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PEACE discusses healthy relationships Page 5



Art gallery supports expression Page 7

SOUTHERN NEWS

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University moves forward towards diversity

By Victoria Bresnahan **News Editor** and Tamonda Griffiths **News Writer**

One year later, action has been taken after professors used n-word

On Valentine's Day last year, students, faculty, staff and administration rallied for racial solidarity and equality following incidents of two professors saying the n-word during class.

According to Diane Mazza, chief human resources officer, one of the professors, Eric Triffin who said the n-word while singing a song in class—is no longer employed by the university.

Immediately following the incidents, President Joe Bertolino and faculty senate hosted a forum in which students were given the opportunity to voice their experiences, concerns, and outrage.

During the forum, members of the Black

Student Union and others came up with a list of suggestions moving forward.

'While last semester's experience was difficult," said Bertolino, at his town hall meeting last week. "I'm really proud of how our community has come together on these issues."

So far, Bertolino said there has been training of faculty and staff on diversity. Efforts to recruit more diverse faculty and staff have been made as

The Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee has been working to form a multicultural leadership group said Megane Watkins chairperson of the Minority Retcruitment and Mentoring for nonteaching faculty. Through this, students can now sign up and be a part of recruitment process for

Paula Rice, Title IX coordinator and member of the MRRC, said this initiative was recently

minority hires.

created due to some of the concerns students had.

Rice said it is important to have students be a part of the campus interviews. Students have a voice, she said, and evaluations of someone being considered for hire is usually a deciding factor.

"A lot of time with campus interviews, any student can be a part of that," she said. "Anytime they make these major announcements of individuals coming oncampus students are

encouraged to come."

Gladys Labas, chair of the faculty MRRC, said her committee is invited by different schools to be a part of their recruitment process.

"Also, retention is our biggest focus," said Labas.

She said she wants the faculty mentoring program to be more tailored to minority faculty, than 'one size for all.'

According to the SCSU Factbook, as of fall 2016, 19.6 percent of full-time faculty were a minority.

See Diversity Changes, Page 2

Community hour forgotten

Courses are being scheduled during hour despite 20-year-old resolution

By Victoria Bresnahan **News Editor**

In 1998, faculty senate enacted the Academic **Community Hour** resolution.

It stated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 2 p.m., classes are not supposed to be held. This, according to a 1998 communication between Professor and faculty senate member Jerry Dunklee and former university president Michael J. Adanti, was requested so students could engage in extracurriculars.

This spring semester, however, courses such as a section of HON 200, ART 215 and 220 are scheduled during this time.

For a course to be approved, schedules are submitted by departments to the deans of the schools said Robert Drobish, scheduling officer in the Registrar's

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President hosts town hall meeting



President Joe Bertolino hosts a town hall meeting to discuss any changes the university has undergone.

Retention rates, classroom ratios highlighted

By Tamonda Griffiths News Writer

During the president and faculty senate's annual town hall, President Joe Bertolino outlined the work going on at the university.

This spring, Bertolino said he hopes "to break ground on the new Health

and Human Services building.

By the end of the semester he said, hopefully the dedication of the Barack H. Obama Magnet

University School will take

"We will finish out 125th anniversary, it will culminate into a gala," said Bertolino.

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place.

Speaker enlightens students

Civil rights activist shares life story

By Tamonda Griffiths **News Writer**

During Black History month, the life and achievements of African Americans are celebrated. One such person is Martin Luther King Jr.

At an event hosted by the Multicultural Center, civil rights activist and greater New Haven community leader Carroll E. Brown shared how King had impacted her life and how she hopes to inspire others.

"I speak to you on a subject I live every day of my life," said Brown.

She did not have a particularly "sad" life story to tell such as living in the projects or being unable to keep food in her children's mouths, nor did she have stories of her parents being fabulously wealthy, she said.

"My father was a sharecropper," said Brown.

See Speaker, Page 3

Permanent food pantry constructed in Orlando House

Pantry created to combat food insecurity

By Haljit Basuljevic Reporter

For one-third of the students on campus, food insecurity is an issue. Because trying to relieve the problem can be personally difficult, Orlando House's food pantry offers help that students do not have to shy away from.

Public Health Department Secretary Michelle Mann said the reception towards the food pantry has been encouraging.

Since its official launch starting this semester, she has seen a dozen or so

students quietly flow in and out of the pantry on a regular basis.

Inside a small closet situated on the second floor of the Orlando House, pretzel bags and canned vegetables and fruits are stuffed and stacked on top of each other.

Below them are two drawers distinguished by labels ranging from whole grains to proteins.

What began as a small gift to a select number of students became an open source for those who needed help.

"We felt strongly that we wanted there to be no barriers, or at least as few as possible. No forms to fill out. No questions asked", said Mann.

The free-flowing

manner in which any student can walk in and leave the building is exactly the type of comfort the faculty had wanted, said Orlando House university assistant Ellen Clinesmith said.

Although heavy research is a difficult right now, she said simple tallies of what is being taken and head counts of students gives faculty enough information to meet their needs.

Part of this is to assess and tackle larger issues, such as homelessness. The idea is to keep observation on whether students who take the food are heating them up at their dorms or eating in their cars.

"I'd like to see a more coordinated effort.

See Food Pantry, Page 2



Some of the food available to students in the new Orlando House food pantry.

3D printers a push towards innovation

By Haljit Basuljevic Reporter

Malleable filament. Complex, sculpted figurines. The library reimagined.

Buley's 3D printers exposes the various creative possibilities students can gain in a competitive world.

Professor of sculpture Jeff Slomba figures for teaching art, emerging technology has become a necessity. He finds that the printers provide a useful model for students to understand the structure and design of their work, allowing them to build

ideas off of them.

However, this does not mean the machine will do everything for them.

"Once students have a couple of projects under their belt...then we introduce the AutoCAD tools," said Slomba who compared the use of software tools to digital photography. This means the principles of designs are still mainly about, but not limited to, traditional ceramic sculpting.

Watching a plastic sculpture emerge from the hot, tiny slices can take up over an hour. Add this to the fact that many of the MakerBot's, a type

of 3D printer, can only print in what is considered prototypical projects, ones lacking in detailed resolution.

Slomba said because of these limitations, he likes to keep the prints relatively moderate in size.

Systems Librarian

Parker Fruehan operates a research guide and submission form through a website titled Thingiverse, which allows students to have their designs printed. He said students can choose from designs ranging from pre-made to custom built. Since it may take a while based off the number of submissions,

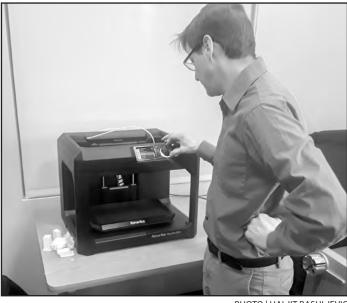


PHOTO I HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Parker Fruehan, systems librarian, using a 3D printer.

students are asked to wait a few days.

Students can attend a workshop hosted by Fruehan and other faculty members to learn more. There, he will showcase the nuances and guide them

through a tour of how 3D software works.

Director of Buley Library Clara Ogbaa said she wants to continue pushing the university to be more interested in cutting-edge technology

like 3D printers. "My goal as the new director is to enhance that area. People are doing what they call now AR, VR, and MR [Augmented, Virtual, and Mixed Reality]", said

Her reformation of what a library looks like is based on the idea that creative exploration should flourish upon campus. Libraries are not just columns of books nor mere rows of computers, she stated.

Her belief is that for any student to receive the best education, they must be prepared to compete with other schools who will graduate with 3D software and other various abilities under their belt.

Although funding is always an obstacle, Ogbaa stated she is open to more suggestions on how to make the library more focused on giving students the best resources.

There is still discussion about what constitutes as a social justice course and the potential learning outcomes the courses would seek to achieve.

According to Pettigrew, six students are currently involved with the task force and one of their suggestions is the inclusion of social justice in the firstyear experience.

Much of the research supporting the idea of social justice courses, Pettigrew said came from Butler University, in Indiana, and Fairfield University, both of which, he said, have social justice type courses.

English professor Meredith N. Sinclair said earlier in the semester during a faculty forum there were discussions of what it means to teach social justice courses, across various subjects.

According to Sinclair, when students have "teachers who look like them" they are more likely to do better in school and stay in school.

"If we wanna say were a social justice institution," said Sinclair, "that we are living up to that also by who's on our faculty."

Some faculty, Pettigrew said have "self-identified" themselves as having courses that could be all ready be deemed as social justice courses.

Diversity changes



President Joe Bertolino speaking to students and faculty at last year's forum.

Continued from Page 1

In total, 335 members were white, 29 were black, 14 were Hispanic, 32 were Asian and four were Indian/Alaskan Native.

Rice said she reviews all the applicants and has seen an increase in minority

interest. From 2018 to now, 36 non-teaching faculty were hired, and 10 were people of color.

"You want people to get interested and excited about Southern," she said, "and then you have to make Southern something exciting for people."

President of BSU Kendall Manderville said outreach has come from "now that it's been a year, than just conversation."

administration in the form of conversations. While this has been beneficial, he said, we need to be having more

"Unless we keep

contacting [Bertolino] there's not much outreach to us about what's been going on," said Katia Bagwell, former vice president of BSU. "We feel the responsibility to keep them on track of like what we want as like a student body, like especially with the diversity and the minority students on campus.'

