated to enable students to do that," said Miller.

Social justice seemed to be the part of Southern's mission statement that most excited Miller since she has never experienced

another school, where social justice is at the center.

She would bring her experience of working in the New Haven Public School Systems to the social justice aspect of Southern.

"I would do my best to learn all the great stuff that is already happening and pair that with what I know about what's needed in New Haven and the local area and then connect resources and opportunities where I could," said Miller.

The Associates Vice President of Academic Affairs deals with much of the success of students. With Miller being trained as an engineer, she likes to look at things in numbers and data.

"I believe in higher education it is important to use data to help us understand what is working," said Miller "What's not working I think it is really important to look at what is happening in the classroom using numbers so we can understand patterns."

No students showed up for the forum, but Miller believes in the success of

students and figuring out all the possible ways to make sure students are successful.

Miller said she would want to make the adjustments or improvements in whatever areas they can be made.

"What are the classes causing problems for students and lets examine them to see why students aren't passing," said Miller.

She said she would want to look at every possible angle to find solutions for student success.

Miller also worked behind the scenes within the department for transfer students, in figuring out why some pathways are harder than others and eliminating as many obstacles for them as possible.

"I would bring this experience I would want to look at the data and see if there any missed opportunities or any ways we can support these students even better." Miller said, "There's lots of problems in higher education, issues of access and affordability, graduating with debt and no degree, and those are problems I care a lot about."



# Freud's exploration of lesbian culture in a modern lens

By Jacob Waring  
News Editor

Corinne Blackmer, associate professor of English, did not make a Freudian slip as she led a talk on her analysis of Sigmund Freud's theorization on lesbianism.

"Freud Among the Lesbians," was part of First Thursday, a forum for Southern faculty to present and lead discussions on new scholarship in the areas of arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Blackmer wove Sholem Asch's 1907 Yiddish play "God of Vengeance" into her discussion on Freud's "considerable insights into female sexuality."

The talk retold Freud's encounter with an 18-year-old Jewish lesbian with a good family in Vienna a girl who incurred the concerned anger of her parents due to being in pursuit of an older woman who was ten years her senior.

"The beloved has a magnificently complex queer life. She lives with a married woman as a friend with whom she has intimate relations while carrying on promiscuous affairs with a number of men," she said.

Freud was ready, said Blackmer, to undertake the course of therapeutic treatment known as conversion therapy, Blackmer said, the woman's treatment would not come to pass due to her father's interference that would lead to ethical issues.

She said Freud promised the girl's parents he would study the young woman for a few weeks to a couple of months, believing she would not be successful in conversion therapy because she did not come forward on her own.

Blackmer said Freud observed no signs of male adjustment or neurosis within the woman.

"Accordingly, she does not falsely admit to any merchant need to be freed or some homosexuality, and says that she could not conceive of any other way of being in love," she said.

She said Freud decided to discontinue therapy with the woman because he was frustrated.

She said Freud requires an observant and dedicated reader to understand his works in today's lens.

"Hurt by patient spirit inspired us to reread and hopefully rescue Freud from the censure ridden repressed where he languishes," she said. "Doing so could well move us beyond our current impasse, construing human sexualities as ad mixtures of discursive, fully based queerness."

Students' opinions split on Blackmer's belief that in the coming years there

without some things he does that may be problematic, but maybe it's worth sometimes looking at it more now," said Hanlon, "like with a new lens could be helpful in some regards."

One student who disagreed of a resurgence of Freud was English literature major, Emily Bohannah, a junior who said she was skeptical.

"It's very difficult to have like a clear perspective or like a clear mind to formulate opinions or respect perspectives about sexuality when we're so weighed down by homophobia and sexism," said Bohannah. "I'm just a little bit skeptical about using the framework of a homophobe and a misogynist to address that."

Despite the difference of opinions of Freud's possible resurgence, the



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Corinne Blackmer gives a talk on Sigmund Freud.

will be a return to Freud. Blackmer said she believes Freud was ahead of his time and a closer reading of his work could produce new insights and bring good to modern discourse in sexuality. Some agree with her assessment of a resurgence in Freud.

Secondary English education major, Abigail Hanlon, a junior said that despite his problematic tendencies, there may be something worthwhile to salvage.

"Sometimes it's a little, you know, hard to discuss

students in attendance had said they enjoyed the talk.

"I simply liked it," said Hanlon. "[It] reminded me I was writing an essay on Freud and feminism last semester. So, it sort of was bringing me back to thinking about that."

Bohannah said she was happy that the speaker diversified from the typical speakers from past talks.

"It was really nice," Bohannah said, "to have at least a little bit of diversifying of like representation in these talks like this."

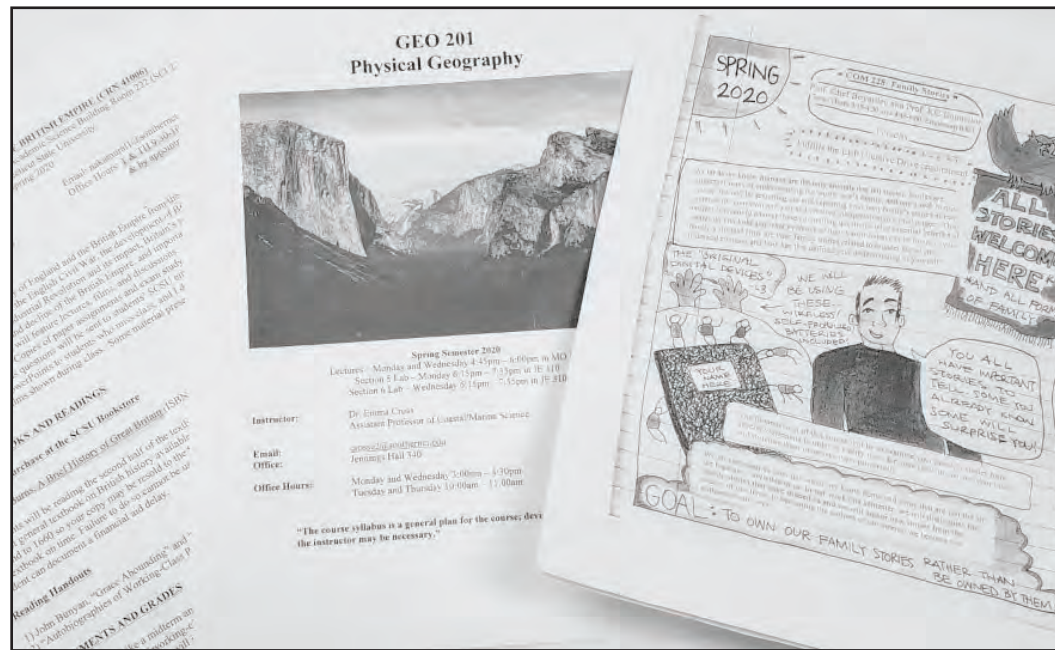


PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

An example of the current syllabi that students receive from their classes.

# LEP explanation added to syllabi

By Joseph Vincenzi  
Reporter

LEP course syllabi will feature a new section in the fall semester of 2020, according to university staff.

The new section will contain an explanation for why students are placed in classes that might not be related to their majors. Professor Barbara Cook, who is on the LEP committee, said that the purpose of the new section is to make students aware of what they are getting from taking certain courses.

"We wanted an approach that could highlight for students the learning outcomes that are specifically related to the area of knowledge that the course is meeting within the LEP," said Cook.

She said the new information to be placed in the syllabi "will include a summary of the area of knowledge and the key elements that are instructed during the course."

While some courses can count towards a student's major, minor, or an elective, she said certain courses will contain an area of

knowledge in the LEP program.

That area of knowledge, as Professor Mike Shea of the LEP committee pointed out, is part of the general education requirements of the university.

"There is a structure to general education," said Shea. "It is so people know what they are getting out of their college education."

According to Shea, certain courses count towards the university's requirement of 40 credits in general education. Those courses are part of Southern's Liberal Education Program, or LEP, and the new syllabi will signal which general education requirement they fulfill.

