



**Photos:  
Hartford press  
conference  
Page 4**



**Owls decide  
who should win  
an Oscar  
Page 5**



**Men's  
basketball  
loses to SNHU  
Page 8**

# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## CSUs urge for higher education funding



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Educational leadership Professor and Connecticut State Universities American Association of University Professors Council Member Christopher Trombly speaking about funding for higher education in a conference room at the state capitol in Hartford on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

**By Jay'Mi Vazquez  
Managing Editor**

“GOVERNOR LAMONT – FUND OUR DREAMS,” was one of the many signs held up by students and faculty in support of Connecticut State Universities, CSUs, UConn and Connecticut community colleges.

On Feb. 20, a press conference was held at the capital in Hartford. Connecticut citizens gathered to show their support for higher education after the results of Governor Ned Lamont’s state of the state address.

This press conference was fueled by how impactful Governor Lamont’s address was on those involved in Connecticut’s higher education system.

Vice President of the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors, CSU-AAUP, and English Chairperson at the university Cynthia Stretch explained some of the impacts that angered students and faculty.

“For the last several years, Southern has been ‘non-renewing’ part-time

faculty and staff who have been teaching hundreds of sections of courses across the campus,” Stretch said.

A common theme mentioned during the press conference was how overworked and understaffed higher education has become.

“Students often show up at department offices where there is no one to answer their questions or direct them to the resources they need. All of this has been going on for years,” Stretch said.

When the press conference was started by Professor at Capitol Community College and President of 4Cs Union, Seth Freeman, students and faculty members began to plead their case on what higher education needs.

To gain media attention, speakers went up to the podium and shared their thoughts about the budget and what higher education needs now.

As people in attendance booed Governor Lamont, students and faculty said how the budget cuts impacted their universities.

Christopher Trombly, Professor of Educational Leadership and Council Member of CSU-AAUP, was one of the representatives who spoke during the press conference on behalf of the university.

Trombly said that we need more support for students who have been shortchanged by our wealthy state for a long time.

“Why have they been shortchanged?” Trombly said. “Not because of the lack of resources, and certainly not because they are unworthy of the resources that we fight for them to proceed, but because the small number of immensely wealthy people in this state have for too long had outsized influence in this building.”

Trombly said those gathered were there because they understand economics better than Office of Policy and Management Secretary Jeffrey Beckham and Governor Lamont.

“People would need fewer second chances if we gave them more first chances. We genuinely care for our students,” Trombly said.



Advocates holding a sign telling Governor Ned Lamont to allocate more funding to the public universities and community colleges in the state at the state capitol in Hartford on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

## Advocate educates on the harms of stimulant abuse

**By Jack Abbot  
General Reporter**

Laura Holt, a professor of psychology at Trinity College, visited the university on Tuesday to educate students on the harms of stimulant abuse and what they can do about it.

Holt has dedicated herself to tackling stimulant abuse, specifically ADHD medication, on school campuses. She first became interested in the subject after students of hers approached her with concerns about peers abusing ADHD medication, such as Adderall.

According to Holt, misusing ADHD medication includes using it without a prescription, having a prescription and not following the dosage

or taking it in ways that are not intended, such as smoking it or snorting it.

“I have been curious to learn the characteristics of students who are more likely to misuse these medications,” Holt said.

She took part in a study of Trinity College students which found that 37% of students surveyed had misused ADHD medication, either by using it without a prescription or by not following their prescription.

This is appalling in comparison to a study she discussed which showed that 17% of college students across the country misused ADHD medication.

According to Holt, the three aspects that put a school at risk for higher rates of ADHD

medication abuse are being in the Northeast, being competitive and being residential.

On an individual level, identifying as white, identifying as male, having a lower GPA, using other substances or having symptoms of ADHD are all characteristics that have shown to have a connection with abusing ADHD medication.

“Students with ADHD who do not take their medications as prescribed can be at greater risk for car accidents, substance misuse and academic/vocational challenges,” Holt said.

Holt also claimed that students who misuse ADHD medication to help them with assignments are unlikely to see it improve their GPA

despite this being the most common reason for students to do so. Instead, students’ GPAs tend to lower after misusing medication.

This pattern does not exist for students who are prescribed ADHD medication and follow their prescription. She warned about the stigma surrounding ADHD medication and that peers or family members may be judgmental about prescribed use.

However, Holt clarified that students who use their medication as prescribed are unlikely to see negative health consequences or move to illegal substances.

“People will sometimes conflate them using their medications as prescribed as something that’s problematic,” Holt

said. “When we look at the epidemiological data, what we find is that people who use their drugs as prescribed, so medical use only, do not show negative outcomes.”

Holt was invited by Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services as a preventative means of educating students about drug abuse on campus.

“Attention issues and challenges is something that more students are struggling with,” Associate Dean of Counseling Services and Wellbeing Nick Pinkerton said. “I’m interested in that issue as well as what we can do for supporting students while understanding that there are concerns around stimulant misuse that we can be aware of.”

Pinkerton was one of the many people involved

with student wellbeing on campus who attended the event.

“We’ve seen both more attention challenges on the part of many students. We’ve also seen some instances of stimulant misuse as reflected in the national data,” Pinkerton said.

Pinkerton noted that the university fit many of the risk factors listed in the presentation for having higher rates of medication abuse. He also spoke on the efforts of Health Services and Counseling services to address any issues.

“We’re working collaboratively to address every issue that we can,” Pinkerton said. “We are doing everything that we can to support who have potential concerns as well as those with a diagnosis.”

# Officers provide insight on police forum

**Brianna Wallen**  
News Editor

The Police Department is expecting a new wave of change. After previous Police Chief Jose Dooley retired following 41 years of service, the university is recruiting a new Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety.

The Chief of Police oversees and manages initiatives related to public safety, sworn policing and the security of students and property. The role is responsible for a wide range of operations, including crime prevention, police, fire, emergency medical dispatching and the shuttle bus system.

The hiring process entails candidates completing the first round of virtual interviews. Afterwards, the committee selected three finalists to enter phase two of the process. Those selected must do a live interview before the university's community.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Adanti Student Center Theater on Feb. 20 and Feb. 22, students and staff members were able to tune into the open forums of Tony Eigner, the Campus Police and Public Safety Officer at Presbyterian College, and Makiem Miller, the Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety at Miami



Sergeant Peter McKoy and Officer Craig Appleby standing in the Police Department on Feb. 23.

PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Dade College.

The other candidate is Kenneth Rahn, Interim Chief of Police at the university. Rahn's in-person interview is set to occur on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Theater.

As Rahn awaits his open forum, the university police department waits for the outcome of who will be recognized

as the new Chief of Police.

From inside the police department, Officer Craig Appleby shared insight on the hiring process.

"There was a national search; then there was an application process," Appleby said. "So, the three prospective candidates had to apply for a job just like they were like anybody would apply for a job."

Up next is the open forum, where the university's committee has the final say in who becomes chief.

Sergeant Peter McKoy said members from various on-campus departments from Human Resources to Residence Life attended the interview and made their final decision.

"As a department, they have finalists speak to an

open forum for anyone, students, faculty, staff, to come to speak to him," McKoy said. "We believe the final outcome is going to be a combination of everything it hears from all those aspects."