Bagwell said BSU should continue to push the faculty senate and Bertolino to stay on top of their suggestions. She said it seems conversations on inclusive language between professors and students only occurs after an incident.

"Mostly all the content that's being put out to like, you know stuff like that has been coming from the Multicultural Center or it's been coming from us as the multicultural orgs," said Manderville.

While the Multicultural Center has hosted numerous events regarding diversity, he said these programs and policies should be coming from the top down.

Last year's Social Justice month, Manderville said it had a lot of great events taking place, especially from organizations that usually do not participate in the programming. However, he said the programs would be more

effective if students - not just the members of those organizations - attended as well.

Last year, students also called for a more diverse **Student Government** Association body. During the organization's previous election cycle, Alexis Zhitomi, president of SGA, said they reached out to numerous clubs and organizations.

'We talked a lot with the people from the Multicultural Center to kind of promote the election and encourage students to run for it," she said.

At one point this academic year, Zhitomi said the SGA body was 50 percent people of color, and 50 percent were white.

In an effort to promote a more inclusive curriculum, philosophy professor David Pettigrew teamed with the faculty senate to create the Curricular Task Force on Social Justice and Human Diversity.

"We're thinking about proposing that faculty would designate their courses," said Pettigrew, or there'd be process by which courses would be designated."

Pettigrew said the designation would help students know which courses were adhering to the university's pledge to be a more social justice university.

Bertolino. "And that's with

offerings." Bertolino said offering online and hybrid courses

are complex. He said the university has been conducting research on Charter Oak,

"Most of our students want a combination of both [online/hybrid courses and on-campus

our student to faculty ratio of 14:1 is the second lowest among all public institutions," said Bertolino, "our six-year graduation rate for fall 2016, was the second worst in the state at 52 percent."

Michael Shea said he is student to faculty average comes from.

Mickey Mouse's hands the number of 100 and 200-level courses that have 15 students or fewer in them," said Shea.

The ratio of 14:1, Shea said should be present in the 100 and 200-level courses in order to boost and "guarantee" retention.

then be able to get the education and attention they deserve.

Town hall

Continued from Page 1

Bertolino said while the university has many things to look forward to, he wanted faculty. staff, and administration to remember the "complexities" of students.

"Most of our students - we hear a lot about our student population and their socio-economic status," said Bertolino. "The truth is that most of our students come from working families, so they may be Pell eligible or they may not be Pell eligible, but most of them are caught in the middle."

Bertolino said most of the student population are middle class or lower middle class and sometimes have difficulty about making ends meet and how they are going to pay their tuition.

According to Bertolino, as tuition prices have continued to rise financial assistance has not kept up.

"When students can't eat, when they have no place to sleep, when they have little family encouragement for bettering their lives through education," said Bertolino, "we must do more than offer classes and assignments."

Since the start of the university's Swipe It Forward program, Bertolino said over 166 meals have been donated to students in need.

The university, Bertolino said, is well aware of the enrollment decline of seven percent over the past five years; 0.5 percent in undergraduate admissions and 28 percent in graduate admissions.

Courses and programs, Bertolino said need to be offered when they best meet the demands of a student's life.

"Time and again, I hear from students that they can't complete their degree in timely fashion," said Bertolino.

When he was in college, there was a plan for students that could be followed in order to graduate within the prescribed four-year span, he said implementing the new advising model, as well as a full-year course schedule, would help students do that.

"We need to begin to explore offering certain classes more than once a year," said Bertolino.

Many programs and courses, Bertolino said

were created with the traditional full-time student in mind.

In fall of 2017, 72 percent of freshmen returned to Southern that semester as opposed to in fall of 2016 when 78 percent of freshmen had returned.

"The steepest decline was amongst students who were in health and human services, primarily nursing," said Associate Vice President for Enrollment, Terricita Sass, at the town hall, "and we also saw another large decline with students who are undeclared."

Sass said she is often asked to ask students why they decided to leave the university, but found surveys to be ineffective with students.

"You get about a - a lot of work, for maybe about a three to five percent return," said Sass, "so that traditionally has not worked."

If Southern does not retain and more students, Bertolino said the reputation among prospective students will decline, and the lack of students will mean less state funding.

"Student enrollment in online and hybrid course has increased by 22 and 23 percent, respectively," said

a limited number of course

where everything is online.

courses]," said Bertolino. "Despite the fact that

English professor, curious to know where the

"You could count on

He said students would

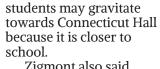
Food pantry

Continued from Page 1

I think the discreteness of having it decentralized in various places throughout campus can make it more comfortable for the student receiving the support", said Mann.

The Mobile Food Pantry arrives monthly in Connecticut Hall is also another option for students who suffer from food insecurity. Although, it has yet to make its semester

Public health professor Victoria Zigmont said



Zigmont also said while they intend to keep the shelves stocked with foods that are more or less ideally nutritional, any type of donation is more than

welcome. The staff said they have been astounded by the progress they have made and are hopeful to implement more ideas to

alleviate food insecurity. Zigmont said she will be attending a meeting at the Yale Symposium to discuss the methods and issues of food insecurity.



Food offered at the pantry includes canned goods.

Better shuttle schedule needed for commuters

By Ana Nieves Contributor

Christina Silva, a senior special education major, commutes from East Lyme, with her commute an estimated 50 minutes to an hour, so she finds it hard to get to class on time.

"I do have a car," said Silva. "On Wednesdays I drive because I have an 8:10 a.m. and my last class is scheduled till 10:05 p.m. Being there all day on Wednesday makes it nearly impossible to take the train."

Some commuter students taking public transportation have trouble getting to school on time due to the shuttle schedule.

According to recent figures from the SCSU Factbook, 60 percent of students are commuters. Taking the shuttle bus service to Union Station has become so popular that the shuttle had to get upgraded to a bigger bus, which still fills up.

The new bus to Union Station has 36 seats and still gets full, but students don't have to go about waiting for a separate bus anymore.

The schedule for Union Station has the first shuttle of the day leaving the shuttle at 7:55 a.m. and is estimated to get to Morrill Hall by 8:25 a.m., making the first shuttle unable to make it on time for 8:10 a.m. classes.

Silva said she enjoys taking the train because she does not like driving in traffic, but since the shuttle service schedule does not meet her schedule on Wednesdays she must compromise and drive to school.

Commuter students shape their schedule around transportation schedules because she said she would rather not deal with the "reckless drivers and traffic lights."

Michael Avitable, an undeclared freshman, said "I mainly try to fixate my schedule toward a certain time gauge, particularly between a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m."

Avitable said he tries to make sure his schedule is fixed this way, so he can have time to work on assignments and go to his part-time job because of the shuttle bus schedule that runs every hour to Union Station and back.

Missing the train or bus by a couple of seconds can cause some strong emotions for commuter students.

"It feels annoying because after being in school all day you just want to go home," said Silva

The shuttle service comes back to Morill Hall every hour, so commuter students find themselves having to wait another hour to get to where they need to be if they choose the shuttle service.

"There is definitely a feeling of wall punching, a feeling of very strong anger of how you just missed it, and in that situation, you really have to set aside your emotions and recompose yourself, find out when the nearest train or bus is coming and be on your way," said Avitable."

The shuttle buses are run by a company called First Transit, which follows the schedule put in place by the university.

Greg Tower, the general manager from First Transit, said: "The university comes up with schedule, and it's really geared toward the Metro North train schedule itself."

The reasoning for there only being one bus to Union Station running is First Transit follows up with what the university requests.

Tower said, "We do what the university asks, and budget limitations come into consideration."

Commuter students face daily struggles to get home based on the public transportation schedules, but they manage to pull through and shape their

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A campus shuttle bus heading towards its next stop.

upcoming semester based off the schedules, if they have the option.

"When planning for classes for the next

semester, I try to plan the schedule as to very few days as possible, but it doesn't always work out," said Silva.

Community hour

Continued from Page 1

The deans will then approve the schedule. Some courses, like social work or nursing, require off-campus obligations, and will occur during the hour.

"There are a lot of lab times, and just by virtue of the fact that they are two and half hours there is only so much space," said Drobish.

Over the years, Drobish said there have been times he would question why a course was scheduled at the time and if it can be changed. There is only so much time in the day, and some courses must be scheduled at the community hour time.

"Obviously, there is an effort, you know, to keep those at a minimum," he

said.
Scott LaFontaine, a
senior, and operations
manager of SCSU TV, said
many of the clubs meet at
the community hour time
because it's the primary
option for most students.

With many clubs meeting during the hour, however, it makes more difficult for students to be involved in multiple organizations.

"Maybe if there was an additional community hour, clubs could almost alternate certain times so people would be able to join more clubs on campus," said LaFontaine.

Maria Diamantis, president of faculty senate, said the body originally started thinking about installing a community hour in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Before the current community hour standard, Diamantis said the older version was more limited.

"So that clubs and organizations can have the opportunity to schedule their meetings," she said. "So that students, for example, who work have an opportunity to go ask advising, make appointments with faculty and et cetera."

She said it has not been brought to the attention of faculty senate that some departments have deviated from abiding to the community hour policy. Unless a compliant is made, the body does not hear about such issues. She said the body may explore the issues surrounding the community hour.

