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SOUTHERN NEWS

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State grant awarded to help minorities

The university received a \$70,000 PASS grant in December

By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

A \$70,000 Promoting Academically Successful Students grant, or PASS, has been awarded to the university from the state of Connecticut to help struggling students.

According to President Joe Bertolino, 50 students—who are being referred to as rising scholars—have been selected as recipients.

The grant, Bertolino said, is exclusively available to minority students,

specifically those of African-American or Latino descent.

Students receiving the grant must be on academic probation, as well.

“From a nationwide standpoint,” said Jermaine Wright, the associate vice president for student affairs, “students of color are often times at the lower rungs of academic achievement. They enroll in lower rates than their white counterparts. They also excel or graduate at lower rates in comparison to other populations of

students.”

The grant, Wright said, originated from the state’s office of higher education, specifically the Minority Advancement Program, and had certain standards that had to be met.

“If a student is at a 1.5 [GPA], it’s very difficult for that student to be above a 2.0 within one semester,” said Wright.

The exact cumulative GPA range outlined in the proposal for the grant was between a 1.72 and a 1.99, he said.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

President Joe Bertolino discussing the new PASS grant.

See PASS grant, Page 2

SGA plans forum centered on LEP

A five-step plan has been created to analyze how students experience the program

By **Victoria Bresnahan**
News Editor

For at least five years the Student Government Association has been advocating for a re-evaluation of the Liberal Education Program, primarily the foreign language requirement, according to SGA President Alexis Zhitomi.

While the Board of Academic Experience has been the primary group working on this issue, Zhitomi said, at their weekly meeting, the whole SGA body will now collaborate on a five-point plan to advocate for change.

“We have actually the, in some form, the strictest language requirement of all the public four-year universities in CT,” she

said, “and when I say strictest I mean that we go to a 200-level whereas most universities, at the most, require two semesters which would be the equivalent of our 101.”

The university currently requires students to complete a 200 level of any world language—which could take up to three semesters—or pass the STAMP exam.

Students who completed two or more years in high school are required to take an online placement test, unless they are already proficient, according to the university’s website.

Both Eastern and Central Connecticut State Universities offer students the option to complete the requirement by taking two semesters worth of the language.

See Forum, Page 3



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

An inside look of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven's archival collection in the center.

Moving New Haven history

Plans to relocate Ethnic Heritage Center still up in the air

August Pelliccio
Photo Editor

The Ethnic Heritage Center has been in a warehouse building south of Schwartz Hall about 17 years, said Marvin Bargar, but plans to relocate are in the works.

Bargar, archivist for the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, said the move date has been up in the air since June 2018.

The Jewish Historical Society shares the center with four other organizations: the Greater New Haven African-American Historical Society, the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society, the Italian-American Historical Society of Connecticut and the Connecticut Ukrainian-American Historical Society.

“Originally, my goal was to try to engage the center in building some type of permanent relationship

that would provide our students with an educational opportunity,” said President Joe Bertolino.

In his time serving as president, Bertolino said he there has been a loose connection between the center and the university but a connection nonetheless.

“Southern has been very generous in the sense that they don’t charge us rent to be here,” said Carolyn Baker, co-president of the Greater New Haven African-American Historical Society. “It allows for the space to do the work without financial burden”

The new space for the center is in the old student center, Bargar said, where the faculty dining hall used to be located.

Use of the old student center was uncertain when the renovation of the School of Business was underway, said Bertolino.



The Ethnic Heritage Center located near Schwartz.

With that project long since finished, he said many parts of the old student center are used for storage.

Bertolino said when he first sought to find a new location for the center, he was “deeply concerned” about the building they occupy now.

“From my perspective, the image of that center is very important,” said Bertolino. “I don’t think it sends a good message when the center is in a space that I don’t think is conducive to learning, educating or celebrating.”

See Ethnic Heritage Center, Page 2

Spring week concert allocated additional funds

SGA voted to apportion money due to successful survey results

By **Victoria Bresnahan**
News Editor

The Student Government Association voted 15-1 in favor of allocating an additional \$15,000 towards the spring week concert fund.

The body sent out a four question survey to students last week to discern how students feel about the annual concert.

According to SGA President Alexis Zhitomi, they received 1,000 responses in 24 hours.

A combined total of 63 percent of students polled stated they were very likely or likely to attend the spring concert, and 14 percent stated they were very unlikely or unlikely to attend, according to survey

results. In addition, about 80 percent stated they strongly agreed or agreed, and five percent stated they strongly disagree or disagreed, that the concert is important to the university community.

“Looking at the data results, showing that students do care about [the] spring concert—majority in all categories was towards the spring concert,” said Zhitomi, at the meeting. “Whether that’s attending it, friends attending it or if it’s important.”

The funds were requested after two artists—who were priced at the university’s \$40,000 budget—in consideration for hiring were unavailable, said Zhitomi.

See Spring Concert, Page 2

Free online textbooks considered for courses

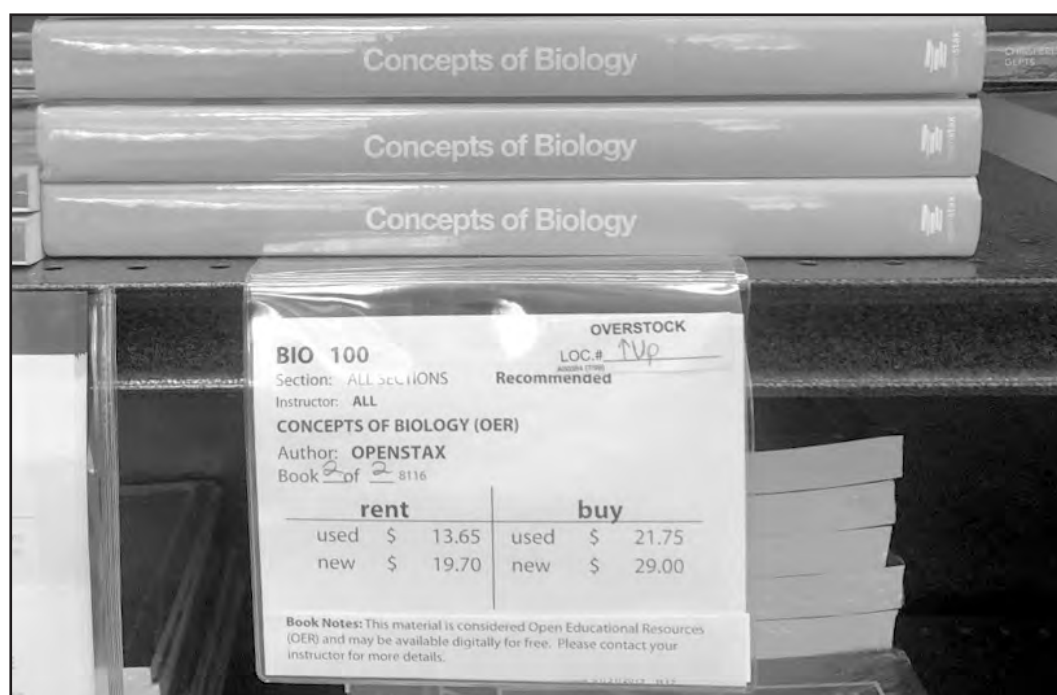


PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

A physical copy of an open source textbook in the Barnes and Noble bookstore.

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Approximately five courses currently use Open Educational Resources, a free online textbook system, said Director of the Adanti Student Center Brad

Crerar.

"If the university can save someone 50 dollars on a book this semester," Crerar said, "it's all that much more, so anytime we can save the students money, we've got to see how, and that's exactly

what they're doing right now."

Crerar said OER is currently a nationwide trend. When writing textbooks, he said, some authors may be in favor of students saving money than making it themselves,

thereby granting their book at no cost.

Crerar is also involved in the First Day program, Barnes and Noble's; an inclusive access model where digital course materials are provided in a course or program.

Some of its benefits include the convenience of not having to shop around for the lowest price of a book, and consistent book delivery by the first day of class.

"In the First Day program, Barnes and Noble will negotiate with the publisher to get the best possible price you could ever imagine," Crerar said.

Barnes and Noble Director Larry Gal said faculty are looking for the cheapest way of providing textbooks, and they can help with that process by showing students what their options are.

"I know that a lot of students will still buy actual textbooks, but we also sell a lot of digital just for the semester," said Gal. "I think the important thing is that we show different affordable options so they can make the determination for what is best for them."

With help from the Student Government Association, there are plans to increase the usage of

OER throughout campus.

"I think the biggest reason we wanna advocate for the Open Educational Resource is because it's just so much more affordable than the actual books," said Brooke Mercaldi, SGA vice president of the board of academic of experience, "As long as students have access to a computer, then they can have their textbooks."

Mercaldi said even with OER, students are still able to purchase tangible books from the bookstore. Despite the simpler and more affordable option, some students may still prefer an actual textbook.

However, Barnes and Noble is encouraging professors to try the system.

SGA is learning as much about OER and that also depends on convincing professors to choose them when possible.

In March, she and other members plan to attend an OER summit to learn more about it and hear students and professors' opinions.

"Hopefully they have useful information for us to bring back to students' and faculty," she said. "We're trying to have as many conversations with administration about them because open resource has

always been a topic student government has been looking into."

Gal said, years ago, publishers thought everyone would go digital. Although it is true for some people, others continue to use print.

For this reason, he said, he does not think OER will ever replace textbooks entirely, but a lot of students are opting for digital resources because they are accessible through cell phones.

"I think that once a lot of students now are opting for digital because you can do it through your cell phone," he said. "I think the digital option is good, but some people are just so used to something they can put their hands on."

Mercaldi said she thinks students would prefer to pay nothing for a textbook than pay a large amount and carry a heavy book around.

She said it might be easier for some students to read online.

"We're just trying everything we can to help students with this," Mercaldi said. "We know that textbooks can get really expensive and we're just doing everything we can to move forward in the initiative."