While officers do not have any input in the process, they know what it takes to become a chief and what qualities will make them successful.

"He has to have

command presence, so when he's on the scene, or he's given instructions or orders, there has to be weight behind what he's saying," Appleby said.

Being a police chief requires good communication. Appleby said that giving information correctly allows a task to be completed.

Command presence goes hand in hand with being a good listener.

"They have to be able to listen. I don't want to say take instruction, but you know, they can't be a dictator," McKoy said. "They have to be willing to work with, you know, with their officers with their command staff."

While officers are on the scene policing, the chief's duties are administrative. McKoy said that they are dealing with the budget and higher-ups in Residence Life.

"We just have to deal with, you know, keeping the campus safe and, you know, be invisible. The chief, he will be visible," McKoy said.

With contributions from both officers, the department hopes the declared chief can juggle their many responsibilities.

"So, we'll see what happens. That's all we can do. As you know, as the lowly soldiers, we wait. We'll take our orders," McKoy said.

## CSUs testify before legislators

**By Ali Fernand**  
Editor-in-Chief

Students, faculty and staff of Connecticut public higher education institutions testified at the state capitol in Hartford to advocate for more funding.

Governor Ned Lamont's State of the State address took place on Feb. 7, announcing the official state budget. Those involved in state schools and community colleges were disappointed at the lack of funding for education.

This has led these institutions to raise tuition rates for students to make up for the budget deficits.

Among those testifying to state representatives on Tuesday, Feb. 20 were students and faculty from the university who advocated for the university, its sister schools and the community colleges.

"We need to halt the 'march of folly' in Connecticut by fully funding public education - from birth to 3; from PreK-12; and across all campuses of the CSU system," professor of educational leadership and council member of the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors, CSU-AAUP, Christopher Trombly said.

In this testimony, Trombly references the book "The March of Folly" by Barbara Tuchman, which points out how legislators carry out policies which serve contrary to their goals.

Trombly was present at the capitol for both the public hearing and press conference.

At the hearing, he explained how consequential public education is to vulnerable students.

"Folly is a polite way of characterizing Lamont's latest budget proposal - that continues to prioritize bondholders and rating agencies over families who can only dream of having enough money left over after paying for groceries, rent and utilities to open investment portfolios," Trombly said. "A



Professor of educational leadership Christopher Trombly testifying before state legislators on Feb. 7.

PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

proposal that promises to perpetuate disparate and disrespectful effects upon under-resourced working people, a great many of them people of color."

Students also made their concerns known to Connecticut representatives.

With their perspectives, they were able to testify how funding benefits their life and their education.

"There are also programs and resources that my friends use, for example, tutoring, which provides helping other students with classes and providing a job to another and student interactions," nursing major Simon Dinglasan, a freshman, said.

Dinglasan talked about the resources on the university's campus that have helped both him and his friends have a better experience in their education.

He said that he is grateful that these resources exist for him and his friends.

Not only does Dinglasan find value in educational help on campus, but he acknowledges other resources that improve students' lives.

"They also use the food pantry and library on campus," Dinglasan said.

"These resources help my friends eat and get books to study for classes."

Resources like the library and food pantry were expressed to be valuable to students and the campus community. Since public institutions tend to have students of underprivileged backgrounds, having access to food can be necessary for some students.

Those testifying also brought up that funding these institutions does not just concern the individual needs of students.

Funding for higher education helps to adequately train those entering fields that are essential to everyone in the state.

"The CSU system educates the preponderance of classroom teachers, nurses and mental health clinicians in this state," Trombly said. "Professions that the General Assembly and the Lamont administration acknowledge must be racially and ethnically diversified to reflect the blossoming racial and ethnic diversity of our state."

Though Interim President Dwayne Smith did not testify before representatives, he did attend the public hearing. Smith

sat in the front row as Chancellor of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, CSCU, Terrence Cheng spoke at the capitol.

Cheng testified before representatives for over an hour.

In an interview with Southern News, Cheng explained the impact of the many testimonies advocating for public college funding.

"The student panels are, I would argue, the most influential and the most moving part of this whole process because legislators get to hear directly from the students what the impact is, the impact of their decisions," Cheng said.

After Cheng gave his own testimony around 6 p.m., he remained at the capitol to hear the other testimonies until about 10 p.m. The lengthy public hearing began around 5 p.m. and lasted until midnight.

"We don't have giant endowments; we don't have massive research grants," Cheng said.

"We are very proudly a regional public university that serves students that I think in some cases wouldn't have a chance to go to college without us, and that's something to be incredibly proud of."

## Students soar into their future aspirations at 'PEP Talk' event

**Brandon Cortés**  
News Writer

The recent Personal Enrichment Platform, PEP, seminar held at the School of Business brought together students and professionals alike to hear from Rebecca Moore, the Program Coordinator of the Art Council of Greater New Haven, Connecticut.

Moore shared her inspiring journey of personal and professional growth, emphasizing the importance of trusting one's inner instincts and pursuing one's dreams.

The seminar began with Moore recounting her experience working as a custodian at Yale University.

Despite earning a decent income, Moore confessed that she harbored a deep fear of stepping into leadership roles and pursuing her true passions.

She highlighted the internal struggles she faced and the pivotal moments that eventually led her to break free from her self-imposed limitations.

"It was terrifying to think about leaving the comfort of a stable job and venturing into the unknown," Moore said. "But I knew deep down that I couldn't ignore my longing to be a leader and make a meaningful impact in my community."

Moore's story resonated with many attendees who could relate to the challenges of overcoming self-doubt and embracing change.

Throughout her presentation, Moore emphasized the importance of trusting one's instincts and taking calculated risks to achieve personal and professional fulfillment.

"It's easy to second-guess ourselves and

succumb to the fear of failure," Moore said. "But sometimes, the greatest growth comes from stepping outside of our comfort zones and embracing new opportunities."

In addition to sharing her personal journey, Moore offered practical advice to students on how to navigate their own paths toward success. She encouraged them to identify their passions and pursue them relentlessly, even in the face of adversity.

"Your dreams may seem daunting at first, but with determination and perseverance, anything is possible," Moore said. "Don't be afraid to seek support from mentors and peers who can offer guidance and encouragement along the way."

One of the highlights of Moore's presentation was her discussion of how she launched her own podcast, which has since become a platform for sharing stories of resilience and empowerment within the community.

She spoke passionately about the power of storytelling as a tool for inspiring change and fostering connections among diverse audiences.

"Through my podcast, I've had the privilege of amplifying voices that are often overlooked or marginalized," Moore said. "It's been a humbling experience to witness the impact of sharing authentic stories and creating spaces for meaningful dialogue."

As the seminar came to a close, attendees expressed their gratitude to Moore for her candid insights and unwavering optimism.

Many left feeling inspired and motivated to pursue their own aspirations with renewed vigor and determination.

## Students advocate for loan forgiveness

By Brandon Cortés  
News Writer

As the debate over student loan forgiveness continues to intensify, voices from the student community are emerging with varying perspectives on the matter.

With the burden of student debt weighing heavily on millions of Americans, the topic has become a focal point in discussions surrounding higher education and economic policy.

Social work major Ludmila De Paula, a junior, is among those who advocate for student loan forgiveness despite not personally bearing the burden of student debt.