"It would be more beneficial for us to find out if the department says, 'we have to run the lab' and, you know, the lab takes two hours for example," she said.

Possibly changing the days or times could alleviate some of the issues, she said. It was suggested to her that on Friday one longer community could



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Fliers from some of the clubs and events that take place during the weekly 1-2 p.m. community hour.

be established considering most classes do not meet that day.

"That is something again, that we can survey the students," she said, "survey the departments needs and say, 'okay, would it be feasible to change it from Monday, Wednesday, Friday to Friday, three hours, [or] to Wednesday, Friday two hours. I don't know, you know different proposals and gather the data and come up with

another decision."
Art department
chairperson Professor
Terrence Lavin, said some
of their courses are split
into three-hour blocks

twice a week. In order to conform to general course schedules followed by other departments, an 8 a.m., for example, ends at 10:50 a.m. One block occurs during community hour

and concludes at 1:40 p.m.
"There is just no way
for us to start any earlier to
accommodate for that," he
said.

He said, he has not heard of meetings occurring during the hour in a while. For example, Lavin said currently, department chair meetings are not held during community hour. Rather, they occur at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays—a

time when he teaches. At one point, he said

faculty benefited from the hour as well and their meetings could be scheduled during that time. Although, recently he said those meetings take place more so in the evenings.

"I don't really know what happened," said Lavin. "I haven't heard anybody talk about community hour in a long time."

Other courses and sections are offered to students so they do not have to enroll into courses during that time. However, he said, the art department has never been able to work around the hour for studio classes due to their three-hour course blocks. He said the departments that schedule these courses may do so for a matter of "expedience."

"I think some departments can't adjust the schedules just quite to fit that, and it just means that we can't participate in some of that stuff," he said. "Sometimes, its not that anyone is trying to make it impossible for students to participate"

While he does not usually teach on Mondays or Wednesdays, Lavin said students have not spoken to him about conflicts with the hour in a long time.

"It used to be, years ago, that a lot more things happened regularly on campus during community hour," said Lavin, "but I don't think I really see too many other things happening."

Director of the honors college Terese Gemme, said their courses are contingent on faculty members teaching their classes, since the program does not have a set faculty.

This semester, there is one honors course, which focuses on mediation. running during the hour. Considering its focus, Gemme said it needed a larger amount of time.

"This was the only time we could fit it in, other than a night class, which we didn't want to do," she said, "because I think that is inconvenient for students." There were 15 sections available to students for this course. She said they hoped if a student could not take a course due to community hour, they could choose one of the other options.

Usually, the honors program does not schedule a course during the hour. She said no students have spoken to her about time conflicts with the community hour and the course.

"We try not to do it primarily because most honors college students, we really encourage them to be involved in clubs and leadership and so we are very, very conscious of that fact," she said. "We try to keep that block free for them."

Gemme said a possible resolution would be designating one block of time one day a week for faculty meetings and student activities.

Speaker

Continued from Page 1

Brown said she often tells people she is from Seattle, Wash.; it was there she said she learned to "share and care and that people who don't look like me matter."

At the age of six, Brown said her mother passed away at 42-years-old and she was sent to live with an aunt in Washington D.C for two years.

"While living there, I was not a happy little girl," Brown said, "because I couldn't play with other kids. I dressed differently from other kids. And I wasn't feeling like I needed to be there because I had no mommy."

Brown said as a people person all she wanted was

to be included.

"On a Saturday while everyone was riding a bicycle or playing basketball, volleyball or jacks," said Brown, "I had to go to piano...tap dancing, toe-dancing, accordion – that was my Saturday."

Brown said her aunt was strict about who she could or couldn't hang out with and how she presented herself. She said she cried to her father every night until he took her back

Brown said eventually she even formed a quartet.

"As young people, you don't have to wait for somebody to tell you when you are good at something," said Brown. "You should know when you have a skill that you can share with everyone else."

At 8-years-old, Brown said she began piano lessons.

Brown said she had

overheard her teacher tell her mother over-thephone that she was to use the back door s and wait on a bench by the room in which she was to be practicing in.

While waiting for her lessons to begin, Brown said she did a bit of snooping and discovered she would playing on a Chickering piano; she said looking into her teacher's living room, she saw a baby grand piano being played by a white girl.

One day, Brown said she went to her lesson alone and used the front door instead where she argued with her teacher's wife about using the back door.

"So, finally [the teacher] said 'Let her in'" said Brown, "of course it was because he was going to give me a lecture, but the little girl playing was told, 'You are not to tell your mother that I let a little-

colored girl come into this room and play on this piano."

Brown said that day had taught her a lesson.
"We're not free, I am not

free until we are all free," said Brown.
From that experience, Brown said she never felt good "being the only one

that they accepted," and

simply wanted similar opportunities.
"There are times that we – as we go through this life as African–Americans," said Brown, "there are going to be some of us that are going

as African-Americans," said Brown, "there are going to be some of us that are going to want to do everything that our white friends do and we're not able to, so what did we do we sell out." Brown said whatever she

Brown said whatever she did she "brought someone of color with her" as she progressed throughout her high school career and beyond to get the chance at the same opportunities; her life, she said, was "geared"



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Civil rights activist Carroll E. Brown at her event.

toward helping others."

"We can't go through this life alone," said Brown. "We need to help somebody."

The country, Brown said is "being run by so much racism" and it is important for people to remember to "do the right thing."

Brown said she urges young people to get involved in local politics as well as get involved within their schools.

"You can't sit back and complain and criticize," said Brown. "You need to get in there and help."

The numbness of the mass shooting epidemic

By Jacob Waring Opinion and Features Editor

Another mass shooting. This time in Aurora, IL. The massacre took place at Henry Pratt Co., a manufacturing business. Five died. Five more names to add to the never-ending list of casualties in the epidemic of mass shootings in the U.S.

I wonder if I am wasting ink writing this piece, as at this point it feels futile because what can be said at this point? Politicians from both sides, regardless of their position on gun control, shout into the void leading to nothing changing. Empty prayers are given to the victims. The 24 hour news cycle goes through its typical paces until the next shooting happens.

Apparently, nothing is more American than mass shootings. Guns have become too entangled into the lore and mysticism of this country. I genuinely believe this country cares more about

guns than their own citizens. It just means we have grown numb to mass shootings. I know I have.

I was 8 when the Columbine shooting occurred. The next 20 years would just become a constant stream of mayhem and death spread across movie theaters, places of worship, schools, military posts, concerts, basically everywhere. Columbine, VA Tech, Aurora's shooting in 2012, Newtown, Charleston, San Bernardino, Orlando, Las Vegas and Parkland are the shootings I can think of off the top of my head. Without a doubt, I have forgotten many more over the years than I have remembered.

I do not know what is needed to produce change. The hard statistical numbers always seem to fall on deaf ears.

According to Vox, there has been 1,964 mass shootings since Sandy Hook. We are already two months into 2019 and according to Vox, 121 people have been killed and 68 wounded in 39 mass shootings. They have gathered the data about mass

shootings from Gun Violence Archive.

Again, maybe everyone has grown numb to the raw, blood-soaked numbers. We as an American society, have gotten so used to the carnage that we do not even blink when we hear another mass shooting has occurred. That is beyond frightening to me.

We are already two months into 2019 and according to Vox, 121 people have been killed and 68 wounded in 39 mass shootings.

The anecdotal stories from survivors who emerge from the aftermath forever scarred from the horrors of a mass shooting, simply does not move us to change.

I have heard from a friend that they knew one of the parents of Sandy Hook who lost a child.

The child's parents decided to have an open casket for their child because they wanted people to know the cost. I read an article about the Pulse shooting that took place back in 2016. One gruesome line stuck with me, the first responders who maintained the crime scene had to endure the ringing of cell phones from the victim's friends and family calling to see if they are alive.

On this very campus we have a Sandy Hook memorial for the alumni who died during the shooting. How often do students, faculty and staff walk by it without a second thought? How many people either forgot it was there or simply did not realize the memorial exist. How many do not know or are numb to the stories behind those that it honors?

I am sure I could tell more or make a good assumption that anyone reading this article would be able to share the same sentiment.

You would think stories such as those would compel our legislators or the entirety of America to act. Yet to me it feels like we sit on our hands, follow the post-mass shooting script and continue with life until it is interrupted by the next mass shooting.

I grew up in Maine around guns. I recall times when everyone could drive around with a rifle in the backseat of their vehicle in preparation to hunt. I know people who have a hand gun for self-defense. I completely get that side of the argument and sympathize.

Such sympathy can only go so far because I am sick of the in action towards mass shootings. We know the solutions. We can work towards the solution and modify the laws until we hit that sweet spot to where everyone is at least satisfied or that we can reach a time where mass shootings become such a rarity that it is unheard of.

Snow days an inconvenience to Southern students

By J'Mari Hughes Reporter

In elementary school, I like many others would wake up in the winter and read the bottom of the WTNH screen hoping to see the name of my school on the cancellation list.

I remember one day when I was in high school, my sisters and I woke up at 6 a.m., got dressed, and walked to our bus stop in preparation to go to school, only then to have my other sister scream from the house, "School is cancelled!"

But that was not the last time that has happened, even in college. Though I cannot remember exactly when it may have happened, I would think that at one time or another Southern released a "campus closed" email after several students got up and ready for class.

