



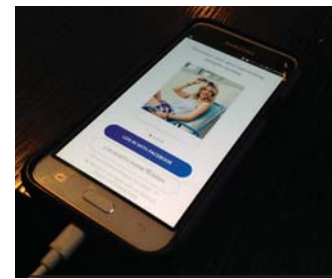
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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## New Health and human services building to be constructed

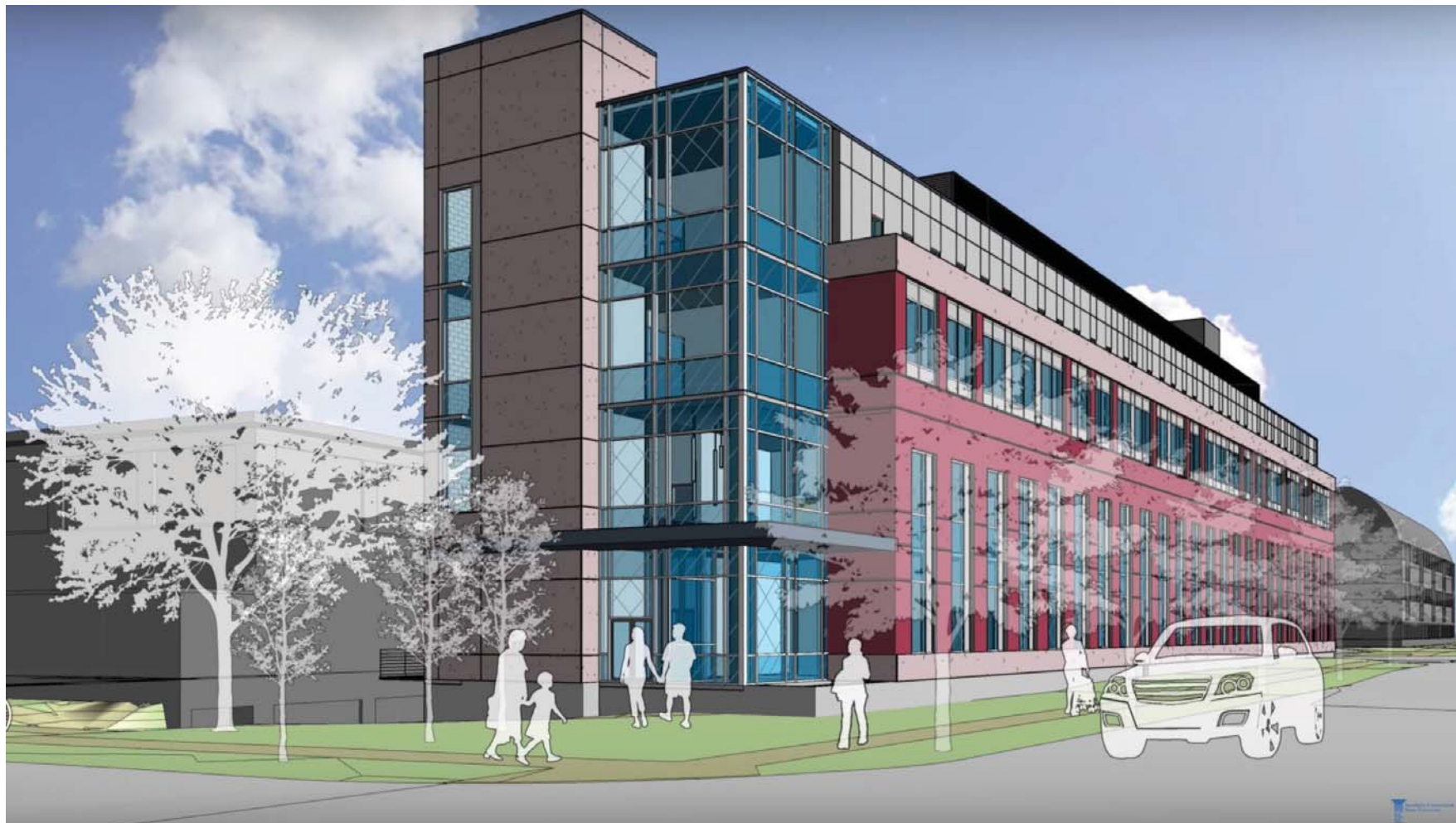


PHOTO | SANDRA BULMER

Design for the new health and human services building.

By August Pelliccio

A new home for the School of Health and Human Services will consolidate its six departments. Sandra Bulmer said the theme of the project is practice-based learning.

Bulmer, dean of the school, said the six departments currently have space in eight different buildings across campus, and she wants the new building to be a hub.

"They are spread from stem to stern over the campus," said Bulmer, "and it's an opportunity to bring many of those things together."

Facilities in Davis Hall utilized by the Department of Communication Disorders, and the Lang House used by the social work department, for example, are roughly a mile down the road from one another. Bulmer said this is an opportunity for those working environments to exist down the hall from each other.

The new building is to be constructed on Fitch Street, beside Pelz Gymnasium, according to a statement by Joe Bertolino, president.

"We are completing the design," said Bertolino, "and hope that construction will start next

year."

Bulmer said the project will not be emphasizing lecture style teaching, but conditional to pending design details, there may be some lecture halls built in. Bulmer said

"All of our disciplines that have hands on learning experiences for the students," said Bulmer, "we will try to have those facilities in the building."

The initial focus, according to Bulmer, will be on the nursing department, and the communication disorders department. She said modernizing the facilities used by the nursing program is the most important aspect, and hopes that this priority may allow the school to increase the average number of incoming nursing students.

The building will include a simulation center; a type of facility Bulmer said has been widely adopted by schools around the country. Columbia University, for example, implemented such a facility in 2016, and according to its Medical Center, the gap it bridges "between learning and doing," is crucial to medical education.

Bulmer said nearly as important is the

priority of expanding the clinics located on the bottom floor of Davis Hall, chief of which is the Center for Communication Disorders.

Bulmer said the school will also be incorporating a state of the art facility for the human performance lab, utilized by the Department of Exercise Science. This is an aspect Bulmer said she is excited to be able to provide for students.

Bulmer said the project in whole is similar in scope to the Academic Science and Laboratory Building completed in the fall of 2015.

Robert Sheeley, associate vice president of facilities operations, said the total funding for the project is \$76,430,837, approximately 72 percent of which will be allocated to the building's construction.

"The building is 96,000 gross square feet," said Sheeley, "and will be four stories high."

This is just shy of the 103,608 square feet reported on the Academic Science and Laboratory Building's website.

"The fact that this [\$76 million] project is fully funded by the state," said Bertolino, "is a great vote of confidence in our mission, and the excellence of our offerings in this field."

## Athletic training master's to come 2022

By August Pelliccio

Effective 2022, students securing a career in athletic training will be required to complete a master's degree, according to Gary Morin. He said Southern is re-arranging their department and curriculum just at the right time.

Morin, director of Southern's athletic training program, said their plan is to replace the current bachelor's degree curriculum with a "three plus two" program that will earn students a bachelor's and a master's.

"What's going to happen, if it goes the way it should," said Morin, "the first freshman class should be coming in the fall of 2019."

Morin said students currently on the path to their bachelor's in athletic training will not be affected at all, because the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education will not be enforcing the policy change yet, by the time they graduate.

"Two schools have already transitioned in the state - Sacred Heart and UConn," said Morin. "Central is in the process of doing it, and Quinnipiac is still deciding what is the best thing to do."

SEE ATHLETIC TRAINING PAGE 2

## Sandy Hook remembrance garden to open in May

By August Pelliccio

The Reflection Garden was a mere concept when first reported by Southern News in spring 2013. Bill Faraclas said the first piece, a remembrance garden, will be open to the public in May.

The garden in whole is a large-scale project being planned by a council of committee members, Faraclas being co-chair thereof.

"We can't build all of this garden at once," said Faraclas, "so we're starting with one area."

After the council's vision sessions, beginning in March 2017, Southern released literature about the project's dedication to social justice, which can be found on the Reflection Garden page of the school's website. Illustrated there is the summary of the three design sessions, which co-chair Dan Camenga said focused on student, faculty and staff, community voices, respectively.

The remembrance garden will be an area of compassion, one of president Joe Bertolino's five pillars of social justice. Faraclas said other parts of the project will include areas of dignity and respect, kindness and civility.

"This is a community that cares," said Camenga, "and these values will be for the first time ever, reflected in a physical garden space."

Faraclas explained why this first project is formally titled the SCSU Sandy Hook Alumnae Remembrance Garden.

"Within the remembrance garden there will be a memorial to four women," said Faraclas, "our four Southern family members who died."

Final renderings have been made of the large wooden monument that will be front and center in the remembrance garden, and Faraclas said it is in production now. The committee has taken measures, he said, to make sure the garden and monument within will stand the test of time.

"We are having this monument build by a yacht builder," said Faraclas. "One of the finest in the world."

According to Faraclas, Brooklin Boat Yard, out of Brooklin, Maine, has a method to preserve and treat wood used on boats that they will be applying to the monument.

They are not the only donor giving time and design expertise to the project, Faraclas said Eli Whitney Technical School will be building the large, comfortable wooden bench featured in the garden, pro bono.

"This is supported by the community for the community," said Camenga. "Those who have been involved want this vision to happen."

The council has confirmed a date of May 4, for a community event opening the remembrance garden, at which it will



PHOTO | BILL FARACLAS

Artist Rendition of SCSU Sandy Hook Alumnae Remembrance Garden.

be ceremoniously dedicated to those four Southern alumnae.

As for other aspects of the large project, the co-chairs of the council said committee members have contributed excellent ideas that have not been finalized yet.

"Some of those ideas are right at the tip of our fingers," said Camenga.

Assigning the rock garden outside the Academic Science and Laboratory Building as an area that represents respect,

for example, is a possibility according to Camenga.

Faraclas said also that the pathways leading from each piece of the campus-wide garden project might be dedicated as "paths of kindness." He said the project at large will cover much of the campus, and integrate campus into the community.

"This garden will beautify our campus," said Faraclas, "but it will do much more than that."