Both committee members are confident that the new section will only benefit students. Cook stated that the new section of the syllabi is "one of many steps that support student understanding of our LEP as a general education program."

Some students approve of the new section, claiming that it helps to clarify placement in the LEP courses.

"I would assume that some students are unaware of what the LEP

is and how it affects the courses that they need to take," said education major, Sam Martin, a freshman. "I do think that students will be less confused about why they are in certain classes once this addition is added."

Other students believe that the new syllabi are helpful, but that the name "Liberal Education Program" is what causes the confusion.

"Other schools don't call it LEP," said business administration and management Gabriel Tenkorang, a senior. "The name is the problem."

Tenkorang said the LEP courses create a "double standard" among students. When students are placed in classes not related to their major, those students struggle and their GPA will be affected accordingly.

Others said they feel that some of the responsibility lies with the students to know what classes they need to take. Resident Adviser Nick Wheeler said students "know what they are signing up for because it's a liberal education school."

However, Wheeler is ultimately in support of the change.

"It doesn't hurt to know about the school you are attending."

# Campus

Continued from Page 1

Three or four years ago, Quill said, the Pelz Gymnasium pool had been abandoned. However, repairing Pelz in its entirety, according to a 2006 SCSU Master Plan, would cost \$1.5 million.

As the oldest running facility on campus, built in 1952, there have been ideas to scrap Pelz entirely. Possible replacements for Pelz included a recreation facility for swimming, a media arts center, a physical education classroom building, or a student services and administration building.

"It's a shame that [students] are subjected to this," said co-coordinator of physical education

Pat Panichas, as she pointed to the chipped paint falling from the vents above the women's locker room.

Though there are yet no concrete plans for what will happen with Pelz and the old student center, music major Jack Spencer, a sophomore, said he believes renovations would benefit the campus.

"I actually would like the school to do something with that building [old student center]," Spencer said. "I don't know what,

but it's pretty big in there. [There's got to be] something we can use it for."

As the business school grows, Susan Rapini, director of External Relations for the School of Business, said the current building is too small. This issue is one she said can hopefully be remedied by the construction of what Robert Sheeley, associate vice president for Capital Budgeting and Facilities, said will be a \$33 million new School of Business building.

Sheeley said the university stayed away from using the space because of plans to turn it into a fine arts building further into the future.

The School of Business now houses two classrooms for its 1,168 undergraduate and graduate students, according to the SCSU School of Business 2018-2019 Annual Report.

The new building and additional space is something associate professor of economics and finance, Younjun Kim said he hopes will create a better sense of community and improve relationships between students and their professors, as well as the relationships between professors. There are also plans for a new Health and Human Services building, which will unite several

different departments.

"If our building had more classrooms, then more courses could be taught in this building and then students may have more interaction with faculty members and students can easily visit office hours right after class," said Kim.

The fragmentation of the business school and the lack of community

Campus resident and communication disorders major Christina Costa, a senior, "but because we don't hear it or see it happening, there's not a desire to go. I believe that since we're so far away we don't participate in as much and that's disappointing."

In the case of residence halls, North Campus Residential Complex is an example of Southern

the university in the 1990s, according to Sheeley.

"If you look at any other campus, it's not that far removed," said Sheeley. "We needed more space for residents since there were more applications for residency and we took advantage."

North Campus housed a combined 512 residents in its high-rise and townhouse buildings



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Inside Pelz Gymnasium, paint chipping from the vents right above the girls locker room. A common deteriorating feature that students "should not be objected to," according to Pat Panichas, the building has awaited repairs for decades.

that Kim said exists goes beyond just business students. The issue of space also impacts students who live in the North Campus Residence Hall, which the 2006 Master Plan described as isolated from the other residence halls on campus.

"If you're in the residential quad, you hear the music playing because all the residential halls are right around it," said North

having to work with challenges regarding space on campus.

In between the main academic quad and the Wintergreen administrative building lies the Beaverdale Memorial Park cemetery, which according to the 2006 Master Plan, "allows no expansion to unify in the middle of the campus."

North Campus was originally private housing before being purchased by

during the fall 2019 semester, more than any other residence hall on Southern's campus, according to the Office of Residence Life.

Conversely, the 250,000 square foot Buley Library, filled by departments that have secured spaces, leaves little for students to work in, according to Clara Ogbaa, Southern's library director.

Ogbaa, who worked as

a librarian at SCSU at the time of planning, said the plans created about 15 years ago were only somewhat put in place.

She said she is disappointed in what the library has come out to be. "Leave it as what it was designed to be," Ogbaa said.

Initially intended to have only three or four departments inside, Buley Library now hosts 21 departments, including classrooms, first year and sophomore programs and multiple IT stations on various floors.

Healthcare studies major Zoe Stradinger, a junior, said that as a sophomore, she was in a study room everyday but now she chooses to sit in the common areas in the library.

"Usually all of the rooms are all booked up when I'm free so now I just come sit in this spot," Stradinger said.

Ogbaa said her goal is for the library to have fewer offices and departments and more study rooms, so it is a place students are able to get their work done to succeed in their education.

There are rooms that have not been finished for use since 2015, Ogbaa said, and have since been locked off.

"This is all useful space that could be turned into study spaces for students," she said, "but the university is not making much of an effort to do so."



# OPINIONS

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## Dean of Arts and Sciences Selection Dissection



**Column by Tamonda Griffiths**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

Last week the Southern community scouted potential candidates for the role of the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Candidates, besides current interim dean of arts and

sciences Bruce Kalk, hailed from universities of varying sizes and locations.

They participated in forums open the general Southern community, specifically the students, and closed sessions with faculty members of staff.

In the forum I attended, the candidate Anthony “Tony”

Lemieux director of the Global Studies Institute, is a professor of Global Studies and Communication at Georgia State University Atl. He talked about his ideas to expand interdisciplinary studies at the university.

In addition to myself, one graduate

student and group of Student Government Association members were in attendance. Now, let me be clear, the students in attendance did ask good questions that is not the issue. My issue is the lack of involvement from the mass population of students who would be greatly affected by

potential new dean.

While I admire the optimism of Lemieux, I can’t help but be pessimistic about his and his fellow candidates plans for the college. A lot of the ideas and plans discussed seemed to be in pre-planning stages and were not concrete enough to actually be implemented.

## Is Valentine’s Day pure of heart or a consumeristic holiday?

**By J’Mari Hughes**  
**Copy Editor**

Roses, chocolate, and teddy bears are just a few signs that say Valentine’s Day is upon us. Couples are making dinner reservations, classrooms are being decorated in red and pink hearts and the prices of rose bouquets are skyrocketing, all in the name of love.

Sure, you can show your significant other how much you love him or her any day of the year, and sure, the holiday may be looked at as a consumerism cash grab. Valentine’s Day gifts may be expensive or a waste of money, but you cannot put a price on love, so if a bouquet of flowers is what makes your

significant other smile, the 60 dollars you spent on it certainly worth it.

With the happiness and love in the air, comes the bitter female population who are prepared to photograph their hands flipping off the Valentine’s Day aisle in Walmart and share with the world how disgusted they are with the happy couples posting selfies on Instagram and getting engaged. To me, Valentine’s Day is arguably one of the happiest days of the year. Whether you are getting a heart shaped box of chocolates or not, there is always a reason to celebrate love; you do not even need a boyfriend or girlfriend to appreciate it.

While having a

significant other may make the day more enjoyable, a marathon of romance movies, a bag of candy and a couple of friends can make it just as good.

You may not get the affection that comes with a boyfriend or girlfriend, but you can always celebrate with other loved ones without making it romantic. Plus, think of all the cheap candy you can get the day after.

For those who do make the day romantic, why not go out and celebrate love? If everyone else is doing it, there is no reason to not include yourself. Feb. 14 is the day to spoil your significant other and yourself, and who isn’t appreciative of gifts?