"I believe that student loan forgiveness is not only a matter of economic relief for individuals but also a step towards addressing systemic inequalities in access to education. It can help level the playing field for students from diverse socio-economic

backgrounds," De Paula said.

Criminal justice major Michael Wynn, a freshman, echoed De Paula's sentiments.

"The current student loan system perpetuates cycles of debt and limits opportunities for many students," Wynn said. "Forgiving student loans would alleviate financial strain and enable students to invest in their futures without being shackled by debt."

However, for some students like computer science major Alana Parris, a freshman, the issue of student loan forgiveness hits closer to home. Parris, who currently carries thousands of dollars in student loans, is eagerly awaiting the possibility of loan forgiveness.

"I support loan forgiveness because it would allow me to focus on my studies without constantly worrying about how I'll repay my loans after graduation. It would be a game-changer

for me and many others in similar situations," Parris said.

The prospect of graduating debt-free is a dream shared by students grappling with the realities of financing their education.

The cost of tuition, coupled with living expenses and other fees, has pushed many students into the arms of lenders, saddling them with significant debt before they enter the workforce.

According to data from the Federal Reserve, outstanding student loan debt in the United States surpassed \$1.6 trillion in 2023, making it the second-largest category of household debt after mortgages.

The burden of student debt has far-reaching implications, affecting individuals' financial stability, career choices and overall wellbeing.

The issue of student loan forgiveness has been a hot topic in political circles, with lawmakers

and policymakers proposing various approaches to address the growing crisis.

President Joe Biden recently announced the approval of \$1.2 billion in student debt cancellation for almost 153,000 borrowers currently enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) repayment plan.

While the idea of widespread student loan forgiveness has garnered support from some quarters, it has also faced opposition from critics who argue that it would be unfair to taxpayers and could incentivize reckless borrowing behavior.

For many individuals, the prospect of a debt-free future represents not just a financial reprieve but a chance to pursue their dreams without being weighed down by the burden of loans.

As policymakers grapple with this complex issue, the stakes could not be higher for the millions of students whose futures hang in the balance.

## Mathematics Club hosts bake sale

By Jack Abbot  
General Reporter

The Mathematics Club hosted a bake sale on Tuesday to raise funds for their club activities.

The Mathematics Club hosts regular meetings for math majors or anyone who is interested in the subject. It is a social club that provides space for anyone interested in the subject. They have also had club trips in the past, the most recent being their visit to the Museum of Mathematics in New York.

"People should join math club if they're looking for a community with like-minded people where they get a chance to eat pizza and participate in a variety of activities," Public Relations Manager of the club and math major Sierra Gray, a senior, said.

The event was held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Engleman Hall Rotunda.

The funds from this bake sale are going to be used to help support the Mathematics Club to make merchandise, purchase food and fund their club trips. It will also be used to cover general expenses.

Professors within the Mathematics Department have been helping to support the club. If a student is struggling in their math classes, this club could be a good opportunity for them. Many professors will offer extra credit opportunities for students who choose to attend their meetings.

"Personally, I think Southern has a great mathematics program," Gray said.

The club currently has 97 registered members on OwlConnect.

"It's a way of introducing people to math because you'll never know if you'll like it or not," club member and applied

math major Metin Uzun, a senior, said.

At their meetings, they hold events that can introduce students to more applied forms of mathematics. According to Gray, some of their events include using math to solve Rubik's cubes, creating dodecahedron Calanders and working with aperiodic tiling. Uzun described the Calander making as his favorite event.

"It's not necessarily all about the math that we do," Uzun said. "It's good to make connections."

Uzun spoke about the connections he has been able to make through this club. As a senior, he has been able to make connections with his professors who help him with his work.

"If you don't understand something, someone else is going to understand something," Uzun said.

One of the most common math courses for students to take is Math 100P. This class has been taught in a nontraditional way using the ALEKS program.

This is a class that people commonly fail and thus has an entire tutoring program dedicated to it. Some within the Mathematics Club have expressed negative feelings towards this class.

"It's for sure an experience. A Good one? I don't think so," Uzun said.

Despite this, the club is very satisfied by the work being done by the Mathematics Department. Gray described the help that she and many other students have received from their professors.

"Most math majors develop strong relationships with the professors here due to the small class sizes and the professors' willingness to help and connect," Gray said.

## DEI hosts caregiving group meeting

By Brandon Cortés  
News Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 22, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI, Department held its monthly "Caregiver Workshop" exclusively on Zoom for university faculty, staff and employees. The workshop provided a platform to provide support for faculty and staff members who are caregivers for older adults.

According to Daisy Torres-Baez, DEI faculty and Staff Diversity, Recruitment and Retention Specialist, the program was initiated due to a perceived lack of events tailored specifically for staff and faculty members.

"Not many universities or campuses have a space for faculty and staff support, and this is a workshop only for faculty and staff members who are caregivers of family members, parents and the elderly," Torres-Baez said.

She said it offers a great opportunity for staff and faculty members to tell their experiences, show support and give advice to other staff members who are caregivers.

The caregiver group

convenes monthly, maintaining regular meetings throughout the year, including during the summer and winter semesters.

Sousan Arafeh, member of the Integrated Justice and Social Collaborative. IJSC, organization, said that during the event attendees shared personal caregiving experiences and stories of older loved ones who had passed away.

They offered support and advice to others facing similar situations or who are currently experiencing caregiving challenges.

"It is really a great space where we get together monthly and just share stories and experiences," Arafeh said.

Attendees gathered to discuss various topics relevant to caregiving. These included sharing personal experiences, addressing legal issues, managing the finances of elderly individuals under their care, navigating the burial process and coping with grief.

13 staff members attended the event, marking the first instance of a non-campus affiliate attending the workshop. Carolyn DeRocco, Vice

President of Programs and Education at the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut, was among the attendees.

Torres-Baez said that since last year, the university has observed the DEI department establishing affinity spaces. These spaces aim to foster a sense of belonging among faculty and staff, mirroring the support structures offered to students within the university community.

This is one of those spaces, and there are other groups that have started to pop up, focusing on faculty and staff support and belonging to eventually better serve students.

The group greatly appreciated the support and understanding regarding the challenges of caring for aging parents while balancing everyday life and societal pressures. Yazmina Lingane, Student Assistant at the IJSC, said that there are limited spaces where individuals can openly discuss and normalize these life experiences.

"This is something that brings a level of community in itself when you think about it," Lingane said.

Within the DEI office,

there is the IJSC organization, which typically focuses on external communities beyond the university. However, in this particular instance, they are partnering with the DEI office to offer support and foster a sense of community among caregivers.

Torres-Baez said that it is crucial for individuals experiencing situations like these to receive the necessary support, and that it is often a "life journey" that isn't openly discussed until one finds themselves immersed in it, suddenly scrambling to cope.

"Only then do they realize that others are also navigating similar challenges. Unfortunately, in our society, particularly in the US, there's a lack of intergenerational support and open dialogue about these experiences," Torres-Baez said.

Communities exist that focus on offering resources and support to individuals caring for elderly family members. One such organization is the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut, which provides assistance and guidance in managing the challenges associated with caregiving.