# Southern fraternity fundraises fro childhood cancer



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Members of Tau Kappa Epsilon watching their brothers head get their heads shaved.

By Victoria Bresnahan

At the end of the semester, five Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers will have their heads shaved to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital and childhood cancer.

"I want to do anything I can to help St. Jude's and help the kids with cancer," said Anthony Slate, one of the five brothers, "because that is what our fraternity is about—we are trying to help people."

There are five members of TKE, including fraternity president Juan Zurita, who volunteered to participate in "Shave a Life" and have their heads shaved at the end of the semester. Originally, 13 brothers volunteered, but were voted out through Instagram and Facebook, said Zurita.

"Whoever had the most votes after two days would be the top five for shaving their head," said Zurita, a senior. "What we are going to do now is take those five and create GoFundMe's."

Top donors from each GoFundMe will have the opportunity to shave the brother's head at the end of the semester when the fundraiser ends, he said.

Since this is the first year TKE has conducted this

event, Zurita is unsure how much money they will raise. However, past events accumulated anywhere between \$1,000 to \$2,000, he said.

"We always hope to do more, but Southern is a smaller school," said Zurita. "We do not expect to be raising as much money as the bigger chapters do."

Many TKE members strive to keep a professional appearance he said, and their hair is a big factor in this appearance.

"We thought it would be funny to shave their heads," said Zurita.

The fraternity conducted a philanthropy night on Tuesday to showcase what their fundraising provides to St. Jude's Hospital—the fraternity's main philanthropy.

"TKE has a wing in St. Jude's that has a new machine that basically detects and kills cancer cells without causing any other harm that chemotherapy does," said Zurita. "All the money we raise goes to fund research."

St. Jude's Hospital was founded by a TKE brother and has always received their largest fundraising, said Zurita.

John Lliguichuzhca, junior and one of the five brothers, said he has been growing out his hair for eight months and had been voted into the competition through his best friend.

"I could not refuse," said Lliguichuzhca. "I know how great the cause is, so I just accepted it. When it came to preliminaries he's the dude who pushed other people to like my photo."

Lliguichuzhca, whose mother has cancer, said he will not be upset after his head is shaved because it is for a good cause. He said knows he will be one of the top three due to the huge support he has received already.

"For me personally," said Lliguichuzhca, "through all the people that are telling me they are donating, I am easily going to make \$1,000."

Anthony Slate, freshman pre-nursing major, saw this as an opportunity to provide something more.

"I looked at the opportunity and saw a lot that could be done," said Slate. "I thought I have hair and I want to shave it. I want to do something meaningful to me and to other people."

Slate said the fraternity's brotherhood is 'awesome' and he enjoys participating in other events the fraternity hosts such as "Spike Out Cancer," a volleyball tournament which occurred last semester.

"We group together, we have fun," said Slate. "We have this bond with each other that we can go out and do whatever and know we will be good at it."

## Atheltic training



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Athletic training tables in Moore Field House athletic training facility.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Morin explained that in professional world of athletic training, two different types of graduate programs exist – a master's and a Master's of Advanced Studies. Employers will no longer consider the bachelor's degree applicants; the new entry level will be master's. Morin said likely the master's degree would become obsolete, and give way to a doctorate.

He said there are no plans as of yet to begin offering a doctorate program at Southern. However, Morin said the new master's program will be unique.

"In most athletic training programs, you take classes in the morning, and do clinical hours in the afternoon," said Morin. "This will be a very contemporary model, where you do eight weeks in classes, and then you have eight weeks of clinical education."

Matthew Rothbard, associate professor of athletic training, said he takes credit for that idea, after studying the different programs that are already being offered around the country.

Anthony Ah-Mu is a senior in the current bachelor's program, who said there is a learning curve in the program's curriculum.

"I thought I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting into," said Ah-Mu, "but I don't think I had the understanding of the full scope of practice of an athletic trainer."

Rothbard said students often struggle with a misconception of what athletic training really is. This leads to a drop-off in enrollment according to Rothbard. He said the program begins with as many as 60 students, and on average the number drops to about 30, and then to 15 by semester three.

Ah-Mu said by his sophomore year, he realized how difficult the coursework was, but he persisted.

"This is fun, and this is want to do and it's going to be hard work," said Ah-Mu, "but nothing in life is just given."

He said a genuine love for the profession, and especially an interest in strength training motivates him to put the time into class and clinical hours.

"I'm out there to prove myself right," said Ah-Mu, "when I'm faced with a challenge."

Morin said the CAATE policy changes, and the master's program being officially put into place at Southern is part of a wave of rising expectations for students going into a branch of medicine.

"Just look at medical school, look at P.T. school, look at P.A. school," said Rothbard. "It's not necessarily an idea that is unique to athletic training."

# Students celebrate African American culture

By August Pelliccio

Tai Richardson said he is tired of standing on the shoulders of great civil rights activists. He said it is time for folks to stand together and be the warriors they idolize.

Richardson, a Central Connecticut State University alumnus, professional consultant and public speaker, gave the keynote presentation at Southern's sixth Hidden Kolors event.

"Five years ago now, we started having this program called Hidden Kolors," said Dian Brown-Albert, coordinator of multicultural affairs, "to give an opportunity to celebrate our Greek organizations."

Brown-Albert said in honor of Black History Month, they celebrate the history of the Divine Nine, a group of historic Black sororities and fraternities.

According to the National Pan-Hellenic Council's website, they officially founded the Divine Nine on May 10, 1930.

The event was sponsored by the Multicultural Center and hosted this year by graduate student Avery Washington.

Washington said the focus of the event is for students to have a good time and learn something. He spent the initial portion of the evening boosting spirit, prompting students to make noise and get excited, before introducing Richardson's speech.

"Tai has a passion for serving the community and has dedicated himself especially," said Washington, "to improving the academic and social development of inner-city youth."

Richardson took the stage and began engaging students in a conversation about the sacrifice his ancestors gave for him. He said students get complacent, and forget sometimes that if it were not for their fathers' struggles, they would not be here today. Richardson said when people celebrate Black History Month, they celebrate excellence.

"I'm personally getting tired," Richardson said, "of standing on Martin Luther King's shoulders, and standing on Malcolm X's shoulders."

He said it is time to step up, and claim a rightful place in history.

"Do you believe in yourself?" Richardson asked the audience. "Do you trust yourself with the next chapter of black history?"

Richardson said that is the question that students need to be asking if they want to be groundbreakers.

"One way to answer that question is to think about it in this light," said Richardson. "If every person in the world were just like me, what kind of world would this be?"

Richardson said students in this generation should strive to be well read and well versed, educated and willing to educate, willing to stand out in a crowd and willing to call out injustice.

"If you're willing to take risks," said Richardson, "then we are in good hands."

Richardson shared some brief stories about his particular distress, facing discrimination in this country, and urged students to be as forthright as he is, in pursuit of believing in what they can achieve.

Washington incited a round of



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Avery Washington, a graduate in the multicultural center, speaking to students about African-American history and culture. Adanti Student Center Ballroom. New Haven, Connecticut. Feb 21, 2018.

applause after Richardson's speech, before introducing a representative from each of the Divine Nine who were present.

Makala Holman, president of the Xi Omicron chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, said her sorority is rich in black history. Holman said the change in values and social constructs observed since the start of AKA is vast.

"AKA was established in the early 1900's when negroes were still subjected to deplorable social, political and economical conditions," said Holman, "that were impeding their

efforts to become productive citizens."

Holman said today, her chapter hosts programs that have been impactful, informative and community service related.

After each Greek organization gave a brief introduction, and demonstrated their stepping, the evening's activities came to a close. Students were invited to view a display outside for each of the organizations that attended, as well as a display of African-American artifacts on loan to the Multicultural Center.

# SGA discusses school spirit and food services

By Josh LaBella

Julie Gagliardi opened the Student Government Association meeting by thanking two Southern Connecticut State University student for speaking in front of the state House of Representatives appropriations committee in support of higher education.

"They shared their stories and experiences about their campuses and why the state should continue to fund higher education," said Gagliardi, president of SGA. "Our two students did awesome and there was apparently a public hearing after that other Southern students spoke at that went really well. Tis the season to continue our fight to make sure more budget cuts don't head out way."

Malaina Foss, a representative-at-large who sat in on the Accepted Students Day Committee, said they were looking raise "hype" for Accepted Students Day, which will be April 15. She said some of the things suggested included t-shirt and water bottle giveaways, putting out selfie stations around campus, and performances around campus.

"So we could have NOTEorious walk around and sing and the drumline on the bridge," said Foss. "Also, we talked in brief about having a spotlight student or parents of students who go to Southern to share their experiences."

Rosa Morello, a representative-at-large on the Spirit Committee, said one idea the committee is looking to pursue is getting a large rock to put somewhere in the academic quad for students to paint.

"Obviously there will be a process to what can get painted on it," said Morello. "It's not just going to be a free-for-all."

Morello said other ideas they discussed were getting a new Otis mascot and putting an Otis statue on campus. She said the school would use the same company that designed the new logo released last semester. Gagliardi said she would like to have paintable benches or picnic tables on campus.

"I know that there are rules to the look of the university," said Gagliardi, "and that's why we have those metal benches. But that would be a really cool idea we could do."

According to Joey Gentile, a representative-at-large

on the Food Services Committee, said Chartwells is looking to add macaroni and cheese bar in Connecticut Hall. Stefany Mitchell, a representative-at-large on the same committee, said Connecticut Hall will also have a number of themed lunches.

"They are having a little Italy lunch on Mar. 6," said Mitchell, "a St. Patrick's Day lunch on March 8."

Mitchell also said there will be a student appreciation dinner where steak and shrimp will be served. She said there will also be a hot dessert bar. She said Chartwells will also be adding a chipotle bacon burger in the Adanti Student Center.

Gagliardi said she attended the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum where the writing committee is working on a method to allow students to be able to take "W" courses earlier. She said they are also looking for a way to access the writing program.

"They know that often time's students, because of the availability of the courses, will be taking 'W' courses later in their career," said Gagliardi. "Then they end up taking two or three of them at a time and that's a lot of work."