Ethnic Heritage Center

Continued from Page 1

Baker said she is looking forward to the move with great excitement.

"It's going to provide greater exhibit space and put us in closer proximity to the students and faculty," Baker said, "which will give everyone a greater opportunity to be involved."

Patricia Illingworth, member of the Jewish Historical Society, said it would be helpful to have a nicer space to operate in.

"Right now, what we have here - the coops are small," said Illingworth. "We need more space; we have a lot of stuff."

Additionally, Illingworth said she would like to see the type of atmosphere she sees in other historical societies around the state - a "house-like" feel.

"Right now we have about 600 square feet," said

Bargar, "over there we're getting 522 square feet."

Without a plan for arranging and organizing materials, Bargar said he is unsure whether the space will be more beneficial to their archiving and event planning.

"The layout is different than this, so it's hard to judge," said Bargar.

Bertolino said he hoped the move would have been complete by now, but other roadblocks delayed the process.

"The space we plan to move them into actually requires more work than we anticipated," he said, "which comes with a cost."

Illingworth said the center cannot operate without computers, so getting the new space equipped with not only power, but also internet and phone connection is a must.

"The move is huge, and expensive," Bargar said. "We're talking thousands and thousands of dollars."

Considering price quotes from moving companies, Bargar said "fixing up" the building they are currently in might be even more cost effective for the five societies that utilize it.

More concerning, Bargar said, is the access to plumbing in the new building. He said there are no bathrooms in the new space they were provided, although the prospect of plumbing a new bathroom is feasible.

With these concerns still in the planning process, Illingworth said her society is not ready to start moving materials yet.

"In our area alone, we have over 10,000 pictures," said Illingworth.

Until the plan is more finite, Illingworth said, the



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Some of the historical record collections in the Ethical Heritage Center.

physical relocation would be difficult to organize.

The moving committee will not impart urgency, Bargar said, while there is still snow in the forecasts for the winter.

He said he hopes to see progress by this summer, and hopes the new location on campus will make a good home to the collections.

"It's certainly a

space that's much more conducive to what we do than where we are now," said Baker. "I'm hoping that the move will be able to take place without too much difficulty."

PASS grant

Continued from Page 1

He said they had chosen that range of cumulative GPAs because they are "realistic parameters."

"We need to be at 90 percent," said Stanton. "That means 45 of the 50 students need to come off [academic probation]."

Coordinator of the Educational Opportunity Program Dawn Stanton said the university became aware of the grant sometime in early December 2018.

"I think we had about a two-week timeframe to have acknowledged it, get it written and submitted," said Stanton.

Recruitment of the potential "rising scholars," Stanton said, was done in late December and the first two to three weeks into the spring semester.

Stanton said the goal is for all 50 students be above a 2.0 at the end of the spring 2019 semester.

The university is also partnered with New Haven Promise and GEAR UP; however, Stanton said those programs are more "pipelines" from high

schools to the university and a student does not need to be a part of those programs to be eligible.

According to Wright, 76 percent of students in the program are first-generation students.

"First-gen students are often categorized as not having that home support of someone who has already done this pursuit, done this journey called college," said Wright.

Wright said while the state did not mandate a certain number of students be first-generation college students, they wanted to know what the number was.

Of the overall participants, 92 percent were lower-classman—60 percent freshmen and 32 percent sophomores, Wright said. In addition, 78 percent were African American and 18 percent Latino.

"As our population here at the university becomes more diverse," said Bertolino, "and not just in terms of race, ethnicity, religious backgrounds, non-traditional students, et cetera but also socio-economic diversity, the needs of students at a variety of different levels become greater."

Spring concert

Continued from Page 1

This vote for additional money does not apply to future spring concerts. SGA will be pulling money from their reserves to accommodate the cost, said Zhitomi.

"SGA just has some reserves after year after year," she said. "It is not something that we really need, because it is the student's money, so we want to make sure student money is being spent on students."

Following this year's concert, Zhitomi said it could be beneficial to conduct focus groups and discussions about the future of the concert.

With this allocation, she said it will be interesting to see if attendance increases at all.

Nick Carbone, a representative-at-large, was the sole member who voted against the allocation of money.

He said it is not the body's best use of their



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

SGA members voting in favor of allocating additional funds to the concert.

money.

"I just don't think it's worth our time at this point because prices for these artists keep rising,"

said Carbone. "I would rather devote it towards something--a new tradition we could start"

As of the SGA meeting

last week, the committee was still searching for an artist to perform at this year's spring concert in late april.

Activist author discusses gender violence

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter
and Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

Pia Barros, a well-known short story writer and novelist from Chile, was invited to campus to do four different events for the 64 Days of Non-Violence program. She presented on her feminist activist project against gender violence, “¡Basta!”

Resha Cardone, the chairperson of the department of world languages and literatures, said this is a project she started in 2011, where she brought 100 women writers together to write about gender violence.

“This particular anthology generated a lot of excitement in Chile, and so they published an anthology for men, male writers writing against gender violence, and ultimately they published an anthology of male and female authors against child abuse,” said Cardone.

Barros’ ideas became popular and, eventually, Cardone said it spread around the globe to many



World language department chairperson Resha Cardone (left to right), with Women’s Studies program Director Yi-Chun Tricia Lin and author Pia Barros.

PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Latin American countries, some of Europe, and the U.S.; these countries created their own anthologies against gender violence.

One of the events called Dictatorship and Exile, would be presented entirely in Spanish.

“She’s going to be talking about an award-winning short story she wrote called ‘El lugar del otro,’ which won in 2011 the best work of fiction written in Chile that year,” said Cardone. Barros held two different events, one solely in

Spanish, and another with English interpretation. Students were invited to participate in a flash fiction writing workshop and create their own stories about gender violence that they could write in either Spanish or English.

“Pia doesn’t speak English, and we have the Spanish one for writers who want to write their stories in Spanish and don’t want to go through the translation process,” said Cardone.

Director of the women’s studies program Yi-Chun Tricia Lin said having the writer speak has been a tradition going back to 2009. She said the writer workshops created more of an intimate environment for students as opposed to the large lecture rooms.

“As a faculty member, I’ve found that the materials from the Basta! reading has had a tremendous impact on students,” said Lin.

Although the auditoriums were neat and productive, Cardone said this year was different in method as they emphasized in having students engaged with more workshops. They decided before Barros came they would have students send in their work and have them read her stories.

Language in Barros’ work goes beyond cultural differences. Barros said there was an implicit atmosphere in her stories that spoke a

sense of oppression and dictatorship, without ever really pointing that it was so.

This makes simple words like “helicopter” more nuanced and important because of the experience of kids being used to listening to the propellers over their heads.

Much of her work, she said, parallels that of the oppression that French writer Marguerite Duras faced.

Barros characterized that the writers during that period wrote “with their bodies, not their minds.” The influence of such explicitness and empathy can be easily perceived in her work, several agreed.

“There is an anti-xenophobic sentiment in her works,” said Lin who said what captivated her about Barros was her defense of Spanish speaking peoples.

“I don’t think this would have been possible even in 2011,” said Lin.

She said the university provided a conducive environment to this aspect of respecting diversity because of the many Spanish speaking people on this campus.

Forum

Continued from Page 1

ECSU only requires this if a student has not taken at least two years of a language requirement in high school, while CCSU requires at least three years.

Students of Western Connecticut State University must complete an introductory II second-semester course, or one semester of intermediate level and above if they did not complete three years of a language in high school.

Vice President of the Board of Academic Experience Brooke Mercaldi said SGA is not requesting for the elimination of the requirement.

Rather, they are looking for a reevaluation and possible elimination of one of the semesters.

SGA has also primarily been focused on ensuring

that students who change their major do not take more courses than they should.

According to Zhitomi, students change their major about three times during their collegiate career.

“So that is a major issue impacting our students, and we have heard this from students,” she said.

While SGA has attempted to relay this message to faculty, staff and administration, she said they are not listening as well as they hoped.

Therefore, SGA has formed a five-step plan to bring more momentum to these issues. The plan includes hosting a forum on March, 6 to discuss these topics with students.

“We need to show staff, faculty, and administration that students care about this,” said Zhitomi.

In the past, Zhitomi said the University Curriculum Forum and Liberal Education Program Committee members have asked SGA to provide

statistical data proving their claims.

However, Zhitomi said she disagrees.

The Board of Student Experience will, therefore, be compiling both positive and negative testimonials from students about their world language and LEP experiences.

“So, instead of statistical data we will be going with student’s voices and student’s stories,” she said. “We think that will have a powerful impact on whoever we are bringing this to.”

Sam Widomski, Board of Student Experience vice president, said there is no set plan yet as to how the testimonials will be collected, but will be established by the next body meeting. Zhitomi said the format will most likely be presenting students with the chance to “write down their story.”

The executive board is also considering holding an e-board meeting with the chairs of UCF and LEPC.