**By Jessica Guerrucci**  
**Managing Editor**

Flowers, chocolates, cards filled with declarations of love, all of these things sound wonderful. You know what else they are?

Expensive. As much as we all love — well, love — Valentine’s Day does not have to make you broke.

We all relish in the spirit of commercialism on Feb. 14, while everyone acts like they have suddenly been shot with cupid’s arrow and they remember they are in love, when really you can celebrate your relationship any day of the year and it does not have to be with “things.”

According to the National Retail Federation, “those celebrating the holiday

said they plan to spend an average \$196.31, up 21 percent over last year’s previous record of \$161.96. Spending is expected to total \$27.4 billion, up 32 percent from last year’s record \$20.7 billion.”

I mean, that is a little ridiculous, don’t you think?

Now, I do not despise Valentine’s Day, and like any other girl I want the chocolates, the flowers, all that nonsense I know I should not care for, but we are raised in a culture that causes us to have certain expectations for this day.

It makes us all want the grand gestures, the great love stories and the happy endings, but what makes these special is when they happen unexpectedly. I would

rather get flowers on a random day of the year instead of on a day where it is “expected.”

However, my boyfriend and I have decided our “Valentine’s Day” will be postponed to Feb. 15 so we can spend our day shoving half-priced chocolate into our mouths, I mean, what’s more romantic than that?

In whatever way you choose to celebrate, or even if you do not celebrate at all, just remember there are plenty of ways to make your Valentine feel special without spending all of your money.

There is still beauty in the simple things, and sometimes the small gestures are worth a lot more than anything with a price tag.



PHOTO | J’MARI HUGHES

An aisle of Valentine’s Day goodies at the ShopRite on Dixwell Avenue in Hamden, showcasing many of the candy options available to gift to people’s significant others.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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### Web Exclusive

*Flu, Coronavirus and Southern  
Implementation of waitlist on registration*



## GEMS, social justice and sustainability forum

By Jessica Guerrucci  
Managing Editor

Social justice and sustainability go hand-in-hand, according to Brandon Wong, a member of the Geography, Environmental and Marine Sciences Club, and it is important for everyone on earth.

“Everyone’s thinking about sustainability for the environment, but no one’s thinking about sustainability as thriving and living on earth,” said Wong.

Southern held its first Sustainability Town Hall, led by Office of Sustainability Coordinator, Suzanne Huminski on Wednesday, Feb. 5. The town hall was attended by several members of GEMS.

The agenda included a campus update, climate action priorities for 2020 and beyond, as well as how students can get involved. Huminski said students can sign a climate emergency declaration, with GEMS’ goal being to get 500 signatures by the end of the spring 2020 semester.

The declaration outlines a strategy of

how campus can make progress together as it follows Southern’s Climate Emergency declaration on May 30, 2019.

The declaration, according to Southern’s website, “recognizes the need to accelerate both pace and scale of our efforts, and a need for more unified and collective action to address the climate crisis.”

Huminski said Southern has been working on sustainability for a long time.

Currently, Southern is exceeding the 2020 goal set forth in the 2008 climate action plan for a 40 percent reduction in campus carbon emissions. By 2018, Southern reduced campus carbon emissions by 57 percent since 2008.

The first discussion focused on transportation, with action steps including benchmark commuter emissions and community stakeholder process.

Huminski advocated for the use of UPASS, where students can alternatively take the train to school, as well as driving less.



Suzanne Huminski talking about the affect public transportation offered by the university on climate change.

Another top priority addressed was the importance of community engagement and communication in terms of streamlining and unifying efforts, with levers in change related to research and curriculum regarding sustainability.

“There’s something in there for everyone and what’s important to understand is that you may not think that your

particular area of interest will connect directly with climate action, but it does,” said Huminski.

She also discussed the use of solar power on campus, saying she still believes Southern can “fly higher,” as the solar panels already cost less.

Heather Sterns, who oversees Waste Reduction & Recycling on campus, said the overall diversion rate, which presents the amount of waste that is

diverted from landfill for recycling for Southern, is 28 percent.

She said there is also compost taking place in Connecticut Hall and the Student Center and about 46 tons are composted each year.

“Most [compost] has been generated right now in Connecticut Hall, in the main dining hall,” said Sterns. “We’re hoping to increase our efforts over in the student center and with all your help maybe you can set the standard with other students.”

Derek Faulker, treasurer of GEMS, said he is “physically present” in the student center Monday through Friday at a specific time wearing bright green shirts to help the composting effort, calling himself the “trash police.”

Sterns said efforts are being made also through food recovery, furniture donation, single stream recycling, and “durable to-go’s” or reusable containers in Conn. Hall. There are now water refill stations, which have had over one million fills in the last three to four years, and by going

bagless, as well as strawless, which is a work in progress. According to Huminski, students can get involved in the Office of Sustainability through internships as well as volunteering on campus, curriculum development and on-campus clubs.

Wong, who helped put the event together, said he thought it was very “telling,” but wished there was more engagement.

“Honestly, about 95 percent of the students here don’t know all of this even exists,” said Wong, “and with this information comes more opportunities and more developments for student life in the future.”

Through these town halls, which will continue to occur the first Wednesday of each month, Huminski said she hopes to inform students, as it is important they understand the impact of climate change.

“Climate science shows that we need to pay attention and we need to accelerate progress and solutions in an effective and unified way,” said Huminski, “and that includes everyone.”



Huminski presenting the topics of social justice and sustainability in the lower atrium of the Science Building.

## New Year’s leads to increase in Fitness Center membership

By Joseph Vincenzi  
Reporter

After the new year, some plan to lose weight at the gym. Some start a new, healthy diet. Some vow to get more sleep at night or to finish their work earlier in the day.

Whatever the case may be, students at Southern are planning to achieve their own New Year’s resolutions in a variety of different ways.

A very popular choice among many students was to join the campus gym to gain muscle, burn calories or maintain good metabolism. The gym staff has noticed a difference in the number of gym memberships since the beginning of the semester.

Receptionist Lorenzo Burgos said there are more members “in the first month of this semester” than there were in the first month of the last semester, counting about 400 current members as opposed to about 300 members in September.

Another receptionist, Gabriel Walker, said “everyone wants to join in the spring,” and that the gym typically experiences a rise in membership during the spring semester.

Some students focus on changing their diet to improve physical health and attitude. In the case of Ronnie Pinkard, a freshman, he is focusing on transferring to a plant-based diet.

“It’s going great,” said Pinkard. “I’ve been doing it for 5 weeks.”

Pinkard said he wants to eat less meat and get the full nutritional benefit from a plant-based diet. He said it is “not hard to get into [the diet]” once a student makes the choice.

Other students like Nick Wheeler just want to eat healthier and to go to the gym on a regular basis. He said it was difficult at first to fit a workout into his schedule, but “once it became a habit” it was easy for him to go every day and eat better in the cafeteria.

“So far, so good,” said Wheeler.



The Fitness Center located on the second floor of the Adanti Student Center.

See New Year’s Page 6



# VPAS provides sex education through tabling event

By Jackson Volenec  
Reporter

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center is holding informationals on campus to educate people about the resources available to any students who are victims of violence or abuse of any kind, and allows for students to get support they need.

VPAS group has been a resource for students for several years on campus, and is designed to help any victim (or bystanders who have witnessed abuse) be able to feel safe and share their stories with a support group that can help guide them.

"We do violence prevention on the topic of sexual misconduct, which includes assault, sexual violence, stalking, etc.," said Melissa Kissi, a Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention Specialist at VPAS.

VPAS holds several events on campus all year, including its "What in the World is VPAS?" informational that was held at the student center on Jan. 29. The event helped discuss what VPAS is to people on campus, the resources they provide to students, and what students can do to take advantage of those resources if they need help. There were also giveaways and prizes during the event to catch student's attention.

There is a branch of VPAS known as the Support and Resource Team, which is a group on campus that support to victims, including "counseling, medical attention, judicial services, advocacy, law enforcement, referrals, and general information regarding sexual violence," according to VPAS' webpage.