# Sixth annual Citizens Police Academy aims to build trust

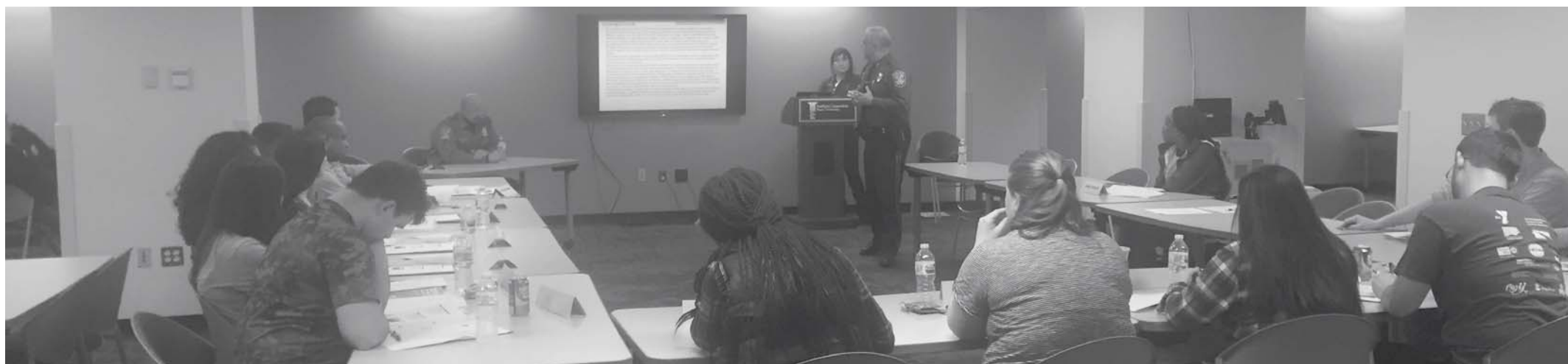


PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Southern Police Chief Joseph Dooley teaching students about the history of the department in the Farnham Programming Space.

By Josh LaBella

For six years, the Southern Connecticut State University Police Department has held its Citizens Police Academy – with essentially the same mission.

"Our goal is better communication with the campus," said Chief Joseph Dooley. "We want people to understand how we do things."

Dooley said the department is community oriented and the class is a way to showcase that and get feedback. He said

throughout the seven week course, which began Feb. 21 and happens Wednesday nights, the class will cover a number of topics including the background and history of the department, police jurisdiction, and use of force.

"The students will also have the opportunity to do a ride along with the department," said Dooley. "To see the job through a police lens."

Dooley said the police department will run the class as long as they have at least 10 people sign up and will accept around 25 people at maximum.

One of those students is Avery Mezzanotte, a senior international business major. He said he signed up for course, in part, to see what the university police do and how they are active on campus.

"I have looked into law enforcement," said Mezzanotte. "I'm also taking a law class so I wanted to see the other side of the law. Also my friend wants to be a cop and we were kind of like 'Let's do it together' and it's been a good bonding experience."

Mezzanotte said in the first class they learned

about the history of the department and its jurisdiction. He said they also learned about the fundamental principles of policing.

"The community is the police and the police is the community," said Mezzanotte. "I thought that was really interesting how they act with the community but they have to be neutral in their work."

Mezzanotte said one part he is looking forward to is the decision making shooting exercise – where students will use a police virtual reality roleplaying scenario to learn about

use of force. He said he is also looking to go on a ride along.

Nate Scaniffe, a junior history major, said he wants to go into law enforcement and has been wanting to take the class since last year. He said he is the Southern Police Department's intern and took the class to gain more knowledge in the field.

"It'll be general insight into the police's daily jobs, not real training necessarily – but a lot of it is," said Scaniffe. "They're discussing real life tactics, real life procedures, real life things that apply to

all aspects of policing so I'm hoping to kind of get insight into those skills and pick up as much as I can."

Scaniffe also said it is neat to talk with police about how they feel about certain topics and try and understand "their side of the coin." He said he is excited for it and thinks everyone will have a lot of fun.

Dooley said they are not offering the Citizens Police Academy to try and recruit police officers. He said they want to build trust.

"If you don't have public trust," said Dooley, "It's an uphill battle."

## Student use of dating apps

By Victoria Bresnahan

Sean Judd, a sophomore social work program applicant, who has used dating apps like Tinder, Grindr and Bumble, said he has met a few people through them, but none of the interactions were “worthwhile.”

“I use it, embarrassingly, a lot,” said Judd. “I just get bored and I go on it, a lot more than I should probably.”

According to a 2017 ABODO survey, an apartment search platform, of the 4,000 college students

polled, 4 percent use dating apps to meet potential dates. For both males and females, the main reason for using them was for entertainment. In addition, the survey stated, Tinder was the most popular app and used by 84.4 percent of the students polled.

Judd said this method of dating is not necessarily destroying face to face conversations, but it is impacting it. Marginalized people, such as those who are gay, using the app may have an easier time finding someone to connect through these apps than in real life, said Judd.

“Being gay you cannot just go to any given bar and expect to find someone,” said Judd. “So, I guess

that would be a benefit as opposed to just going to a gay bar.”

Alexis Lopez, a sophomore pre-nursing major, said dating applications are not her preferred method to meet new people.

“I would rather meet someone in person I guess,” said Lopez. “Just kind of go with the flow. They have never really been my thing, they are funny though to use ironically.”

Lopez said she does not know anyone who has developed a long-term relationship through one of the apps.

“I know people that have met people and then become good friends with them,” said Lopez, “but nothing more than that.”

Judd said he also does not know of anyone who has developed a long-term relationship through these apps but was able to develop a friendship with them.

“I feel like the two main groups [who use dating apps] are college kids and people who just got divorced,” said Judd.

Alexis Perry, a freshman psychology major, said she prefers face to face communication and interaction over online dating apps. Perry said this modern form of dating could interfere in people’s abilities to be social with others.

“People just get so used to being antisocial by talking to people online rather than meeting up in person,” said Perry.

Sam Widomski, a freshman communication disorders major, said the body language of the person is important in people she would like to date or speak with.

“You are not learning about the [person] if you are just looking at their appearance,” said Widomski, “and if you don’t like [who] you’re swiping.

Widomski said some people use their technology to hide behind the screen and are unable to learn how to have face to face conversations.

“It can be difficult when you are having a one on one conversation,” said Widomski. “You are not really sure what to talk about, and you can’t really think through all your answers for a long period of time if you are answering a text or one of the [dating] messages.”

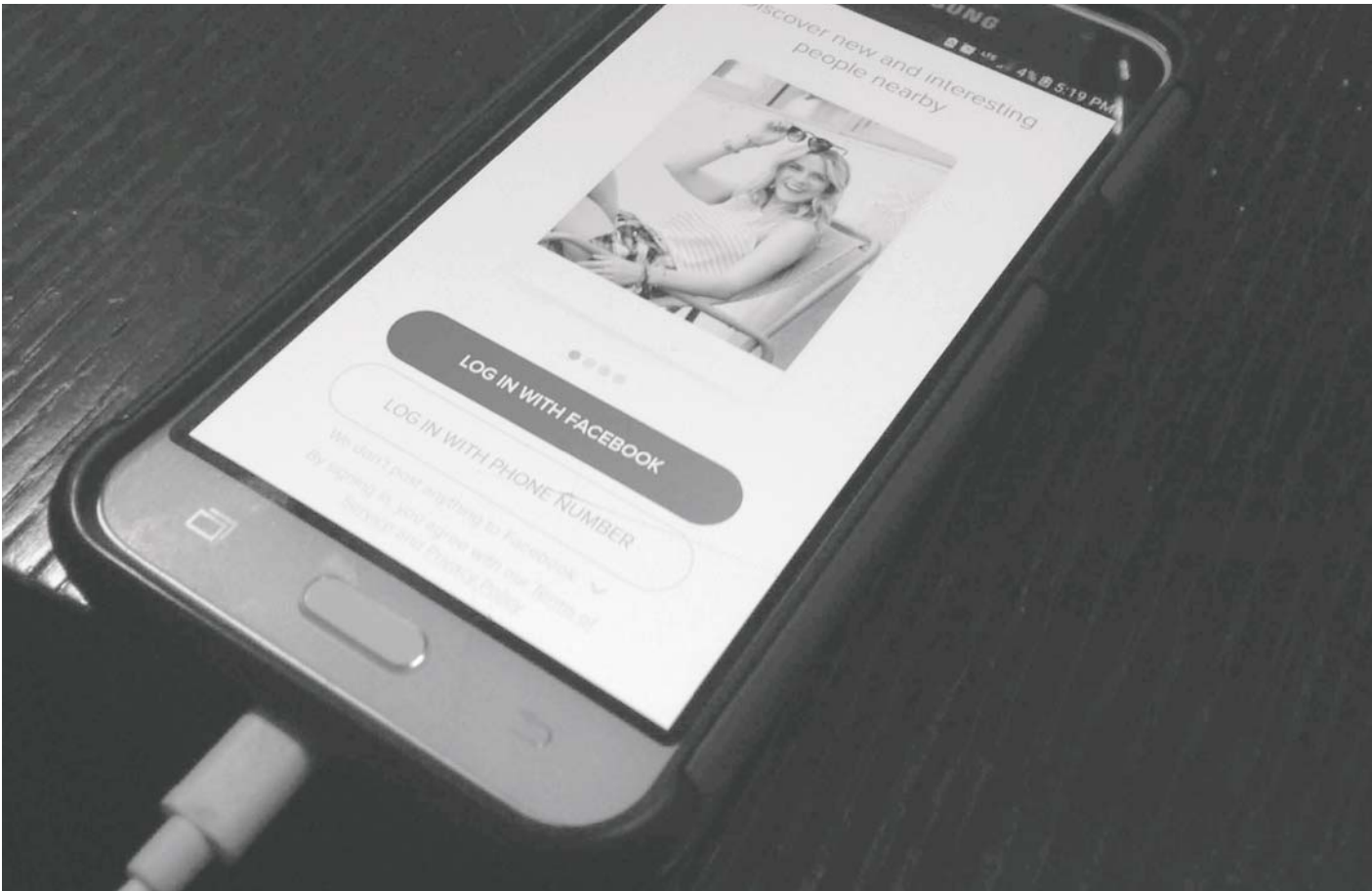


PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

The Tinder app homepage.