I went through my SouthernAlert emails to see around what time the university typically emails students and staff to let them know school is closing. A majority of these messages were sent out the night before, giving Southerners enough notice that they can turn off their

alarm clocks or stay up all night bingewatching Netflix without having to worry about oversleeping.

A few of these emails were sent in the morning, the earliest, from my record, being 5:45 a.m. The earliest classes at Southern start at about 8 a.m. so in that case, 5:45 a.m. seems like a decent time. However, any later than that could result in cranky students waking up so early for no reason. But truthfully, if

Southern does send out cancellation emails at a problematic time, Î do not think they can be at fault. First, the amount of snow may be unexpected and the school might not have been prepared to call the day off. Second, I doubt Southern has intentions of inconveniencing their students and are just doing their best to prevent us from traveling in bad weather. Third, regardless of the inconvenience, just be glad they called school



The campus the day after Feb. 12 snow day where the university was canceled due to snow and icy conditions.

Waking up early enough to make it to class just to find out it has been cancelled may not be ideal, but if you ask me, getting the entire day to yourself is worth the simple task of changing back into pajamas.

Snow days may effect a

class' syllabus by throwing off when assignments are due. Just one may not do much but several could majorly alter a homework schedule, or even add days to the end of the school year. Being in New England, the snow, the cold weather, the school cancellations

might not be ideal but they sure are expected.

When we had a snow day on Feb. 12, Southern sent the message out around 11 p.m. the previous night, so it was either a good message to fall asleep to or one to wake up to.

When I woke up, there

was absolutely zero snow on the ground so if I had not checked my email, I probably would have gotten dressed and ready to go to school. I have concluded that Southern typically gives school-goers enough notice as to whether or not school will be cancelled.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

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Students gain awareness about alcohol abuse

Looking back: Spring of 1993



New smoking policy

President Michael Adanti approved a new policy banning smoking in the Student Center lounges, the "Owl's Nest," and faculty offices. The areas not effected by the policy were individual campus dorms, suites, and apartments. The policy went into effect at the beginning of the 1993 summer semester. Southern because the first four-year public academic institution in Connecticut to go smoke-free.

February

- Men's soccer coach Ray Reid was awarded the Division II Coach of the Year after going 22-2 and winning their third national championship.
- David Pederson, the dean of student affairs, was released from the hospital after being "treated for a mild heart attack."
- Men's basketball forward Jeff Kimbrough was robbed at gunpoint at a red light. He was forced to relinquish his 1992 BMW 325.
- The men's and women's indoor track team won the Collegiate Track Conference Championships.

March

Two Southern students were charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, cultivation of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia after Hamden police raided their home.

April

- Steven Jay Gold, an assistant philosophy professor, resigned from the faculty after being arrested on sexual assault and kidnapping charges.
- Art students Brian Murray and Rob Norwell painted a mural of bears, tigers, mice, and turtles on the second floor of the Orchard Medical Building in the Hospital of Saint Raphael's.
- Three students and one former student were charged with liquor violations at an off-campus party. Two of the students were charged with sale of liquor without a permit, and the other two were charged with possession of liquor by a minor.
- Sociology professor Katherine McCarthy was shot in the chest in her home in Woodbridge. She was in "fair-condition" while being treated at Yale-New Haven hospital.
- Gary Kenney, the head cash accounts clerk in the business office, was arrested on charges of criminal harassment and driving while intoxicated.
- The Ramones performed in front of 800-1,000 students at the Brownell parking lot to kick off Southern Fest.
- Golf won the NECC Championship in their finial season. Golf was cut because of the athletic department's inability to finance the team.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Michael Riccio, Managing Editor

By J'Mari Hughes Reporter

On Monday, Feb. 11, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. students of North Campus Residence Complex hosted a table for students to turn to when in need of alcohol abuse help.

"It's more or less to raise awareness on campus for anyone who's not sure if there's anything out there for them," said Tyler Pelletier, a junior and the table.

Pelletier and graduate student Katelyn Wentz gave away candy and SCSU Collegiate Recovery cups to those who stopped by their table to learn





 $one\ of\ the\ students\ hosting \\$

about resources on campus such as SMART recovery meetings, which Pelletier said is a non-12 step motivational speaking program and Alcohol

Anonymous meetings, which take place on Tuesdays.

"For someone who maybe isn't gonna search for the resources, we want them to

be able to know that they're at least here," Pelletier said. "We let them know we usually have at least one or two programs going on a semester."

Wentz, speech pathology major and North Campus resident advisor said knowledge of these support systems help her in her role of assisting dorm students.

"Being an RA, I think it's really beneficial to know about all the resources on campus just because you never really know what your resident is gonna need," she said. "You're never gonna know who your resident really is or what they've been through and if they can benefit from something like this, then I love to bring it to attention and really help them through it."

Southerr PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU Students write on Post-It board about what they think recovory is from.

See Alcohol abuse, page 6



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Isaiah Yopp went door-to-door quizzing Schwartz Hall residents.

Schwartz residents guizzed on Black Women history

By J'Mari Hughes Reporter

In honor of Black History Month, senior Isaiah Yopp went door-todoor in Schwartz Hall, quizzing residences on African-American female history, an event he named Who Run the World? Girls," after the

black female icon, Beyoncé. "I felt like throughout history there've been a lot of influential African-American females and most of them don't get the recognition they deserve or don't get the credit from other people who may steal from them or borrow from them," he said, "so it was important for me to highlight some of the people we may see on the TV screens or hear their music to how they've broken barriers and how they've helped people to follow in their lead.

One historical figure who Yopp, a resident advisor of Schwartz Hall, pointed out was a democratic senator Shirley Chisholm—the first African American to run for president.

"People don't really discuss her

often," he said. "I feel like during Black History Month, people focus on Rosa Parks or Coretta Scott King and they're important but I think there are some other black females that don't get the credit they deserve."

Yopp ran a cart of candy and

snacks through the halls and knocked on students' doors to ask them questions such as "Who was the first black woman to be featured in the Hall of Fame?" and, "Who was the first black woman to be on the cover of a Dior campaign?" Questions and answers ranged from historical figures, like Shirley Chislom to current celebrities like Rihanna and Halle Berry.

One student, Chanel Bonsu, a sophomore, took a guess to a question when she answered with "Beyoncé" and ended up being

"I feel like some black musicians in Africa don't get appreciated as much as Americans," Bonsu, a communications disorder major said. "They're doing really good things but nobody's focusing on them.'

Communications major Tyler Rettberg came close when he guessed who was who the first American to win an Olympian gold medal in every event was, answering Gabby Douglas instead of Simone Biles in gymnastics.

"I thought this was pretty interesting. No one else has come to ask questions before," said Rettberg, a sophomore. "I made an educated guess. I didn't get it right but you can't win everything.

See Run the World, page 6

P.E.A.C.E. advocates healthy relationships

By Jessica Guerrucci Reporter

With February being the month of love and a time for people to think about the importance of love in their lives, it is also a good time to talk about healthy relation-

Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment held their first fundraiser this semester on Monday, Feb. 11, in the spirit of Valentine's Day. P.E.A.C.E. invited students to buy a bag of candy and make a Valentine for their loved one, at the same time, learn what it means to have a healthy relationship.

With healthy relationships being the focus of the

fundraiser, Amanda Valentin, president of P.E.A.C.E and a social work major, said it is just one of many topics they

"We go into classrooms, we sit at tables and talk about things like healthy relation ships, affirmative consent, and by-stander intervention, which is really a big one we focus on," said Valentin.

Melissa Kissi, who is an advisor for the club and works with the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy, and Support Center as a university victim advocate, said it's important to educate students on healthy relationships all year round, not just around Valentine's

See Candy Bags, page 6



Some of the items found at the P.E.A.C.E. fundraiser



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Tyler Pelletier speaking to an individual about the various services.

Alcohol Abuse

Continued from Page 5

Pelletier said that he and Wentz, along with Sarah Keiser of the Alcohol and Drug Services, aimed for exposure when they set up their table so they could be able to reach out to students in need. They have been spreading the word for only a year or two, Pelletier said, and as other collegiate outbreak committees told them, it all starts with getting themselves out there.

"I feel like everybody has an uncle, cousin, family member or someone close to them that this has affected," said Pelletier. "There's a lot of big issues today as far as the opioid epidemic and over-prescriptions, so this is a pretty relevant subject."

Halley Shambra, a junior and North Complex resident said she was just returning from class when the booth caught her attention and she wanted to see what it was about.

"I think it's amazing," she said, "knowing that there's a resource like this for kids my age."

Shambra, a special education major, said she has witnessed alcoholism in her family and because college students are an the age where they can be exposed to alcohol, she thinks it is reassuring for Southern to have programs for them to turn to.

"I didn't realize Southern had AA meetings and I think that's great for students to have this type of resource and ability to live in this community that is supportive of them," she said.

Wentz said it is important for students to ask for help when they need it and to be aware of what is happening on campus.

Pelletier said contrary to popular belief, anybody can be affected by alcohol abuse, not just adults. On Feb. 26, he said Southern will be showing a documentary, Generation Found, and hosting a panel where he, and those from local treatment centers and organization starters will discuss alcohol help.

"There is always hope," he said, "no matter what."