"The mission of SART is to provide services that ensure a transition from victim to survivor for every individual impacted by sexual misconduct," according to the VPAS webpage.

VPAS members make sure to get as much exposure as possible on campus, as they hold multiple events throughout the year to

show students there is help available any time they need. There are two full-time counselors who are here to help victims, and are available 24/7.

"I think that victim advocacy is one of the most important pieces of getting justice for those who are survivors of sexual misconduct," said social work major Amanda Valentin, a senior and student VPAS worker.

Other events include their upcoming "Netflix and No Chill" event on Feb. 10. This event is designed to discuss sexual consent as a topic, and will dive into the details of healthy sexual communication and the importance of affirmative consent.

Throughout the month of February, they are also holding events that will discuss topics such as stalking.

Primarily, we're focused on the sexual misconduct prevention," said Kissi. "We want everyone who has experienced such a thing to know they have a place they can come to for help if they want it."

This support from VPAS is available at any time for students in crisis or in need of advice.

"We can come and meet with sexual assault survivors. It doesn't matter if they experienced something in the last week, month, year, ten years, it doesn't matter," said Kissi. "If they feel like

they need assistance for support, say they want information about a restraining order, or anything, we're here to support that student."

Although VPAS is always here as a resource to victims of sexual misconduct, Kissi emphasizes the importance of not feeling pressure to go and talk to someone about your experience unless you feel comfortable doing so.

"For some people, they can heal without telling anyone. It's different for every person, so I would say don't feel pressured to go and talk to someone about your experience if you're uncomfortable," said Kissi. "Everyone's path is different."

# Food and diet for students

By Joseph Vincenzi  
Reporter

Business administration management major, Gabriel Tenkorang, a senior, said he wakes up every day to a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast. In three minutes, he has a balanced, healthy meal that will hold him for 5 hours, allowing him over to get a full workout at the gym without lacking energy.

Like Tenkorang, many students at Southern employ their own eating habits to stay healthy and maintain energy throughout their day. Tenkorang said oatmeal is an easy way for students to have a healthy start to the day.

"I'm not big on sugary foods," said Tenkorang. "Oatmeal is good for having energy at the gym and burning fat. It's also pretty quick to make."

Tenkorang also recommends that students eat three meals a day to maintain a steady metabolism and keep in good spirits.

"Try not to miss meals," said Tenkorang. "Missing meals causes unnecessary stress."

Others said they

feel that it is quite difficult to maintain good eating habits at Southern. "It is very hard to make the healthy choice at Southern," said Sam Martin, a freshman. "Some recommendations that I would give are to eat breakfast, to avoid the fried food station, to avoid carbs, and to check out the salad station at Connecticut Hall."

"Another thing I do is only drink water," he said. "Because I do not always make the healthiest decisions, I feel that drinking water is an attempt to start to balance it out."

Other students do not have specific eating habits, but also favor the idea of choosing the best option available at Connecticut Hall.

"It's easy to eat garbage all the time," said Resident Adviser Nick Wheeler. "The problem is that a lot of the food there is fried, which doesn't help if someone wants to eat healthy."

For lunch, Tenkorang eats a decent amount of carbohydrates and a good helping of vegetables. He said he prefers to eat leaner meat such as chicken

over something fatty like a burger.

"I'll eat burgers occasionally," said Tenkorang. "I'll have some carbs, but not too many. I generally don't eat the pizza because it is not a nutritious food."

Tenkorang said pizza and fries are packed with carbohydrates, which often make students feel tired and weary throughout the day because most of that energy will not get used up.

"I would recommend utilizing your swipes at the student center. They have a great smoothie station and a salad bar."

For Tenkorang's dinner, he will generally adhere to a low-carb, high vegetable diet. He said it is not good to have a lot of carbohydrates late in the day because students might not use all the energy they gain by the time they go to bed.

Popular opinion may claim that the dining halls do not always yield the best food, but many students have found ways to address that obstacle.

As Wheeler said, "just because other people are eating a certain way doesn't mean you have to."



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

A rice bowl and chips available in the food court at the Adanti Student Center.

# New Year's

Continued from Page 5

There are many students who share the same goals as Pinkard and Wheeler. However, New Year's resolutions can also mean improving on bad habits, and some students are keen on tackling those habits.

For a student like senior Gabriel Tenkorang, it is as simple as drinking more water during the day.

Tenkorang said he wants to drink more water instead of juice or other sugary beverages. He said since he goes to the gym often, he needs to keep himself hydrated.

"It's not really hard to get into," said Tenkorang. "It's just a concentrated effort."

Some students set monthly or annual goals for themselves to help towards a career or personal interest. One such student is music major Michael Natalino, who has a strong passion for songwriting.

"By the end of the semester, I want to have finished my own studio with professional equipment and have about 5,000 to 10,000 followers on Instagram," said Natalino. He said he believes these two things are essential for his growth as a musician and a potential career for the future.

Natalino said there will be a struggle with anything one wants to improve in his or her life. But he firmly said believes that once a habit is established, "nobody can stop you."



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Professor KC Councilor reading to first-graders at the Obama School on Feb. 5.

# Obama School read aloud

By Tamonda Griffiths  
Editor-in-Chief

World Read Aloud Day was founded a decade ago by a literary charity organization called LitWorld to celebrate the joys of reading aloud, as well as to advocate for literacy, according to its site.

On Feb. 5, the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School observed World Read Aloud Day with the help of faculty members of the Southern community.

According to Susan DeNicola, principal of the Obama School, the school officially opened on Jan. 7 to approximately 300 students ranging from kindergarten-age to fourth graders.

"We are a communications magnet school," said DeNicola. "That is our magnet theme."

DeNicola said in the last couple of years the school developed a relationship with the university and hopes to strengthen that through collaborative efforts through other departments at the university as well.

Currently, Laura Bower-Phipps is the professor of curriculum and learning, elementary education coordinator as well as the coordinator for faculty innovation for the Obama School.

She reached out to faculty members through emails, according to professor of communication,

media, and screen studies, KC Councilor to see who was interested in participating in World Read Aloud Day.

"I actually like to read aloud to my students, the college students," said Councilor.

Oral communication and storytelling, Councilor said is one of the oldest forms of storytelling.

"It's something that we naturally do," said Councilor. "It's part of our educational culture when kids are younger, and we sort of stop doing that; we think maybe it's a childish thing or something as we get older."

Listening to authors and people read is a great joy to him, Councilor said, and he selfishly wanted to indulge in that with a classroom of first graders.

"It was such a refreshing experience," said Councilor, in comparison to being in a college class where oftentimes excitement and engagement can be minimal.

President Joe Bertolino said reading aloud to children makes reading fun, leading to children wanting to learn to read themselves, as well as creates a valued, educational, and caring interaction between children and those who read to them.

"I think children should be read to, often," said Bertolino. "and then encouraged to read and then rewarded for it, so

that it doesn't become a chore. It becomes something children want to do."

Bertolino and Councilor read to first-grade classrooms and got to choose which books they wanted to read to the students; Councilor read a book about various animals across the globe, while Bertolino read about a dog getting ready for bedtime.

"I would do little voices," said Bertolino, "and have the kids point different things out in the book."

The children, Councilor and Bertolino said would always raise their hands.

"I was quite impressed with just their intelligence, their engagement," said Councilor, "with how their teacher's obviously foster a supportive environment for everyone."

When teaching at the university, Bertolino said the mode of delivery in education matters in helping students learn the best way possible for them.

It is important for teachers, he said not only to step outside of their comfort zone but to also acknowledge one-size does not fit all to illustrate the themes of a particular class.

"I don't consider myself a teacher or a professor or an instructor," said Bertolino. "I consider myself a facilitator. For me, the students own the classroom."



# 'Art As Sanctuary' shares an empowering story

By Sofia Rositani  
Reporter

After leaving her country behind to make herself known, Malak Mattar created her art solely off the trauma from her past, as it reflects the struggles the Palestinians face, that is often not seen by the world.