## VPAS teaches students the importance of consent

By J’Mari Hughes

Spin the wheel and win a prize. Students got to test their knowledge on sexual consent to win goodies and educate themselves. Members of the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center (VPAS) sought to educate students on the difference between yes, no and maybe.

VPAS set up a table in the Adanti Student Center on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Members gave away candy, pens and pamphlets about their organization.

“Can an individual give consent if they are unconscious,” Bria Scott, a senior IDS major asked students. “The answer is no. Consent is an affirmative conscious decision indicated clearly by words or action to engage in a mutually accepted sexual contact.”

VPAS is committed to helping create a campus community of respect and safety by providing violence prevention education, victim advocacy and support services, according to their online Southern page. Members help students identify sexual misconduct and consent on campus and in the community.

“Basically we like to advocate around campus and teach students about rape culture, affirmative consent and sexual misconduct,” Scott said “to make sure that students are aware and know their options as far as VPAS and SART.”

SART is the Support and Resource Team that, along with VPAS, supports victims who have experienced sexual violence, bystander intervention, hazing, bullying and misconduct.

Annually, VPAS aims to spread awareness by placing red flags around campus. The flags have comments written by students in regards to rape and sexual consent. They also have hosted a “Take Back the Night” event at Southern since 1998 where they march and have guest speakers share experiences.

At their table in the Student Center, Scott and fellow senior Danae Sawchyn, an English major, taught students about affirmative consent and where to find help on campus if they ever need it.

“I think it’s important for people to know that it’s important to ask for consent and it’s not weird to do so,” Sawchyn said. “Some people think it might be lame and awkward to ask ‘Hey is it okay if we do this right now?’”

Sawchyn and Scott agreed that consent is “much needed.”

“It’s needed, it’s appreciated. It doesn’t have to be a long drawn out thing. It should just be a human thing to communicate with each other and make sure everyone’s okay and on board with what’s going on,” Sawchyn said.

“Confusion doesn’t work.” “So-so consent doesn’t work.” The pamphlet entitled “Yes Means Yes” educates readers on affirmative consent: a policy saying that

“when one person initiates sexual contact, he or she must get a clear, voluntary, enthusiastic ‘yes’ for the sex to be consensual.”

No means no, VPAS exercises. The pamphlet informs readers that a person is non consensual if they are the following: sick, drugged, upset, silent or incapable of saying no.

“If [a person] is not able to consent,” Mary Xatse said, “then there’s no consent present.”

Xatse, a graduate intern supervises student workers and assists with VPAS discussions and table events. She and those of VPAS invite students in need to speak to an advocate, or those not seeking help to come and hear more about their program.

Xatse said that to some people consent is a confusing topic, but it all comes down to respect.

“If someone does not want something to happen then it shouldn’t be happening even if they previously agreed and now they’re taking it back,” she said. “The individual needs to understand that and respect that.”



PHOTO | J’MARI HUGHES

Danae Sawchyn and Bria Scott host a VPAS table in the Adanti Student Center.

# Club profile: LGBTQIA+ Prism welcomes students

By Jeff Lamson

In the name of inclusiveness and acceptance, LGBTQIA+ Prism provides a safe space where members can learn and share information about their sexuality and relationships.

At their meeting on Feb. 20, one member shared some of their negative experiences with their home life, specifically with their step-mother. The gathered members led by President Josh Garcia and Vice President Megan Poulin, gave this member advice based on their own experience and knowledge of emotional and mental abuse.

"If you can't even feel safe in your own home," said Poulin, "but you can feel safe here, it is very important to have that space."

Prism is primarily a social club that exists to provide its members with a space and group of people that they can be themselves with, Poulin said. Part of reaching out to help people is education regarding sex and relationships.

At the same meeting last Tuesday there were sex toys, condoms, rubber gloves and bananas were

passed around the room. E-board members demonstrated how to use both male and female condoms using a sex toy before allowing the general body members to practice on the bananas.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, Prism will be educating their members on how to have a healthy relationship. Now a sophomore English major, Poulin said that she had learned a lot about sex and relationships during her freshman year with Prism.

Poulin says that there is a problem with people of the community getting misinformation and lack of access to information.

"We do try to be educational," Poulin said, "but again, it's a social club, so most of the time it will be like we'll come back to that conversation where people are free to speak their mind."

Part of this inclusiveness and openness is the reason some members decide to join Prism. Events coordinator and freshman environmental science major Victoria O'Malley said that she had never had an organization like this in high school and once she had gotten to college, she wanted to get involved.

"Everyone there was extremely welcoming," O'Malley said, "so I just kind of never left."

O'Malley had discovered Prism at a club fair which Poulin said are one of the main ways that Prism tries to attract members that will stick with the organization.

Treasurer and sophomore psychology major Juliana Thomasson said that her school had a Gay-Straight Alliance, but that it was not very good. People either did not show up or did not do anything relevant to the organization.

Not being on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, Thomasson said that she was an ally and wanted to help contribute to the cause and help Prism be inclusive and helpful toward its members.

Rory Dougall joined Prism as a freshman and had in the past assumed the role of being heterosexual, but says later learned to be more open and love himself.

"We live in a society that emphasizes normalcy," Dougall said.

Breaking away from heteronormativity is a source of shame for some people. Having these feelings, Dougall said, is not something to be ashamed of.

# SCSU students discuss futures, family planning

By Victoria Bresnahan

Elizabeth Nerkowski, a junior accounting major, is an only child, and because of that, she said she wants to have several children — at least four.

"I know everybody always says, 'I hate my siblings. They're so annoying' [but] at the end of the day they are always going to be there for you," said Nerkowski. "So, I want that for my kids."

Nerkowski said she is determined to have an established career before tying the knot. She and her boyfriend of one year have discussed furthering their commitment later in life.

"I told him I don't want to get engaged, none of that, until I have my job, stability [and] have an apartment," said Nerkowski, "until I'm good."

With technology rapidly growing, Nerkowski said she is concerned about raising her future children amongst it. Nerkowski, who also works as a waitress, said when children occasionally eat at her restaurant, they are usually distracted by technology.

"The only things their parents give them are iPads or their phone to shut them up," said Nerkowski. "I didn't have an iPad or phone to shut me up. It is so weird, I don't

want my kids to have their face in a screen 24/7"

Nerkowski said it would be difficult to completely deter her future children from the technology since most have access to it.

"I feel like I'll do both," said Nerkowski. "Like they'll have all the technology, but if [they] want to play on their iPad [they] have to go outside for at least an hour. [They] have to interact with people, not just sit inside and play video games, or watch YouTube."

According to a 2014 Institute for Women's Policy Research study, an organization dedicated to improving the women's lives through research, 4.8 million college students are raising children. The study stated women make up 71 percent of these student-parents.

Jill Murphy, a sophomore communications disorder major, said she does not plan on settling down until her late 20s. Murphy said her focus has always been on school and her future career, so she does not want to rush.

"There are so many things to do before that," said Murphy.

When it concerns having children, Murphy said she would rather adopt than have her own. However, Murphy said her decision could change someday.

"There are so many kids that need to be adopted," said Murphy. "So, why would I bring more people into

the world when there are so many kids [who] don't have families?"

Considering the recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Murphy said the world is not going in a positive direction and she is concerned about raising future children in it.

"Why would I subject someone else to it if I don't have to," asked Murphy.

Michael McDowell, a junior sports management major, said he currently does not want to have a family in the future because he is focused on making money. McDowell said his income would be used for traveling and exploring the world.

"[A family] would take up a lot of my money," said McDowell. "You've got to spend a lot of money on [children] throughout the years."

If he found the right person he would consider getting married; and if they wanted children, McDowell said that would be a discussion for a different point in time.

McDowell said he noticed children spend more time on tablets and phones as well, rather than spending time outside or with friends.

"If I did have kids, I would want them to be creative, go outside and do stuff," said McDowell, "but I know times are changing."

# PEACE celebrates importance of Black Her Story

By Michelle Tewksbury

To educate, remind and encourage; Sabrina St. Juste said those are the reasons why the Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment Club held Black Her Story for the second year in a row.

Facilitated by The PEACE Club and the Violence Prevention Victim Advocacy and Support Center Black Her Story was an open photo and biography exhibit celebrating black women's contributions to the anti-sexual violence movement.

Jessica Holman, president of the PEACE Club and senior English major and Women's Studies minor, said the exhibit "celebrates black women during Black History Month."

St. Juste, senior interdisciplinary studies major with concentrations in psychology and women's studies, is the secretary of the PEACE club. The purpose of the exhibit, St. Juste said, was to raise awareness of sexual violence through the black women who have contributed to the movement.

The pictures and biographies of 14 women surround the Hall Room in Engleman Hall at SCSU, showcasing women like activist Rosa Parks, author Toni Morrison, novelist Alice Walker, writer Maya Angelou, #JustSaySorry creator Wagatwe Wanjuki, activist Anita Hill and a poster dedicated to telling the story of Celia. Celia was a slave who murdered her owner after repeated sexual assaults. Two of the assaults resulted in pregnancy. Her poster detailed the murder trial and how her story helped anti-slavery groups advocate for others who suffered from sexual violence.

"They all [the women] have something special about them. All their stories are eye opening and motivational," St. Juste said. "Seeing how they decided to speak up and advocate for themselves, it is definitely inspirational."

The United States Department of Justice has found that African American girls and women ages 12 and older expe-



Emblem for the Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment.

rience higher rates of rape and sexual assault than white, Asian, and Latina girls and women.

The exhibit was open to all students on Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The PEACE Club provided brochures and informa-

tion, snacks and coloring sheets and a chance to sit and talk with peer educators.

Samantha Groskritz, a senior Spanish major and peer educator for VPAS, attended the event to talk to attendees and students. She wants students to know

about all the resources available to them.