Run the World

Continued from Page 5

Adaeze Iwuchukwu, a sophomore and nursing major, said she feels today's society does not understand that black women are the foundation of society and looks to Rosa Parks and Maya Angelou for inspiration.

"Women in general and black women specifically are like the lower-class society," she said. "There's men and women and men are looked at as superior. There's blacks and whites are looked at as superior. It's really sad so it's nice that (Isaiah) is going around and letting everyone know who's the sh-t."

Yopp said he has heard a quote saying the most underappreciated, most disrespected person in America is the black woman. "Obviously being raised by a black woman and having a black grandmother and I've seen the things they've had to battle in their own everyday life," he said. "I think to shine light on not only the very day problems black women have but the more societal problems that they have."

Yopp said he was hoping students would be surprised and eager to learn new information during his round of trivia. He said he aimed for students to hear about women they do not know, or do

not know much about, and decide to do some research on them.

"I think its important that everybody takes responsibility to learn American icons," he said, "and why our country is the way it is and how it got to be the way it



Tyler Rettberg being quizzed.

Humans of SCSU: Jonathan Meyers



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Candy Bags

Continued from Page 5

"Our center that I work at, and as well as P.E.A.C.E, the both of us do educate all year round, but I think it sort of gets a little more attention, so we can take advantage of the holiday or at least the month of February," said

Danae Sawchyn, marketing and promotions manager, and English major, said both P.E.A.C.E and V.P.A.S discuss similar topics including sexual misconduct and healthy relationships.

"V.P.A.S has two campus advocates, said Sawchyn. "They're not students, they're trained advocates who are there to help people who have survived an abusive relationship or similar situations, whereas P.E.A.C.E is a student organization that wants to promote awareness of sexual misconduct."

During the fundraiser, David Rivera, a social work major, who is also a part of P.E.A.C.E came by to support the club and said he was going to give the valentine to his mom and will either give the candy bag to his sister or one of his friends.

"I try to support when I can," said Rivera. "I think they're really doing a great thing as far as raising awareness on campus and really trying to promote a very sensitive topic that not a lot of people want to talk about."

With the money gained from the candy bags, Valentin said they hope to be able to collect funds, so the club can hold events in the future.

"We are really just making sure the club will have funds so that they can do things like buy a tablecloth, or buy food for an event, or get equipment that other clubs might have that we may not have the funds for since we are still new and have selective funding," said Valentin.

At the end of the semester Sawchyn said they will be holding an event called Take Back the Night, which is a rally against domestic violence meant to empower survivors of sexual abuse.

Even though P.E.A.C.E talks about serious topics, Sawchyn said in the future they want to do more fun activities. Valentin said in the past they have done Jeopardy where they had pizza talked about chemistry and 90's pop music.

"We do love to be educational because that is kind of the core of our club, but we are also really fun people," said Valentin. "We like to goof around, so we also try and make that apparent in our events and activities too."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU Some of the cards on the table.

A button that says the name of the club.

Danae Sawchyn (right to left) Amanda Valentin were two students manning the table.

By Haliit Basulievic Reporter

To find Jonathan Meyers is to be enthralled in a series of whiplashes. Being a part of multiple clubs, including SCSU TV, Best Buddies, LGBTQIA PRISM and the LARP club, Meyers says that although it tends to get tiring, it has become ultimately rewarding to do what he loves.

One of the ways he has implemented his passion here at Southern has been working as a technical assistant at SCSU TV. This enables him to film and edit videos of his liking while also giving him the skills he's been able to hone to create his own content on his own YouTube channel.

However, filming does come with its drawbacks.

"The hardest part of my job is that I don't like hearing my voice on camera and sometimes it's hard for me to conduct interviews, "said Meyers.

As a person living with autism, he said that the community on campus cultivates a welcoming and accepting environment, that with these venturous routes at Southern he has been able to create connections with the people he has met.

He attributes much of his adept education to the communications department, which has given him the valuable resources necessary for understand video editing a lot better.

He said that despite becoming nervous around strangers he powers through the anxiety for the sake of

getting a good story. As almost any artist can relate, the

most rewarding aspect of his work is slowly plucking the inspiration out of his head and watch it unravel out unto the world.

An example of his work that can be found on SCSUTV YouTube channel features a student dressed up as a vampire--fictionally named Belladonna Nightshade--roaming around in broad daylight in an attempt to disturb and frighten Southern students.

"It was my most ambitious idea and it turned out fantastic. It was really fun and funny to watch," said Meyers.

Which may explain why his favorite genre he anticipates writing in is science fiction. He said that with science fiction the creative possibilities are endless and appreciates many of the scientific aspects that underlie them.

With that, he is also a Jurassic Park fanatic. He stated that he loved Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom, the newest edition in the Jurassic Park franchise and that made him fascinated as he was when he was a

"I especially loved the darker tone of this movie. I loved the dinosaurs both old and new, "said Meyers, "The opening scene was my favorite opener of any Jurassic Park movie."

He said that pays homage to the classic series in his videos and features a catalog that he's continually working on. Some of his videos feature slow, dramatic shots to the fun-loving and rapidly cut

With such experience and skill, he hopes to eventually edit videos professionally in the future along with his beloved science fiction.

Southern supports human expression through art gallery

By J'Mari Hughes Reporter

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, the art department held its annual opening reception of the Ceramic Collection in Buley Library and unveiled its new pieces into the collection from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Art professor and gallery director Cort Sierpinski said while some pieces were made local, others are national and international, coming from countries like Mexico, Sweden and Italy.

The ceramic exhibition is on display in the art gallery in the from Jan. 30 to Mar. 28.

Sierpinski said the collection includes 60 different pieces, each one created in a unique way.

"This is a collection that's been developed probably over the last 15 years," he said, "so each year when we do annual pottery sales in the Engleman lobby and the money that's generated from those sales is used to buy pieces in this collection."

Sierpinski said the collection was started 50 years ago by Mary Lou Alberetti, who taught ceramics, and originally intended it to be a women's ceramic artist collection. It was not until later that it began to expand.

Sierpinski said the art displays began at Southern about four years ago in the library, the one space the university allocated for it. For years, he said, there was not a art gallery on campus and any creations would be displayed in the lobby or hallways of Earl Hall.

"It's something we've been advocating for for decades and [Southern] is one of the few campuses in the CSU system that hasn't consistently had an art gallery." said Sierpinski

Art professor Greg Cochenet

said with the gallery, they can show students the variety of possibilities within ceramics.

"There's only so much that we can do here at Southern so by purchasing artwork, different firing styles, and different types of clay," he said, "it's just a way to show them what could be done and hopefully give them inspiration."

Freshmen Elia Green and Alex Mickens said being art majors, they both came to the gallery to see what other artists are creating in hopes of inspiration and finding new ways to create different kinds of art.

"Just to see how creative others can be is perfect," Mickens said. "It's a cool way for students to connect and see what art is out there"

Mickens and Green both said that while they do not focus on ceramics, they believe that if they were taught, they could one day make art that would belong in a gallery.

"These are by professional ceramic artists," Sierpinski said, "so it's not something that the average student taking a class or two in ceramics is gonna be able to easily do. This is over years of experience."

Sierpinski said making ceramics is a long process. It starts with clay in its raw, moist, pliable state. Once it dries, he said, it is fired, glazed, and fired once more.

One of Green's favorite pieces was a stonewall piece by an artist named Vince Pitelka. He said he admired the shape, color and texture and called it "crazy impressive."

Cochenet said it was hard for him to pick a favorite. Rather than having one, he said he could choose multiple that are all different from one another.

"It's tough for me because the

whole point of the collection is to show diversity," he said. "There's so many different styles, so many different techniques that are displayed. When we go to purchase work we try to think of what's already in the collection and what we could add to it."

He said the gallery displays almost every possible ceramic technique from those fired with wood to those fired in an electric kiln at a range from 1500 to 2400 degrees Fahrenheit. Sierpinski said he hopes he hopes people interested in ceramics can see the wide range of what they can do.

"Art is [a] form of human expression," Mickens said. "It's interesting to look at and this art is really cute."

Terrance Lavin, chairperson of the art department, said the collection is an opportunity for students to be up close to and see how a successful piece of pottery was created.

For more photos of the Ceramic Collection taken by August Pelliccio see page 12.



PHOTO I J'MARI HUGHES

Elia Green (left) and Alex Mickens in the art gallery on Feb. 13.



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

The Ceramic Collection in the Hilton C. Buley Library.

Southern shows students some love on Valentine's Day

By Amanda Cavoto Arts & Entertainement Editor

Southern served up some sweets for Valentine's Day at ProCon's Hearts and Darts event on Thursday, Feb. 14.

"Even though my schedule is a little busy, trying to manage work, I saw free food and prizes, I got to make my way [to the event.]" said Ronahi Musa, a sophomore, social work major.

Students swarmed in for the free food provided by Three Brothers Diner, which consisted of macaroni and cheese, mozzarella sticks, cheeseburgers, chicken tenders and French fries.

While some students raved about the free food, Annaleise Sabatino, a senior, psychology major, wishes they had a picked a different provider.

"I personally didn't like the food they served, I think a different caterer would be better for future events." Sabatino said.

Some other students did

ot agre

"I'm here for the free food," said sophomore Lauren Spencer, "and my friends told me to go."