PHOTO | SIERRA GRAY

Mathematics Club E-board Jack Kuhnly, Astra Riznyk, Sierra Gray, Gabby Butler and Carsyn Gilloren.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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Visit [www.TheSouthernNews.org](http://www.TheSouthernNews.org) for more.

### Upcoming events:

#### Heritage Ball

The Heritage Ball will be on Thursday, Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. Dinner will be served as students celebrate heritage and culture.

#### Theatre Department and Crescent Players present "Anon(ymous)"

The Theatre Department will be having five showings of the drama "Anon(ymous)" for students to watch. Their first show is Thursday, Feb. 29 at 8 p.m. and will be exclusive to university students. Bring your Hoot Loot to get in. The other showings will be Friday, March 1 at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 2 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.

#### Anti-Oppression Reflections within Jewish Communities on Palestine and Israel - A Conversation with Peter Beinart

Journalist, Professor, Fellow at the Foundation for Middle East Peace and former Rhodes Scholar Peter Beinart will be hosting a virtual talk about the current conflict between Israel and Palestine. There will be a moderator for

this event, Tagan Engel, a New Haven activist. Those who wish to attend may access the Zoom link on the university website. The talk will be on this Zoom call from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

#### Career and Internship Fairs

There will be multiple opportunities for students in all studies to attend fairs to learn more about opportunities in their prospective fields. All of these events will be in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom at the dates and times listed below.

- Business, STEM and Manufacturing will be on Wednesday, March 6 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Communications, Marketing, Media and the Arts will be on Wednesday, March 6 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Healthcare and Public Health will be on Thursday, March 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Social Work, MFT and Counseling will be on Thursday, March 7 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Dimitri Petrov Art Exhibit

Buley Library Art Gallery is hosting a selection of works by artist Dimitri Petrov. This will be on display in the gallery until March 21. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Higher education testimonies in Hartford

By **Ali Fernand**  
Editor-in-Chief  
**Jay'Mi Vazquez**  
Managing editor

Students, educators, staff and faculty of Connecticut public higher education institutions spoke at the state capitol in Hartford to advocate for more funding. This included people from University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Universities and community colleges.

There was both a press conference and public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Advocates testified before media outlets and state legislators. This included students, staff and faculty from the university.

Photos: Ali Fernand



Professor of educational leadership Christopher Trombly testifying before state representatives.



Attendees holding a sign advocating for better funding for higher education.



University of Connecticut Professor Jeffrey Ogbar speaking at the press conference.



Press conference attendees holding up signs in support of Connecticut State Universities.



Attendees from University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Universities and the community colleges advocating for better funding.



Chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Terrence Cheng at the public hearing.



UConn graduate student Grace Easterly speaking at the press conference.



Signs raised in support of higher funding for colleges.



President of 4Cs Union Seth Freeman speaking at the press conference.

## Student workers' thoughts on minimum wage pay

By Brianna Wallen  
News Editor

Here at the university, it is recommended for students to get involved. Whether it is to join a sports team, organization or a club, there are ample opportunities on campus.

Students can participate in on-campus employment by applying for part-time positions offered by any department. Another resource is a federal program known as the Federal Work-Study Program, FWS, which offers part-time jobs to undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled part-time or full-time.

Those who have taken advantage of employment on campus receive either a stipend or get paid minimum wage. Beginning on Jan. 1, the minimum wage in Connecticut rose from \$15.00 to \$15.69 per hour. Despite this raise, there is debate surrounding the amount of money student workers make.

Healthcare studies major Mahoghany Young, a sophomore, is a desk attendant, DA, and Resident Life Assistant on campus. Young gets paid minimum wage for sitting behind the desk at residence halls and \$16.00 for working alongside her hall director.

Young said that she is satisfied with her paychecks as DA due to its lower maintenance duties.

"I think we should get paid more because I do anything the hall director wants me to do," Young said. "I run errands, print stuff, check the rooms, make sure things are working."

While some students are dissatisfied with their pay, others believe being paid minimum wage is an adequate amount for the responsibilities that their job holds.

One of these students is nursing major Medline Elmo, a freshman. Elmo works two days a week for seven hours as a student ambassador.

Elmo, who works in first-year admissions, said that her job consists of answering phone calls, giving tours to potential future students and promoting the campus. When it comes to her pay, Elmo said she believes her paycheck aligns with her duties.

"I think the pay is fair. I'm not really doing any heavy lifting or physical movement besides giving a tour, and honestly, as a college student, I just like getting money, regardless of how much it is," Elmo said.

Social work major with minor in psychology Damon Wooten, a sophomore, has two employment positions under his belt. He is currently working as a DA throughout the semester and was an Orientation Ambassador, OA, during the summer.

"I think I deserve to get paid that much. I be stressed out," Wooten said.

While some students are satisfied with their pay, others would like to have more hours.

## 'Leadership Luncheon' held in Adanti Student Center

By Lexi White  
General Reporter

Being your truest self can be intimidating. Sometimes, you may feel like you are being judged. Other times, you may think that you are not able to be of influence to others.

Head Coach of the women's cross-country track and field team Melissa Stoll hosted a lunch event that helped students to gain better insight on the types of leaders they can be.

"Leadership is a set of skills that you can learn and improve," Stoll said. "And people need to learn about collaboration and having difficult conversations."

Stoll and the Office of Student Involvement provided a free catered lunch to all the students who attended before the talk got started.

Stoll's exercises were designed to help students become better team builders, better motivators and better communicators.

She began by splitting

the 20 students in half, with one half forming a small circle and the other creating a bigger circle around them. Then she paired everyone up with someone who they did not previously know.

Stoll then had each pair ask each other three questions: "What is your mood?", "What's your biggest mistake?" and "If I visited your hometown, what local spots should I see?" After each question, the students found a new unknown partner.

This was so students could become more relaxed and comfortable in the atmosphere by opening up about how they are feeling.

"I really liked that activity because you don't really think of leadership as talking to people, but that's what it really is," psychology major Xochitl Sanches, a senior, said. "Interacting with people and getting practice on that was really fun."

Stoll also educated students on what it means to be your own person and how to go far

professionally. "We need everyone to succeed, so we don't do it alone," Stoll said. "Being in your teens and early 20s can be unsettling, and sometimes you don't know where you're going or what you want to do."

Stoll had a couple students demonstrate what it means to communicate. She put a blindfold on one student and had the other give them directions on how to throw a ball in a bucket.

It was later revealed that communication without being direct can be ineffective. Therefore, to be a true leader, an individual must be clear with their words and intentions.

In Stoll's presentation on being a leader, she highlighted that everyone is a leader and has influential tendencies.

"I want everyone to know that it doesn't matter what age you are to be a leader," Stoll said. "Even in the professional world, while you may not be the boss, you can still

## Owls decide: Who should win an Oscar?

By Solé Scott  
Features Editor



"Who I think should win an Oscar is Angela Basset."

— Communications major Sarah Antoine, a sophomore



"Who should win an Oscar is Taraji P. Henson because she is underrated."

— Psychology major Leticia Asante, a freshman



"Who should win an Oscar is Brian Cranston."

— Computer science major Mark Ayoub, a freshman



"Who I think should win an Oscar is Kevin Hart."

— Computer science major Isiah Tilghman, a freshman



"Ryan Reynolds, and he has never been a bad actor."