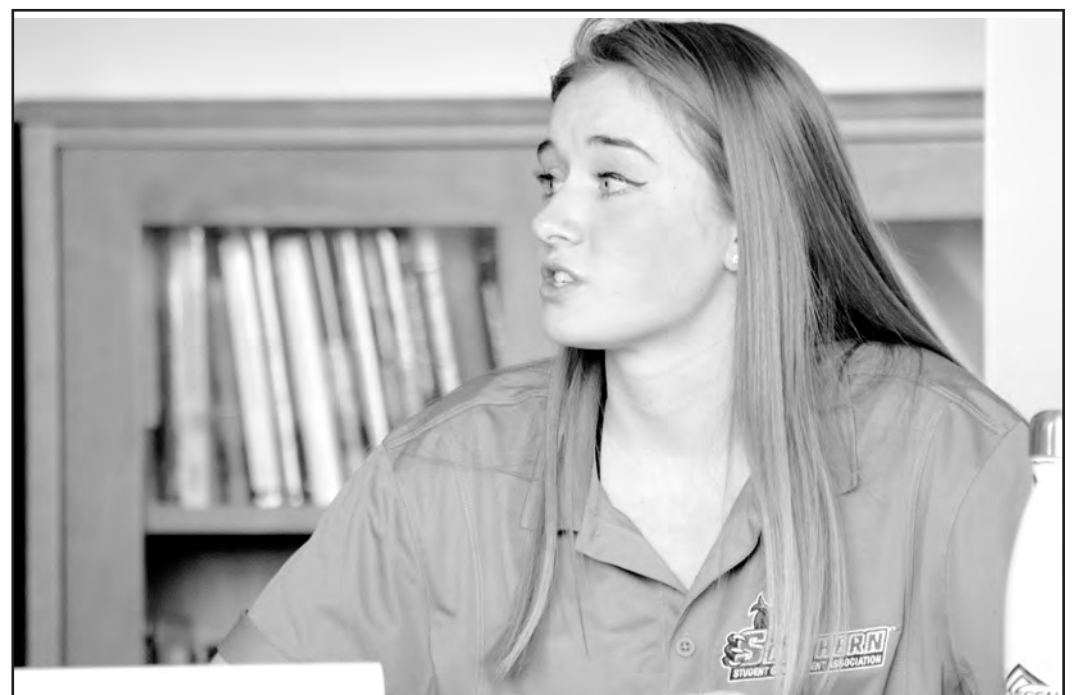


PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

SGA President Alexis Zhitomi discussing the association’s five-point plan.

The Board of Academic Experience is still working on a survey which is working towards garnering opinions from alumni who took the world language requirement during their time at the university.

Asma Rahimyar, a representative-at-large, said bilingual skills are helpful no matter a student’s major, but it is not logistic to have the requirement if a student will not use it afterwards.

“I feel like logistically, regardless of how well intended the system is,” she said, “logistically it doesn’t work, and it takes away from things students need a lot more than a language skill.”

LEP will take on new look, no change

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

While there have been no changes in recent years to the Liberal Education Program there have been reinforcements of old rules, said LEP Co-Director Terri Bennett.

This upcoming fall, students will be required to have either finished their Tier 1 requirements or take the remaining Tier 1 courses the same semester they are registered in their Tier 3 capstone.

According to Bennett, since the beginning of the LEP, students have always had to complete six out of the eight Tier 2 areas before being able to take their Tier 3 capstone seminar; the completion of Tier 1 would be added to this previous requirement.

In addition, the LEPC is currently in discussion over whether not to implement double-dipping at the university, according to Bennett.

Double-dipping is defined as a student would

be able to share credit for courses for both their LEP requirement and their major requirement.

Currently, the university does not offer this option.

During this week’s Student Government Association meeting Treasurer Devra Baxter said she and SGA representative-at-large, Isaiah Yopp recently attended an LEPC meeting.

“We moved forward with approving the changes for moving,” said Baxter, “removing the restrictions in the LEP program onto their own section as cognates.”

A cognate or course restrictions, said Yopp, is a class in the LEP that a student’s major requires them to take that is not necessarily in their major.

“I’m a COM major,” said Yopp, “but I’m required to take math 103. That’s a cognate even though it’s not a COM class, but COM requires me to take it.”

Those cognates, said Baxter, are now “more visually easier” to identify,

in their own section—located right after the major requirements—and will no longer be embedded into a student’s LEP program between Tiers 1 or 2.

“[You] won’t be like blindsided,” said Yopp. “You’ll know from the beginning it has to be this class.”

Overall, the LEP itself will not change, Baxter said, but rather “the optics.”

“When you visually look at it – and these are my words – it looks as if the LEP is clean and pushes the problem that you have to the departments,” said Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Student Conduct Christopher Piscitelli, during the SGA meeting.

Bennett said students think they gain requirements when they change majors, however, that is not the case.

“The restrictions in the LEP are set by the majors,” said Bennett.

Bennett said when students see their degree evaluation for their new



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

SGA Representative-at-Large Isaiah Yopp discussing the LEP.

major and see that Tiers 1 or 2 are no longer complete it is because whatever class they had previously taken did not “fulfill” the tier requirements for that major.

According to Piscitelli, curricular decisions are made by the faculty, who

are governed by the faculty senate; the LEPC, he said falls under the

“What you’re seeing happen is chess pieces moved to different aspects, but it still falls under the same umbrella of the curricular decisions made by the faculty,” said

Piscitelli.

Baxter said she and Yopp recommended to the LEPC that foreign language should be added to better articulate that a major’s cognates are “interconnected” to the LEP and specific to that major’s LEP requirements.

Avoiding the needle, then deal with measles

By Jacob Waring
Opinion & Features Editor

I always tell people who do not vaccinate their children that they should invest in caskets that are firetruck red and dollhouse pink. I know that sounds harsh, but you know what? I do not care. They are risking their children's lives and others with their unfounded antivaccine rhetoric which has been tiredly debunked.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been 127 individual cases of measles confirmed in 10 states. Out of those 10 states, Connecticut is one of them: two adults in New Haven have contracted measles. Connecticut's Department of Public Health has not found any links between the two adults, but did find out that both were exposed back in

January.

We have the medical technology to exterminate such diseases. Yet, we also have people who believe in the Jenny McCarthys and Andrew Wakefields of the world who claim that vaccines causes autism.

I will say unequivocally that vaccines do not cause autism, this bogus claim has been aggressively disproven by the scientific community. The antivaxer community based their beliefs on a fraudulent study conducted by Wakefield. That was promoted by Jenny McCarthy who no scientific knowledge in the areas of vaccines and autism.

Yet, here we are dealing with outbreaks of measles due to antivaxers' hardheaded misconceptions. The only people who should not get vaccinated

according to the CDC are people with life-threatening allergies to any component of the vaccine, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or those held back by age restrictions and immune-compromised individuals.

What protects those people is herd immunity via vaccines, which, according to World Health Organization, is where there is resistance to the spread of a contagious disease. It is only effective if around 95 percent of people in a community are vaccinated, according to the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases.

Here at Southern, students have to have their vaccinations for measles and other illness before being able to register. I know this because I had to have my vaccinations updated and apparently, I needed one more

round of the measles vaccination before I was even allowed to enroll last fall.

Due to that immunization requirement, we do have herd immunity on campus which protects those susceptible to such illnesses, such as those that have proved their religious exception, or suffer allergies.

Luckily, if more people come out of the woodwork with measles, we have our community herd to insolate us from such a scenario. Granted if the New Haven area dips below the threshold of a 93 percent then it could be cause of concern.

I personally have young nieces and nephews who are in the process of getting their vaccinations, and if a substantial measles outbreak were to occur in Connecticut, then I would be greatly concerned. I do not

want any of them to be lowered into the ground in a child-sized casket, and I do not want anyone's child to suffer that fate.

Vaccinate your kids and vaccinate yourself if you have not gotten vaccinated when you were a kid. The only reason why the outbreaks are not worse in those 10 states is because vaccinations shielded us from the worst of it. Utilize the scientific marvel that has nearly wiped out illnesses that plagued mankind for generations. Wiped to the point where I am existing within a generation where people have the audacity to claim measles or any other preventable illness is 'not that bad.'

Those illnesses can be that bad, and by not vaccinating, you are just rolling the dice on whether you personally feel how bad they can be.

Meal plans restricted to where students live on campus

By Amanda Cavoto
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A public university is what some college students look for affordability, flexibility, and individualized circumstances that would otherwise not be feasible in a private university. So why is this being compromised?

Specifically, I am talking about SCSU's office of Residence Life and Chartwells Higher Ed, who give no alternative to non-kitchen residents and first-year students other than to purchase their unlimited meal plan do includes unlimited swipes to Connecticut Hall, two swipes a week at the Adanti Student Center, eight guest swipes per semester and \$150 worth of "food loot," which can be used to purchase on-campus food only, all for a grand total of \$2,907 per year.

The first issue that comes to mind is the absolute deadlock are placed in for first-year students, who can come from various circumstances and locations that may not allow them to live anywhere but the residence halls. How come you can choose your housing,

but you cannot choose your food options? It is frustrating to be trapped in that hefty financial obligation when you have never even experienced the dining areas before you are forced to sign a school-year long contract.

One could argue this "all or nothing" concept is also classist. Having every first-year student, some who may be on financial aid, obligated to pay this hefty fee, despite not even needing or wanting it, is a financial burden.

International students, who if they really have to live in these halls, have limited access to shelter outside of the dorms and may want to cook for themselves or seek other food options. Instead they are left with purchasing a sparsely used meal plan alongside the other additional outside food they want to purchase.

Moreover, ableism is being displayed in this mentality. Dietary restrictions are no joke, and more light has been shed on their validity within the last decade. With nearly 18 million Americans having a non-celiac gluten sensitivity, according to the National Foundation

for Celiac Awareness that number makes waves, and leaves people with the allergy to a very limited option at the food services on campus.

Sierra Agard, a nursing major who lives in gender-inclusive housing at West Campus, said that the unlimited meal plan for her is not practical.

"I honestly hate it. I barley ever use it because the food here isn't that good and I try to eat as healthy as possible, and it's hard to do that when you live on campus. But, since we're spending so much on the meal plan it's hard to be able to buy healthy stuff at the grocery store because it's expensive," Agard said. "And when I do gluten-free there's not a lot of options so at that point it's not even worth it for me to have a meal plan."

Despite Conn Hall offering a gluten-free section for consumers, it is inaccessible unless a student arranges a meeting with a Conn Hall manager to verify their sensitivity or allergy to gluten only then will they be allowed access only through a Hoot Loot swipe at the locked door. That excludes students that



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Connecticut Hall is one place that students can use their unlimited meal plan.

just want to live a gluten free life because it is their right to choose what they consume, and make them fend for themselves and be forced pay for something they cannot even use.

SCSU students also range from being pescatarian, vegetarian, vegan, or other types of alternative lifestyles that the food on campus does not hone in on, leaving them as "second thought" meals,

such as your typical salad bar that claims to be vegetarian-inclusive. As a vegetarian, I do not want to consume salad every day for the entire school year. There are so many other vegetarian options and meals to make aside from their rarely changing veggie options.