"Letting people know that people are here for them, and the campus cares about their situation," Groskritz said. "Educating people about the statistics, the frequency of how often these types of things happen and trying to make sure that through education, that we can prevent future incidents."

The PEACE Club has provided information about resources available to students who have suffered from sexual assault or sexual violence. The Sexual Assault Resource Team (203) 392-6946, the University Police (203) 392-5375, Counseling Services (203) 392-5475, Health Center (203) 392-6300 and VPAS Center (203) 392-6946. The VPAS center has trained members who are available 24 hours a day.

The 14 women celebrated by Black Her Story are "influential and inspirational," said St. Juste. From supreme court justices to hashtag creators, these women are advocating for themselves to help others in similar situations.

The PEACE club's secretary has a message to any student who has suffered a sexual assault or been a victim of sexual violence: "Bringing forth

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.EDU

these women not only educates students that this does happen to people, but also encourages and reminds students that they are not alone and their voices could be heard," St. Juste said. "You are not alone."

# Literary interactions through professor performances



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Rachel Furey reading her work and answering questions on Friday, Feb. 23.

By Jeff Lamson

Forty or more people crammed into the English department's common room, leaving some to stand on the perimeters of the room in order to hear the work of professor Rachel Furey and Jason Labbe.

Furey provided the short stories and Labbe provided the poetry to a mixed audience of students, faculty and more. Tim Parrish, who organized the event and other readings like this since 1995, said that it was important for the writers to enjoy the event.

"But primarily," Parrish asked, "do the people who come enjoy [it] and do they get something out of it?"

Parrish said that he likes these readings to be an engaging and invigorating experience in which people are made to interact with literature and the presentation of literature. He said he likes for the performer and community to interact, and compared it to a live music show at a small venue.

"Community is really big with me," he said. "I just like getting people in the same room to have a shared experience."

Furey said that she likes the opportunity to share her

work, which in this case was an unpublished short story called "CPR." She said doing a reading helps her learn if people are connecting with the material and the questions can lead to a new way to look at the work.

This, her first reading as a staff member, served as a welcoming event for Furey who started working at Southern in fall 2016.

She said that approaching the reading was a bit nerve wracking but she hoped people could connect and find something humorous in the story. Having a number of darker stories in her catalogue, Furey said that she wanted to avoid that for this reading.

"It's a Friday night," she said, "so I'm hoping they'll feel at least a little bit entertained, that maybe they'll go into the story world and forget about the other things that may be happening in the greater world for a little bit."

She did get the reaction that she said she wanted on Friday night. People laughed and smiled with the roughly 25-minute reading through its entirety, while connecting with the awkward main character in middle school.

Labbe also worked a lot of humor into his readings. He read poems from his catalogue while promoting his new book, "Spleen Elegy," which was for sale at the event. While his material itself was more serious in nature, he worked humor into his introductions of certain pieces of work.

His last poem, "The Truth About Hartford," came from not really understanding Hartford at all. Other pieces included imagery involving motorcycles and one about his mother, which is a relationship he described as "not happy."

Parrish said that he typically tries to get both a poet and prose writer for these events to broaden the audience and that the readers are rarely both Southern staff.

Upcoming on March 5 is a reading by Kathryn Miles, author of "Quakeland." Parrish said that he was able to get writer's that would normally be expensive because they like him and they know that Southern is a cool place.

The writers know that Southern has great audiences of receptive students who are not jaded like some at Yale might be. They are excited to present to middle and working class students here, Parrish said.

"That's exciting for any writer," Parrish said, "You're presenting to people who haven't been to a lot of reading, maybe never been to a reading, kind of opening a door to them."

## Southern students strongly prefer radio to podcasts



PHOTO COURTESY | PATRICK BREITENBACH

A podcast set.

By Jeff Lamson

Podcasts have steadily been evolving steadily since their creation in the previous decade, but Southern students still gravitate heavily towards radio, whether that be FM or satellite.

In ad revenue alone, podcasters together made an estimated \$220 million in 2017; an 85 percent increase over the previous year, according to Wired.com. Freshman nursing major Tiffany Acuna says that she goes toward the radio because of its ready availability and that radio will always be better because of this.

Sophomore interdisciplinary studies major David Betters said that this was part of the reason he leans more towards the radio as well.

"It's easy to access," he said. "It's pretty much everywhere. All you gotta do is just turn the dial and it just works."

Acuna said she mainly listens to FM Top 40 stations like Star 99.9 for music like Rihanna and Justin Bieber. While she said she will listen to morning talk shows sometimes, it will only be if there is nothing else on.

Ryan Toffey, a senior communication major said that he almost exclusively listens to SiriusXM Satellite Radio. He will listen to Sway in the Morning, but mainly just listens to rap and hip-hop. The only podcast that he said he really dabbles in is The Joe Budden Podcast, but it is usually just on in the background.

"I guess if I'm really trying to watch something," Toffey said, "I'll go on Netflix and actually watch something."

Budden's podcast has both audio and visual elements and is hosted on YouTube which has become one of the primary platforms for podcasters.

"Actually, one of the things that stops me from it," Toffey said about listening to more podcasts, "I wanna listen to one from the beginning, but not have to go all the way back to listen to it."

Betters said he mainly listens to classic rock and news on the radio, but will sometimes listen to event coverage. He said that this is because that is the way he grew up listening to the radio in his parents' car.

"For example," Betters said, "my father's a big fan of NASCAR, so say the Daytona 500 is on, something like that; a big event that the radio has, I'll listen to it."

Betters does say that he listens to the StarTalk podcast with Neil DeGrasse Tyson and Bill Nye, but typically does not listen to podcasts and will just listen to NPR for news.

While these students do tend to the radio more than podcasts, they said that it does have its drawbacks, even satellite.

Toffey said that the fee for satellite radio that is automatically added to his car payments is the biggest drawback for him, but that he absolutely will not listen to the normal radio. He also said he dislikes the commercials and having to listen to them.

Betters said one of the bigger drawbacks for him is the range and reach of stations. Being from the more northern part of Connecticut, he would usually be able to enjoy stations like Rock 102 out of Springfield, Massachusetts; but in New Haven, it is out of range.

Acuna says that her main dislike of the radio is the repetitiveness of the songs played over and over. This will cause her to change the station sometimes.

"They could play that song and after two songs, they'll it again," she said. "That's pretty annoying."

# Review: 'Call Me by Your Name' is overrated



PHOTO COURTESY | ELENA RINGO

Armie Hammer (left) and Timothée Chalamet (right) at a press conference at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2017.

By Jeff Lamson

Nominated for four Oscars, a Critics' Choice Award, plenty of nominations for best actor and rated #176 on IMDB's top 250, "Call Me by Your Name," had hefty expectations to live up to.

Upon viewing, these credentials come into question and the accolades seem to be, for the most part, unjustified. What may seem the only appropriate nomination is that of the Oscar for Best Original Song.

The song in question, "Mystery of Love," by Sufjan Stevens is one of the high points of a film where music and audio were the best overall aspects. Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Adapted Screenplay are a different story.

The Oscar for Best Picture is arguably the highest honor that a filmmaker could hope to achieve, and in this film, I did not see one of the best overall films of the year. It is not a bad film, but it is not very enjoyable as a film.

The story is of Elio Perlman (Timothée Chalamet), and Oliver (Armie Hammer) and their shared summer in Northern Italy at Elio's parents' summer home. Elio is

described as being a "precocious" 17-year-old boy and Oliver whose age is never specified, is Elio's father's grad student, there to help with the father's work.

In the novel, Oliver is 24; in real life, Hammer is 31, and Chalamet is 22. The plot of the film follows the two falling in love and having a sexual relationship. When the story gets going, it is engaging, but it takes too long to get to the point.

It felt like the director, Luca Guadagnino, was making the film with the mindset that the film could not possibly get nominated or win an Oscar if it was under two hours. The result and evidence of this are in scenes that do not really go anywhere or serve a purpose except to reinforce something the audience has already seen or might have missed previously.

The film seemed to beg the audience for a second viewing but without being entertaining it is unjustified. The plot feels completely aimless for nearly the first hour until it is made very clear that Elio and Oliver desire each other.

Chalamet was nominated for Best Actor in the Oscars, BAFTA's, Golden Globes and Critics' Choice Award. It

was hard to see why, as Chalamet's performance was both inconsistent and awkward. The delivery of his lines seemed very unnatural and strange. His tones and inflections were as if they were recorded completely out of context.

Because it requires a sufficient knowledge of the source material to really judge the adapted screenplay, it is not as easy to argue against. But it is clear in the screenplay that regardless of the actor's performances, some of the dialogue and scenes felt very awkward. It is as if the characters are sharing a secret that the audience should be aware of but really do not make sense until their relationship is revealed.

At one point, Oliver says, "We've been good," as if it was clear that he and Elio have had a pre-established relationship before this summer, which is never indicated in a concrete way.

Overall, "Call Me by Your Name," is an adaptation of a book that requires some level of pre-existing knowledge to enjoy fully. It is Oscar-bait that the Academy swallowed whole because it checks boxes. It is a decent movie, but overrated by critics and outclassed by its competition.

# Video game review: 'Kingdom Come: Deliverance'

By Josh LaBella

Knights and fair maidens gather round. "Kingdom Come: Deliverance" brings back chivalry to a landscape barren of historical medieval role-playing games.

Released just two weeks ago, "Kingdom Come: Deliverance" is a largely anticipated medieval game which boasted realism as one of its main components. Taking place in 1400's Bohemia, the player finds themselves in the shoes of Henry - the son of a blacksmith whose family is killed in an attack on his village during a time of civil war.

Right off the bat, the player can notice the pace of the game is much slower than other role-playing games. One might even call the game a medieval travelling simulator, as the majority of time in the game is spent traveling the region.

That is not to say it is a bad thing. It is a beautiful game. The countryside is lush with flowers and rolling hills. As a player combs the land searching for bandits or solving quests there can be no denying the vibrancy of the world that Warhorse Studios built.