— Business major Taylor Hammond, a freshman



"Florence Pugh because she is a really good actress, and I really like her and all her movies."

— Biology major Samantha Buissereth, a freshman

# History: This week in pop culture Feb. 28 – March 5

## Feb. 28:

**1955-** Late comedian Gilbert Gottfried known for “Saturday Night Live,” lagoon in “Aladdin,” the Afflac Duck and popular stand-up performances was born.

**1970-** Simon and Garfunkel’s “Bridge over Troubled Water” reached number one on the US singles chart.

**1983-** Popular TV show “M\*A\*S\*H” aired its final episode.

**1984-** Michael Jackson won eight Grammy Awards.

**2016-** Adele’s album “25” reached number one on both the UK and US albums charts.

## Feb. 29:

**1692-** The Salem Witch trials began with the first few accusations towards suspected witches.

**1940-** At the Oscars, Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win an award for her role in “Gone With the Wind.”

**1968-** The Beatles won three Grammy Awards; Album of the Year for “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” Best Cover and Best Engineered and Recorded album.

**1976-** Rapper and actor Ja Rule was born, making him 46-years-old.

**1980-** Buddy Holly’s glasses were found in Mason City, Iowa, 21 years after his fatal plane crash.

**2012-** The lead singer of “The Mon-

kees,” Davy Jones, passed away at 66-years-old.

## March 1:

**1973-** Pink Floyd released “Dark Side of the Moon.”

**1978-** Jensen Ackles, known for his roles in “Supernatural,” “The Boys” and “Days Of Our Lives” was born, making him 44-years-old.

**1985-** Jackie Coogan, known for his character Uncle Fester in “The Addams Family” passed away at 69-years-old.

**1990-** Janet Jackson began her world tour for “Rhythm Nation.”

**1994-** Nirvana played their last ever concert.

**1994-** Whitney Houston won a Grammy Award for “I Will Always Love You.”

**2006-** Popular animated kids’ film “Ice Age: The Meltdown” was released.

**2019-** The Jonas Brothers announced their reunion and released their single, “Sucker.”

**2022-** “The Batman” starring Robert Pattinson was released.

## March 2:

**1904-** Children’s book author Dr. Seuss was born.

**1933-** The original “King Kong” premiered at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

**1965-** The iconic musical, “The Sound

of Music,” premiered.

**1968-** Daniel Craig, known for playing James Bond, was born, making him 55-years-old.

**1974-** Stevie Wonder won four Grammy Awards; Album of the Year for “Innervisions,” Best R&B Song and Best Vocal for “Superstition” and Best Pop Vocal Performance for “You Are The Sunshine Of My Life.”

**1983-** CDs were launched by Sony, Philips and Polygram, beginning a new way to listen to music and audio.

## March 3:

**1847-** The inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, was born.

**1931-** The U.S. officially declared “The Star-Spangled Banner” as its national anthem.

**1975-** The first People’s Choice Awards were held, allowing the public to vote for their favorite actors.

**1986-** Metallica released their popular album “Master Of Puppets.”

**2005-** 50 Cent released his album titled “The Massacre.”

## March 4:

**1877-** Tchaikovsky’s iconic ballet “Swan Lake” made its premiere in Moscow.

**1927-** Babe Ruth was officially established as the most paid baseball player at the time after signing a legendary contract with the New York Yankees.

**1954-** Actress Catherine O’Hara, known for “Home Alone” and “Schitt’s Creek” was born, making her 69-years-old.

**1993-** The first ESPY Awards is held, honoring professional athletes.

**1994-** Kurt Cobain was hospitalized for an overdose and suspected to have died.

**2004-** Mianne Bagger made LGBTQ+ history by becoming the first transgender athlete to play in a professional golf tournament.

**2005-** Professional chef Martha Stewart was released from prison after five months.

## March 5:

**1807-** Ludwig van Beethoven premiered his “4th Symphony in B.”

**1956-** Frank Sinatra released his tenth album “Songs for Swingin’ Lovers!”

**1971-** Led Zeppelin performed their hit “Stairway to Heaven” live for the first time in Belfast.

**1982-** SNL star, comedian, actor and musician John Belushi passed away of an overdose at 33-years-old.

**2002-** MTV premiered the first episode of famous reality TV show “The Osbournes,” starring musician Ozzy Osbourne and his family.

**2019-** Kylie Jenner became the youngest billionaire ever.

**All information provided by The Current, The History Channel and On This Day.**

## Mario Kart tournament in FPS

**By Lexi White**  
General Reporter

Students were zooming into the Farnham Hall Programming Space to participate in the Mario Kart tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The Residence Hall Association, RHA, provided gamers with pizza, cookies and beverages. The winner got to take home a brand-new Nintendo Switch!

The RHA hosts events for the residents living on campus and used the extra funds they had to collect a unique prize for the winner of the tournament.

Business administration major Asia Fairweather, a sophomore, said, “I know lots of people probably shy away from things, but if they see an expensive prize, I’m sure

they’ll come out.”

Fairweather said that Mario Kart was RHA’s game of choice for the night.

“Everybody loves Mario Kart, and it’s kind of nostalgic in a sense. It’s also really fun,” Fairweather said.

“I’ve been looking forward to this for over a week,” interdisciplinary studies major Lincoln Carroll, a junior, said. “I’m having a really good time.”

Carroll has played Mario Kart for over 400 hours and plays the fun-filled game at an advanced level in his free time.

“I really love Mario Kart, and I’m so excited that there are gaming tournaments,” Carroll said.

Environmental systems and sustainability major

Sarah Tufts, a sophomore, is also a huge fan of the nostalgic game.

Tufts said, “I think this event is beneficial because it gets you to meet new people that have the same interests as you.”

The tournament started with 10 players, with two contestants playing against each other over five rounds.

Each round had four races with randomized racing tracks to keep a level playing field. The player who had the highest score at the end of the four races was promoted into the next round.

Then, the winners from the previous five rounds played each other in the semifinals. One contestant dropped out of the competition, which made the number of players

even for a fair match.

The three finalists battled it out on the raceway in an exhilarating three-player round. It was an intense finale that had contestants jumping out of their seats.

After the four races in the final round, Carroll won the championship! He was so excited to have been awarded the Nintendo Switch.

Once the determined winner was awarded his prize, the RHA decided to award the gamers who came in second and third place with an Amazon gift card each.

“I think this is a great way for students to relax from classes and other factors that are stressful,” Fairweather said. “This is the best way to get their minds away from that college student life.”



Students watching the screen as opponents compete against each other.

PHOTO| LEXI WHITE

## French Department hosts first ‘Film Fest’

**By Solé Scott**  
Features Editor

Film festivals help audiences get acquainted with new films and exposed to different themes and messages.

The Department of World Languages and Literature will be hosting a film festival that will begin on Feb. 29 in the Adanti Student Center Theater.

Professor of French Luke Eilderts has worked on campus since 2012.

“One of the cultural arms of the French embassy down in New York City has a film grant scheme where university programs can apply and receive funding to put on a film festival,” Eildert said.

The film festival theme will be “blurring boundaries,” and they will showcase a plethora of movies that involve French culture.

“A lot of the films asks questions about what is fame and what is isolation,” Eilderts said.