The ballroom in the Adanti Student Center was fully decorated with a candy bar, complete with a make-your-own mason jar that came with plenty of decorations such as stickers, a back drop for photos, and a white and red rose center piece on each table.

"It seems like a good time," said Jessica Petry, a junior, history major, "it's very well decorated."

When a student first entered the event they were each asked to fill out a raffle ticket for prizes such as a Nintendo Switch, stuffed animals, chocolate filled heart-shaped boxes and t-shirts totaling \$1000 worth of prizes.

To celebrate the Valentine's Day theme, ProCon hired local musician Alice Kristiansen, a New York City based artist who gained her fame on YouTube back in 2011 by covering songs and writing some of her own.

For Sabatino, she said she enjoyed the live music instead of "just playing the radio" and the acoustic style instead of the the regular types of entertainment provided at Southern.

The efforts of the multiple student organizations involved, those being ProCon, Commuter Commission and the RHA were somewhat unnoticed as the turnout was generally lower than expected.

"I do wish they did more to advertise for the event, I didn't know about it until briefly beforehand." said Sabatino.

Richard Mills, a senior and member of ProCon who helped serve food at Hearts and Darts said how much he enjoys helping create these events.

"I like to make sure that everyone has some type of experience here on Southern's campus. We like to do different events like this throughout the entire year," Mills said. "It's really rewarding.



PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO

Jessica Petry (left), Ronahi Musa and Lindsey Fitzgerald at the Hearts and Darts event on Feb. 14.



PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOT



PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO

Singer and songwriter Alice Kristiansen performing at the Hearts and Darts event on Feb. 14.

ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

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Political agenda in award shows and its impact on students

By Jessica Guerrucci Reporter

The Grammys have always been about music and the arts however, as years progress, the award show continues to become increasingly political.

Many students have mixed beliefs regarding whether celebrities should voice their political views and if it is appropriate to do so. Khue Hoang, a public health major, said that while she thinks celebrities should speak out, but the Grammys is not the place to do it.

"I don't think they should address it at award shows because it's supposed to be a happy environment, rather than bringing up topics that might offend other people," said Hoang.

Jessah Doctor, an exercise science major, also believes celebrities should speak out, but said there should be a line. He said the focus of the show should be the nominees and their awards, but if the topic comes up, they can comment on it.

"It depends what the conversation is on. If it's not about politics, and you're going to start arguing whether you like Donald Trump or not, it's not the time or place," said

Aaron White, a business management major, said bringing up these topics can change the environment at the show because they are often controversial, but that does not mean they cannot speak their

opinion.
"I think it kind of changes the environment, but there always has been a little bit of a political message to award shows and, in the Grammys, just because of how many people watch it," said White.

Justin Gendron, president of the College Democrats, said it is a celebrity's first amendment right to speak their opinions, and awards shows, and music often carry a political message.

"Music is always about a statement, and that is a statement," said Gendron. "Music can be so political - everything can be so political, it's not taking away from anything if they say 'hey, I don't like this person, or 'we should be doing this."

Gendron said celebrities should be able to speak about whatever topic they choose, and they should use their status to advance their platform. He said the only time it becomes a problem is when they



Jonah Morring, a junior, sitting in the resource room in the student center on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

use that platform to incite to Tomi Lahren." violence.

"I think when people get aggressive on their platforms I feel like that's when it turns ugly," said Gendron. "Although I found it hilarious, I don't think it was appropriate for someone like Cardi B to say, 'I'll dog walk you'

Jonah Morring, a

sociology major minoring in political science, said celebrities speaking out has become more common in recent years because we have allowed a non-politician to take on a major political role.

"To combat that, there

needs to be somebody else but Morring said it is that other people look up to that really speaks out and says 'hey, I agree with this or I don't.' I feel like that's really important," said Morring.

Celebrities often use their platform to draw attention to big controversial issues,

important to remind to people to do things like vote.

"Voting is the one thing that normal people, like us, have to do to be involved with politics. That's the first step. At 18, you get registered to vote, [and] that's your first introduction to politics at a young age," said Morring.

Voting registration has been promoted recently from celebrities such as Taylor Swift and Leonardo DiCaprio.

While the celebrities speaking out may not be political expertise, they have a big influence on their viewers, and they

"Just drawing attention to problems is super influential with what knowing what the outcome is," said Morring. "Them not knowing exactly what they're talking about and going into deep detail is just irrelevant. They don't need to, they just need to draw the attention."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Aaron White sitting with friends on the plaza level of the Adanti Student Center on Feb. 13

K-pop gains popularity in American pop-culture

By Jessica Guerrucci Reporter

With BTS being the first Korean pop presenters at the 2019 Grammy Awards, one could say KPOP is slowly becoming more popular in America.

For some students though, this isn't the first time that they have heard of KPOP. Kessiah-Ali Powell-Keyton, a psychology major, said she loves BTS and was excited to see the band preform.

"I thought it was really awesome. especially since a lot of people don't know much about KPOP or the Korean music industry to begin with, so for them to come here and preform, I thought it was really cool," said Powell-Keyton.

Katerina Varsos, an anthropology major, said BTS's performance at the Grammys was both a step forward and a step back.

"I don't think it's the right time, to be honest, with where our country is. I hate getting political but the amount of xenophobic

comments I've gotten just because I'm into KPOP has gotten over the top," said Varsos.

The Grammys is sometimes thought to not show much diversity.

Justin Garcia, an exercise science major, who is involved with the multicultural center, said the Grammys could have been more inclusive of other ethnicities.

"It is not really representing the whole ethnic scale, in terms of Latin based music, and Korean pop, and just other ethnicities that aren't represented within the Grammys," said Garcia.

However, Garcia said BTS's performance exposed people to music from different parts of the world, and he hopes that in future Grammys there will be more of it.

On the other hand, Naima Morst, a communications major, said the Grammys only included BTS for money.

"I don't think it was necessarily to bring more exposure, but kind of like a move or marketing strategy

to get the money that you need to keep being profitable," said Morst.

While KPOP is becoming more popular in the U.S, people still have misconceptions of what it is. Morst said people do not take the time to learn about the culture behind the music.

'Whenever I mention KPOP or anime or anything like that they first think cartoons, then they think cartoon music, and they think like pink things, and bubbles and stuff, and somehow chopsticks which is completely two different things," said

Varsos also said people aren't aware there is more to KPOP than just BTS. She said there are different genres, including her favorite band, The Rose, which has a British alternative style.

In terms of how they are different from American groups, Varsos said KPOP groups are more talented and classically trained.

"They're trained anywhere between six months, and I

remember in one of the most recent groups one of the guys had trained for five years, in dancing, singing, and rap," said Varsos.

Despite the talent amongst these bands, Powell-Keyton said a reason people are not getting into KPOP is because the music is primarily in a different

language. "I think the only issue is that since they do most of the time speak and sing in Korean, a lot of people don't understand and don't want to take the time to look at the subtitles or the learn the language," said

Powell-Keyton. Powell-Keyton said having BTS perform on the Grammys did help bridge the gap and will help people become more knowledgeable about what KPOP is.

"We're known on their side for hip-hop, R&B, rock--they know our music, so I think it was a good contributor to try and break our break our gap with them," said Powell-Keyton, "so then they can come over here and people can get familiar with their music."



Kessiah-Ali Powell-Keyton (left) and Naima Morst at the Adanti Student Center on Feb. 13.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The band BTS's single "IDOL" featuring Nicki Minaj released on Aug. 24, 2018.

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Guard Imani Wheeler, a junior, drives to the paint in a home game against American International.

Owls struggle through final stretch of season

By Matt Gad **Sports Writer**

Last year the women's basketball team went all the way to the semifinals of the NE10 Tournament, off the hot shooting from senior Abby Hurlbert and into an NCAA Tournament first round game with Stonehill. But this season the loses seem to be piling up with a little too much frequency.

Last Wednesday, the Owls played well for part of the game, and senior Amanda Pfohl established a new singleseason record with 91 made three-pointers, but they fell to American International 78-65 for the team's 12th loss of the year, a number they never reached last season. In their final game of the

previous season, their NCAA Tournament first round loss to the Stonehill before halftime, going College Skyhawks was just the team's 10th loss all trailing by four at 33–29.

"There's nothing really to say, it is kind of just like do it," Pfohl said. "We have a really good chance to make it to the playoffs and that is what we are rooting for, but I think mentally, we all need to be on the same page so we can get that job done."

Coming into the Feb. 13 American International contest, the NE10 conference standings were still close enough to give the Owls a good chance to qualify for the tournament, and the opportunity was there for them to make a statement.

The Owls came out of the gate hot, opening up a 20–12 lead after the first

quarter, but the Yellow Jackets closed the gap into the locker room only

Junior Imani Wheeler had 12 points to lead the Owls and junior forward Kiana Steinauer was on her usual rebounding pace, with eight at the break, but not enough of the team's starters were getting involved. Reliance on the bench, also proved difficult, with redshirt junior Bridget Sharnick and senior Erin Ryder were both held without a

bucket. "We did not shoot well again," coach Kate Lynch said. "It happened against [the University of] New Haven too, so at some point maybe we have to do something a little different -- maybe we have to crash the boards

- we have to get ourselves out of that hole."