Mattar, is a 20-year-old artist, according to the Palestine Museum website, who is "of startling originality from the Gaza Strip who paints powerfully expressionist faces, figures, and semi-abstract designs."

Mattar gives her life

story and what she had to witness and go through as a child in the Gaza Strip.

Mattar, who now lives in Istanbul, Turkey, said she would like to go back one day to Palestine.

"Wherever I travel, I always feel like I miss my country and I need to be able to go there and enjoy it with my family," said Mattar.

She now goes to school in Istanbul and travels the world talking about her artwork. After Mattar spoke at Southern, she then had a talk at Yale University.

Many of the students who attended the event said they had no idea who

Mattar was or her career as an artist and heard of this event through their class.

A member of the women and gender studies master's program, as well as social work, Katie Arnone, a graduate student, said she heard about the event in one of her classes.

"They said that it was going to be a really cool event that talked about different experiences with culture and expression and the use of art to explore someone's experience specifically with oppression," said Arnone.

She said she also believes everyone should take women and gender

studies classes so others understand the oppression many women go through in different countries.

Some students attended the event because of their professor Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, put it on.

Environmental systems and sustainability major, Emma Sweeney, a sophomore, said she was interested to see how Mattar's background inspired her work.

"The artist is our age and she is from Palestine," said Sweeney, "and it's really interesting to see how due to her culture and the way she had grown up and how it influenced her art and what it does about

women's empowerment." Sweeney said she had never heard of Mattar before her professor spoke about her in class.

Mattar is a political science major at a university in Istanbul, Turkey, but originally, she said political science was not something she wanted to major in.

Instead, she said she wanted to do art as a major, but because her school does not offer art as a major, it was between medicine and political science. Since she wanted to continue her art, she chose political science.

Mattar said her message to people is to let them

know to stand up for others.

"Speak up for other people from different nationalities and always help as much as you can by raising the word, and by speaking up when there is something injustice happening," said Mattar.

Mattar, was given gifts and birthday wishes by the faculty and students.

"I just want people to hear my story and take action whether it's supporting or whether it's educating others about Palestine," she said. "So, I want people to also stand with people under siege, under war, I ask people for solidarity and support."



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Malak Mattar speaking at the 'Art As Sanctuary' event on Feb. 6.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

A table cover for the women's and gender studies program at Southern.

## Fiayaz's second studio album is short but not so sweet

By Essence Boyd  
Contributor

Grammy nominee 24-year-old Maryland native Christopher Brent Wood, better known as Brent Fiayaz in the music industry, has released his second studio album "F--- the World" on Feb. 7 after a year of silence and to sum the album up in one word, it was different.

It is evident that he is moving in a new direction however, whether it is the right direction is yet to be determined.

Fiayaz's first studio album, "Sonder Son" set

the bar high as it was the soundtrack to his life; showcasing all of the lost loves, broken hearts and need for love that makes every artist relatable and exactly what was missing from "F--- the World."

The yearning and lust in "Sonder Son" were replaced with anger and cockiness in "F--- the World." However, one theme that stayed the same was desperation. His constant need to be needed is reflected in both albums — this and Fiayaz' heavenly voice being the only thing linking the two albums together.

Ten tracks and 26 minutes make up project

"F--- the World." Although the album is short, it is anything but sweet.

"Do you know what makes the world go 'round?' starts the project off in track one "Skyline." As Fiayaz has disclosed in numerous interviews, he believes everything has a hand in what makes the world operate, the unknown constantly on his mind.

"Think it through/ What it means to you/ And everything you do/ Don't affect just you, oh." In the first one minute and 11 seconds of the album Brent has already gotten the audience thinking.

Everything has a purpose what is yours?

Track two, "Clouded" is said to be Fiayaz' tell all track, addressing his constantly asked question. "It was one of those days where I smoked a j, went to the studio, and just let everything out for real," Fiayaz said in a Vice interview. "Your judgment get clouded when you clouded/My opposition wish I'd stop smilin'/ My family wish I'd stop wildin'/I'm still on the east side smokin' with my OG's/'Cause they the only ones that really know me." This track shows how at war he is with his old life. It

is no secret that the money and the fame changes artist and Fiayaz is clearly running away from the change.

The star of this album would have to be track number seven "Rehab (Winter in Paris)" which was released to the public months prior to the album. Fiayaz's silk like voice paired with cold hearted lyrics will always be a mood: "I got too many hoes/But they ain't you." Fiayaz is the sweet-talking toxic ex that you cannot get over. The production of this song is beautiful, and for the first time Fiayaz's voice is assertive. The give and

take between the chorus and melody show a new side of Fiayaz and I am here for it.

From the album cover to the lyrics of "Sonder Son" and "F--- the World" are two completely different albums composed and sung by two completely different artist. The evolution of Fiayaz is evident and although I miss the soft melodies and lyrics filled with love and rejection, Fiayaz's transition is a lot like the transition from your teens to twenties. Love becomes lust and you learn the truth about the world and just how messed up it really is.



An iPhone XR displaying Fiayaz's second studio album, 'F--- the World,' released on Friday.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | IZZY MANZO



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Disney Daydream evokes nostalgia and happiness

By Sofia Rositani  
Reporter

Students were given a taste of “the happiest place on earth” on campus, as they chose from carnival food and an array of crafts that imitated what it is like to be at Disneyland.

The event offered students an escape from school for an hour or two. Disney Daydream was held by Programs Council on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The event had carnival food that would be sold at Disneyland like chicken

tenders and churros. It also offered activities such as painting rocks, Aladdin sand crafts and making Disney princess jewelry.

The different parks at Disney also played a role in the event with the tables being different themes such as Fantasyland, Frontierland, Adventureland and Tomorrowland.

Jenna Dearborne, a daytime programmer, said she chose the event because she is obsessed with Disney and thought it would be a success.

“I get to pick the events

I want to do, and my family goes every two years,” said Dearborne. “We did some polls to Instagram to see what kind of events students like so that was like a win, we had a Disney event in the past and it was a big hit so we figured we would try it again.”

DearBorne said Disney Daydream offered many students the chance to be a child again, without the hassle of going to Disney.

Many students grew up watching Disney Channel, such as psychology major Jacob Adorno, a freshman, who said he

often watches it still with his brother and it makes him feel like a kid again.

“Growing up with a brother with autism I felt the need to grow up a lot quicker and take up a big brother role despite being younger than him,” said Adorno, “but whenever we watch Disney movies like Lion King, even Pixar films like Toy Story he loves them so much that he copies the dialogue and he’s able to say full phrases, and act out full scenes just on his own so I love Disney to death because of it.”

Despite growing up

and watching Disney when students were younger, the theme is still present on campus and has inspired decor in dorms.

For example, Schwartz Hall has a Disney themes on one of their floors and Hickerson Hall did “High School Musical” as their theme for Homecoming.

The themes the tables were based on are all different parks at Disney. Frontierland is cowboys and pioneers while Tomorrowland is based on the future and space.

Ariana Taylor, daytime programmer for

Programs Council gave some insight into how they put on events like Disney Dreamland.

According to Taylor, Disney Dreamland was an idea before the semester began since there is a process that the Programs Council has to go through for the events to actually occur.

“We actually figure out all of the ideas for events like the names, about the dates and locations before the semester begins,” said Taylor, “because by the time the semester starts it’s too late to figure all that stuff out.”



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

A table holding some of the food, such as chicken tenders churros, offered at the Disney Daydream event on Feb. 4.



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Craft supplies available for students use provided by ProCon last Tuesday at their “Disney Daydream” event.

## Chinese New Year celebrates with food, family and giveaways

By Sofia Rositani  
Reporter

The Chinese Lunar New Year was welcomed at Southern through food, tradition and activities.

The event is held annually by the Chinese Student Association and the Multicultural Center.

Elu Tu, the Chinese Student Association adviser said the celebration is not just in celebration of Chinese culture but is celebrated by many other Asian cultures as well.