All films are free to watch, and everyone is welcome to come.

“All films begin at 6 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center, and they are not all on a Thursday night,” Eilderts said. “To have all the films on a Thursday night would mean they wouldn’t be able to go if they wanted to.”

There are six films that will be shown throughout the semester and end on Wednesday, May 1.

“I am very grateful again for the support of the university for organizing payments,” Eilderts said.

There will be speakers who introduce the films to add another element of French learning.

“Would love to see as much participation as possible,” Eilderts said.



Professor Eilderts in his office in Engleman D157.

PHOTO| SOLÉ SCOTT

## Wellbeing Fair helps students

By Jack Abbot  
General Reporter

The university hosted a Wellbeing Fair in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom in honor of the “Week of Wellbeing.”

The event was attended by several organizations on campus who help to promote the physical and mental wellbeing of students. The event took place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

“It gives an opportunity for students to learn a lot about a lot of on campus resources that are geared towards their holistic wellbeing,” Coordinator of the Wellbeing Center Allyson Regis said.

Regis has been the director of the Wellbeing Center since September of 2022. She has been working to make sure that the university can become better at being more welcoming to students who struggle with their wellbeing.

“A lot of colleges, they have counseling services, which we do as well, but with wellbeing, we focus more on prevention and outreach,” Regis said.

Regis highlighted the concern that many students who need help are aware that there are resources on campus but do not know where or how to access them. An important part of this event was educating students on where to find these resources.

“With wellbeing, it’s something that we need to verbally talk about because I think sometimes people can talk about it behind closed doors,” Regis said. “To actually outwardly talk about these topics is important.”

“Week of Wellbeing” is a week that occurs every semester at the university



Coordinator of the Wellbeing Center Allyson Regis next to her table at the Wellbeing Fair in the Adanti Student Center.

to bring awareness and provide resources and events for the mental and physical wellbeing of students.

A common theme that came up during the event was a dramatic increase in loneliness following the COVID pandemic. Many students, especially those who began college at this time, have found it difficult to find connections and friends.

“It’s difficult for people to be vulnerable,” Regis said. “We’re seeing people talk about feeling lonely but not talking about in a group but more—so one on one conversations that they may be having with us.”

“I found this event to be really helpful because I know where a lot of different programs take

place,” business administration major Zahary McCarthy, a sophomore, said. “I did not know that the Wellbeing Center was in Schwartz.”

One of the groups represented at the event was the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support, VPAS, Center, which helps those on campus who have experienced abuse and are afraid to reach out to peers, families or the authorities.

They are even able to help students change classes or dorms to help them avoid people who they feel threatened by.

“The VPAS Center offers advocacy and support for those who experience sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking,” Coordinator Colleen

Kearney said. “Students can come and get information, resources, referrals and accommodations if they experience any of those crimes on campus.”

The event began with a rough start as the fire alarm went off and the Adanti Student Center had to be evacuated. However, after the doors reopened the event slowly began to fill up over time. Many at the event believed it to be a success.

“I just think it’s so important to take a step back and reflect on our own mental wellbeing,” Wellbeing Center Graduate Intern and public health major Shayne Lister said. “I think that the work that we do is amazing, and I’m proud of the work that we do.”

## Athletics Department opens Wellness Center

By Matt Cain  
Contributor

University athletics recently opened more opportunities for their student athletes. This past week, Director of Athletics and Recreation Terrence Jones cut the ribbon to the new student athlete Wellness Center in James Moore Fieldhouse.

The Wellness Center will be where athletes can study, relax and recover. It is also placed inside the fieldhouse, so athletes can access athletic trainers and tutors more frequently.

The university also partnered with Connecticut Orthopedic for the Wellness Center. CEO of Connecticut Orthopedics Susan Bader, Vice President of Student Affairs Tracy Tyree and Jones have been working hard behind the scenes to make this new renovation come to life.

“This new renovation brings new opportunities not just for SCSU athletics but also for the athletes,” Jones said.

Earlier this month, Jones was named the new athletic director who wasted no time getting involved. From the moment he was hired, Jones has been working nonstop to build and grow the university’s partnerships and work on new ones as well.

“We will continue to partner with the individuals that want to be a partner with a strong growing brand,” Jones said.

Connecticut Orthopedics is now a partner and will be actively working towards making university athletics better for the athletes and the brand itself.

Student athletes are crushing it in their respective sport and in the classroom. This past fall, there were over 300 athletes that made the

honor roll and became top scholars. This room will be a place where they can continue their studies and make it on time to practice.

“This is going to impact in a great way. This is a place where the athletes can study, study and study some more,” Interim President Dwayne Smith said.

Most colleges and universities struggle with getting their athletes to maintain academic health. Since the Owls have no problem becoming an academic weapon, the future plan is to keep surging in the right direction in the classroom for the student athletes.

This new center has not just impacted the athletes. The coaches love the Wellness Center as well. Coaches have been promoting the Wellness Center to their players, as they want them to get the best out of the opportunities at hand.

“It’s going to be a great place; players of different sports can go there and be Southern Owls,” Head women’s soccer Coach Adam Cohen said.

Cohen was also an advocate for the Wellness Center, as he was one of the individuals behind the scenes who pitched the idea.

This is the start of a new beginning for university athletics. They are building at a rapid pace and do not show signs of slowing down.

The future for the department is bright, with more renovations, new buildings and overall, a better atmosphere. Last year, there was an update of the Jess Dow field, and now there is a Wellness Center in the fieldhouse.

These updates have student athletes feeling good and bringing a better attitude towards their fieldhouse.

## ProCon fills stomachs with PB & Js

By Lexi White  
General Reporter

Being a student can be tricky. Throughout the day, you may have back-to-back classes, spend time studying or doing homework in between classes and are possibly unable to run to Adanti Student Center or Connecticut Hall to grab a bite to eat.

That is why the ProCon Daytime Committee came up with “PB & J Thursdays.” Every Thursday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., ProCon sets up a table in the C-Wing of Engleman Hall and gives out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, all sorts of snacks, treats and drinks to students.

Nursing major Saana Mohammed, a sophomore, is a part of the ProCon Daytime Committee. Her role is to plan the events on campus during the day, which are mostly directed towards commuters, so they can have another place to go during their free time on campus. Although, all students are welcome to attend!

“What we want to do is advocate for students to get free food on campus, especially when they maybe haven’t eaten all day or haven’t had a chance to,” Mohammed said.

In addition, Mohammed helps the other ProCon committees budget their time and money to create the best events and activities for the students on campus.

ProCon has also been helping students with



ProCon serving snacks for students in Engleman Hall on Thursday, Feb. 22.

free lunches and snacks since before the COVID outbreak.

“We like to greet people and get to know them, so they feel like they’re in a loving and comfortable space,” Mohammed said. “We want to be there for each other.”

For sports management major Luis Reyes, a sophomore, ProCon’s PB & J event brings him that comfortable space.

“I have long gaps in between my classes, so this kind of helped me survive throughout the day,” Reyes said. “It’s so great because it gives you free snacks. What’s better than that?”

ProCon orders the food from a local supermarket,

brings it to the C-Wing of Engleman Hall, and then the committee members start distributing all the yummy goodies.