In the second half, the Yellow Jackets slowly pushed themselves into the driver's seat and held on for the 13-point victory, with their senior forward Dana Watts leading them with 31 points and Wheeler, Steinauer and junior Aaliyah Walker just getting 48 altogether.

"Dana Watts is an excellent basketball player and [American International] has some really great pieces – it is always a difficult matchup for us and we had to play a really good basketball game," Lynch said. "We did for probably two and a half quarters so we were there but that thirdquarter drought got to us."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

Men's Basketball falls short against the Yellow Jackets

By Matt Gad **Sports Writer**

With only a few games left in the regular season, the men's basketball team was unable to complete the comeback against NE10 conference opponent American International College.

As only one game separates the top four teams in the NE10 Southwest Division, and with the season wrapping up quickly, the urgency to win was in high demand for the Owls.

That sense of urgency seemed to be stifled for Southern as the game started, as multiple early turnovers led to a 12-0 run by the Yellow Jackets.

"We started off early with bad energy. We came out flat and they went on a run early," said senior guard Isaiah McLeod. "We were kind of in a hole from the jump."

Even as the Owl's offensive production started to pick up, turnovers leading to fast-break buckets by the Yellow Jackets kept the Owls at a

"They weren't doing

anything to make us turn over the ball. When they got the lead, we tried to start going one on one," said senior guard Kealen Ives, "It starts with me as the point guard turning the ball over that's unacceptable, I have to be a better leader for the team."

While 11 first half turnovers created the large gap between teams, the hot shooting of American International extended it. The Yellow Jackets pushed their lead to 47-30 and finished the first half shooting 56.3 percent (18–32) from the field, along with 57.1 percent (8-14) from behind the arc.

As the second half of play started, Southern's energy and effort looked to do more of the same as they committed two more unforced turnovers, allowing the Yellow Jackets to burst out of the break and score almost immediately.

The Owl's began to clean up their act after the tough start to the second half, limiting their turnovers and allowing their offense to flow.

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard Kealan Ives, a senior, gets introduced before a home game on Feb. 13.

Swimmers and divers from the women's team celebrate and show off their medals.

Swim team takes third at NE10 Championship

By Matt Gad **Sports Writer**

PHOTO I SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

In what head coach Tim Quill called a 'rebuilding year,' the Owls' men's and women's swimming and diving squads placed second and third, respectively, at the NE10 Conference Championships, which were hosted at Worchester State's Divison III facility.

"Our entire team swam their butts off" Quill said. "We just did not have the depth on the men's side and the women were a young team. They made huge gains, though, developing into fullfledged college athletes.'

The men, who capped off the three day event in second place, behind Bentley, were led by junior Leonardo LaPorte, who made

nationals last season and will be competing there again next month. LaPorte set a meet record in the 100-yard butterfly and then qualified for nationals on his 200-meter fly.

"We had a lot of lows but we also had a lot of highs," LaPorte said. "We went through a lot as a team and we grew as a family."

The year started off for the men and women with a lot of road meets, beginning with the Fairfield Invite on Sept. 29. The men started to get on more of a roll when they faced off against UConn and Central Connecticut State Oct. 20 and finished in second place before coming home to defeat Pace, 124-107.

"We learned a lot this year and next year's definitely going to be

different. We will hopefully be a lot tougher - this year we had a lot to learn from," LaPorte said.

The women were a smaller team this year, with seven freshmen joining the team and trying to make an impact for a program's well-regarded as a perennial Division II swimming and diving contender.

Junior swimmer Erin Leirey said she felt that the hard work of her and the rest of the women throughout the season really paid off, even though they were not able to claim a championship

'We lost a lot of really good seniors but the ladies we gained this year definitely made up for it,"

SEE SWIMMING AND DIVING PAGE 11

SPORTS FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Escaping the cold, starting in the sun



By Matt Gad **Sports Writer**

Ever wondered where some of your athletic classmates and fellow Conn-vistors disappear to this time of year while it is cold and snowy outside? Well, they go down south. That's right - every February, and again over Spring Break - the baseball and softball programs open their seasons up in warmer temperatures.

It is just not possible to get all of the regular-season in before May, when you do not start by February, and it is still too cold and unbearable for baseball that time of year.

I mean, the first week or so in March is usually pretty unbearable for baseball and softball too so you cannot blame them for joining other teams across all three NCAA divisions, in heading to places like Florida and South Carolina to begin their campaigns.

Since schools in the south, on average, get out for a summer a week earlier than schools in the Northeast, some of the Owls' opponents have already played a healthy dose of games while we are just ready for the season's first few contests this time of

For example, baseball plays eight games in warmer temperatures this year before they head back to Connecticut and take on the University of Bridgeport, for the Northeast opener. So, yes, they are taking fancy trips right at the beginning of the season, unlike other teams which may need to make the NCAA Tournament to get out of the region.

But baseball and softball are not the only sports on campus that have planned trips like this -- other programs have chosen to spend parts of their breaks from school in warmer temperatures in the past, typically during their preseasons. But teams such as women's lacrosse have previously headed out of the area to play actual games, too.

Just last year, the aforementioned lacrosse team even played two games in Colorado in the very early stages of the season, taking on one team from the NE10 and one that was from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

For whatever reason, it can be good for teams to get into a totally different scenery because, while the Owls and University of New Haven Chargers are the only teams in the NE10 from the state, the farthest any regularseason games take place is in New Hampshire, when they square off against Southern New Hampshire University.

So, wonder where your classmates may be this time of year in baseball and softball, because while you are learning complex math equations or figuring out where Madagascar may be, they are having fun playing games in sunny skies and hot weather, even if they do need to prepare for rain delays.



Guard Joey Wallace, a senior, takes a free throw during a home game against American International.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Wallace helps propel team to playoffs

By Max Vadakin Contributor

As the season begins to grind towards its end, the Southern men's basketball team is looking for an all-around effort to enter the tournament in full swing. One of these players giving it their all is senior guard Joey

Wallace has played all four years at Southern, bringing a multi-faceted play style that has helped the team succeed. This year is no different, as the business management major is averaging 7.4 points per game and 4.6 rebounds a game off of 44.7 percent shooting.

"Joey's the type of guy who does a little bit of everything well," said head coach Scott Burrell. "It could be leadership one time, it could be playing defense, it could be making shots, taking charges. He's ready to do all that little stuff."

While Wallace's on court contributions to the team help propel them forward, his on and off the court leadership plays a vital role in the team's success as well.

"He gets on everybody. He expects the best out of everybody, so we want that from him, but he's also a great teammate," said senior guard Isaiah McLeod. "He picks you up whenever you're down or whenever you might not be playing well. He keeps you going and helps you become the best player you can be.'

Wallace's leadership has been one thing that cannot be wavered by injuries. Despite missing most of last season and the first seven games of this season, Wallace has always stayed optimistic.

"You just have to have a positive mindset. That's my biggest thing, just being positive," said Wallace, "Even when things don't go your way you still have to keep that positive mindset."

Wallace's injury might have seemed like a setback to the team, but Burrell didn't see it as too much of a setback for Wallace.

"He learned a lot last year and he watched our team struggle at times, but he was cheering our team on every game," said Burrell. "And this year he came back and saw what was lacking and he tries to provide that every a game.

Even though Wallace's talent was expressed at a young age, he refuses to take all the credit for it.

"My dad said I was going at a young age. They said I was dribbling by the age of two, so I just have to give it all to him," said Wallace. "He had me in the gym at early ages. Working on things most young people my age wouldn't be doing. I definitely give him credit when it comes to

Wallace's dedication and hard work towards the sport has been a lifelong effort. Now that he's able to play NCAA basketball, his development has been on full display.

His leadership is the most important thing he's done. He brings positive energy every day to practice and a competitiveness that sometimes we lack," said Coach Burrell. "I enjoy coaching him and every team needs a Joey.'

Wallace's competitiveness and the effort he puts into the game is because he seems to have a genuine love for the game. In fact, he sees it as more than just

"Basketball's a very good sport to teach life lessons. That's what coach tries to teach us every day. [He's] not just teaching us basketball, he's teaching us life lessons," said Wallace. "If you come up lackadaisical and not ready to work and bring your A-game that day, then you're not going to win. I think taking those life lessons and putting them into real life helps me potentially become a better man."

Throughout his career, Wallace has learned a lot from playing for Southern for four years, and plans to bring it out into the world with him as he moves forward.

He was able to work basketball camps for the Junior Knicks this past summer, running clinics and camps around the area, and hopes to keep working with the organization after he graduates from Southern.

Even though Wallace's career here at Southern is coming to an end, he doesn't seem to regret any part of his time here.

"I've enjoyed my time here at Southern," said Wallace. "It's a great place, great people and I wouldn't change anything.'

Men's basketball **Continued from Page 9**

"Guys were trying to do too much instead of moving the ball and getting a better shot," said head coach Scott Burrell, "The ball has to change sides of the court and make the defensive move, but if you try to go one-on-one, defenses collapse and you're just not going to get that many opportunities to score."

Even after the turnovers dwindled and the offense started to flow, especially through McLeod who dropped 34 points,

the Yellow Jackets kept answering with a tough inside game and hot shooting around the arc, resulting in a 67-49 deficit midway through the second

After some momentum changing defense and hustle from the Owls, the comeback attempt began to come into fruition, lead by the red hot McLeod.