I was considering moving into a residence hall for my final year of undergrad, but I will

definitely pass, because even if I lived in a hall with a kitchen, you are still obligated to purchase the minimum of 25 meals per semester with \$150 of "food loot" at a total of \$368, a total that I just do not think it is worth.

Housing on campus may correlate with food access, but that should not allow the university to decide what food options are right for you, at quite the price.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

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.

FEATURES

Looking back: Spring of 1996



President Adanti asks food service to go

President Michael J. Adanti informed Aramark their contract will be terminated at the end of the semester. Aramark ran the food services at Connecticut Hall and the student center. Aramark's dismissal comes on the heels of numerous student complaints such as quality and variety of cuisines, employee rudeness, and a one-entrée polity.

February

- Billy Joel spoke and sang at Southern in front of a sold out crowd at the Lyman Center.

March

- Wrestler Sean Smyth won his individual NCAA East Regional Championship.
- Former goalkeeper and men's assistant coach Jim O'Brien became the first coach of the women's soccer team.
- Sean Mahon, a graduate student, won the NCAA high jump national title with a jump of 6 feet, 11.25 inches.
- Southern students partnered with Habitats for Humanity and four other universities to rebuild abandoned houses in Newhallville.
- Southern revised their gun policy, saying that regardless of having a gun permit, "university police are the only persons authorized to carry firearms on campus."
- The United States Navy Band gave a free concert at Lyman Center with music ranging from modern jazz to Broadway tunes.
- Men's soccer was honored at the state capitol for winning the National Championship in the fall of 1995.

April

- Women's gymnastics finished in first place at the ECAC gymnastics championships, their fourth ever first place finish at the time. The team also set a school record with a point total of 187.025, and freshman Kelly Wildosky set a school record with a score of 37.950.
- Southern created a new strategic plan over a seven-year period with projections to 2015. The plan had 11 initiatives and 95 separate objectives. Proposed objectives include Human Diversity studies, distance education, and the creation of a quality council. The cost to sustain the different programs is just over \$14.1 million.
- Southern ended the 1995 fiscal year with a \$3.3 million reserve to be used for budgeting purposes and new faculty computers.
- Grammy-Award winning artist Coolio performed at Neff Field for Springfest.
- The Women's Studies program hosted a weekend workshop to discuss finances for women. Laura DiSano, vice president of Fleet Bank, was the keynote speaker.

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

Students wear sick kicks and sweet boots



Karina Aviles (left) a sophomore majoring in communication disorders and Spanish, showcasing her Vans. Denis Cuevas (right) a freshman majoring in engineering, showing off his Nike sneakers.

PHOTO | JACOB WARING

By Jacob Waring
Opinion & Features Editor

Somesport shoes that are eccentric in style, while others wear kicks that work on a functional level, and some wear boots that strive to keep their owners warm.

Sarah Rival, a senior, exercise science major, was wearing a pair of neon orange New Balance sneakers. The orange hues of the sneakers were akin to bright orange safety vests. She wore the shoes to compliment an article of clothing that she was wearing.

"It went with my shirt. With the bright orange," said Rival.

She estimated that she had over 35 pairs of shoes, with no particular preferences for the brands she wears; since she said she would wear whatever her heart desires.

Denis Cuevas, a freshman engineering major, was sporting shoes that popped with neon camouflage, orange and yellow, the tow and the toe box of the sneaker were camouflage silver.

See Sick kicks, page 6

Students learn about global intellectual property protection

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

As a part of Southern's Physics Colloquium, students got the chance to learn and engage in discussion regarding intellectual property.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the physics department hosted their first colloquium of the semester calling it "Global Intellectual Property Protection." John H. Mutchler, a partner of Murtha Cullina's business and finance department and a member of the intellectual property practice group was invited to speak with the students.

While some students had prior knowledge about what global intellectual property protection was, Mutchler, who said he has been practicing law for 12 years now, was introducing a new concept to many.

"We look at intellectual property as kind of a holistic area for business. There's the basic IP as we call it, in the patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, both the enforcement and prosecution," said Mutchler.

With intellectual property being

a new work or invention that one can apply for a patent, trademark, or copyright for exclusive rights, it was relevant to students, especially physics majors such as Kenneth Jimenez, who said he has an inventive mind.

"I think it was interesting. Throughout the whole thing I was wondering what would I invent someday, like how that process would be, so it kind of opened my mind," said Jimenez.

Binlin Wu, an assistant physics professor who also put the event together, said it was an opportunity for students to learn about a career path they may have been unaware of, but also that it is an important topic.

"The students are involved in some research and they are doing projects, and if those results could be commercialized, this is an opportunity for them to learn the process, especially those related to patent and copyright ideas.

Mutchler explained to students the application process for getting patents and trademarks, and how all of them are different.

See Intellectual Property, page 6



John H. Mutchler, member of the intellectual property practice group.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

VPAS continues campaign against sexual violence



Benjamin Yambao, a senior, talking to Halley Shambra, a junior.

PHOTO | JACOB WARING

By Jacob Waring
Opinion & Features Editor

Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center hosted an informational table that educated students on strategies for bystander intervention.

According to Benjamin Yambao, a senior social work major that bystander Intervention is done throughout the year and is one of their ongoing campaigns.

"Our ongoing campaign [is] to really teach students how to engage in intervening situations regarding to sexual violence. That could mean assault, sexual harassment, exploitation, or stalking," said Yambao.

Yambao and Taipha Antoine, freshman public health major, both said

dialog with students take an informal atmosphere in an attempt to get a conversation about both bystander intervention and the center itself.

"[We] say 'how is your day going?' and [ask] 'are you familiar with our program' and how familiar they are with bystander intervention", he said.

Antoine said the table had activities to help educate students on what to do in specific, problematic scenarios and examples of a positive interaction.

"It really helps a lot of students, and I believe like myself too. So, we have questions and scenarios where we ask students what they would do if they come across a situation," Antoine said.

See Bystander, page 6

Italianissimi striving to bring more of Italy to Southern

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

Italianissimi, the Italian Club at Southern, is a place for students who want to lavish in their love for Italian culture and meet fun new people along the way.

Those who walked into the club meetings on Wednesday in ASC 303, were welcomed with enthusiastic smiles and open arms.

"We definitely are all loud. And we talk with our hands and have fun and love food and love life," said Nicholas Talarico, club president.

He said any chance he gets, he loves to speak the language and desires for more people to get involved.

"If I could get more people to talk about the culture and the more people to learn about the language, that

would be the best," said Talarico.

Talarico openly embraces newcomers, Italian or not. He said that the goal for the club is mostly fun-oriented, but as it builds up off the ground, he hopes to generate more morale for Italian culture.

He said that what distinguished this semester from previous ones is that now the club has really been taking off.

"Me, I come from an Italian culture. My family was born there, and they came here when they were 13, 14, so we kind of kept that culture altogether," said Genaro Gagliari, a history major and senior, "so we're just trying to get it out there."

Like most events or clubs on campus, Talarico said that the difficulty in attracting more people to the club rests on getting the word out there.

"That's the biggest issue. We have an Italianissimi Instagram account," said Talarico. "Getting people to look at those accounts. That's the biggest thing."

"We're going to try to be a little more active in hosting events and getting the word out there. Flyers need to be created," said Gagliari, who also felt that last semester there was a lack of preparation in organizing what the club was planning to do.

Bocce is a recurring event that will be situated once again on the quad. Gagliari said that last semester Bocce was a strong attraction, and he hopes that this will continue this semester as well.

"We're planning a movie night, we're planning a trip into the city, we'll be going to an Italian museum," said Talarico.

Many of the titles they thought about showing would be supported by English dubs and would include nuanced yet entertaining introductions to Italian culture.

The members ended the meeting with suggestions for the upcoming bake sale. The bake sale will be on St. Josephs Day Wednesday, Mar 20. It is the equivalent of St. Patrick Day for Italians. Other events include Italy Day, honoring the liberation of Italy on Apr 25.

Talarico and Gagliari have said that family is a central importance in their lives and the culture. They said the club brings the resemblance of connecting with their roots and other students that made them enjoy the club.

"It basically revolves around the family sitting around the table and everyone being together," said Gagliari.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Genaro Gagliari, a senior, history major.

Intellectual property

Continued from Page 5

As for patents, Mutchler said there are two kinds, provisional and non-provisional. Tyler Vander Vos, a physics major, said that part of the presentation stood out to him.

"The whole application process seemed really interesting. I didn't know there were two kinds of patents. The patents are protected differently than the copyrights, it's all very interesting."

Mutchler also talked with students about trademarks, which he said in his PowerPoint are a symbol or phrase used to identify a manufacturer or seller as the source of its products or services.

"When obtaining a trademark, you want it to be distinctive. It can be distinguished from other trademarks and logos, and it can't be generic or descriptive. It has to be suggestive or completely arbitrary," said Mutchler.

Mutchler used Nike as an example and said when people see the Nike 'swoosh', they have confidence it is a good product, so they obtain a trademark so that no one can use their logo and make money off it.

Wu, who restarted the physics colloquium series last semester, said Mutchler is one of three speakers who students will hear from this semester. While most of

them are physics related, he said they are trying to include other topics as well.

Though most of the talks will be centered around STEM, Mutchler said intellectual property is relevant to everyone on campus.

"One of my spiels is that intellectual property is everywhere," said Mutchler. "If you run your own business and you want to protect yourself from competition, then you need to know how to protect, and what it is that is protected, and to keep you out of trouble for infringement against someone else and lose your business, he said"



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

John H. Mutchler educating students on Intellectual property.



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Taipha Antoine, a freshmen (left), and Benjamin Yambao, a senior.

Bystander

Continued from Page 5

Yambao said that having these tables is essential for VPAS since it cultivates opportunities to reach out to students who may need the center's services.

"We're continuously trying to promote our department because I've come across students who say, 'I wish I there was somewhere talk where I can talk about my problem's in regarding what happened to me,'" he said.