“Chinese Lunar New Year is the biggest event,

not just for Chinese, but Korean and Japanese celebrate Lunar New Year as well,” said Tu. “And this year there are 12 zodiac animals, and it is the Year of the Rat.”

According to Tu, during the Year of the Rat in the story where the 12 animals race, the rat places first bringing wealth, abundance and fertility.

Last year for the Lunar New Year it was the Year of the Pig, which meant wealth and fortune for those who were born in 2019. Next year the Lunar cycle will continue with Year of the Ox, bringing

wealth to those born in the coming year, 2021.

However, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, which started in Wuhan, China and has been spreading in more countries, including the U.S, president of the Chinese Student Association Paula Doble said there were discussions to cancel the event.

“We decided since it doesn’t seem like an immediate danger for us in New Haven, especially for us in Southern specifically, we are still going to do it,” said Doble. “It’s going to be a little toned down we

are not going to have the activities that we usually have, unfortunately, but we are still going to have food, and explain the celebrations.”

Doble said even if the students do not know there is a Chinese club, they do know that there will always be a Lunar New Year Celebration held.

Many students came to the event, but faculty also decided to join in on the festivities such as Shabrell Sherrod, Disability Resource Center secretary.

“I decided to come because I heard it was good food, good

atmosphere,” said Sherrod, “and I wanted to learn about what is going on exactly.”

The Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration featured red envelopes to signify good luck and to ward off evil spirits, as well as lots of food like rice, broccoli, beef and dumplings.

The event also had activities such as calligraphy, and a selfie area where students and faculty were able to take photos in front of a backdrop with different Year of the Rat decals to hold.

Sabrina Maldonado,

graduate intern at the Multicultural Center said she hopes the event helps students better understand the celebration of the Lunar New Year.

“We just hope that the students take away what this is and why it’s important,” said Maldonado, “and that’s why we provide them with details like flyers on the table, and it’s also just a celebration of family.”

See more ‘Lunar New Year Celebration’ photos on Page 12



PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

Students gathered in line at the Chinese Lunar New Year event last Monday.



PHOTO | JIZZY MANZO

A selection of food offered at the Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb. 3.





PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Justin Kelly, senior, competing in an event earlier this season.

## Track and field falls short at New Englands

By Edward Rudman  
Contributor

The track and field team recently competed at the New England Championships at the Reggie Lewis center in Boston, Mass on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, where they finished fifth overall.

Out of 22 teams competing, the men's team placed the highest in the meet for a Division II team. Even with a good finish, there is disappointment from the team and coaches, as they expected to perform at a much higher level.

"Fifth was disappointing to say the least, but it is a reflection of where we're at," said head coach John Wallin. "It was good for us to see that and know that we're not as sharp of a weapon as we thought, so we need to sharpen up and get ready for the rest of the season."

Triple jumper Oghenefejiro Onakpoma, a senior who has been with the team for all four years, finished in third in the triple jump with a distance of 14.60 meters, posting the longest jump by a Division II athlete — falling behind two Division I athletes from

UConn. Even with a top three finish, Onakpoma said he still has a lot to improve on before the NEIO conference meet.

"I feel like I did not do my best, but there is always another meet," said Onakpoma. "You are going to have your bad days and you are going to have some good ones, and New England's just was not one of those good days for me. But I learned a lot from it and now I know what I have to improve on for conferences."

Onakpoma typically has been a lightning rod of success for the team over his four years, becoming an All-American in the indoor triple-jump in just his sophomore year. At conference meets, Onakpoma will be looking to end his collegiate career on a high note and set a new personal record, which currently stands at 15.47 meters.

On the women's side of track and field, they competed against strong competition, such as UConn, Dartmouth and UMass Amherst, and finished 20th out of 24 teams.

See Track Page 10

## Men's basketball crushes New York Tech in blow out

### Jones, Adams combine for 49 in out-of-conference win

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

The Owls' men's basketball team wrapped up its 2019-20 non-conference schedule with an exclamation point at Moore Field House, with a 95-61 thrashing of the New York Institute of Technology, their largest margin of victory of the season.

"We were moving the ball, Coach has said a lot: once we move the ball, we can be really good," said senior forward Taurus Adams II.

Southern's offense came out on fire right from the get-go, as junior guard C.J. Seaforth, who has been in a shooting slump, nailed a perfect three pointer that ignited an 11-2 run over the first three minutes.

The Bears of New York Tech battled back and cut it to three after a timeout, but the Owls countered with another big run, this one being a 13-4 led

by junior forward Greg Jones and junior guard Khalil Richard, who scored 15 points off the bench, shooting a perfect three of three from beyond the arch. Jones finished with a game high 27 points, his third game in the last five with at least 25.

"There's a whole different level I can tap into. I'm not even there yet — they haven't seen nothing yet," Jones said. "A lot more to come — more rebounds, for sure, because I only had three tonight but a lot more to come."

Backed by Jones, the Owls took a comfortable 45-31 lead into halftime. From that point, the Owls did not look back. Led by Adams, who had 22 points alongside his frontcourt-mate Jones, the Owls stretched their lead to 20 in the first six minutes of the half. From there on out, the two bigs would dominate. Every time down, Southern's guards looked to go inside to one

of them. Together, they combined for 49 of the Owls' 95 points and were the only starters to score in double figures.

"We're the most dominant bigs in the NE-10," Jones said of he and Adams. "We've just got to go out there and prove it every night. We can't take any days off, when we play together, we're unstoppable."

With the efficient play of the Owls down low, they had one of their best nights on offense of the season. They shot a season-best 58.2 percent, going 39-67. They also shot 65 percent from three on 13-20, which was their fourth highest in program history. The Owls also had 26 assists on the night, a season high, led by junior Isaiah Boissard with six and committed just eight turnovers — their fewest on the year.

"You just hope you save some [shots] for the next game, you don't want to shoot yourself out," said

Burrell. "I don't mind missed shots as long as you share the ball — if you share the ball and get good shots, I don't mind at all. We played together defensively and offensively and that's what you want to do."

The Owls' defense should not be overlooked in the offensive onslaught. In their last game at Saint Anselm, Southern gave up 97 points. In this game, they held the Bears to 45 percent shooting and 27 percent from three, limiting them to just five makes from beyond the arch.

Southern also had season-highs on the night on the defensive end, as they recorded 12 steals, their most in three years, led by freshman Lyron Bennett with five, who shined on the defensive end for the Owls. They also forced 22 turnovers: another season high.

See Basketball Page 10



PHOTO | IZZY MANZO

Forward Greg Jones, junior, jab-stepping from the corner during a home game against New York Tech on Feb. 5.

## Owls visit school for Read Aloud Day

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

In observance of World Read Aloud Day on Wednesday members of the Southern women's basketball and soccer teams visited Worthington Hooker Elementary School.

Basketball seniors Aaliyah Walker, Imani Wheeler and Kiana Steinauer teamed up with freshman Abby Lucas, sophomore Amanda Dustin and coach Adam Cohen from the women's soccer team to join the students

in the classroom for a few hours and read to the children — some of which were books about sports.

"I was really excited, I work at a summer camp, so I enjoy interacting with little kids," said Lucas with a smile. "Being able to interact with the kids again was going to be fun. They had a whole spread of sports books, so I chose the soccer book, obviously. They were all really engaged little kids."

Like Lucas, the other athletes read sports books to the children. Cohen said he went with a different

theme and said he chose to read "Franklin."

"We were able to emphasize the value of diversity and being different," Cohen said. "And the book that I was able to read to the kids showed that your differences can be strengths."

In addition to reading, the athletes were also able to answer questions and talk with the classes they were in and received goodie-bags from the students as a thank you.

Steinauer also said that some outgoing second graders took pride in telling her teammate Wheeler, a point guard, how many "dribbles they could make in a row."

Unfortunately, the Owls had to go in the late morning, prohibiting the

entirety of both teams to attend due to their individual class schedules. However, the consensus among the athletes who did attend was the experience was something they thoroughly enjoyed.