“We have everyone who attends the event sign in, which is how we kind of get funding for the event,” ProCon committee member and accounting major Jared Propis, a senior, said.

Propis has been a member of ProCon since his freshman year at the university and said that they have been hosting “PB & J Thursdays” in the same spot in Engleman Hall since he was a first-year student.

“For the students who walk by here right after classes, they can just stop in to grab a quick snack

or a quick lunch,” Propis said.

ProCon also offers students at the event the option to make suggestions of their favorite snacks that could be given out at future functions.

“I think that being acknowledged on what snacks they like and what they prefer is exactly what ProCon tries to accomplish the most,” Mohammed said. “So ProCon can be seen as a social aspect on campus.”

Within just 20 minutes, every crumb of food and every ounce of beverage was gone!

“We try to bring the light and try to show that college is way more than just academics,” Mohammed said.

## Sports Schedule

### Home Games-

#### Baseball:

-Saturday, March 2 at 12 p.m. against Mercy University.

#### Women’s Lacrosse

-Wednesday, March 6 at 4 p.m. against University of Bridgeport.

-Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m. against Georgian Court University.

### Away Games-

#### Men’s Track and Field:

-Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2 at 12 p.m. on both days for the New England Championships at New Balance Center in Boston, MA.

#### Women’s Track and Field:

-Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2 at 12 p.m. on both days for the New England Championships at New Balance Center in Boston, MA.

#### Baseball:

-Sunday, March 3 at 12 p.m. at Mercy University.

#### Gymnastics:

-Sunday, March 3 at 1 p.m. at Yale University.

#### Softball:

-Wednesday, March 6 at 1 p.m. at Post University.

Men’s and women’s basketball game times and locations are TBD. Go to [scsuowl.com](http://scsuowl.com) to check for potential updates.

# Women's basketball wins fifth straight game

By Dillon Flanigan  
Sports Editor  
Matt Cain  
Contributor

With less than three minutes left in the fourth quarter, guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, hit both of her free throws, putting the Owls up by two and flying them closer to a win.

"It was senior day. We wanted to bring the energy for them," forward Katie Williamson, a senior, said.

The university defeated NE10's Southern New Hampshire University, SNHU, 56-51 at James Moore Fieldhouse on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

It was a special night, full of reminiscing about the past, honoring its seniors in their last home game of the regular season.

Guard Jillian Martin, a senior, was notably absent for her third straight game. Still, with a 15-10 record, the Owls needed to remain focused in the race to host a NE10 Conference Tournament game.

It only made sense on senior night for Williamson to open the scoring for the Owls. A few minutes later, the Owls had a 9-0 scoring run. After scoring opportunities for each team, the quarter ended with the lead 15-9.

SNHU mainly controlled the second quarter. Williamson completed a layup as Helms scored the next eight points for the Owls. The offensive tide shifted towards the visitors as they took a 26-25 lead into



Guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, goes all out for the shot. PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

halftime.

"The first half was emotional and about the seniors. In the second half, we needed to end our season and get the job done," Head Coach Katie Lynch said.

Williamson started the second half with a jumper, and Bonilla ended the quarter with a three-pointer. There were multiple spurts of offense for each team as SNHU outscored the Owls 20-14 in the quarter.

"Defense limited the touches of their best player," Bonilla said. "This played a key factor in the game."

After Bonilla's three, the team scored 13 straight points, including two free throws by Helms. With the backing of improved defensive play, the Owls took a 52-46 lead.

The game was not put away, though. Just a bit over two minutes

remained for SNHU to mount a comeback. Nostalgic as it may have been watching Helms be savvy ending games, she put up the final six points for the Owls, placing the cherry on top for the win.

With this win, the Owls now look towards the NE10 Tournament and receive homecourt advantage in the first round. They will also have a week to wait and prepare for their first-round matchup.

The Owls are now top contenders in the NE10 Conference and can make a deep playoff run in the conference tournament.

"We know and understand it's going to be win or go home from here on out," Lynch said.

The Owls will have the first game on their home floor, looking to advance in the NE10 Tournament and hopefully sit at the top of the conference.

# Men's basketball falls to SNHU; continue skid

By Avery Martin  
Contributor

It was a disappointing loss for the Owls on Wednesday, Feb. 21, as they fell 82-70 against Southern New Hampshire University, SNHU, on senior night at home in James Moore Fieldhouse.

Prior to the start of the game, guard Mason Williams and forward Josh McGettigan, graduates, were honored by their team along with student manager Brian Ceballos. Their various accomplishments on and off the court were also acknowledged.

To kick off the last home game of the regular season, the Owls briefly showed promise with a fast jumper by McGettigan just over 30 seconds in. However, the SNHU offense was dominant, shooting 61.8% over the course of the game.

Owls Head Coach Scott Burrell said the defense was just not there.

"We didn't play tough enough defense. They shot sixty-something percent for the game. We couldn't get stops when we needed them, and they are the best defensive team in the league and made us struggle on offense," Burrell said.

The Owls held the lead for the first three and a half minutes of the game, but from there, besides two quick lead changes, SNHU pulled ahead with a commanding offense.

However, in the first half, forward Cherrif Diarra, a sophomore, and guard Logan Bagshaw, a junior, each contributed eight points. McGettigan

had four rebounds to lead the team while Diarra and forward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore, each had three.

Going into half-time, SNHU was up 43-34.

In the second half, SNHU held the lead and scored 39 more points to the Owls' 36. The Owls had a total of 17 rebounds, scored six out of eight free throws and made two of 13 attempted three-pointers.

Ultimately, SNHU was able to pull away to win 82-70. Despite the disappointment, high-lights came in the form of guard Marty Silvera, a junior, scoring 15 points as Stewart scored 14.

"We didn't follow our game plan," Silvera said. "Like coach said, they shot sixty-something percent, so it's very hard to get open shots when they're hitting."

Bagshaw agreed that the game did not go as planned.

"I think it was pretty soft on our end. We

didn't play well. We weren't physical enough," Bagshaw said.

The Owls are ranked sixth in the NE10 Conference standings with an overall record of 17-9 and a conference record of 11-9.

"They will be back in action on the road on Feb. 24 against Franklin Pierce University, ranked seventh in conference. Burrell says it will be crucial to bounce back.

"If you want to make this tournament, if you want to go far with your seed, you got to beat the tough teams and play tougher mentally and physically," Burrell said.

Bagshaw agreed. "We just got to be more physical, tougher than that. When things don't go our way, we can't split. We just got to be together," Bagshaw said.

The Owls will try to do just that as they head into the last two regular season games before the conference championship begins on March 1.



Guard Mason Williams, a graduate, dribbles under pressure. PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

# Owls sports recap: Monday Feb. 19 - Sunday Feb. 25



Gymnastics team celebrated on Wednesday, Feb. 21. PHOTO | KAYLEE BLAKE

## Women's Gymnastics: All-American Challenge at Mohegan Sun on Monday, Feb. 19:

Women's gymnastics won first place with a season-high score of 194.150 in a close meet.

University of New Hampshire finished as the runner up with a score of 193.325, Long Island University finished in third place with a score of 192.025 and Yale came in last with a score of 191.250.

### UNEVEN/PARALLEL BARS:

Gigi Mastellone, a freshman, recorded her first perfect 10.000 in program history. The Owls total score was 48.750.