Yambao said that they make people aware of their resources where people can go and being there for people who are

in need of the center's help.

Halley Shambra, a junior special education major said she loves VPAS and what they stand for in the Southern community. She also said she believes the programs they provide are needed on campus.

"They have programs like this on campus because a good chunk of students are in relationships and a good chunk of those students are not in decent ones," she said.

Shambra also said that setting up the table at a time when Valentine's Day occurred a few days ago was good.

"[It's] holiday all about love and romance," she said. "Some people contort those definition and make them unhealthy."

Sick kicks

Continued from Page 5

"Well, they're Nike KD 6's, they released I think in 2013, they're called the Energy Colorway," he said.

He wore bright sneakers because it was a gloomy day, decided to brighten it up with bright kicks. He said that there are other shoes with different colorways that are rarer than others, essentially making them a sort of collectable.

Cuevas used to prefer Jordans but nowadays he gravitates towards shoe's that provide more casual comfort. So he can wear on a basis.

Some Southern students try to coordinate their outfits or to a specific article of clothing that compliments their footwear.

"It's kinda cold outside, my Uggs had fur in it, so it keeps my feet warm," said Shyra Fisher, a freshmen, biochemistry major. "It

went with my jacket, and I think I look fashionable today."

Fisher was not the only student wearing Uggs, that it is that time of year to wear Uggs. Yet, she was able to pull off matching her brown winter jacket with the fur, identical fabric and style of her Uggs. She also owns a bunch of sneakers, but said she has mainly Jordans in her closet.

Vans, a popular brand of skater shoes, are one of the more popular brands seen worn on Southern's campus. It is the best style of footwear for skating due to having good grip on the bottom of the shoes, but stylistically they can worn by anyone.

Karina Aviles, sophomore, communication disorders and Spanish major was one student sporting the skater shoes. Her Vans had a black and white checkered pattern. She wore them because they matched her outfit, which had a very neutral style. She also said that they are easy to put on due to the comfort they provide.

"They're pretty comfortable. They don't really help with the weather since they're skating shoes," she said.



Sarah Rival (left), a senior, smiling as bright as her orange neon shoes. Shyra Fisher, (right) a freshman showing the coordination of her matching Uggs and Jacket.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

PEACE members advocate for a safer and more educated campus

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment, is an organization at Southern that said they are role models for making the campus a safer, more respectable place for students.

"We teach people things about healthy relationships, bystander intervention, affirmative consent, and resources and rights," said club president Amanda Valentin. "But we have fun too."

Valentin, a junior, said PEACE hosts tables, presentations and show movies on campus that can be both educational and fun for viewers. Off-campus, she said, they hold fundraisers to be able to do more programs and hopefully get their own t-shirts and have giveaways.

She said PEACE began at Southern the spring semester of 2017 by Jessica Holman and other students who were passionate about their type of work. Valentin, a survivor, first heard about it at a peer educator meeting.

"When PEACE started I got so excited because more students could get involved," she said. "When I became president, I was like 'yes, now I can tell people why I care so much.'"

Danae Sawchyn is PEACE's marketing and promotions manager and said she liked to learn more about sensitive topics like sexual misconduct.

"I could feel more empowered to help other people," said Sawchyn, an English major. "I've known people who have experienced unhealthy relationships or sexual violence so I wanted to become a more helpful community member."

Sawchyn said she has been with PEACE since before it formed into an actual club. Since fall of 2016, she has been able to see the organization grow and change into what it is now, and said she thinks members are all putting in a solid effort to make it the best it can be and continue to help it grow and create more awareness.

She said she believes students should join not just to add to their current 48 members, but also because it is open to anyone.

"[Students] should know it's an opportunity to learn more about things you think you know about but might not and [it is] an opportunity to become an asset in the Southern community."

Being a part of PEACE, vice president Benjamin Yambao said, helps members grow especially as students and gives a tangible and meaningful way to

promote Southern's standing.

"I would highly encourage other students to join, because the nature of our topics may seem overwhelming or difficult to talk about," he said, "but when you have an atmosphere and other members involved, you can have these conversations that otherwise you might not have been able to."

Senior and social work major Yambao said one of his favorite things about being in PEACE is the bonds shared among the other members.

"PEACE as a whole really has a lot of our work set out for us," he said, "and also being able to know each other not just as colleagues, but as friends really helps make the work a lot easier to handle."

Valentin said their goal is to make Southern a healthy and fun place to be where people feel safe and comfortable. In PEACE, she said students can learn through education and events, or getting to know each other and finding those with similar interests.

"I feel like in order to do the education, you do have to be passionate about it," she said. "You have to be driven and want to make the change."

She said it is important for students to know what affirmative consent is and to recognize red flags of unhealthy and abusive relationships, as well as how to step in as a bystander and help put an end to sexual violence.

"We are here for [students] as a club, but also as a resource," Valentin said. "We're also here as friends and people to reach out to. Everyone here has a heart of gold."



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

PEACE Vice President Benjamin Yambao and PEACE President Amanda Valentin on Feb. 21.

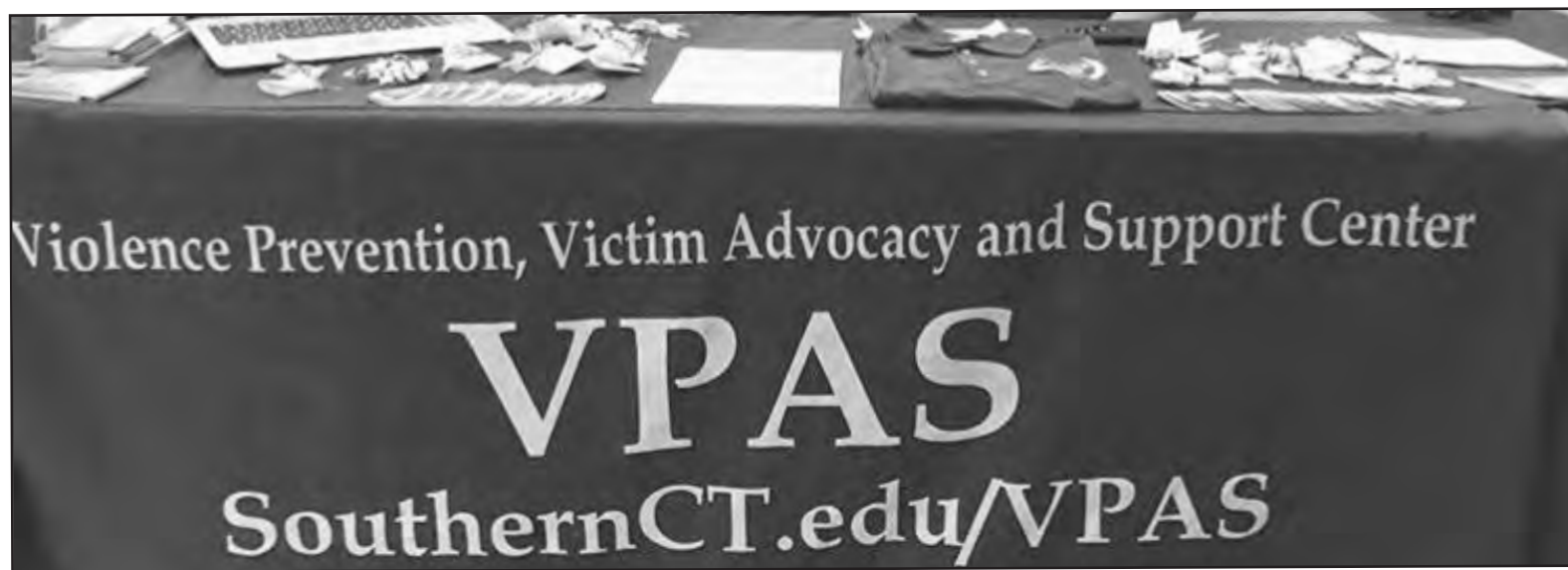


PHOTO COURTESY | SCSU OWL CONNECT

The table for PEACE at the club fair in fall 2017.

Songs that made Southern students feel heard in high school

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

For most of us, music acted as an escape and a chance for reflection back in the turbulent times that were our high school years. For some students, music was like mirrors to our experience, something that words could not quite grasp.

Candace Naude, a music major, characterized her high school years as "stressful" and found music to be a passionate avenue in which to invest her time in. She said that she was not so much into contemporary music, but rather expressed a love for orchestral music.

"I love soundtracks to movies, scores. It makes me feel in a way that no other music makes me feel," said Naude, who went on to list Thomas Newman and Hanz Zimmer as her favorite composers.

Jaromy Green, a music major with a concentration in electronic composition, said that punk rock band

Yellowcard has remained a staple throughout his life.

"I love Yellowcard. I like everything that they put out. My favorite song by them is probably titled 'Sing for Me,'" said Green. "It's actually one of my favorite songs of all time. It just speaks to me very deeply and emotionally."

He credits his decision to move down to Texas as a catalyst to his discovery of the new music. "When I went down to Texas I made a group of friends. They got me into Punk Rock," said Green. "We had a punk rock band and we did a couple of competitions locally with [other bands.] I just fell in love with that genre of music."

Mikayla Hickman, a music major with a minor in music history, said that her taste had considerably changed since high school, which made her more appreciative for her craft.

In high school, she went through what she referred to as her "emo phase." During that time, she listened to metalcore acts such as Of

Mice and Men, We Came as Romans, Sleeping with Sirens and other bands that arose in popularity around that era.

She said that her fondness for these musical acts did not entail anything necessarily unique.

"I feel like it just came with the territory of being an angsty teenager with so many emotions and not knowing what to do with them all," said Hickman.

Nicholas Bertone, a communications major, said that he chose music that made him feel different from everyone else.

"Hailstorm. AC/DC. Everybody listened to rap and hip hop, so it was like my way of being different from everyone else," said Bertone.

But why not anything else? This inability to explain why the music spoke to them was a consistent theme for SCSU students. Green did not really know why he had chosen punk rock or the band Yellowcard.