The game has extensive detail in every manner of speaking. The whole map was built using historical records of the region and all the cities are laid out as they were 600 years ago. Castles and villages are beacons of civilization among the wilderness.

While I bought the game on Xbox One - where the graphics are good but the rendering distance is quite short - I also spent time playing it in 4k on a PC. The difference was stark and the game ran much better than on console.

One of the more unique aspects of the game is its combat system - which is complex, to say the least. Instead of button mashing like many sword fighting games, players must use timing and skill in order to fight enemies. Otherwise, they die very quickly.

The system requires the player to learn a myriad of button combinations if they want to have any chance of succeeding and, in some cases, combat can seem overly complicated. After 15 hours played the game I had only killed 27 people - compared to games like the Elder



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

A beggar in the video game.

Scroll V: Skyrim where you kill that many enemies in the tutorial.

The quests in the game are quite compelling. Henry is searching for revenge on the men responsible for the death of his parents. An officer in the Army of Sigismund, who is the leader of "bad" side of the civil war, is undoubtedly going to be the final boss.

There are many fun quests along the way. At one point I found myself drinking, fighting and womanizing with a not so holy priest. At a different time I was scouting out an enemy encampment to prepare for a large-scale assault which turned out to be the most exciting part of the game so far.

The game is not without its bugs. After buying an 1,100 Groschen - the game's currency - set of horseshoes for my mighty steed Pebbles, I was dismayed to have them disappear from my inventory without a trace. In a different glitch I was terrified to see a number of non-playable characters walking around without heads.

There are a lot of components to "Kingdom Come: Deliverance." The combat system is the most distinctive, but the world is gorgeous and its story are captivating. While there are some technical issues to work out, for gamers who like history or role-playing games it is definitely worth the purchase.

## 'Lysistrata' is theatre professor's last show

By **Melanie Espinal**

"Lysistrata" is the last production of theatre professor John Sullivan. After 21 years of teaching in Southern's Theatre Department and rendering over 40 productions, Sullivan is retiring.

Sullivan, who was in charge of scenic design and costume design, said this play season the department focused on plays about women, like their play last year "Violet."

The selection of the play could be considered controversial to some. One element to the musical that turned heads were the large foam-like phallus replicas that each male character wore. Directors stayed true to the Greek roots of the play written by Aristophanes, with sexual references that are typical in ancient Greek comedy.

Theatre chair Kaia Monroe Rarick said the play was a fun challenge they agreed on for Sullivan's last show.

"Sex is always controversial," she said, "comedy is derivative of sexual desire."

She said women throughout history have always been put down by men, especially men in positions of power, like politicians. The decision to put on this play was in light of the current ever changing political landscape, Rarick said.

She confirmed the likeness of the male characters to President Donald Trump, which were no coincidence.

Sullivan, who was in charge of scenic



John Sullivan at the "Lysistrata" afterparty.

and costume design, said this play season the department focused on women, like last year's "Violet."

"I was like 'Oh my God, my Christian eyes,'" said Ty-zhayia Brown, a senior theatre student who attended the show. Brown actually helped with the design for the show, like painting the wooden

backdrop - which turned out to be symbols of breast.

"Maybe," Brown said jokingly, "women need to step up against gun violence [in] the same way."

Brown was among the large crowds of students and theatre alumni who stayed after the play for refreshments and

words from Rarick and Sullivan.

Southern President Joe Bertolino stayed as well, and said jokingly to Sullivan that he was considering giving him a diploma for "graduating" into retirement.

Southern theatre alumni Mysti and Matt Griffiths attended the show to commemorate Sullivan, whom they said had a big role in their theatre career at Southern.

Mysti Griffiths said the play was overwhelming in a good way, she specifically appreciated the curtain call music, which was "I Just Had Sex" by The Lonely Island.

Matt Griffiths said Sullivan was always there with words of advice and constructive criticism, "I still remember this one time he said to me the job I was doing was almost right."

Sullivan said that his students have taught him so much, and he is proud of the hard working cast. Opening night felt great, he said, although it made him nostalgic of all the memories he made at Southern.

"Good people make it fun to go to work. My generation wanted to do something we really enjoyed. some of us were lucky," he said. "I am very fortunate."

FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE PLAY SEE PAGE 14

## Student photographers create new club

By **Victoria Bresnahan**

Southern Connecticut State University's new photography club aims to attract more non-art majors and help them build their camera skills, said Meghan Olson, junior and club president.

"It would be nice to actually get other people that are outside of this major or outside of the art department," said Olson, art major with a concentration in photography, "and kind of just help anyone that's interested in photography and help them expand their knowledge and technique of how to work a camera, [or] take a good photo."

The club is used as a tool to help students interested in photography build and practice their skills, said Olson. Members will also perform critiques of each other's work to highlight what does or does not work, she said.

"For me personally, being really new to

photography, it really makes me confident in what I am doing," said Pansa, club member. "That is why I really like the club."

The club is currently in the process of becoming an official school club and will then begin to receive funding, said Olson. There are around 10 to 12 members involved in the club.

"Before, we were just a bunch of friends who liked photography and hanging out," said Sam Pansa, a sophomore studio art major with a concentration in photography.

Olson said club members also attend events and conferences in and out of state.

"We have been to New York City, Rhode Island, we did a conference in Vermont," said Olson. "So, we will do photography related conferences and stuff like that."

Steve JeanSimon, senior studio art major with a concentration in photography, is one of the original students who formed the club and said their intention was to get student feedback.

"I think everyone brings their own skill to the table and we get to pick at each other's brains," said JeanSimon.

He said he became involved with photography and video in high school. As a student, JeanSimon said it can be challenging to get any shots due to hectic schedules.

"When something comes out good, you're proud because you went through

hell to get it," said JeanSimon.

"I like [taking photos of] landscapes, or anything that tells a story," said Pansa.

After he graduates from Southern, JeanSimon said he aspires to become a professional photographer.

"I like portraits [and] studio situations," said JeanSimon. "If I can get a job where I am just in a studio taking pictures of people that would be nice."



A boat photographed by Steve JeanSimon.

PHOTO COURTESY | STEVE JEANSIMON



Massiel Romero photographed by Meghan Olson.

PHOTO COURTESY | MEGHAN OLSON



## Semifinal bound

By Matt Gad

Senior Abby Hurlbert recorded a career-high 38 points for the second-highest single-game scoring performance in SCSU history

Kate Lynch's women's basketball squad, which went 20-8 during the regular season, secured the No. 1 seed out of the Northeast-10's South-west Division for the conference tournament and, subsequently, a bye for last Friday's opening round. As long as the Owls keep winning, they will continue to play home games at Moore Field House throughout the conference championships. Matching up against Southern New Hampshire in the quarterfinals last Sunday, they won, 74-65, behind a career-high 38 points from senior forward Abby Hurlbert.

"It was definitely a great win today, especially being in the playoffs, and we really needed to get this; we need to keep getting a few wins to secure a spot in the NCAA Tournament," said Hurlbert.

However, if the Owls win the NE-10 Championship March 4 they get an automatic entry into the national bracket. The program has not been there since they went 25-6 in the 2011-12 season. They would defeat Long Island C.W. Post, 58-57, and lose, 71-61, to Holy Family in the East Regional, hosted in Waltham, Massachusetts.

"We've been in the quarterfinals [of NE-10] and a couple years ago we were in the semifinals but I didn't play as much," Hurlbert said.



Senior Abby Hurlbert dribbling the ball during a home game this season.

But she did play a lot this time. Including her 38 points, Hurlbert had five rebounds, one assist and a steal. She shot 11-20, including 7-11 from three, and also blocked a shot. Southern New Hampshire, which came into the game at 17-11, outscored the Owls 35-26 in the second half but ended up losing by 11. They were led by Catherine Stinson's 13 points and Jennifer Shelp's 12.

"I think, defensively, in the first half we were tight but we shot well offensively," Lynch said. "At some point that's not going to continue so we talked about making adjustments. SNHU's a good basketball team and it's the playoffs; if you're up 20 it doesn't mean anything. Everyone's fighting for their

lives as a team."

Molly Terry caught fire from three a bit out of the lockers, going 4-6, for the Penmen. However, both teams lost their edge from three, with Southern New Hampshire only hitting at 35.7 percent in the second half and the Owls also not being able to reach move than 33.3 percent.

"We're not shocked at all by their comeback. Terry's a really great shooter but Paige Decker was able to shut down Kylie Lorenzen, one of the best players in the league," Lynch said. "Paige's defensive effort today really helped us out."

Decker did not show up too much on the stats sheet, only scoring five points, but she contributed to the fact that

the Penmen never came close enough to the Owls' strong lead.

Moving forward, Hurlbert said she looks forward to the semifinal matchup with Bentley, a team they lost to, 64-48, on Jan. 20. That game, played on the road, had Africa Williams leading the charge with 17 points. Hurlbert scored eight that day but also had four rebounds, two assists and two steals.

"We're playing at home Thursday at seven so it's a one-two seed game and Bentley is Bentley; they're tough, they're strong. Everything that everyone's done the entire season is erased in the playoffs so we have to come with our A-plus



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Junior Justin Kelly turning the corner in the 500 meter during a meet this season.

## Track wins back to back NE-10 titles

By Kevin Crompton

With a total of 189 total points and triple jumpers placing first, second and third, the Southern men's track and field team won its second consecutive NE-10 Championship on Sunday Feb. 18 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The SCSU women's track and field team placed second on the same day, marking the fifth year in a row the women have been the runner up in the NE-10 Championship.

The 2018 men's victory marks the 13th time in program history that the Owls have claimed the NE-10 title. Freshman jumper Michael Agyeman took home the gold medal in the triple jump with a 14.64-meter leap. In second place Oghenefejiro Onakpoma, also a freshman, jumped 14.58-meters to claim silver; and senior Kahlil Smith's 14.36-meter triple jump was good for third place in the event.

"Going one, two, three in the triple had to happen or we weren't going to win," said head coach John Wallin. "That was an essential part of [winning the championship] and I'll tell you a guy who stepped up big was Kahlil Smith. [Smith] absolutely stomped out everybody to guarantee a third-place position which was huge for our program."