### FLOOR EXERCISE:

Libby Allen, a junior, scored a 9.900 placing in first.

### VAULT:

Zebdi, Brianna Dorr and Lexi Bracher, juniors and Zebdi tied for fourth place with a score of 9.750.

### BALANCE BEAM:

Diniseo edged Melanson by 9.800 to 9.775 finishing with a team total of 47.950.

## Quad meet on Sunday, Feb. 25:

The Owls scored 193.850, placing second place on

Sunday Feb. 25 in the quad meet hosted by the University of New Hampshire. Fisk University and Rhode Island College also participated in the meet.

New Hampshire narrowly edged the Owls scoring 195.200 placing first, Fisk finished in third at 190.575 followed by Rhode Island with a score of 189.150.

### UNEVEN/PARALLEL BARS:

Gigi Mastellone, a freshman, posted a team-best score of 9.850 and placed third. Sophia Ruecker, a freshman, recorded a score of 9.725 followed by Audrey Arnold, a senior and Gabriela Diniseo, a freshman, with a score of 9.700. Kylie Sitty, a freshman, scored a 9.600, totaling 48.575, their highest scoring event of the meet.

### BALANCE BEAM:

Alexa Melanson, a junior, was tied for third place and posting a team-best score of 9.750. Fellow junior Libby Allen recorded a score of 9.725. Angel Lee, a junior, posted a score of 9.675 while Angelina Stanfa, a freshman, posted 9.575. Stanfa was followed by Diniseo with a score of 9.550, equalling a total score of 48.275, a balance beam

season high.

### FLOOR EXERCISE:

Allen led the Owls to a team-best score of 9.825. Ruecker posted a career-high score of 9.725. Melanson and Ava Kelly, a sophomore, each scored a 9.700. Hanna Zebdi, a senior, rounded out the team performance with a score of 9.575, totaling 48.525.

### VAULT:

Sitty posted a team-best and tied her career high with a 9.775 on the vault as Ruecker recorded a 9.700. Kelly and Brianna Dorr, a junior, each posted a 9.675. While Lexi Bracher, a junior, scored a 9.650 followed by Allen, who scored a 9.625. They scored 48.475.

## Women's Basketball:

Guard Jillian Martin returned to the court after sitting out the last three games as the Owls fell to Franklin Pierce University Ravens of Rindge, New Hampshire, 48-43, snapping their five-game winning streak.

Guard Julianna Bonilla, a graduate, made a three pointer to open the scoring for the Owls. Despite the flashy start, the Ravens took a 12-10 lead in the first quarter.

The second quarter the Ravens offense appeared to be all gas no breaks flying to halftime with a 10-point, 27-17 lead.

Entering the second half, the break proved to be the need as they attempted to cut their deficit. The third quarter wrapped up on an 8-0 run, leading the Owls to outscore Franklin Pierce, 16-13.

The Owls made their shots as the quarter raced by. But, with five minutes to play, a steal turned into a Bonilla three tightened the margin for error 42-41 Ravens.

## Men's Basketball:

Men's Basketball defeated Franklin Pierce on the road, 77-63, improving to 9-5 in conference play, 18-9 overall. This victory snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Owls shot poorly from the three-point line and in the field, managing to be down 30-29 at halftime. The battle continued into the second half but was quickly put to bed as the Owls took the lead via a layup by guard Sean James, a junior. The Owls maintained a double-digit lead at times, culminating in a victory.

## Men & Women's Track & Field:

The team hosted a last chance meet on Friday Feb. 23. However, no information has been released.

## Women's Lacrosse:

After the Owls home opener was postponed this past week, the team traveled to Molloy University in Rockville Center Long Island on Saturday Feb. 24, falling 16-12 to the Lions.

Molloy took a six-goal lead after the first quarter, but the Owls cut the deficit to 6-2. Mid-fielder Allie Welder, a freshman, and attacker Savannah Feinberg each scored a goal on an assist by attacker Morgan Reilly, a junior.

Molloy scored three additional goals within three minutes. Mid-fielder Bailey McDermott, a sophomore, attackers Alexandra Ruel, a graduate, Allie Palmer, a sophomore, each scored a goal. Attacker Kristin McIntire, a senior, scored two goals as Molloy would take an 11-7 lead into the half.

Out of the break, Palmer and Feinberg each tacked on a goal, chasing the Lions lead. Ending the third frame, Attacker/mid-fielder Anna Meserve, a freshman, put the ball in the net to make it 13-10

Molloy heading to the final quarter.

Welder and McDermott each scored again, putting Molloy on the ropes, 13-12. However, over the final nine minutes, to close the game, the Lions scored the final three goals to win.

## Baseball: Myrtle Beach Friday, Feb. 23:

The Owls headed down to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina this past weekend. On Friday Feb. 23, the Owls defeated College of Staten Island 7-6, in 10 innings.

As the designated home team, the Owls came back from a 6-5 deficit to walk-off against the Dolphins for the win. Centerfielder Izaiah Walker, a redshirt junior, scored the game-winning run to cap a 1-for-2 with a run batted in, RBI, and two runs scored after walking three times.

Right fielder Jake Gruttadauria, a sophomore, went 2-for-3 with a run scored an RBI as shortstop Chad Fedeli, a junior, drove Walker home with the game-winning run.

On the rubber, southpaw Steve Phillips, a redshirt junior, gave up one unearned run on five hits over five frames striking out six. Righthander Spencer Fox relieved Phillips to earn the win. He gave up three runs and struck out six.

## Myrtle Beach Saturday, Feb. 24:

The Owls swept the non-conference doubleheader against Felician University, 14-4 and 6-2.

Righthander Keegan Daigle, a junior, took the bump for the Owls in game one. He went 2 2/3 innings allowing three runs on six hits.

Shortstop Chad Fedeli, a junior, went 3-for-5 with including a 2-run homerun and

three RBIs on two triples.

The designated hitter Devin Pelletier, a junior, finished game one 4-for-5 with a homerun, two RBI's and scoring two.

Righthander Mike Szturma, a redshirt junior, was giving the nod to start game two. Szturma, tossed 4.1 innings giving up two runs on nine hits.

The Owls offense only needed six runs and all came in the second inning. Its started with an RBI single by Gruttadauria and was also highlighted by catcher Billy Sullivan, a redshirt junior's, 2-run double.

Righthander Braeden Sparaco, a freshman, came in relief in both games for the Owls. Sparaco tossed 5 2/3 combined scoreless innings on the day, earning the save in game one and picking up the win in game two.

## Myrtle Beach Sunday, Feb. 25:

The final game of the trip on, the Owls fell to Saint Thomas Aquinas in a non-conference game, 10-8.

Leftfielder Jake Chacho, a freshman, went 2-5 with a triple, single and three RBI's.

The rightfielder, Gruttadauria had an RBI double in the third inning. The next half inning, Saint Thomas shelled the Owls scoring eight runs on six hits taking an 8-4 lead.

Leftfielder John Bucci, a graduate, came into relief posting 2 2/3 innings allowing one run on one hit striking out one. The Owls chased Saint Thomas all game falling in a halted gritty comeback attempt.

All information has been provided by SCSUOwls.com