"I don't know. It just evokes emotion in me that I haven't gotten from any other music since then," he said.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Mikayla Hickman, a music major, playing her flute in Earl Hall on Feb. 22.



PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Candace Naude, a music major, playing the piano in Earl Hall on Friday, Feb. 22.

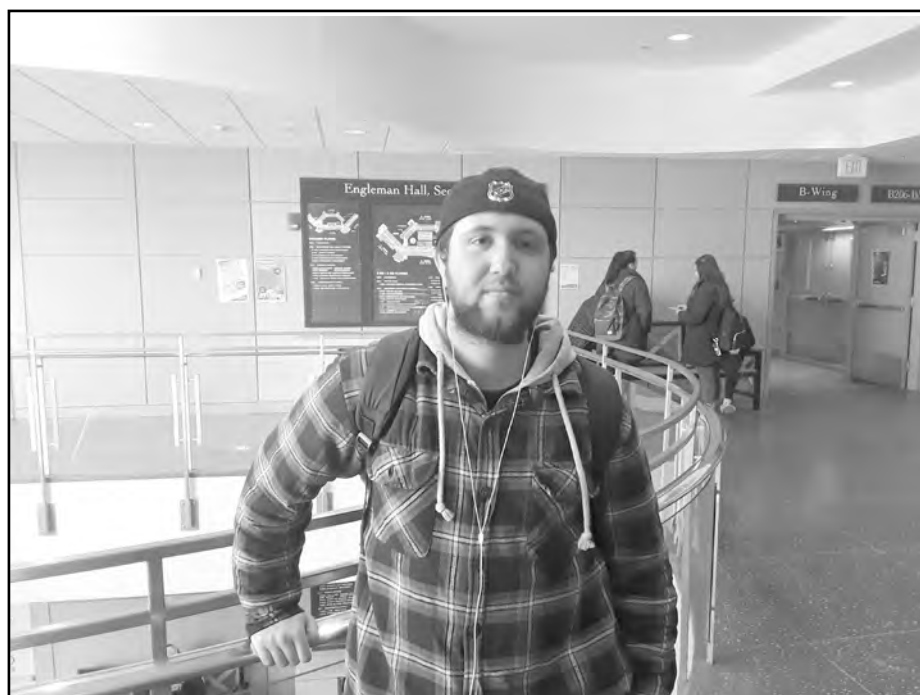


PHOTO | HALJIT BASULJEVIC

Nicholas Bertone, a communications major, in Engleman Hall on Feb. 22.

The Vagina Monologues: a tradition in trying times

By **Alexandra Scicchitano**
Online Editor

The Vagina Monologues takes place on Feb. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. in Engleman A120, and its goal is to expose students and to help them understand the experiences that women and women identifying people go through, said Jessica Troy, the director of The Vagina Monologues.

"I think it would be good for people, for folks, to get women's perspectives on violence against women or what women go through around their sexuality and trauma," said Troy, a dual master's student in women's studies and social work.

The Vagina Monologues have been going on for 20 years, since they were created by Eve Ensler, and has been reenacted on campus for at least 10 years, said Vanessa Parker, a graduate assistant in the women's studies department, who is also producing the production this year.

Troy said that for the production to be allowed at Southern, they had to get the rights for it, and then they also must follow instructions or criteria, such as the play can only be 90 minutes long, and it has to be played near Valentine's Day, according to Troy.

"I did not write the play, I am producing it on campus and we have

a director, [too]" said Parker.

She said she has seen the play twice, but that this is her first time producing it and performing in it.

According to Troy, the play has the same monologues every year. However, there can be a featured monologue or a featured topic that may be the focus of that year's production.

"Auditions happened last week, we had three different audition slots and now we are just in the process of setting up rehearsals," said Parker.

There will be seven performers who will be going through 17 different monologues, said Parker.

"So, everyone kind of picks one, we had tryouts this year, and then [what] everyone wanted, they could take," said Troy.

Some monologues include only one person reading to the audience, while others may include more people, with one even including five performers in a single monologue, said Troy.

"I know the first time I saw it, it evoked a lot of emotions," said Parker. "I was sad because some of the stories were about trauma. I was happy because there were some funny moments in the production. Then you kind of feel this sense of empowerment, I mean, there's so many emotions, which I think is something good to experience when you see a production, a play."

VPAS, or Violence

Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center, will be at the playing of the production, and there will be a counselor at the show "in case anyone gets triggered," said Troy. They will also be giving out a number to a local hotline for domestic violence and sexual assault agency in case a person does not feel comfortable talking about it there in person, Troy said.

"I think it depends about where you are at emotionally when you come to see the play, and if you connect with it or not," said Parker.

According to Parker, the play is a good way for students to gain a sense of consciousness about how taboo the word vagina is.

"I really think that anyone in social services, journalism, anybody that interacts with people should definitely attend to gain an awareness and understanding of peoples experiences," said Troy.

She also said it is good to bring awareness to what women have to deal with everyday and how sexuality can be taken away by different people and in different ways, said Troy.

"I'm just hoping that the people, the students, that attend it, something, one of [monologues] touches them and makes them really think about hearing the narrative for what it really is," said Parker. "It's not often talked about."

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
V-DAY SCSU JOINS GLOBAL MOVEMENT
TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

WITH
Director:
Jess Troy
Producer:
Vanessa Parker
Performers: Jess Troy,
Vanessa Parker,
Sierra Yanaway,
Justine Jarvie,
Miranda Kross,
Victoria Bresnahan,
Kerstin Brunnen

Probably the most important piece of postcard theater of the last decade...
—The New York Times

It is both a work of art and an incisive piece of cultural history, a poem and a political performance and a balm and a benediction. —Variety

February 27 2019 and February 28 2019
Southern Connecticut State University,
501 Crescent Street, Engleman Hall A120, New Haven, CT 06515

Flyer for The Vagina Monologues.

GRAPHIC COURTESY | COLLEEN HEARN

Frisky February helps end sex stigmas for students

By **Jessica Guerrucci**
Reporter

This February at Southern is not an ordinary one. It is "Frisky February," which means glow sticks, a dimmed room, and conversations about safer sex.

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the Wellness Center and Health Services held an event for Frisky February called Sex in the Dark, where they invited students to ask anonymous questions to educate them about what it means to have safe sex.

Christa Mann, is a nurse practitioner at health services, said "The program is really fun because you can ask any question in the whole world."

Students had plenty of questions, not just pertaining to sex, but their overall health, sexual norms, and sex education. Mahasa Jenkins, and economics major, said the program was informative and he isn't afraid to talk about sex.

"Me personally, I'm very comfortable talking about sex, but a lot of my friends are not really comfortable talking about it," said Jenkins. "I really want to break the stigma about sex and I want people to feel more comfortable talking about it."

Some students who are

afraid to talk about sex or what is going on with their bodies often look for another source to help them out, and for Tahjanay McNight, an early childhood education major, she said she will go right to Google.

"I feel like you should actually go and talk to somebody that specializes in that subject or area, because they actually know what they are talking about," said McNight. "Google tries to scare you and make the situation bigger than what it is. It's a bad way to try and understand what is wrong with you."

Mann agreed during the discussion and said how "Googling," or searching symptoms online, can be very anxiety producing because it often shows you the worst-case scenario. She said through events like Sex in the Dark, she hopes to help better educate students.

"I would think any student who comes in with questions and we're able to answer them to the best that we can, kind of increases the knowledge base and they're able to talk to their friends and have some accuracy," said Mann.

Ashley Munoz, a nursing major, who works in the health center, said she thinks it would be good to educate

students about safe sex in their classes.

"I also mentioned maybe incorporating this into the INQ and new student sophomore programs. Sexual mental health care would be beneficial to the overall health of the student body," said Munoz.

Jenkins said he does not feel that students are well educated or knowledgeable about sex, and that there should be more programs, not just in February, but throughout the whole year or at least once a month.

"I feel like a lot of people just don't get that kind of education and people are just learning as they go along and from experiences, but from an educational point of view, no one teaches about sex," said Jenkins.

Mann said an issue with the sex education students get is that most of it is learned during their middle school and high school years. Most of that education focuses on puberty and there isn't a lot of discussion about the intricacies of sex.

"As a culture and as educators, we have to become better at really reaching our population in a different way," said Mann. "Teaching them safer sex practices in general, versus just coaching them on absentee."



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A table at the Sex in the Dark event in the student center on Feb. 19.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

The Sex in the Dark event offered free condoms, lubricants, candy and more for students on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Owls claim home court for playoffs

McLeod leads Owls to win on Senior Night to clinch home game in NE10 Tournament

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

The Owls (17-11, 12-8) came into Saturday's matchup against Pace (15-12, 9-10) needing a win to give them the number four seed in the Southwest Division for the NE10 Tournament. A win would secure the Owls a home playoff matchup Friday night as the postseason kicks off, and that is exactly what they came out and did.

Sophomore guard C.J. Seaforth, fresh off a 30 point performance at Adelphi on Feb. 23, opened the scoring for the Owls by knocking down a wide-open three-pointer on the second possession of the contest and

finishing with 16 points and eight rebounds while seniors Isaiah McLeod, Luke Beesley, Joey Wallace and Kealan Ives celebrated Senior Night by combining for 47 of the team's 77 points in a 77-61 victory.

"It is the last regular season game, but you know you are playing for a playoff spot," coach Scott Burrell said. "I want more for them than just to win this last regular-season game. I want them to win the last game in the conference championship and for them to make the NCAA Tournament, so it is important for them to get a win, but I want their last game to be a smile instead of a frown."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Forward Kiana Steinauer, a junior, drives to the paint during the team's last home game.

Owls survive regular season

Kiana Steinauer's clutch performance and new career high seals win in overtime, clinches conference tournament berth

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

With a chance to enter the NE10 playoffs on the line, the women's basketball team snuck out an overtime win against Pace University, 80-78.