"I enjoyed it, it was fun, the kids were really attentive," Steinauer said. "All the kids were like, 'We want to be just like you!' so it was cool to see that you can impact their lives. They all seemed pretty excited to meet some soccer and basketball players."

As luck would have it, World Read Aloud Day coincided with National Women In Sports Day, adding another incentive for sending two of Southern's women's teams.

See Read Aloud Page 11



PHOTO COURTESY | SCSU WOMENS SOCCER TWITTER

Women's soccer head coach Adam Cohen reading to children at Worthington Hooker School as a part of the World Read Aloud Day on Feb. 5.





## NE10 left wide open for basketball

Column by Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

The men's basketball team is entering the stretch run of the season, as just six games remain on the schedule before the regular season ends and the NE-10 tournament begins.

These final six games for the Owls are crucial, as they are in the midst of a battle for a top seed in the conference tournament from the Southwest Division.

Of the seven teams in the Owls' division, five teams are in the hunt for a top spot, themselves included. Currently, Le Moyne is the top team in the division and seems like the early favorite to finish in first.

The Dolphins are 12-2 in conference play and 16-6 overall. On average, they shoot 45 percent from the field and score an even 84 points per game. It is important to note that of their six losses, four of them came in November — the first month of the season. However, their last loss was 95-61 at Assumption College, a team the Owls recently beat.

After Le Moyne, the battle begins. Adelphi, New Haven and Southern are all within two games of each other. In conference play, Adelphi is 9-5, New Haven a shocking 8-6 despite a 10-10 overall record, Southern 7-6, having played one fewer conference game than the rest of the league.

All of these teams remain on the Owls' schedule in February. After the Owls' matchup at AIC this weekend, they will play at Pace, before a huge final homestand where in order, they will host: Le Moyne, then New Haven and will close with Saint Rose, who is 4-19, before finishing the regular season at Adelphi.

The entire division is up for grabs, and despite some early mid-season struggles, they certainly have the talent to put themselves in a position to be in a top spot in the conference tournament as well as win once they get there, hopefully improving from last year.

Forward Greg Jones, a junior, has said he and senior forward Taurus Adams are the best big men in the NE-10. Head coach Scott Burrell has said that there are few better players than junior guard C.J. Seaforth when he is at his best. The pieces are all there.

"One loss [in the NE-10], you drop two or three spots, one win we move up to second," Burrell said after the win against New York Tech. "You've got to pay attention."

# Athletes value their goals and teams, regardless of their sport

By Sam Tapper  
Sports Writer

We have all heard the phrase, "There is no 'I' in 'team'" before. Whether it was as kids learning the importance of togetherness and teamwork or in another moment of life, it is a phrase that has not been forgotten.

There are a variety of collegiate sports at Southern and a variety of diverse athletes who compete in them. Whether the sport is more individualized like swimming, track and field or gymnastics, or team oriented like basketball, baseball or football, athletes and coaches say there is not as much of a difference when it comes to the nuances of their teams, despite the vastly different sports.

"Togetherness," said men's basketball forward Greg Jones, a junior. "A unit, working towards the same goal and representing the same thing, that's what I think of when I think of a team."

For Jones, a former DI athlete, he has plenty of experience playing for different types of teams over his career. Currently a big-time contributor on the basketball court, Jones played other "team" sports in high school like baseball and football. In addition to that, Jones got a glimpse of the other side of things, as he also played singles in tennis in high school.

"It was different; I started out losing a lot of games," Jones said. "But we always talked about doing your part, make sure you're

getting extra work in, asking questions you don't know, so [the coaches] were still teaching me even though we were all in separate matches."

**"Togetherness, as a unit, working towards the same goal and representing the same thing. That's what I think of when I think of a team."**

— Greg Jones

Jones may be the only basketball player at Southern with tennis experience under his belt, but he is not the only basketball player with experience in other sports. On the women's side, senior forward Kiana Steinauer was a runner in track at her high school in Ontario, Canada, giving her experience with an individualized sport. Steinauer also said that besides the sport and besides the setting, a team "teaches a lot of leadership qualities" and "helps people come together."

"Obviously with track, you're still a part of the team because you want to get your team to win," said Steinauer. "But running individually, I can definitely say I liked the relays more because of the team aspect. I personally get really nervous doing individual sports — I think it's a lot of pressure on yourself. It's nice to rely on your teammates for things that you lack."

Flipping it around to

gymnastics, it is easy for one to assume that the team part of the sport may not come into play as much. In the sport there are four events: the vault, beam, uneven bars and floor, all of which the athletes compete individually. Despite that, it doesn't quite work out that way.

Every gymnast on the team gets a score for their performance which adds up to the team's total, like swimming and track and field. But for senior captain Bella Antonangeli, who has been a part of a gymnastics team since she was child, she says the idea and structure of her gymnastics teams are much different in college compared to her days competing at a club gym.

"I feel like club before college was a lot more individualized," Antonangeli said. "I didn't really have a team to worry about, it was more like I was the only person at that level so I would compete by myself, and my coach, where it would be one-on-one, me trying to get better. But when I came to college, it was similar to all the other sports teams, you're doing it for your team, trying to get better for your team, you care about everyone else involved. But that didn't happen until college."

In Antonangeli's experience, she says that her time in club helped get her to where she is now athletically, but it is having that "concrete" team in college which she prefers. She is an all-around competitor, meaning she competes in all four events, and she says that the



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM  
Isabella Antonangeli, senior, cheering on her team from the sidelines during a home meet on Jan. 26.

support her teammates give her and everyone else on meet day is what drives her.

"Having the concrete team honestly made me better," Antonangeli said. "They would support me in a different way, they could give me corrections, and then they could see how I got better, and I could see how they can get better."

The sports are all vastly different in just about every way, shape and form. The experience each athlete has with their respective sport is unique to them.

Though all athletes form

a relationship with their coaches, head swimming and diving coach Tim Quill noted that trust levels in his sport from athlete to coach are built up over time, creating a close relationship.

"There is a working relationship," said Quill. "When you're working with an athlete for three or four years, there's a lot of time and effort invested in that, and we realize that over those years, a kid who stays with us for three or four years trusts us and believes in us."

## Basketball

Continued from Page 10

The Bears never led for a second in the game.

"I love the way they responded, they just competed, competed for 40 minutes," Burrell said. "They had a couple runs, we sustained what we were doing the whole time and that's what you want from your team."

With the non-conference matchup, the Owls were able to get a night off from the rigors and stresses of conference play, particularly in the clustered NE-10 Southwestern Division, where the Owls are in a battle for second. Though it was an easier non-conference game, Burrell says he would have preferred it come earlier in the season.

"It does a little bit," Burrell said, "but also, you might've had a chance for a bye right here. You kind of want this game earlier so you do get a bye — a lot of teams in our league have a bye this week — but at the same time, we built some momentum today, I think, which is nice."

Going forward, the Owls schedule gets tough. They will faceoff against Pace on the road, followed by a homestand where they will face Le Moyne and New Haven before finishing at Adelphi — all teams in the mix with them for that two-spot. Though the win is nice, they know the going is about to get tough.

"Just use this momentum to keep pushing," said Adams. "We got to come ready to practice and then go one game at a time. We'll be ready."



PHOTO | JACKSON LAMAR  
Forward Taurus Adams II, senior, going up for a layup during a home game against New York Tech on Wednesday.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM  
Justin Kelly, senior, sprinting at an event during an indoor meet season earlier this season.

## Track

Continued from Page

Even though the team did not place as well as they would have liked, the meet was a success, as the athletes performed well and set multiple new personal records. "It was a great meet for the group that we had. We had 18 athletes compete at New England's and 99% of the athletes either got a personal best, or a season's best, or won a heat," head coach Melissa Stoll said.

The women's team is young as of right now and coach Stoll said she is happy with the output she is seeing and the experience the team is garnering.