After back to back charges taken by Ives and forward Luke Beesley, the Owls offensive began to thrive through their defense and with 4:05 left in the game, the more focused offensively and Owls were finally able to cut the lead to single digits.

With minutes left and the comeback still seemingly

possible, McLeod stepped on the gas and hit multiple late game shots, shooting 7-8 down the stretch, paired with tough defense from his teammates in order to cut the lead to 77-81 with a minute remaining.

Unfortunately for the Owls, McLeod's career night could not help them complete the comeback as the Yellow Jackets iced the game with free throws, ending it 83-77.

'We have to be better than we were today, we gotta be defensively," said McLeod, "We just have to play a lot harder, bring a lot of energy and play together and we'll be fine."

The Owls play at Adelphi University and are at home against Pace University, before heading into the tournament this season. Southern beat both teams earlier this season in December.

"It starts in practice. We need to be focused in practice, prepare like we're going to win and we want to win," said Coach Burrell, "And just try to win these three games and try to move up the ladder in the NE10, see where we finish and make the playoffs and see how far we can go."

The men went on to play a gripping game against Le Monye College on Feb. 16, which ended with the Owls pulling out a 97-91 overtime win.



Guard Isaiah McLeod, a senior, stretches out for a layup during a home game against American International College on Feb. 13.



Guard C.J. Seaforth, a sophomore, takes a contested shot on Feb. 13.

PHOTO I WILLIAM ALIOU

Ultimate frisbee seeks major improvements

By Matt Gad **Sports Writer**

Led by great recruiting efforts and, admittedly, a bit of luck, co-captains Harrison Stoffel, a sophomore, and Carter Antaya, a junior, have tried to get the club to new heights.

To create a competitive balance in getting the team to sectionals, Stoffel said he made sure to create a busy schedule for the team to compete during most weekends during the

"When I made the schedule, I wanted to play as many games as possible in order to get our newer players the experience they need," he said. "We are a young team and along with that comes inexperience. We have four tournaments happening before sectionals, along with some other games, which will help our newer players

Stoffel hopes all the competition will allow the

chemistry and keep enjoying the season while also improving.

"I think we have struck a great balance in practice where we are having fun but also are working hard in our drills and improving as players. Carter, [head coach] Greg [Jositas] and I have made it very clear that we have very high expectations for the team and the players on it," he said.

The team won its first scrimmage tournament at University of New Haven two weeks ago to jumpstart the season and push momentum in the right direction.

Jositas is in his first official year coaching the club, which refers to themselves as the Mighty Hucks, and he was a former player himself during his time on campus.

"We are very big on inclusion and getting everybody involved," he said. "We have a great core but we also have great freshmen who stuck around through last good team chemistry with one

coach, he said he also recognizes all the work that Stoffel and Antaya bring to the table to help make his job easier.

"In ultimate frisbee, it is very much a similar coaching environment whether you are the head coach or a player on the team," he said. "There is a lot of hands-on teaching with all the new players to help them get up to speed from the guys who have been on the team for three or four years."

And that help at practice is something Stoffel said he takes very seriously.

"Everyone goes to practice to get better and we have fun doing it," he said. "We are really looking forward to picking up where we left off last season and trying to improve as players. Carter and I are very excited about this team and we think we have a ton of potential."

Despite the team having had a poor win-loss record in recent that is strong because, as Stoffel

He said he believes the team has a chance to carry the underdog role with them and be in a position at the end of the year where they are competing in big spots.

"I have high hopes that we will get into sectionals and maybe even regionals," Jositas said. "It will be a tough road; we have to get through schools like UConn and SUNY-Albany but I have high hopes that we can do well and make a run to regionals."

This year, the sectional tournament will be held at Yale, which, based on distance, may feel like a home event for the Mighty Hucks.

Stoffel has also had conversations with Andrew Marullo, the Assistand Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development for Campus Recreation, about the possiblity of arranging a home tournament on Southern's own Jess Dow Field.

"The best way to get better is by playing a lot of games," Stoffel said. "So we are going to play a



The Mighty Hucks at University of New Haven earlier this school year.

Women's Basketball **Continued from Page 9**

Pfohl said one of the main reasons for the loss was lapses in the teams chemistry and miscommunication.

"We play better when everyone is playing well and we try to stay in our comfort zone," Pfohl said. "When we do that we should beat anyone in the conference so playoffs should not be a problem but when we play games when that does not necessarily happen then we lose."

When the team went to face Le Moyne on Saturday, the momentum seemed to take another hit as the Owls were not able to come out of their contest

with a win. Outscored in each of the last three quarters, they took a 75-55 loss to fall back to .500 at 13-13 overall and 7-11 in conference play.

Steinauer paced the Owls with 17 points and Wheeler had 13 of her own but Walker and Pfohl combined for just 16 points and senior Allie Smith was held scoreless in 25 minutes

The Owls are at Adelphi tonight and then they will host Pace Saturday afternoon to close out the regular season with senior day.

They are fifth in their division, leading Pace by a game, but the likelihood of Kate Lynch's squad reaching the playoffs this year are down to a single thread.

"We need to win at least one more game," Lynch said. "But we do not want to play the last game needing to win."



Forward Kiana Steinauer, a junior, takes a free throw during a home game against American International on Feb. 13.

Swimming and Diving **Continued from Page 9**

Avery Fornaciari finished in third-place in the 200 yard butterfly at the final meet, Lauren Spencer was tied for fifth place in the 200 yard backstroke, Alina Tucker was fourth in the 100-yard freestyle and Leirey also took second place in the

200-yard backstroke. "No place is going to get the team down," Leirey said. "Everyone was still pretty happy with how the team

Last year, the Owls sent

LaPorte and Tyler Prescott to the national meet, after putting LaPorte in a "last chance" meet to solidify his spot. Quill said he feels confident in putting Fornaciari in a similar position this year to try to push her along into NCAAs, which will begin March 13 in Indianapolis, In.

Quill said LaPorte showed "his legitimacy" by getting back to nationals.

"He is really developing as an athlete-fifth in the country last year in the 200-yard butterfly so there is an expectation level when you do something like that," Quill said. "He lived up to his expectation level."

Going forward for the program, despite not having both teams come home with conference titles like they have done in recent memory, the mindset of a productive team is still there.

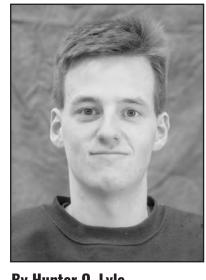
"Both teams had a great year. The conference championship team results do not reflect that but the fact is that this team had a great, great season, probably one that I will remember for a long time just because of some of the things that they were able to accomplish," he said. "I know nobody's feeling bad for us because we have won a lot of conference championships but the fact is it was a great season."



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWSL.COM

Erin Liery, a junior, swims in the NE10 Championship meet earlier this month.

Blue Crew needed to rally for playoffs



By Hunter O. Lyle **Sports Editor**

As the winter sports seasons come to a close, there should be an important discussion taking place on what measures could be made to allow our universities athletics the best chance possible to be successful in the postseason.

Of course, proper training, rest, and regiment are of the upmost importance, but those steps are all handed by professional trainers and coaches inside the closed doors of Moore Field House. There is, however, something the everyday student could do to help support the teams looking to fight in the playoffs: show up and cheer them on.

There's no doubt that playing in front of a packed house, fans screaming and cheering, helps boost not only morale, but the energy and atmosphere inside the arena. Noting that Southern has a large population of commuter students, who likely cherish an opportunity to go home, it seems logical that it would be hard or inconvenient for students to stay for a late game, especially if they have a long commute ahead of them.

With that said, this is what I propose should happen to fill the Field House.

First off, the Southern basketball teams have one game left of their regular season, a home game against Pace University on Feb. 23, and depending on how the rest of the season and teams shake out, they could both be looking at a chance at a NE10 title, even a home game.

To prepare for the potential playoff home stand, and even the Pace game, Southern should have a pep rally, in advance of the game, in order to rally the troops. One big bash from the Blue Crew could be all the team needs to prepare for a showdown.

Secondly, and this could be applied to any sporting event, 'Let Them Eat Cake.'

What do college kids typically like the best? Free stuff and free food. Countless times throughout my collegiate experience, myself and people I know have shown up at events just for the promise of walking home with a fresh-off-the-line T-shirt or a slice of steaming

In previous years, Southern has brought out free, and sometimes, limited merch to give to the first students who arrive. Reviving this strategy, and advertising it around campus, would definitely help bring students in the door – as well create an atmosphere in such situations as a 'white-out.'

Southern could also take advantage of raffles and, or other experiences for the audience such as a half-court shot contest at half-time.

Each team only has one shot at the playoffs, and I believe that it is the student bodies responsibility to help the team in any way possible, and it starts with the assembly of the Blue

PHOTO

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THE SCSU CERAMIC COLLECTION



By August Pelliccio Photo Editor

In this edition, Southern News reported on the opening reception for the newest installation in the Hilton C. Buley Library Art Gallery on Feb. 13.

Pieces in the collection come from all over the world and vary greatly in composition and design. These are a few of the unique designs in the show. For more about the

collection and its opening ceremony, see page 7 in the Arts and Entertainment section.



















PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Pottery displays crafted by artists from all over the United States and beyond. Clay types include earthenware, porcelain, stoneware, burnished blackware and others.