Not only was this game a do-or-die scenario, as well as a sneaky win in overtime, it was also Senior Night for three Owls: guard Amanda Pfohl and forwards Allie Smith, and Erin Ryder.

The three seniors were lead to center court with their parents, where they received roses, large framed photos of themselves in uniform, and took a picture with the head athletic staff and coaches.

"There was a lot of

emotions," said Ryder, who is a four-year player for the team, "I thought of it, possibly if we had lost, it would be our last game, and it was a really sad thought to me, personally."

The game would have been a crucial and much-needed win for either team, with the Setters just one game behind the Owls in the Southwest Division at the start of the contest.

In the opening quarter of the contest, after the roses and framed pictures were given to the graduating seniors, both teams started with stagnant offenses. The Owls shot 40 percent (6-15) from the floor and 33 percent (2-6) from 3-point range, while the Setters only shot 25 percent (4-16) from the field and failed to sink a shot from deep.

The Owls amped up their energy and intensity in the second quarter, with junior guard Kiana Steinauer playing her usual role: leading the team in points and rebounds with 18 points and eight rebounds.

"I think just our focus [changed]. I think at the beginning of the game, it was kind of like, 'woah, this is our last game.' It kind of hit us like, we need to do whatever we can to win. This could be the last game of the season," said Steinauer, who finished with a new career high 34 points for her third 30-point game of the season. "So, we just did whatever we could. Got some stops on defense. Everyone really stepped up. Everyone gave extra."

Out of the halftime break,

Pace started to expose the holes in Southern's defense and climb their way back into the game.

The Setter's driving guards were able to carve into the paint one play and dish the ball out to outside shooters the next.

Southern's 11-point lead at the end of the second quarter fell to only seven at the end of the third, with Pace University tying the game on a last second layup at the end of the fourth, sending the game into overtime.

As Pace took a four-point lead with just under two minutes to go, the game was placed in the hands of Steinauer.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard Isaiah McLeod, a senior, shoots a floater during a home.

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICIO

Defender Brianna Grande, a redshirt junior, gets past an opponent in the season opening game at Jess Dow Field on Feb. 24.

Molloy spoils start of Siedlecki era

Samantha Cozzolino scores 100th career goal in season opener

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Lead by new head coach Kevin Siedlecki, the women's lacrosse team lost their first game of the season in a tightly-fought matchup against Molloy College.

In the first game of the Siedlecki era, the Owls came out hot, scoring unassisted two goals in the game's opening minutes before a heavy back-and-forth gave them a 6-5 lead at the half.

With the game all tied at eight midway through the second half, it started to look like the team was about to break away, with

four unassisted and unanswered goals, starting with a score from senior co-captain Samantha Cozzolino, followed by offensive firepower from sophomore Hailey Gordon, and freshmen Karlie Rowe and Bayleigh Takacs.

In the end, the Owls were unable to compete with a fast-paced Molloy attack as they fell 14-12 in the season opener.

"It was a possession game," Siedlecki said. "We were able to hold them but we won 10 draws, they won 18; that is what it comes down to. To only lose a game by two when that is the statistic is actually pretty tough

to do. First half we did not win many draws; we turned it over way too much. Our offensive efficiency was great when we were settled but we lost way too many clears."

Cozzolino and Gordon broke through the Lion's defense early and often, notching a pair of hat tricks to lead Southern's offense. Cozzolino also brought home career goal number 100 and powered into the record books as the fourth leading goal scorer in program history, with 102 successful shots, just three back of former Owl Carolyn Keal.

SEE WOMEN'S LACROSSE PAGE 11

Moore Field House: Future member of Southern's Hall of Fame talks building of facility



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Long before Jerry Nelson was coaching himself to win the 2018 ECAC Coach of the Year award, and assembling and producing a fleet of successful female gymnasts and student-athletes, he was a Southern Owl. More so, he was a part of the prominent and historical men's gymnastics legacy that has produced national championships and Olympic heroes.

Fittingly, I spoke to Nelson in the place where it all started, a small room in Pelz Gymnasium that Southern gymnasts currently uses as their home base when they are not practicing or competing in Moore Field House.

Nelson said that back in the day he and his teammates used to practice in this room. They would compete across the way, in the gym that is now home to the volleyball squad, which also held all of the campus' NCAA-sanctioned events back then.

"It has been a fantastic journey to be here coaching, and we trained right here in this little gym in Pelz with Olympians on the team, so to go through that, and then to own my own business for 30 years, and then to come back here and work with these great athletes at my alma mater... I have pride in this university," he said. "I competed here, I went to school here."

During Nelson's sophomore year, Southern was able to build a brand new facility, fitted with new training rooms, basketball court, and athletics headquarters: Moore Field House.

Nelson said one of his men's gymnastics meets was the first event in the facility. Back in those days, men's gymnastics was the main attraction.

"The fieldhouse changed the landscape for a lot of sports, pretty much all of them," Nelson said. "Just the pool being better, the indoor track and on and on and on."

Nelson said when the field house was built in the 1970s, the men's team officially moved their headquarters to Moore Field House for practices and training, and Pelz became the center for the women's gymnastics facility.

Nelson said they also had a competitive team back then.

But back in that era, it was not just about hard work under legendary Southern head coach Abie Grossfeld.

National championships were won, and Nelson said that the 1975 and 1976 teams will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in May.

Nelson said he already has a large part in the induction, just because of where he is in his current role.



Men's Track and Field team celebrates their three-peat indoor track and field title.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Track and Field team wins third straight title

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Led by junior Oghenefjiro Onakpoma and senior Turner Kelly, the Owls' men's track and field team won its third consecutive indoor conference championship thanks to strong performances from a number of teammates. The women's team was also able to finish in good fashion, ending up in third out of the 12-team field.

"Track and field is an individual sport but at the same time when a team can come together to score all the points and help us win it is the best thing," Onakpoma said. "Individual success is nice but when the team can win together it is even better."

At the NEIO Championship meet, Onakpoma, who has qualified for the National Championship meet this season for the second time in a row,

won the triple jump by jumping 15.43 meters, while Kelly, crowned this year's league's top field athlete, was first in the shot put with a throw of 16.53 meters.

Head Coach John Wallin said Onakpoma is comfortably in Nationals, which is set to begin March 8 to the 9, but a handful of other student-athletes will be tested to try to really improve their chances to reach the coveted meet and perform well there.

Last Friday, Southern's program hosted a last-chance meet to try to get some of its student-athletes into a better position to compete nationally. Jesse Nelson, Milan Spisek and Jack Brown in the pole vault, Kelly in the shot put, Kade Amster and Trajan Lounsbury in the weight throw and Royale Jamison in the long jump are all on the balet, along with Shayna Smith in the long and triple jump and Erin McKee in the weight throw on the women's

side.

On Sunday, the team brought another group of athletes, like Nigel Green and Begotty Laroche, to Boston University for another all-or-nothing meet, which focused more on the track side of things.

"I think my training this year has helped me more with my running technique," Laroche said. "I am starting to train for the 400 meters," she said. "And I hit 24.42 in the 200, which is a provisional mark for NCAAs so I am going to be competing in nationals for the first time."

While Laroche did qualify for next month's National meet, Wallin said she they would still like to try to get her into a higher seed for her race, which is why she ran again over the weekend.

"Begotty is someone who really flew under the radar in high school, and I was told she was such a hidden gem," Wallin said. "This year she has

changed a lot about herself in the way that she competes. She performed phenomenally well at the conference meet."

In addition to the performances of Southern's premiere track and field athletes, such as Laroche, Kelly and Onakpoma, Bernardo White, and Darius Williams, were some names that stood out on the women's side were Smith, Rachel Fleischer, Caylea Landrie, Brooke Krohley and Nicole White.

Wallin said that the entire team supported and cheered for each other throughout the meet, and no matter who won what, they all came together in unity.

"The women were still excited to see the men win," Wallin said. "And I think if it was the other way around the men would be happy to see them win, too. As long as Southern is winning at something that is all people at Southern generally care about."

Men's basketball

continued from Page 9

McLeod, who scored 27 points and also came away with five rebounds on 10-16 shooting, is now 40 points shy of tying Tylon Smith for ninth on the all-time program scoring list at 1,761. With his current total of 1,721 with the Owls, he was also able to surpass the 1,700-point plateau, one of less than a dozen who have been able to accomplish that in school history.

"My teammates were giving me great screens and doing whatever they could to find me and I just knocked the shots down. Last game it was a little slump for me so coach told me to just become more aggressive."

In the game against Adelphi on Feb. 20, McLeod was matched possession-for-possession by the Panthers, so Seaforth really stepped up into an impactful position in double-figures and scored 30 points to try carry the team as best he could. Kealan Ives and Joey Wallace also scored in double figures.

In Saturday's win over Pace it was also a well-balanced performance from a number of the guys on the team.

"Everyone showed up," Seaforth said. "A lot of bench players stepped up and did their job and we came out with the win."

The team picked up 14 off the bench, in part to the contributions of junior forward Isaac Grant, a transfer from Queens College, junior forward Taurus Adams II and freshmen guards Michael Mozzicato and Mekhi Warren.

"Individuals have gotten better because some of these guys have had to take other people's minutes. Guys have been hurt; we have not been healthy all year but everyone has gotten better and we just have to keep our competitive level high in every game," Burrell said. "We have to be flying every game and then we will be okay."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard Isiah McLeod, a senior, prepares to shoot a free throw during the teams last home game against Pace University on March 23.

During monster season, Steinauer sustains a team-first mentality



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Forward Kiana Steinauer shoots a free throw during a home game against Pace on Feb. 23.

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

In the midst of a break out year filled with records, honors and accolades, junior forward Kiana Steinauer is completely focused on playing team basketball.

This season, along with having three 30 point games so far and averaging 18 points and 15 rebounds a game, Steinauer became the first female athlete in NE10 history to collect 400 points and 400 rebounds in a single season. She also became the first player to record a 30-30 game – against Concordia College on December 19 – in NE10 and Southern athletics history.