Junior Turner Kelly, who was named the NE-10 Championship's Most Outstanding Male Field Performer, launched the shot put 15.74 meters to secure the lead spot and a gold medal for his collection. Other top-three performers consist of senior captain Yakabu Ibrahim, senior captain Luke Velez, sophomore Ruven Exantus, sophomore Phillip Quay and sophomore Cole Chapman. Ibrahim placed second in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.08 seconds while Exantus placed third in the

SEE TRACK PAGE 10



Southern women's basketball team putting their hands together during a timeout.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Senior guard Bernard Brantley defending a Southern New Hampshire guard during Friday's game.

## Owls split NE-10 tournament games

By Matt Gad

Jerry Luckett Jr. was the answer in a tight affair that came down to the very last shot in last Friday night's Northeast-10 playoff opener at Moore Field House.

The Owls defeated Southern New Hampshire, 76-74, after scoring off an inbounds pass with just four seconds left in regulation. Luckett Jr., who had the winning shot, contributed 12 points.

"Emotions were crazy. It's a great atmosphere," he said. "The fans came out to show support,

which was awesome. You just have it in your heart that you really wanna win the game."

The Owls held a slim 37-36 halftime lead and capitalized early in the second as well. Both teams shot over 50 percent from three in the second half. The score was tied 10 times and the lead changed hands three times before head coach Scott Burrell's squad came out victorious.

"We didn't have a good rhythm tonight," Burrell said. "We didn't play tough at times but in the last six minutes of the game we got tougher; we played better defense, we made shots and we just made

big plays at the end of the game."

Isaiah McLeod had 22 points and freshman Ulyen Coleman added 15 of his own. With just 1:30 remaining, the Penmen held a 71-68 lead. Then, with the game tied up at 74, one of Southern New Hampshire's players traveled and gave possession back to the Owls with less than five seconds on the clock.

"In the second half we just communicated better. Thank God [Southern New Hampshire] touched it and caught it out-of-bounds and we got one last opportunity," Burrell said. "I'm just happy for the guys; they battled back and

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

## Mickey Callaway to provide new life for Mets

By Matt Gad

The New York Mets have new life. There's a new training staff, some new players, a new coaching staff, complete with a brand new skipper and, well, yeah, that's pretty much it. Mickey Callaway, who was previously in Cleveland as the Indians' pitching coach, took over for Terry Collins, who, in his older age, decided he still wanted to stay with the team as a special assistant to general manager Terry Collins. And it's funny

because Terry is one of three of Alderson's special assistants which include J.P. Riccardi and former general manager Omar Minaya – how about that?

But anyway, back to Mickey. He's brought fresh life to the clubhouse. He's brought fun. Heck, this week he even brought in a so-called expert in – get this – self esteem. Were the Mets so injury-riddled last year that they forgot how to cheer themselves on? At his introductory press conference way back when, Callaway said, "we're going to start caring about our players."

Well, how much does he care? Clearly a lot; but still, it's baseball. Is there crying in baseball?

There shouldn't be. Young first baseman Dominic Smith, who's already facing heat from veteran Adrian Gonzalez for the starting job, was late to the facility and subsequently missed a Spring Training game because Callaway said, "you're late, you're out of the lineup and you're not gonna play at all today."

That was the second part of his grand opening statement. Callaway said players would be held accountable. Zip, zang, bingo,

there you go. First player accountable. Good job, Mick. But forget the spunk. Forget the new rules. The Mets need to play the old fashioned game of baseball and they need to play it without being rung out by the injury bug. The team's plague of season's past has been surgeries, doctor's visits and MRIs. Heck, team captain David Wright has been out, with a spinal stenosis diagnosis, since well before Trump became the leader of the free world.



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

## Destiney Coward: Most Outstanding Field Performer



Senior Destiney Coward during the weight throw event this season.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Senior Destiney Coward poses for her photo as she receives her award.

By Michael Riccio

Destiney Coward was named the Most Outstanding Field Performer of the NE-10 Track and Field Championships as Southern finished in second place at the meet.

Coward said she was happy to defend her title and award, as she claimed the top spot in the conference in the shot put and weight throw events for a third consecutive year.

"It felt great knowing that I was able to pull through for my team and help us to a runner up position," Coward said.

During day one of the championships, Coward threw an NE-10 record 20.25 meters in the weight

throw. In the second day, she won the shot put championship with a Division II provisional marker throw of 13.67 meters.

Bill Sutherland, the throwing coach at Southern for the last 27 years, said Coward has raised the level of performance for all the throwers on the team. During the NE-10 Championships, Aalayjhia Cobb placed third, Erin McKee placed fourth, and Kathryn Heacox placed sixth in the weight throw. In the shot put, Cobb placed eighth and Heacox placed 16th.

"A lot of our throwers are visual learners so when they see Destiney do it, it speeds up the process on them figuring out how to do it," Sutherland said. "All

the girls threw exceedingly far this year and I don't think they would've thrown as far if they didn't have Destiney. When they see her throwing as far as she does they believe they can do it."

Head coach Melissa Stoll said Coward is demonstrative as a leader and pushes her teammates in the weight room and in practice. Stoll said Coward is still "invested in her teammates" even though she is balancing life as a chemistry major with goals of going into medical school.

"Each of the girls are really feeding off each other," Stoll said, "and I think Destiney really ignites that."

Coward said her biggest obstacle is balancing her schedule

with school and track and field. She said having pre-med concentrations requires a lot of time and focus to go along with practicing for events.

"Sometimes the amount of work gets overwhelming, but I have goals after my track career to be a doctor," Coward said, "I can't imagine anything else I would rather be so I just have to get fighting to make that goal a reality."

When she first began college, she said transitioning from high school was a challenge and was unsure if she wanted to do track.

"My grades were not medical school-worthy and I asked my mom if I should do both," Coward said. "She is the reason why I

want to be in the medical field and she is always motivating me and always has my best interest at heart. She is actually the sole reason why I have made it this far."

The NCAA Championships will be held in Pittsburg, Kansas on March 9-10, and Stoll said there is no reason to think Coward will not be able to perform at her best.

"With her leading the country, there's really no issues," Stoll said. "Winning a national championship is the hope but what really matters the most is moving the ball as best as she can better than anyone else. When you do that, that's when things start to go far."

## Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

same event with an 8.33 finish. Velez ran a speedy 200-meter dash in 22.23 seconds, and Quaye's 4704 point heptathlon was good for the title while Chapman's 4604 earned him third. Southern's 4x400 relay team consisting of Exantus, sophomore Justin Kelly, and freshmen Nikolas Strickland and Nigel Green, was the only Owl relay to earn a top three position, making it to the third spot on the podium with a time of 3:22.81.

"Everybody that scored a point mattered because it was such a close meet," said Velez. "It was just an awesome feeling winning."

Wallin said the "significant number of freshman" that joined the team this season helped tremendously.

"We had like 14 or 15 freshmen score let alone maybe another five or six that competed that didn't score," said Wallin. "We're mostly freshman and sophomores. I think we lose four or five seniors this year."

Velez and Ibrahim commented on how as leaders, they inspire the freshman to be successful.

"Instilling the values of hard work, setting goals for yourself,



The men's track and field team posing for a photo after winning the 2018 NE-10 Championship.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

That's how I came in, watching the seniors. They taught me to work hard and we're a dominate force in the conference."

Ibrahim said he remembers being in the freshmen's shoes.

"I've been in their position since I got here. As a freshman, I was a New England champ, NE-10 champ, so I kind of set the bar that the expectation is to win, it's to always win. Even on your bad day you're supposed to win. If you set the bar it's up to the other guys in the conference to

come and reach it because you're going to have the target on your back because we're Southern," said Ibrahim. "We're supposed to win."

Select qualifying Owls will compete in the NCAA Championship meet on March 9 and 10.

Ibrahim is the only Owl who has qualified thus far with others on the cusp. Agyeman, Onakpoma, Kelly, junior pole vaulter Jack Brown and the 4x400 relay team will be looking to qualify at the Brother Jasper Invitational and the BU Last Chance Meet.

## Isaiah Thomas and the business of basketball

By Kevin Crompton

The world of sports is a business. We know that. We've heard it more times than probably necessary, but unfortunately that cliché is not going anywhere.

Former Cleveland Cavalier Isaiah Thomas, who now suits up in the purple and gold of Los Angeles, has played for five different teams in his seven-year NBA career.

A trade that sent the 5-9 point guard to the Lakers was

finalized on the last day of the NBA trade deadline, Feb. 8.

"I didn't think they would pull the trigger that fast, 15 games," said Thomas in a recent ESPN E:60 interview. "But again, it's a business. And the Cavs were, I mean, they were in panic mode. We were losing—a lot. And I think they felt like they needed to make a move, and they, they basically cleared house."

Thomas' longest stint with any team was three years with the Sacramento Kings who

drafted him in 2011 and kept him until 2014. From there he spent one year with the Phoenix Suns, two in Boston, and half a season with the Cavs. A hip injury suffered by Thomas, and Celtics General Manager Danny Ainge's ability to acquire five time NBA all-star Kyrie Irving, led to Thomas' send off in Boston.

However, could the "system player" tag that critics adore placing on athletes throughout all of sports be a reason for the nomadic lifestyle IT has unwell-

comely inherited?

Boston was the perfect fit for Thomas with the offense built around him enabling him to score 30 points a night. A now less athletic – due to the former hip injury – and always undersized point guard, finds himself in the shadows of LeBron James, and averaging roughly 12 points per game. Thomas is once again victim to the unforgiving – "chew you up and spit you out" – business of sports.



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

## Men's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

made a huge bucket." For the season that began with an 84-59 exhibition loss at Division I Syracuse, the Owls have had their fair share of close games. They lost to Concordia College (N.Y.) 80-78 back on Nov. 21 and in their next game Nov. 26 they bested Merrimack, 82-78. That win sparked a five-game home winning streak until a 96-80 loss to Stonehill Jan. 13. They won eight of their last 10 regular-season games, including six consecutively, prior to clinching the No. 4 seed in the conference tournament. Last season, the 18-13 edition of the team fell in their NE-10 quarterfinal before winning a game, against the same opponent in Southern New Hampshire, in the NCAA Tournament, 109-98.