Some notable performances from

the meet were from the 4x800 relay team consisting of senior Emily Maffeo, junior Ashley Cummings, sophomore Madison Alexis, and sophomore Emma Cayward, which broke the school record with a time of 9:31.24, and sophomore Nasharie Davis, who set a personal best in the 60-meter hurdles in the semi-finals when she posted a time of 8.92, the first time she has finished under nine seconds.

"The team performed very well and a lot of girls were able to set new personal records," said Davis. "We were all able to fix what we needed to fix, as in our individual issues that we always get reminded of, and we brought a good, competing attitude."



# Castellone consistently improves throughout years

By Edward Rudman  
Contributor

The swim teams are nearing the end of their season as the NE10 conference meet comes to a close and all that is left is the NCAA tournament. One of the athletes looking to lead his team to a successful postseason is junior captain Bryce Castellone.

Castellone, a junior who has spent all three of his previous years with the team, is no stranger to the pool, as he started swimming at the age of four for his town recreational program, but began to take the sport more seriously when he joined his high school team at South Windsor.

“The environment and the coach there really changed my spirits about the sport and it got me looking forward to swimming at the collegiate

level,” said Castellone. “I still never took it that seriously in high school so it was a little bit of a culture shock when I got to college but I think I adjusted well.”

One of the major reasons Castellone chose to continue swimming in college was the bonding aspect of his high school team. He said he had never been so close to his teammates with any other sport and wanted to experience that in college too.

“The bonding here is basically what I expected and what I wanted but on a much higher level. Obviously, it’s more serious in college and you are devoting countless hours a week with each other. You’re in this pool doing the hardest stuff with your teammates and you think you won’t make it out, but you all end up doing it together,” said



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCOWLS.COM

The men's swimming and diving team (Castellone front left) posing for a picture after placing second-overall in the NE10 Championships this past weekend.

Castellone. One of the athletes on the team who understands the strength of the bond forged while swimming together is freestyler and

backstroke John Gaudio, a senior.

“These relationships will last you a while and most of the things I’m going to miss about the team is coming to practice everyday. There’s a lot of times where I don’t want to go to practice but me being done in a couple days is surreal,” said Gaudio, who will be competing in conferences for the last time in college and will be closing the door on his swim career. “Being able to train with kids like Bryce was an honor; he’s a big supporter and he’s the hardest working kid on the team.”

Head coach Tim Quill spoke highly of Castellone and the effort he’s put forward since joining the team.

“He is a junior captain

so I think that speaks volumes of what everybody thinks about him. He’s a hard worker and it is evident by his success in college,” said coach Quill. “He was kind of more of a green athlete coming in, maybe not as much experience as other swimmers, but certainly has become one of our best athletes on the team and has put himself in a position to succeed.”

Most recently, Castellone, Gaudio competed in the NE10 conference meet in Worcester, Mass from Feb. 6 to Feb. 9. On the first day of the competition, Castellone was among three swimmers to come in the top ten in the 1,000–freestyle event — he came in sixth with a time of 10:03.53.



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Bryce Castellone, junior, swimming freestyle during a meet earlier this season.



## How a game unifies a population

Column by Jessica Guerrucci  
Managing Editor

Whether from the field or on the TV in the living room, the same images flashed in front of millions of people’s eyes across the United States — it is something that has become far more than a football game, but rather a cultural phenomenon.

The 54th Super Bowl saw the Kansas City Chiefs become victorious on Sunday, Feb. 2, but besides their victory, there is much more going on behind the scenes on this unofficial American “holiday,” and much of it has to do with consumerism.

According to CBS Sports, the game averaged 99.9 million viewers on FOX, making it the 10th most watched Super Bowl of all time. Of all those viewers, according to Legal Sports Betting, each one spent an average of \$81 on the day of the big game. Those numbers do not even account for the entirety of it all.

Tickets to the game, merchandise, food and drinks for guests at your big Super Bowl party — and do not forget all the lost bets, all of that are dollars down the drain.

I watched it firsthand working in a pizza restaurant as the phone rang off the hook with order prices skyrocketing since take out and football are essentially synonymous. Legal Sports reported that 12 million pizzas are sold and over a billion chicken wings.

Spending goes beyond just the average American, consider those commercials we all love to laugh at during the break, for just a 30-second slot The Street said that it costs companies \$5.6 million.

Surely some people would think that is crazy, but it is genius marketing. I mean marketers try so hard to capture audiences, but the Super Bowl makes it easy because of the 99 million people already watching.

Do not forget this is the one instance that Americans are not hitting fast forward and skipping the commercials, they actually want to watch for once.

Even if you do not care for football, you are watching the commercials, the half-time show that flashed Jennifer Lopez and Shakira, or you watch just because that is what you are supposed to do.

It is not just for sports fans anymore, it is more than a game, it is entertainment.

Despite the large consumerism that is at the heart of Super Bowl Sunday, it is nice to see a country that is so divided on social and political issues, kick back, turn on the TV and enjoy the game.

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## Read Aloud

Continued from Page 9

Though that was not exactly how it was planned initially, it made the day come full circle for the freshman goalkeeper Lucas.

Lucas said when she was younger, she first became interested in Southern because of their women’s teams coming to her school in Milford, Conn. to read to them. Years later, Lucas was the one reading on that day as a Southern student-athlete.

“It’s fun and interesting for us because of that community outreach element,” said Cohen. “To see where Abby came from, and now she’s here and able to give back.”

Choosing the best part of the day will vary depending on who you ask, as quality time was spent all around. For Steinauer, she said her favorite part was listening to the kids’ desire to dress up like them.

“They were saying that it’s the hundredth day of school coming up,” she said. “So, they were like, ‘We’re going to dress up like you, but we’re going to have to be a little bit taller,’ and I was like, ‘You can do it!’ So, they were saying that they were going to dress up like us because they dress up for the hundredth day of school, so that was pretty cute.”

Steinauer and Lucas both said they love volunteering and that they would love to get out and go into the schools again. Moving forward, Cohen says his team will “100 percent” volunteer in the schools again, mentioning that his team will go to ACES School thanks to an invite from a graduate who works there.

“Maeghan Howard, an alumnus, she teaches at ACES in North Haven,” said Cohen. “She saw that we were down at Worthington, so she invited us to come and read to her students, so it’ll be something we do again soon.”



PHOTO COURTESY | SCSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TWITTER

Guard Imani Wheeler, senior, reading to children at Worthington Hooker School as a part of the World Read Aloud Day on Feb. 5.



# PHOTO

## Lunar New Year Celebration at Southern



A lucky cat sits on a table during the Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb. 3.

By Izzy Manzo  
Photo Editor

This week, the Southern News covered the Chinese Student Association's Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb. 3.

The celebration, which is co-hosted by the Multicultural Center, featured Chinese food, a photo booth with various New Year-themed props, and traditional red envelopes that signify good luck for the coming year.

With the 2020 new year, participants celebrated the beginning of the Year of the Rat. Last year marked the Year of the Pig, and 2021 will celebrate the Year of the Ox.

A popular Chinese myth, according to CSA adviser

Elu Tu, is that the Jade Emperor organized a race of animals for his birthday to determine the order of the zodiac.

The legend states that the rat rode on the back of the ox, jumping off just before the race ended and becoming the first animal in the zodiac cycle, according to the Independent.

Because of this, the Independent states that those born under the Year of the Rat are known for being quick-witted, versatile, and stubborn.

**See Page 8 in the Arts & Entertainment Section for more about the Lunar New Year.**



Red envelopes signifying good luck during the Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb. 3.



Nursing major Josh Estores, junior, grabs Chinese food during the Lunar New Year Celebration on Feb. 3.



Chinese calendar detailing the Lunar New Year during the celebration on Feb. 3.



A spread of Chinese cuisine rests on tables during the Lunar New Year Celebration on Monday.



World Languages and Literatures chairperson Resha Cardone (left) and secretary Jessica Reynolds eat Chinese food during the Lunar New Year Celebration.



Chinese Student Association advisor Elu Tu speaks to participants of the Lunar New Year Celebration.



Students and staff eat Chinese food during the celebration on Feb. 3.