Yet, Steinauer said while she appreciates the all awards she has racked up over the years, the team will always come first.

“It’s a nice accomplishment. It’s cool, for me and for the team just to see the recognition,” said Steinauer. “I’m just doing whatever I can to win. It’s all about the team.”

Born in Seattle, Washington to two collegiate athletics stars and raised in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, Steinauer said she started playing in fifth grade and knew she wanted to play in the United States like her mother.

“Honestly, I wanted to come to the States. That was a goal of mine to come here on a scholarship,” said Steinauer. “Schools in Canada are great too, but I just wanted to play in the NCAA and Southern felt like a great fit. Coaches are really nice, team was really welcoming.”

The coaches at Southern first spotted Steinauer, almost by luck, at a 70-court basketball convention in Washington D.C. and almost immediately knew that she would be a good fit for the team.

“I was at some other court and [Assistant Coach Hiriak] texted me and said, ‘hey, why don’t you come to court whatever.’ So, I walked by and, we just happened to walk by her, is really what it was,” said Head Coach Kate Lynch. “We basically saw her rebound the basketball and take it 94 feet and score it the other way, and we kind of just looked at each

other like ‘we have to recruit this lady.’”

Since arriving at Southern, Steinauer made 18 out of 29 starts in her first season, and became a starter in her sophomore year, averaging a double-double in points and rebounds.

“It’s almost a thing of what doesn’t she bring to the team. Obviously, I mean she’s leading the country in rebounding since day one of this year, and now she’s leading our team in scoring as well,” said Lynch. “With Jess [Fressle] going down with an injury, at that point she was our leading scorer, again we asked Kiana to step up and do more than rebounding, and she’s answered that call and done more.”

Most recently, Steinauer showcased her skills in a win-or-go-home game against Pace University for their last game of the season, where she sealed the game with nine points and two steals in overtime to not only grab the win, but a playoff berth for the Owls as well.

Senior guard Amanda Pfohl said seeing Steinauer’s development over three years has impressed her and it can only get better as she goes on.

“She’s a better basketball player than she’s ever been, that I’ve seen her, and I know it’s going to get increasingly better, which is awesome to see her as a player, but also as a teammate,” said Pfohl. “I think she has more confidence in herself from now than from freshman year. I mean, she’s already proven to do things more than anyone in the history of the school has, and I think that’s going to continue next year as well.”

Even throughout her remarkable time at Southern, Steinauer said she still believes that she can always improve her game and make more of a positive impact for the team.

“There’s always room for improvement. I think that you should never settle, there’s always something more you can do, there’s always something more the team can do,” said Steinauer. “There’s always more to give, more to learn, and it’s just great to learn throughout the years on what you can improve on, and what you can learn from other players or what their intake is on stuff.”

Amidst controversy, NCAA athletes do not deserve paychecks despite injuries to star players



By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

Anyone who watched the largely anticipated NCAA rivalry game between University of North Carolina and Duke on Feb. 20 saw NBA first-overall-pick prospect Zion Williamson go down with a knee injury in the first minute of the game due to an exploding shoe.

Without Williamson, Duke, who was – and still is – ranked first in the nation, lost the game to the Tarheels, but a long-debated conversation once again rose to the table: should collegiate athletes be paid for playing in the NCAA?

The conversation arose when Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell tweeted, “Again let’s remember all the money that went into this game.... and these players get none of it.... and now Zion gets hurt... something has to change @NCAA.”

From there, the question has been asked on multiple sports talk shows and podcasts, with everyone giving different perspectives.

From one humble sports editor’s view, who notably has logged a total of zero minutes on a NCAA court but has been following college basketball for some time, I do not believe that collegiate athletes should expect a pay check any time soon.

Southern, like most other universities with athletics programs, gives out scholarships to their players which cover the intense fees that come along with attending an institution of higher learning, such as room and board and meals, among other expenses.

In my mind, your scholarship is your payment.

Think of all the students who bust their behinds, working long hours while attending classes when they can, just to afford the cost of admission. Even more so, think of all the people who cannot raise enough money to step foot on a campus.

Being able to attend college free-of-charge, that is, on a full-ride scholarship, is a gift that many people aren’t lucky or skilled enough to achieve, and athletes should be appreciative of what they get (obviously, I am not saying that all college athletes aren’t grateful).

Many of these full-ride athletes, more so on the Division I side of this argument, are expected to have an NBA career in the near future, usually after their first and only year in the NCAA.

According to a Sports Illustrated article NBA rookies can expect to sign a million-dollar contract upon entering the NBA.

Not everyone gets handed a golden ticket that could potentially let them reach their dreams, and for some of those who do, it is just not enough.

Women’s Lacrosse

Continued from Page 9

Cozzolino also brought home a career goal number 100 and powered into the record books as the fourth leading goal scorer in program history, with 102 successful shots, just three back of former Owl Carolyn Keal.

The team just seemed to slip apart late as the Lions went on a scoring spree and managed to put the game away in the late stages.

“They ran a six-goal lead and I think it just really killed our mentality, which is something we are really working on. We have always been a team that does not come back well from big runs on goals so we are really working on taking advantage. We have a very strong attack and a very strong defense; we really are just working on our transition [game],” she said.

The team had to adjust over the offseason with another change at head coach, the second in as many years, as Betsy Vendel departed for Central Connecticut State. Siedlecki, a former high school coach and teacher at Daniel Hand in Madison, was elevated from his role as the team’s second assistant coach to leading the show starting in January

“He is awesome and he knows everything we need to work on. He is very structured and organized and it was a very smooth transition,” Cozzolino said.

The team is young, with seven freshmen on the roster this season, and they have not played together a lot, having just one official scrimmage, against Wesleyan, a ranked Division III opponent.

“We saw a lot of good things but there is a lot we need to work on,” Siedlecki said. “We just need to learn to play a full 60 minutes -- when we went on that four-goal run we won the draws and our attack was working really well but [Molloy] just completely dominated the game between the 30s and that’s a huge thing in lacrosse so we have to learn from it and get better.”

On Feb. 27, they go up against a tough LIU Post team that won 14 games last year and then Saturday they will face the New York Tech Bears, another team coming off a 14-win season.

“We just have to play every minute of every game our best. We need to play the way we are capable of for 60 minutes and we did today for 45,” said Siedlecki. “We have to play our game – it does not matter if it is LIU Post, it does not matter if it is NYIT, it does not matter if it is Assumption, Le Moyne -- we are going to play our game the whole time and make every play.”



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Midfielder Morgan Chase, a junior, carries the ball down the field during a home game.

Women’s basketball

Continued from Page 9

The Setter’s driving guards were able to carve into the paint one play and dish the ball out to outside shooters the next.

Southern’s 11-point lead at the end of the second quarter fell to only seven at the end of the third, with Pace University tying the game on a last second layup at the end of the fourth, sending the game into overtime.

As Pace took a four-point lead with just under two minutes to go, the game was placed in the hands of Steinauer.

“[The team won because] I think just playing with heart. One of the things coach said was play with our heart.

Ultimately it came down to who wants it more,” said Steinauer. “I just tried to do whatever I can for the team, tried any hustle play we could. We just wanted to out hustle them, out rebound, out work them, and I think we did that.”

Steinauer lead both teams in scoring in overtime with nine points – seven of them being crucial free throws, while also collecting two steals.

Southern went on to finish post-regulation time on a 11-7 run, winning the game and clinching a playoff spot in the NE10 Championships, which start on Mar. 1.

Pfohl only had one way to explain why the team was able to survive overtime and win the game.

“Kiana Steinauer.”

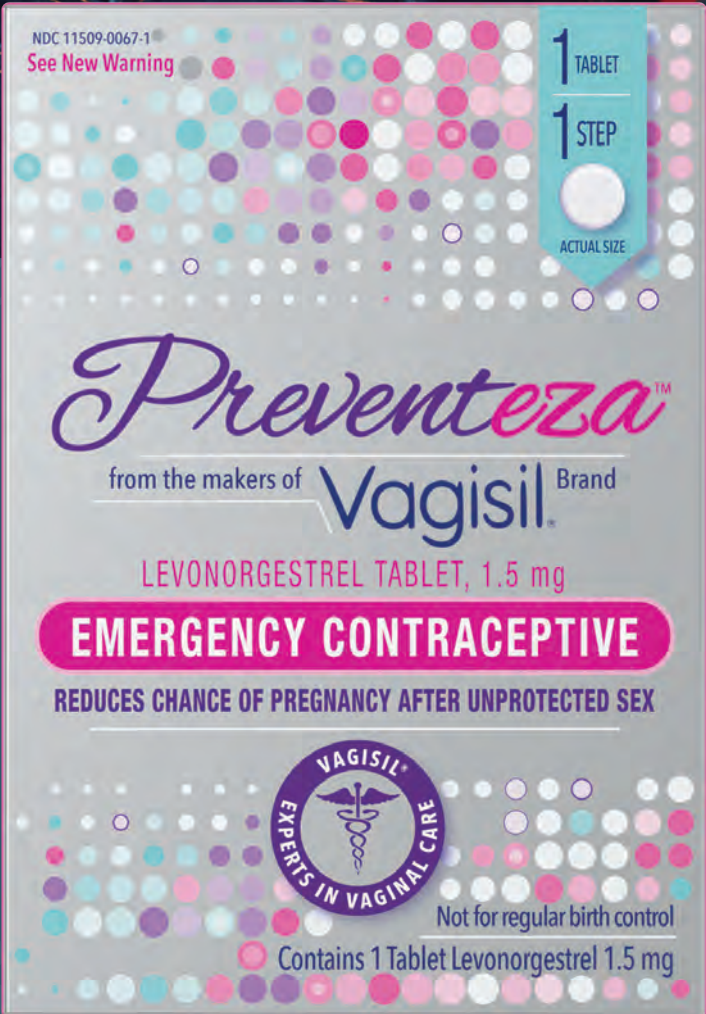


PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Guard Imani Wheeler, a junior, takes a foul shot during a home game against Pace.



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