Trying to give his team a spark, Burrell had his friend, former UConn and NBA sharpshooter Ray Allen, at the game. He said Allen was around and that they hang out all the time.

The former Celtic also chatted to the NE-10 Semifinal-bound women's team. They tried to recruit him to their quarterfinal matchup but he said he would be up in Storrs attending the UConn men's basketball game against Memphis.

With the Feb. 23 win, the Owls went on to play top-seeded Saint Anselm, in Manchester, New Hampshire, as Kate Lynch's squad played on the court at Moore Field House. Burrell's Owls' lost, 93-86, and will await to see if they will be selected into this year's Division II NCAA Tournament.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Senior Jerry Luckett Jr. looking to pass the ball during Friday's game vs. Southern New Hampshire.

## Coaching changes for 2018 Lacrosse season



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Southern lacrosse team celebrating after a goal during a game last season.

By Matt Gad

The Owls will open this season without Maureen Spellman, their former head coach now at Division III Endicott. Betsy Vendel, her assistant, was named interim head coach on Feb. 25.

"I think my coaching philosophy, in a sense, is the same," Vendel said. "I'm definitely more involved in more aspects of the game now. I was more focused on the attacking end in years past but now that I have Jen she has more of an input on the offensive end so now I kind of focus more on the defensive end."

Jennifer McCarthy, a two-year captain, played three seasons for the Owls and is now an assistant on Vendel's staff, which also includes Kevin Siedlecki, who helps out part-time in addition to his roles in and out of the classroom at Daniel Hand High School.

"It's helpful having the same staff. It's a little different but I think everyone's adapting well. I do things a little differently," Vendel said.

This year's team, which was ranked

last in a preseason poll, features five freshmen, six sophomores, four juniors and six seniors. Co-captains Carolynn Keal and Hailey Prindle-Nelson said some people left the team prior to this year's campaign due to insufficient academic performance.

"There's no denying that the NE-10 is a really good conference for women's lacrosse so it's not gonna be easy but there's a good amount of competitive teams that I have a feeling like we're gonna come out on top," Prindle-Nelson said. "It won't be a big difference; it'll be those one goal games, those overtime games."

One of the bright spots for the team this year will be freshman goalkeeper Laura Morton out of Somers High School and Somers, who is a member of the state's national women's lacrosse team and a multiple-time All-Conference recognition.

"Laura brings a completely different athleticism to the goal and helps our defense that looks really good right now," Prindle-Nelson said.

That defense is one Vendel said that has been redesigned and one that also forces strong team chemistry.

"There's definitely some new blood

that'll push the pace of the game," Vendel said. "Chemistry is definitely something we're working on; we have a new defense which almost forces [the team] to have team chemistry. We're looking to transfer that all over the field."

Keal said the team is expecting a battle this spring, saying it will not be easy for them to get the things done that they may have in the past.

"We lost some important people and we don't have the sidelines that we normally have so it's gonna be hard to come out of games not exhausted," Keal said. "But it will be a battle, a tough battle; it should be an entertaining battle. We have a lot of evenly-matched teams that we're playing this year."

The team will be on the road seven times before they open things up with American International at Jess Dow Field March 28. Their season begins Sat. against Mercy in Dobbs Ferry, New York. They also have a game March 6 with New York Technology in Old Westbury, New York, before a trip to Colorado for Saint Michael's College and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Senior Carolynn Keal during a home game last season.

# Men's basketball vs. Southern New Hampshire



Senior guard Bernard Brantley dribbling the ball up the court during Friday's game.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Senior Taurus Adams II taking a free throw during Friday's game.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Junior Isaiah McLeod taking a jumpshot over Southern New Hampshire defender.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

SCSU Dance Team during the men's basketball game vs. Southern New Hampshire.

## Women's NE-10 tournament results and schedule

### February NE-10 first round results

Fri. 23	So. New Hampshire	75	Saint Rose	62
	Adelphi University	66	Merrimack	50
Sun. 25	Le Moyne	77	Saint Anselm	49
	Bentley	70	Pace	67
	Stonehill	90	Adelphi	65
	So. Connecticut	75	So. New Hampshire	64

### March upcoming semifinal games

Thur. 1	So. Connecticut	vs.	Bentley	7:00 p.m.
	Stonehill	vs.	Le Moyne	7:00 p.m.

## Men's NE-10 tournament results and schedule

### February NE-10 first round results

Fri. 23	Stonehill	85	Adelphi	74
	So. Connecticut	76	So. New Hampshire	74
Sun. 25	Saint Anselm	93	So. Connecticut	85
	Saint Rose	65	Bentley	68
	Merrimack	75	New Haven	59
	So. Connecticut	75	So. New Hampshire	64
	Le Moyne	99	Stonehill	60

### February upcoming semifinal games

Wed. 28	Le Moyne	vs.	Merrimack	7:00 p.m.
	Saint Anselm	vs.	Bentley	7:00 p.m.

# OPINIONS

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## Should teachers be armed?

By Lynandro Simmons

After the horrific mass shooting in Parkland, Florida some have argued that for safety reasons trained teachers should be armed.

Although this isn't the first time this option has been given, some elected officials have even given their thoughts now. This idea is dangerous and short-sighted.

First, people are arguing that training and arming a teacher will provide students more safety. However, more pertinent thoughts should come first. People have not delved into the costs for this. Are these coming from school budgets or will teachers have to pay for this?

Another alarming idea is the thought that underpaid teachers should now be expected to put their lives on the line.

Counter-arguments usually say that a trained teacher will serve as the best deterrent to these school shootings. However, in the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting there were reportedly four sheriffs who hid during the shooting. This isn't a slight at those sheriffs, but if trained professionals couldn't handle this situation this unfound faith in teachers sounds foolish.

Teachers are already tasked with a multitude of jobs in one - as counselors, confidants, educators. Now asking them to become the security guards of a classroom places another weight on their shoulders. Classrooms should be the space for education and learning. Introducing a gun into the classroom will not

fix the problem, it will exacerbate it.

Teachers are already facing a multitude of problems in the classroom in addition to being underpaid. There shouldn't be the looming task of laying down their lives if the time arises.

Of course there needs to be a solution to this serious problem. There needs to be a systemic effort to make schools a safer environment, not a knee-jerk reaction to this serious problem. Serious decisions affecting young students shouldn't be made while emotions are high.

Before just arming teachers with guns, more preventive measures should be taken to stop a shooter before they even arrive in the school.

Regardless, America as a whole should think carefully about what measures to take and the implications it will have for the future.

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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.

# PHOTO

## Lysistrata unleashed at Lyman



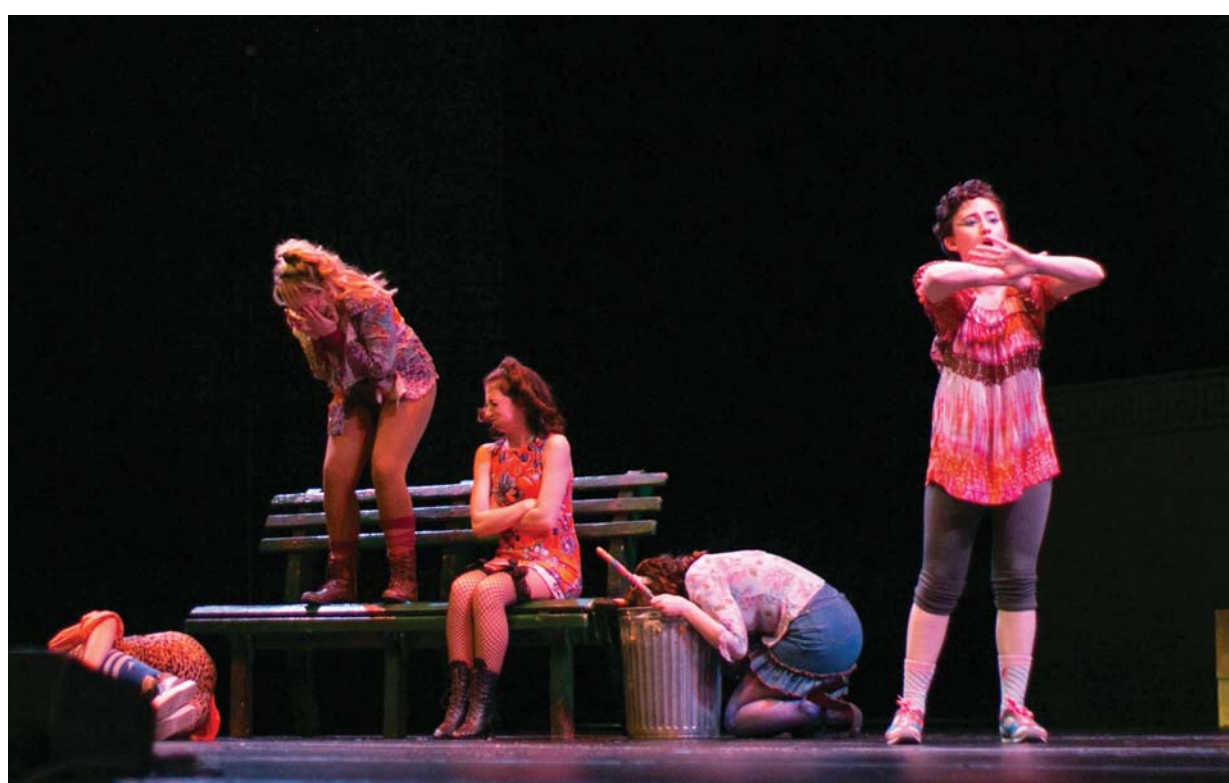
Female characters in Lysistrata discussing their anger with the war.



Male characters singing and demonstrating their masculinity.



Travis Johnson being slapped by Kaleigh Albert during a fight scene.



Female characters freaking out when Lysistrata suggests they should give up sex.



Male characters walking to the stage carrying logs of wood.